

**Amherst Cultural Council**  
Tuesday, August 16, 2022  
Scheduled for 5:00 via Zoom

Council members in attendance: Matt Holloway, Christy Anderson, Julianne Applegate, Rachel Wang, Robin Thompson, Leah Neuburger, Cody Rooney, Eleanor Walsh

Note: this meeting began at approx. 5:35 and ended at approx. 6:15 due to difficulty in fielding a quorum of voting members.

Membership Update - new members Cody Rooney and Eleanor Walsh introduced themselves.

The ACC voted to approve two grant amendment requests. The first, to Pamela Tillis, was an approval with an amendment to allow her to be reimbursed for her time on the ACC funded project, for which she was initially planning to volunteer. The modification was that she had requested half of the \$1,000 be awarded to her co-producer posthumously. In order to avoid the precedent of making posthumous awards, the ACC voted unanimously to award the full amount to Pamela Tillis.

The ACC also voted to approve Ezzel Floranina's request to extend his performance deadline.

Finally, the ACC voted to approve the following guidelines for the FY24 grant cycle:

**FY23 Local Priorities**

We will prioritize projects for and by BIPOC communities, individuals with disabilities, and low-income communities. We seek applications from people of all ages, races, and persuasions. We encourage new applicants and welcome repeat applicants.

Grant applications will be prioritized by the benefit they bring to the Amherst community. Please provide detailed information about how your project will specifically benefit people in the greater Amherst community.

We encourage events that bring regional collaboration and benefit. For grants that have regional audiences and also benefit Amherst residents we encourage you to apply to all LCC's with communities who will benefit from the event.

To better serve the community, grants will be evaluated and prioritized to assure that the assortment of grants funded provide different types of arts and cultural activities: (e.g. music, theater, visual art, performing arts, literature, science, historical, and other types of events).

**FY23 Local Guidelines  
Requirements**

Virtual events will be considered. Please include information on your virtual platform. Venues and dates must be confirmed when submitting an application. Please include a letter from the venue as confirmation of date.

Only one application from each group or individual will be considered. Please combine multi program/project requests under one application.

Applications from students are encouraged, but we do not support projects whose sole purpose is fulfillment of a requirement for a degree program.

Travel expenditures will not be reimbursed.

Please identify recipients of stipends and the number of performances, if applicable. K through 12 applications for projects and field trips must state how they relate to classroom activities and curriculum. The ACC will consider funding tickets for students and one adult for one trip per grade per school.

Do not attach more than ten pages of supplemental material.

All events and programs funded by the ACC must consider access for persons with disabilities, including the facility or event location as well as the content of the program. To ensure equitable access, an applicant should make a candid assessment and identification of barriers (physical, virtual, cultural, communication) followed by a bold and innovative plan for improvement.

### Recommendations

As equity and inclusion are central to our work, we encourage applicants to develop accessibility practices and include accommodation services in their applications. ACC has dedicated funds to support accessibility — your grant budget may include additional funds for accommodation services that will provide improved access to your project. If it does, please specify the type of supports / services you are able to provide in your application narrative. Accommodations for greater access may include, but are not limited to: sign language interpreters; language interpreters and / or translations; open or closed captions; verbal and audio description; sensory modifications; and accessible website development. Resources are available through the Mass Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Mass Commission for the Blind, Massachusetts Office on Disability, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission Independent Living Centers, the New England ADA Center, and your city's Office of Disability. Applicants seeking more information about writing accessibility supports into their grants may reach out to ACC Co-Chair Matt Holloway ([mwh617@gmail.com](mailto:mwh617@gmail.com)).

Regarding accessibility, applicants may also wish to review our 4/28/22 Accessibility Roundtable presentation, found at <https://www.amherstma.gov/1221/Cultural-Council>.

### How Grant Recipients Are Paid Direct Grants