



Town of Needham, Massachusetts Media Release

Office of the Town Manager
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Needham Council for Arts and Culture Awards Record Number of Grants and Funding to Support Local Projects *Council Awards 29 Grants \$17,865 in Funding*

NEEDHAM – February 5, 2024--The [Needham Council for Arts and Culture](#) (NCAC) has awarded 29 grants totaling \$17,865 in artistic and cultural programming that provide public benefit to Needham. This year saw an increase in both funding and applications ranging from theatre productions, musical performances, artist workshops, cultural events, public art, and even a new poet laureate for the Town of Needham. A complete list of recipients is below.

“The Council is excited about the increased interest from applicants this year,” said Joni Schockett, Co-Chair of the NCAC. “This is the second year we have received funding from the Town of Needham and it’s allowed us to continue to approve more requests from such a diverse group of local artists and organizations. The NCAC is happy to help make these creative ideas a reality.”

The NCAC received a significant increase in applications the past few years. Given the rising interest in arts and culture programming in the community, the Town of Needham contributed \$8,300 to the state allocation of the Mass Cultural Council for the second straight year.

“Congratulations to all of this year’s grant recipients,” said Select Board Chair Marianne Cooley. “It’s exciting to be a part of a community that is so passionate about the arts. Projects and performances like those supported by these grants are a key component of making Needham a welcoming, fun, and interesting place to live. The Select Board is pleased to continue supporting the NCAC and arts and culture in Needham.”

Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by the members of the NCAC, a board of municipally appointed volunteers. Granting priorities included applications that address the needs of underserved or in-need groups and those who elevate the diverse voices and experiences of historically marginalized populations. For 2024, the NCAC has committed to focusing on community and civic engagement projects that connect Needham residents through community events, grantmaking, and public art projects.

The Needham Council for Arts and Culture is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting 7,500 community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provided \$7 million in funds this year to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates various amounts to each community.

The Needham Council for Arts and Culture will seek applications again in the fall. For guidelines and complete information visit needhamma.gov/ncac or email needhamartsandculture@gmail.com

Stay up to date on grants and projects by following them on Facebook at Facebook.com/NeedhamCouncilforArtsandCulture.

2024 Grant Recipients

- Eileen Herman-Haase - Dance caliente Brings the World to your Feet
- Kleine, Boston's Jewish Community Chorus, Inc. - Inspiring Voices in Jewish Music
- Needham Area Immigration Justice Task Force, Inc - Suitcase Stories Unpacked
- Needham Art Association - Art Outside
- Plugged In Band Program, Inc. - Intergenerational Open Mic
- Tova Speter - Drop-in Open Art Studio
- Leslie A. Starobin - "The Last Address"
- The Highland Glee Club of Newton, Inc. - 2023 Winter Concert
- The Needham Concert Society, Inc. - Promoting Classical Music in Needham
- The Rivers School Conservatory - 2023-2024 Rivers Symphony Orchestra Season
- Town of Needham - Poet Laureate
- Tal Dibner - 4th Foot Comes to Needham
- Arlekin Players Theatre - Just Tell No One
- Chinese Friends of Needham, Inc. – 3rd Asian American and Pacific Islander Craft Festival for Kids
- Dedham Choral Society, Inc. - 2023-2024 Season
- Discovery Museum, Inc. - Open Door Connections

- Gorse Mill Studios Condominium Trust - Gallery Renovation and Re-Opening Celebration
- Great Hall Performance Foundation, Inc. - Great Hall Concerts
- Indian Community of Needham, Inc. - Needham Holi Festival
- Liars & Believers, Inc. - Liars and Believers Adaptive Theater Workshop
- Needham Community Revitalization Trust Fund - From Needham To The World
- Needham Community Theatre, Inc. - The Crucible
- Needham Housing Authority - Musical Diversity
- Quinobequin Quilters, Inc. - Quinobequin Quilters 2023 Quilt Show
- Rehearsal for Life, Inc. - Rehearsal for Life's Freelance Players
- Storytime Crafts, Inc. - Kindness Project
- The Delvena Theatre Company - A Christmas Carol
- The Hospice of the Good Shepherd, Incorporated - HEARTplay Program
- Dennis Zhang – Chinese Friends of Needham Chinese New Year Celebration

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