

Southbridge Cultural Council

Community Needs Survey

A Brief History of the SCC

The Local Cultural Council Program, of which Southbridge is a participant, is the most extensive system of grassroots support for the arts, sciences and humanities in the nation. There are 339 local cultural councils in Massachusetts.

The Local Cultural Council Program was established in 1982. Until 1990, the program was overseen by the Massachusetts Arts Lottery Council, a state agency. In 1990, the Arts Lottery Council merged with another agency, the Massachusetts Council on Arts and Humanities, to form the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC). The MCC has overseen the LCC Program since 1990. The MCC receives its annual funding from the Massachusetts Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Distribution to each LCC is based on a local aid formula devised by the state. The formula takes into account population and property values and is weighed in such a way as to give larger distributions to less wealthy communities. In turn the LCCs re-grant funds according to the individual LCC criteria and approved by the MCC. The Southbridge Cultural Council is the responsible body for making decisions on how they will award the money granted to them by the MCC so as to best serve local cultural needs in the areas of arts, humanities and interpretive sciences. Locally, the SCC is made up of volunteers who are appointed by the community's elected governing body, the Town Council, upon recommendations from the Town Manager and the Chairman of the SCC.

Basic Criteria and Eligibility Requirements for a SCC Grant

The SCC rules for applicants assures direct benefit to Southbridge.

Southbridge Cultural Council (criteria) guidelines include:

Southbridge applicants, artists, performers, non-profit organizations, schools, library or other public agencies, and religious groups can apply with prearranged local sponsors.

The activity must take place in Southbridge and be advertized according to criteria rules.

The event must be open to the public and be handicapped accessible.

The venue and date of the activity must be scheduled and confirmed before submitting the application for a grant.

Activities and cultural events that take place must reach the largest potential audiences.

Art forms or humanities programming that are under-represented in the community.

Any new applicants or projects interested in promoting cultural diversity in the community.

The applications are due by October 15th each year as determined by the MCC.

Awarded grants are viable for one year from the date of the grant letter.

Applications are open to the following categories: individuals, private non-profit organizations, schools, libraries or other public agencies, religious groups and the local cultural council itself.



Community Input Survey Your Responses

The **Southbridge Cultural Council** is collecting opinions to help us set our funding objectives for the next few years. Please take a moment to complete this survey. It is greatly appreciated

1. Male Female Years in Southbridge _____ Voter precinct number
Your age group? 18 – 25 26 – 40 41 – 50 51 – 60 60+

2. How do you hear about cultural events that interest you??

word of mouth posted flyers local access cable channel radio the News
 mail web sites E-mail Telegram & Gazette membership notices other

3. How many cultural activities have you attended in the last 6 months?

1 - 5 6 – 10 10+ none

4. How satisfied were you with the last event you attended?

very satisfied satisfied not satisfied

5. What motivates you to attend a cultural event?

entertainment support for community organizations / schools
 deepen knowledge brings together a diverse group of people
 celebrate heritage offer chances to share the experiences with others
 affordable offer chances to meet the artists / performers
 broaden one's knowledge social contacts / networking
 emotional reward experience high quality art

6. Is there a particular age population segment the SCC should aim to reach through public funding of cultural projects?

children teens seniors families people with disabilities other

7. Referring to the following definitions of the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences:

Arts – Creation of work in theater, dance, music, sculpture, pottery, visual, folk, design/ graphics and interdisciplinary arts including presentation, preservation of, and education about works in these disciplines.

Humanities – Types of learning that deal with human values and aspirations, human thought, culture, language, poetry and creativity, that which helps us better understand ourselves.

Interpretive Sciences – Those disciplines that engage people of all ages in learning about nature science and technology in ways that explain how they relate to people's lives.

Examples: Aquariums, botanical gardens, nature and science centers, natural history museums,

Please tell us the types of programs you prefer:

art classes music performances exhibits workshops demonstrations
 writing reading science programs nature programs

Thank you for completing our survey. Please return it to: Southbridge Cultural Council
c/o Town Manager's Office, Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550