

Marblehead Cultural Council August 2025 Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2025

6:30 pm

Abbot Library, Marblehead Room #304

Meeting Type: Hybrid

Attendees:

Jeanie Stahl, Chair

Katherine Barker, Co-Chair

Jim Murphy, Treasurer

Marjorie Norman, Secretary

Joseph Dipoli

Alex MacAaron

Mark Philip (Remote)

Steve McClure, Future Council Member (Not Currently Voting)

Not Attending:

Aaron Liber, Co-Chair

Jennifer Uhl

Chair called meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Abbreviated version of Land Acknowledgement read. (Available under “Other” at MarbleheadCulturalCouncil.org.)

Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer distributed and reviewed a summary of the 2025 Budget, including the current year’s allocation, admin expenses, and grants paid to date.

Community Input Survey Responses:

The recently concluded survey resulted in 135 responses, exponentially more than 2023 and 2024’s surveys. Increased response is attributed to Council member outreach and partnerships with other Marblehead organizations. Awareness of the Marblehead Cultural Council and its mission ranked significantly higher than expected (although this result may have been demographically driven, as well as a reflection of the email inviting survey participation). The top funding priorities identified in the survey: Historic Education, Cultural Diversity, and Local Arts/Cultural Organizations.

Priorities and Guidelines for 2025/2026 Funding:

The next grant cycle will open on September 2nd. In preparation, the Council discussed updating priorities and guidelines. Guidelines will remain the same (and are in concert with Massachusetts Cultural Council guidelines). Based on results from the Community Input Survey and other factors, the Council brainstormed and approved revisions to previous priorities and added new ones. The Chair will draft updated and new priorities and circulate to Council.

Key Dates and Promotional Needs for Next Funding Cycle:

Chair distributed and reviewed key dates for the upcoming funding cycle. These include:

August 20 — Massachusetts Cultural Council confirms local allocations.

September 2 — Grant cycle opens. (10 am)

October 16 — All applications due (by 10 pm).

November/December — Applications reviewed; applicants who are denied grants are given 15 days for reconsideration requests.

December 31 — Denials finalized.

January 16 — Grant Decisions Report due.

Press release will be issued by the Publicity Subgroup prior to September 2nd. And Council voted to host a local Grant Information Session on September 10th at Abbot Public Library.

Liaison Grantee Status:

Co-Chair distributed and reviewed list of current Grantees, Liaisons, events/projects, and reimbursement status. Liaisons will continue to remind Grantees to submit for reimbursement via USPS in a timely manner.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm. The next meeting will be held in December (date and location TBD).

Meeting minutes compiled by Alex MacAaron and edited by Jeanie Stahl.