

Marblehead Cultural Council December 2025 Meeting Minutes

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December 10, 2025

6:30 pm

Abbot Library, Marblehead Room #304

Meeting Type: Hybrid

Attendees:

Jeanie Stahl, Chair

Aaron Liber, Co-Chair

Katherine Barker, Co-Chair

Jim Murphy, Treasurer (Remote)

Marjorie Norman, Secretary

Joseph Dipoli

Alex MacAaron

Steve McClure

Jennifer Uhl

Not Attending:

Mark Philip

Chair called meeting to order at 6:30 pm

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion to waive reading of prior minutes, which had been emailed to each member in advance of the December meeting – Vote – all in favor

Motion to approve minutes from the October meeting - Vote – all in favor

Liaison/Grantee Status:

Co-Chair distributed and reviewed list of current grantees, liaisons, events/projects, and reimbursement status. Liaisons (Aaron and Jim) will continue to remind Grantees to submit for reimbursement via USPS in a timely manner. Aaron – no word from Nick Zaino. Joe DiPoli in progress. Julia child play to take place tomorrow at Abbot Public Library.

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Evaluation of Grant Applications

2026 will have \$10,372 in available funds to award. Council members discussed the 20 applications based on established guidelines and priorities and pre-voting scoring sheets filled out by nine of the Council members. Before discussion and voting, a summary sheet was shared with the Council showing applications ranked from high to low based on the scoring sheets. Once final grantees were determined, amounts were allocated to the selected approved grantees.

Jim Murphy recused himself from two applications (Marblehead Festival of Arts and Three Heroic Revolutionary Captains from Marblehead) and did not participate in those discussions.

Motion: To approve proposed grantees and amounts as discussed

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Liaisons for 2025: Council members matched themselves as liaisons for each of the pending approved grantees.

Jeanie Stahl – Romeo & Juliet at Marblehead High Lanes Coven Theater

Aaron Liber – Marblehead Free Days (Children’s Museum – Peabody)

Katherine Barker – Community Murals for Low Income Senior Residents of Marblehead Public Housing

Jim Murphy – Nature in Your Neighborhood – All about Birds

Marjorie Norman – Marblehead Festival of Arts/Performing Arts

Joseph Dipoli – Resistance and Resilience: Slavery and Freedom in Marblehead

Alex MacAaron – Voices of Heritage: AAPI Art

Steve McClure – School to Sea: Connecting Marblehead Families to Salem Sound

Jennifer Uhl – Three Heroic Revolutionary Captains from Marblehead

Mark Philip – Backup if necessary

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm. The next meeting will be held on February 4, 2026, 6:30pm at Abbot Public Library.

Meeting minutes compiled by Marjorie Norman and edited by Jeanie Stahl.