**From:** Glidden, Sara (ART)
**To:** Gregory Jenkins
**Subject:** Massachusetts Cultural Council FY17 CIP grant announcement
**Date:** Tuesday, August 30, 2016 2:50:20 PM

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Dear Mr. Jenkins,

***Congratulations!*** The Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) today approved a spending plan for the coming year that will invest more than $12 million in grants to nonprofit cultural organizations, local cultural councils, education & youth programs, and working artists across the Commonwealth. I am pleased to inform you that Somerville Arts Council has been approved for a Cultural Investment Portfolio (CIP) grant in the amount of $6500. You can see a full list of grants on our website. In the next few weeks, you will receive a contract package in the mail with details about reporting requirements for your FY17 CIP grant.

**CIP Updates for FY17**
As you may know, The Cultural Investment Portfolio completed a year-long program evaluation in FY16, focusing on the following goals:

1. **Provide increased consistency, transparency, and equality of grant awards**
    a. *Action:* Partners & Colleague designations retired, CIP 101 webinar, new CIP grant guide, and operating support guidelines expanded to include independently operating programs under non-fully-cultural 501(c)3 organizations.
2. **Increase partnership development**
    a. *Action:* FY18-FY22 site visit cycle redesign.
3. **Help organizations address capacity gaps**
    a. *Action:* Small shop/volunteer organization convenings, capacity measurement tools and templates, CreativeMinds OutLoud, resource development visits, workshops, data sessions, and webinars.
4. **Create application transparency and reduce barriers for new organizations applying to the CIP**
    a. *Action:* Peers designation retired & CIP Gateway and CIP Projects introduced. Project grants changed to annual awards, minimum organization budget requirement reduced, and guidelines expanded to include unincorporated associations/organizations using a fiscal agent.

While we have discussed many of these changes last year, I did want to focus on item number one above, **retiring of the Partners and Colleague designations.** For many organizations, these classifications were made several years ago and reflected the organization's status at the time of application; Colleagues were typically organizations with smaller budgets, less than three FTEs, and a shorter funding relationship with the MCC, while Partners were typically larger organizations with more staff and funding history. However, as organizations grow and contract, it had become increasingly difficult to keep organizations classified as either a Colleague or Partner. To increase funding transparency, and prevent future grant inequality, the MCC has retired the Colleagues and Partners classifications, effective July 1, 2016. All organizations that receive operating support through the Cultural Investment Portfolio are now simply referred to as CIP grantees. All grant requirements remain the same: the Cultural Data Profile, site visits, advocacy, and the CIP Annual Report. All organizations' cash expenses are combined in the CIP grant formula, and resulting grant awards distributed accordingly.

While the removal of the Colleagues and Partners framework is the largest change to the CIP, you will also notice that all Portfolio grantees are listed alphabetically on the MCC's online funding list. Finally, staff contacts have changed slightly as some organizations fall naturally in the Portfolio. At the end of this email, you will see an updated CIP staff contact list. Please note the concentration areas below do not affect organization funding levels or grant listings; they are simply for internal MCC department management.

Updated guidelines for the CIP are available online, and a 'CIP 101' webinar will occur on September 27th. Register now for this information session, particularly helpful for new staff and volunteer leaders at CIP organizations.

**Upcoming MCC Grant Application Deadlines**
*Please note, receiving a CIP grant does NOT prevent you from applying to these other MCC programs as well.*

- **Big Yellow School Bus** – Wednesday, September 21, 4pm.
- **STARS Residencies** – Thursday, October 6, 4pm. These grants are first come first served, and go very quickly. Speak to Program Manager Diane Daily if you have questions.
- **Local Cultural Council Grants** – Apply to each council directly, applications due Monday, October 17.
- **Festivals Program** – September 15 for festivals taking place September 1, 2016-Feburary 28, 2017. Spring/Summer 2017 festivals deadline: March 15, 2017.
- **UP Inclusive Design Initiative:** Designation & Innovation and Learning Network - Applications accepted September 9-November 7.

As Michael and Kalyn notified you recently, I will now be your primary contact at the MCC. I look forward to getting to know you and your organization. Please let me know if you have any questions about your FY17 CIP grant. On behalf of everyone at the Massachusetts Cultural Council, it is a pleasure to support the great work you do.

Sincerely,

Sara
**FY17 CIP Staff Contacts**

**Sara S. Glidden, Program Manager**
Gateway, Projects, and Cultural Affiliates (non-fully cultural parent organizations)
*Formerly Peers*
617-858-2710

**Michael W. Ibrahim, Program Manager**
Small to Mid-Sized CIP Organizations and Cultural Affiliates (Colleges, universities, and secondary schools)
*Formerly Colleagues*
617-858-2737

**Kalyn C. King, Program Officer**
Mid-Sized to Large CIP Organizations

*Formerly Partners*
617-858-2718