

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LOCAL CULTURAL COUNCIL

The following FAQs include essential information that will help applicants develop successful proposals.

What is the Local Cultural Council (LCC) grant program?

The Local Cultural Council Program (LCC) is a grassroots complement to the centralized grant programs of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Allocations are made to all Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns to support community cultural activities. Each year, the Massachusetts Cultural Council distributes funds to the local cultural councils. In turn, the local cultural councils make grants to schools, organizations and individuals within their communities. Distributions to each LCC are based on a local aid formula devised by the state, which takes into account population and tax base.

How and when do I apply?

An original plus 9 copies of your application must be hand delivered by the close of business to the Westport Town Hall or the Westport Free Public Library by October 15, 2015 or, mailed to the Westport Cultural Council, P.O. Box 4089, Westport, MA 02790. Mailed applications must be postmarked by October 15, 2015. Late applications will not be considered. Applications must be complete, typed and include a budget. Applications that are partially or completely handwritten will not be considered.

What are the additional requirements for Westport?

While all LCCs use the same basic application forms, some may require additional information from their applicants. The Westport Cultural Council requires the following in addition to the LCC application:

- The date or date range of the event. If you have not yet finalized your location, you must specify when you will confirm those details.
- The approved location of the event.
- A letter of approval from the host or sponsoring organization must be included with your application.

What are Westport's priorities?

2015-2016 Westport Cultural Council will give priority to grant requests that:

1. Directly involve the arts, interpretive sciences or humanities.
2. Take place on the South Coast to promote local creative talent and /or cultural resources.
3. Impacts on the Westport community, by reaching a significant number of Westport residents, immediately, or over time.
4. Engages and helps to bring together Westport's varied communities, or introduces Westport residents to new or different cultural perspectives.

5. Supports new projects and does not duplicate previous funding.

How do I find out if I received a grant?

The Westport Cultural Council will send preliminary notification to all applicants shortly after the voting meeting takes place in October. Disapproved applicants will be notified first before approved applicants, and have 15 days to request reconsideration. The WCC receives final approval of all grants from the MCC in January at which time, letters with final approval notification will be sent to applicants who are then free to move forward with their programs.

What is reconsideration?

An applicant whose proposal is not approved for funding by the Westport Cultural Council may request that the council review the application again if the applicant can demonstrate that the Council failed to follow published local or state review procedures. Disapproved applicants have 15 days after the notification letters are mailed out to request reconsideration by the Westport Cultural Council.

Please note that even if the reconsideration request is granted, the application may again be disapproved. Additionally, reconsideration requests may not be made on the basis of dissatisfaction with the amount awarded or disagreement with decisions made on the basis of artistic quality.

When can I start the project if approved?

You must wait for your final approval letter from the Westport Cultural Council, which are mailed in January upon final approval from the state. You may not begin work on your program or project until after you receive your final approval. Remember, the approval you receive in November is preliminary only and must be confirmed before your grant award is final.