



WESTPORT CULTURAL COUNCIL

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Westport Cultural Council Grant Awards

After reviewing many deserving applications for the fall grant cycle, the **Westport Cultural Council** is pleased to announce its **2015-2016 Grant Awards** for individuals and organizations. The WCC received over \$12,000 in grant requests with just \$4,000 in Local Cultural Council funds to distribute. This year WCC received new applications for school programs and field trips offering interesting and fun learning experiences, as well as annual events enjoyed by residents of Westport and surrounding communities.

Congratulations to all 2015-16 WCC Grant Awardees: Madeline Brager for The Art Drive; Westport River Watershed Alliance for Buoy the Winter Blues; Dharma Voyage for Spirit of Westport; South Coast Artists, Inc. for their 2016 Open Studio Tours; New Bedford Whaling Museum; The Arc of Greater Fall River; Westport Free Public Library; New Bedford Art Museum/Artworks! for their Teen Artists Internships; Diane Pereira for a school trip to the Zeiterion theater; Jane Dufault for a field trip to the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra Young People's Concert; New Bedford Festival Theater, Inc.; Westport Land Conservation Trust; and Westport Historical Society.

Please visit our website for a detailed list of the grant awards.

Throughout this year, the WCC accomplished a great deal. In June, a community gathering at an historic Westport farm celebrated recent and past recipients of WCC cultural grants. It was a wonderful opportunity for representatives of town government, non-profit organizations, and individual artists to mingle and discuss their work.

Also in June, Westport Cultural Council members designed and staffed a booth at River Day, the Westport River Watershed Association's annual family-oriented event held on the banks of the Westport River. We were delighted to meet so many of our neighbors who have participated in the wide variety of WCC funded events offered throughout the year in the community.

August brought the WCC's fourth annual Film Series, presenting three documentary films each about a world-renowned architect. Our thanks go to Westport's Dedee Shattuck Gallery for again providing a beautiful venue for this always well-attended late summer event.

During fall meetings WCC members fine-tuned its grant award criteria to best promote access and support for the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in our community. The updated information is on our website.

The Westport Cultural Council is one in a statewide network of local councils funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, appropriated by the Legislature in its annual state budget. We sincerely appreciate the support of our legislators, who this year helped avoid a reduction in arts funding.

The Westport Cultural Council applauds the work of all the cultural groups and artists in our town. We invite potential grant applicants to visit our Facebook page and learn more at www.westportculturalcouncil.org.