



## **REPORT OF THE MEDWAY CULTURAL COUNCIL 2020**

*The mission of the Medway Cultural Council is to support and cultivate the arts in Medway. To accomplish this, we offer grant funding, program development, and educational opportunities. Our goal is to provide our community with a wide range of cultural experiences, including art, music, performance, crafts, and traditions from around the world. We support and encourage local artists and a shared sense of community through cultural appreciation.*

As the local arm of the Mass Cultural Council, we aim to promote access, education, diversity and excellence in arts, humanities and interpretive sciences, to promote the quality of life of residents of the Commonwealth, and to contribute to Medway's economic vitality.

Each local cultural council receives a yearly grant distribution from state funds to allocate to local artists. Medway Cultural Council received \$6800 for local programming this year, which, combined with grant funds carried over from the previous fiscal year, allowed us to grant a total \$9752.10. A competitive grant round is held each fall, but due to the pandemic and state budget issues, the grant application deadline was extended to December 14, 2020. The grant review meeting was held January 12, 2021.

Additionally, \$5,000 of funds from the Town of Medway was allocated through a Town Meeting, and was used to fund local programs and art installations including the Bridges Festival and live paintings. The latter resulted in large-scale paintings that will eventually be able to be seen by the public at the library. Activities for calendar year 2020 were as follows:

- Publicized our annual fall grant round and reviewed 19 grant submissions, awarding 14 grants for all age groups.
- Expanded our membership to 14 members.
- Created two committees - A Marketing/MediaCommittee and an Arts Programming Development Committee.
- Developed a mission statement.
- Engaged in outreach with other committees/boards/organizations in town. This allowed

us to help each other reach our respective goals as well as allowing us to get a full and broad view of our community assets in Medway. Taking inventory of our assets helps us to best direct funds and programming efforts. For example, the nature trails and open spaces were seen as one of our biggest assets; adding art to these assets in the form of the Bridges festival enhances its appeal.

- Advertised upcoming grant-funded activities in local media.
- Created an online Artist Spotlight series that focuses on a different Medway artist each month. These have both a written and video component (thanks to the help of Medway Cable Access).
- Created a YouTube channel to hold our Artist Spotlight videos.
- Collaborated with the Medway Library on coloring kits for pickup at the library. Four kits were designed by member Judith Moffatt.
- Maintained a vibrant and active Medway Cultural Council Facebook page.
- Engaged in acts of art advocacy through updates from MassCreative.
- Engaged in outreach with other committees/boards/organizations in town. This allowed us to help each other reach our respective goals as well as allowing us to get a full and broad view of our community assets in Medway. Taking inventory of our assets helps us to best direct funds and programming efforts. For example, the nature trails and open spaces were seen as one of our biggest assets; adding art to these assets in the form of the Bridges festival enhances its appeal.
- Collaborated with Medway Agricultural Commission on a fall photo contest.
- Collected self-produced virtual studio tours from Medway artists.
- Supported the development of the Bridges Project and will organize and design the Bridges Celebration Festival to be held (hopefully) in Fall, 2021.
- Started a blog website focused on Medway Artists to highlight our local artists and be a local, friendly source of arts/culture information and opportunities.

The new grant awardees will hold their offerings during 2021 in various town locations, such as the Library, Choate Park and the Senior Center. Of the 15 awards, two were in the Humanities, and 13 in the Visual and Performing Arts. Also, due to the pandemic, awardees from 2020 will also get a chance to complete their grants during the calendar year 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kendall, Chairwoman

