



Medford City Council  
Medford, Massachusetts

**Committee of the Whole, June 9, 2026**

**City Council**

Isaac B. “Zac” Bears  
Anna Callahan  
Emily Lazzaro  
Matt Leming  
Liz Mullane  
George A. Scarpelli  
Justin Tseng

This meeting will take place at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Medford City Hall, 85 George P. Hassett Drive, Medford, MA and via Zoom.

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85063113426?pwd=CgScQuVAZVWTxY25PZrI6fPMa8ZzUW.1>

Call-in Number: +13017158592,,85063113426#,,,,\*448746#

Live: Channel 22 (Comcast), Channel 43 (Verizon), [YouTube](#), and [medfordtv.org](http://medfordtv.org).

To submit written comments, please email [ccmembers@medford-ma.gov](mailto:ccmembers@medford-ma.gov).

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

**ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**26-107 - Offered by Isaac Bears, Council President**

Resolution to Receive Presentation from Medford Arts Council and Arts Collaborative Medford Regarding City Support for Arts and Culture

**Adjournment**



Medford City Council  
Medford, Massachusetts

**MEETING DATE**

June 9, 2026

**SPONSORED BY**

Isaac Bears, Council President

**AGENDA ITEM**

**26-107** - Resolution to Receive Presentation from Medford Arts Council and Arts Collaborative Medford Regarding City Support for Arts and Culture

**FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION**

Be it Resolved by the Medford City Council that we invite the Medford Arts Council, Arts Collaborative Medford, and members of the arts and culture community in Medford to discuss their ongoing work and how the City can better support arts and culture in Medford.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**FISCAL IMPACT**

**ATTACHMENTS**

- I. MAC & ACM Slides for June 9 City Council



# MEDFORD ARTS COUNCIL



# Medford Arts Council Overview

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- Established in 1980, the MAC is **Medford's volunteer-run Local Cultural Council** with the goal of bringing high-quality cultural programming to the community
- FY25 budget of **\$92,600** comprised of \$60K City Funds and ~\$32K from Massachusetts Cultural Council (typical of recent years)
- Detailed information can be found on our website:  
<https://www.medfordartscouncil.org>

# Funding Overview & Trends

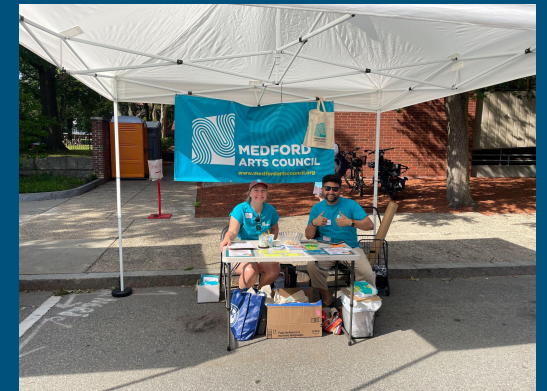
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- MAC grants are show high demand with **90+ applications** in 2026 with limited outreach
- MAC has been able to fund **~ 60% of projects, 40-50% of total funding asks**
  - 2024: \$135k requested, \$105k granted
  - 2025: \$150k requested, \$87k granted
  - 2026: \$115k requested, \$86k granted
- Important source for **funding City Programs**
  - 2025: \$16,440
  - 2026: \$16,177
- Grants typically **capped at \$5,000** due to funding, capacity and coordination constraints

# Local Priorities

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1. Community Impact
2. Economic Impact
3. Activating Public Spaces
4. Partnerships
5. Continuing Education & Creative Skill Building
6. Equity, diversity & Inclusion
7. Significance for Audience
8. Clarity & Feasibility
9. Standard of Excellence
10. New Grantees

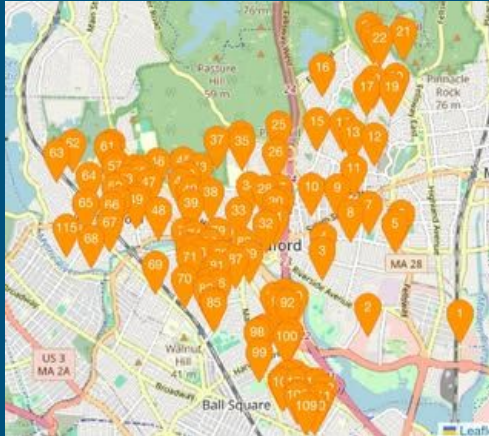


# Community Programs Supported

Roberts Arts Night



Medford Porchfest



Sarah Bradlee Fulton Day



# City Programs Supported

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## Summer Concert Series Condon Shell



## Music & Dance at Medford Council on Aging



## Fairy Tale Ball Medford Public Library



# Medford's gathering place for creativity & community



# Arts Collaborative Medford

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## Mission

Arts Collaborative Medford is community arts center that provides space for making connections and experiencing creativity.

## Vision

We envision a Medford where art is a fundamental part of civic life and driving connection, belonging, and community wellbeing.

# Medford's Creative Community

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## THE DATA

- 200+ artists
- 12 studios
- 10 exhibitions annually
- 100+ cultural events annually
- 3k+ visitors/participants
- 60+ volunteers

**Arts & Culture Help Make Medford Home**

# Youth Enrichment

Photograph of *Origins*, the Medford High School Art Exhibit in 2026



# City Unity



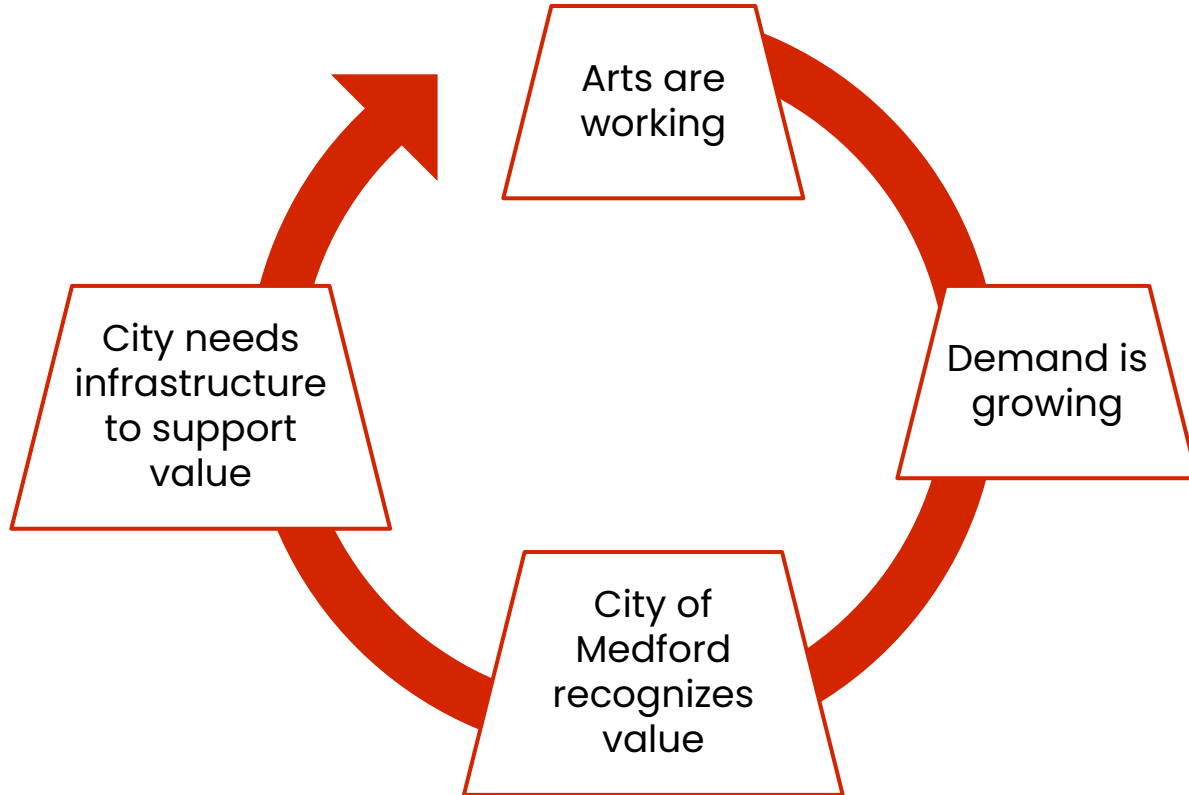


The new mural completed by NXN & Erre in partnership with MyRWA

# Beautify Medford

# From Vision to Action

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thank you



•A•R•T•S•  
COLLABORATIVE  
M E D I A

# Opportunities/Request for Support

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## Increase efficiency and coordination

- **GOAL:** Strengthen arts and culture planning and implementation with dedicated staff
- **Immediate action:** Add partial FTE to serve as a community arts liaison
- **Capacity-building:** Leverage local resources to study models in neighboring communities and develop an arts and culture plan for Medford

# Opportunities/Request for Support

## Increase financial investment

- **GOAL:** Establish sustainable funding streams and mechanism for arts and culture
- **Immediate Action:** Increase City's budget allocation to MAC
- **Capacity-building:** Incorporate incentives for arts and culture into current rezoning efforts to maximize ROI

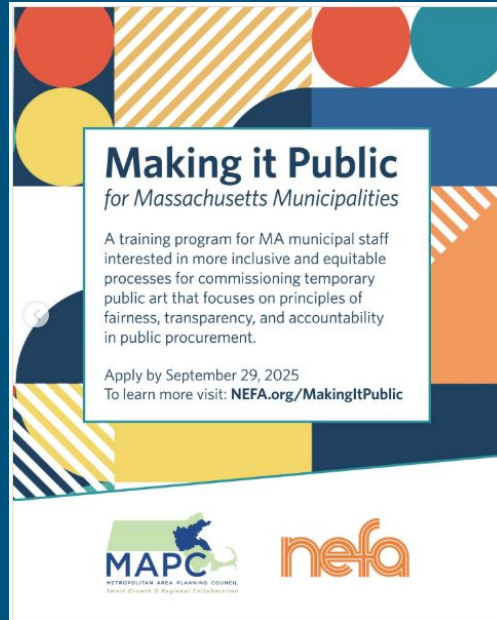


# Resources

## Local: Tufts UEP



## Regional: MAPC



## Statewide: MCC & MassDev

