

CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Belmont Cultural Council (BCC) is part of a network of local and regional cultural councils that receive funding through a central state agency, the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC). Funds are re-granted by the local cultural council (LCC) to individuals and organizations for the purpose of promoting excellence, access, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences in our community.

Belmont Gallery of Art

On May 24, 2005, the Belmont Cultural Council and the Selectmen, representing the Town of Belmont, signed a Memorandum of Understanding detailing mutual responsibilities for the Belmont Gallery of Art. The Inaugural Exhibition at the Gallery, showcasing the work of 59 artists who live or work in Belmont, opened on July 7, 2005 with a well-attended artists' reception. The show ended following a town-wide gala celebration on September 23, 2005. The prints, sand paintings, and yarn-paintings of Segun Olorunfemi were next exhibited in "Expression" from October 11 to November 18, 2005. Paintings by Olga Yulikova were featured in "Layers" from December 6, 2006 to January 13, 2006.

In October 2005, the Massachusetts Cultural Council awarded the Belmont Cultural Council funds for peer advisor assistance in the creation of a long-term strategic plan for the Belmont Gallery of Art (see grant listing below). A copy of the plan once completed will be available to the public. At the close of 2005, the Belmont Gallery of Art had received \$836.50 in application fees and commissions and expended \$305.02 for custodial services and post office box rental, leaving a balance of \$531.48.

Cultural Grants Program

At Town Day in May 2005, the Belmont Cultural Council distributed a survey seeking community input on funding priorities. Respondents indicated that future funding should be equally divided between school-age children, the general public, and senior citizens. These recommendations guided the Belmont Cultural Council's decision-making process during review of the FY2006 grant applications. As a result of the limited allotment from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Belmont Cultural Council once again voted to eliminate funding for the PASS ticket subsidy program for this year, preferring to serve this constituency through in-school programming.

The Belmont Cultural Council's FY2006 allocation from the State was \$3,630. As mandated by this program, the Belmont Cultural Council voted to earmark 5% of these funds for administrative costs. After debiting administrative costs and the local council-originated grant, the amount of funds distributed by the Belmont Cultural Council was slightly above FY2005 at \$3,174.

By the October 17, 2005 deadline, 23 grant applications requesting a total of \$11,650 were received. After the review process, 11 applications were approved for FY2006. The approved applicants and project descriptions are listed below:

Applicant Name	Project Title	Date
Belmont Day School	Children's International Festival	May 2006
Belmont World Film	Student Filmmakers	April 2006
Steve Henderson	"Jerry Atrick: The Older I Get" Performance, Senior Center	April-June 2006
New Repertory Theater	"The Glass Menagerie" Chenery School Performance	November 2005
John Root	Concert, Senior Center	January-December 2006
Jane Sherwin	The Farm Where You Live (Belmont Agricultural History Project)	January-December 2006
Nancy Wagner	"Nancy Wagner: New Work" Art Exhibit	January 2006
Wellington School	Rainforest Legends Presentation	April-June 2006
Jane Wentzell	"The Bee's Eye View" Photography Exhibit	March 2006
Winn Brook School	"Paul Revere's Midnight Ride" Performance	April 2006
Belmont Cultural Council (Local Council Originated)	Belmont Gallery of Art: Strategic Plan	January-June 2006

Approval notification was sent in mid-January to the preceding list.

Respectfully submitted,
Genevieve Fisher, Co-Chairman
Rebecca Richards, Co-Chairman
Louise Ambler, Dietlinde Hamburger, Oz Barron, Juliet Jenkins, Patricia Mihelich, Marc Thibeault, Susan Smart, and Carlha Vickers