

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

In its first full calendar year of operation, the Belmont Gallery of Art presented the work of a number of local artists in several notable exhibits. Included in 2006 were shows featuring the work of painter Ellen Solari and painter/fiber artist Nancy Wagner; photographers Jane Wentzell; Meg Birnbaum; and Fran Forman; and painters Priscilla Hayes and Kate Ransohoff. The Hayes/Ransohoff show also included a special conversation meeting with local residents invited to sit and chat with the artists about their art-making techniques. In addition, the Belmont Gallery of Art showcased the work of the Town's youngest artists with an All-Schools Show featuring select artwork from dozens of Belmont students from the early elementary grades up through high school.

As a result of funds awarded the Belmont Cultural Council by the Massachusetts Cultural Council for peer advisor assistance for the Belmont Gallery of Art, Dr. Dorothy Chen-Courtin of Marketing and Management Associates for Nonprofits, was brought on as a short-term consultant for the gallery. She met with the Belmont Gallery of Art Committee in June 2006 to initiate development of a strategic plan for ongoing operations of the gallery. A copy of the plan developed with Dr. Chen-Courtin's assistance will be available to the public.

Cultural Grants Program

As a result of the continued 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 \$4,410. As mandated by this program, the Belmont Cultural Council voted to earmark 5% of these funds for administrative costs. The total amount of funds distributed by the Belmont Cultural Council was \$4,190.

By the October 17, 2006 deadline, 18 grant applications requesting a total of \$8,491 were received. After the review process, 10 applications were approved for FY2007. The approved applicants and project descriptions are listed below:

Applicant Name	Project Title	Date
Cynthia Ardell	Chicken Soup Cabaret Musical Perf.	April 2007
Belmont Against Racism	Belmont Reads	Oct. 2006-March 2007
Council on Aging	Painting-Introductory for Seniors	January-March 2007
Adrienne Der Marderosian	Collage Exhibition	Oct. 2007
Friends of the Benton Library	Music for Benton	Dec. 2006-June 2007
Habitat Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary	Chenex Nature Connection	Jan.-June 2007
Mary Lee Burbank School	Historical Interpreter	Jan.-June 2007
Powers Music School	Powers Musical Story Hour	Dec. 2006-March 2007
Wellington School PTO	The Science Works-Balls and Ramps	Dec. 2006-March 2007
Edward Wirt Big Band	Payson Park Summer Music Series	June-August 2007

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

Respectfully submitted,
Genevieve Fisher, Co-Chair
Rebecca Richards, Co-Chair