

CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Belmont Cultural Council (BCC) is a 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

The Belmont Gallery of Art presented the work of a number of local artists in several notable exhibits. Included in 2007 were shows featuring *Etching, Painting & Photography* by Lara Loutrel, Dawn Revett and A. David Wunsch; *The Veil: Modesty, Fashion, Religious Devotion or Political Statement?* Rania Matar, photographer; *Peace and Solitude* oil on linen by Josie Lawrence; *Annual Art Exhibit* Belmont Elementary Schools, a representative sampling of two and three-dimensional artwork by students in grades 1 – 4; *Annual Art Exhibit* Chenery Middle School and Belmont High School, a representative sampling of two and three dimensional artwork by students in grades 5 – 12; *Art 02478* work by 46 Belmont artists; *Ink-Brayer-Brush* eclectic prints & paintings on paper by Christiane Corcelle-Lippeveld and Sophia C. Mone

The Belmont Gallery of Art was a 2007 recipient of the Massachusetts Cultural Council Gold Star Award. The Gold Star Program annually honors exemplary projects funded by Local Cultural Councils across the state. Gold Star awards are nominated by Local Cultural Councils and are evaluated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council based on a variety of criteria including: artistic quality, success in reaching out to underserved constituents, educational value, and ability to engage with the community. Collectively, Gold Star Projects demonstrate the ways that culture contributes to the quality of life in cities and towns across the Commonwealth.

BGA Sunday Afternoon series grant receives funding from BCC. This funding from the Belmont Cultural Council will help to defray overhead costs of opening the gallery one Sunday Afternoon during each of 5 shows (fall '07 - spring '08). These additional hours will expand viewing opportunities beyond the limited regular week day hours and also provide a time for the featured artist to present a gallery talk or demonstration of techniques. Both the added hours and programming will help to serve the viewing audience.

June - September: Art 02478 second "All Belmont" show since opening in 2005. Featured work of 46 artists who live in Belmont.

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.

This year the Belmont Cultural Council offered an application assistance workshop in September 2007 and plan on offering the workshop again in September 2008. Our FY2007 allocation from the state was \$4,400 and there was \$2,500 in unencumbered funds that had to be spent. The total amount of funds distributed by the Belmont Cultural Council was \$6,950.

Fifteen outstanding candidates were chosen from a field of 28 grant applicants for the FY2008; with awards ranging in size from \$300 - \$1,000. All of the grant recipients presented interesting and exciting projects that will enrich the Belmont community's cultural life in the coming year. Grant recipients will be presenting events in all types of media—from art to music, theater and film to science and reading. Grant recipients in the field of art include the group Waverley Arts, which is creating murals to adorn the façade of the Belmont Studio Cinema; Ottavio Forte for the development of garden steel sculptures; Belmont Nite Artists for an art show in March 2008 at, and to support, the VFW building; artist Kaetlyn Wilcox for a currently running show at the Belmont Gallery of Art; as well as the Belmont Gallery of Art for "Sunday Afternoon at the BGA", a series of Sunday afternoon art showings with talks by featured artists. The Belmont Public Library and "One Book One Belmont" received a grant supporting projects for all ages to involve more people in the town-wide reading of "Three Cups of Tea." Belmont World Film received a grant to enhance its screening of "Beyond Belief", a film that ties in with "Three Cups of Tea". School grant recipients include the Wellington School in conjunction with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, to bring a plant-mobile to the school for all second graders; the Waldorf High School for a "Green Chemistry Event" and the Chenery Middle School working with the Habitat Education Center for Nature Drawing art classes at the middle school. Dramatic presentations receiving grants include the Delvena Theatre Company for presenting "Lizzie Borden and the 40 Whacks" at the Belmont Public Library as well as the Belmont Council on Aging and Richard Clark to present "And Now Mark Twain" at the Senior Center. The Belmont Council on Aging also received a grant in conjunction with John Root for a presentation on "Wildflowers of the Northeast" at the Senior Center. The Powers Music School received a grant to expand its "Musical Story Hour" to a Belmont preschool as well as for the public at large. Finally, the Discovery Museums received a grant for the "Belmont Free to Explore" weekend, which will allow for free admission and membership discounts for Belmont residents for the last weekend in May.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Mihelich, Chairman