



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

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MEMORANDUM

To: Municipal Leaders; Economic Development and Planning Departments

From: Meri Jenkins, Manager, John and Abigail Adams Arts Program, Massachusetts Cultural Council

Date: July 2006

Re: Request for Proposals

The Massachusetts Cultural Council is delighted to issue the 2007 Request for Proposals for the John and Abigail Adams Arts Program. Application guidelines are available on the Council's web site: <http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/applications/adamsapp.html>

The John and Abigail Adams Arts Program fosters and promotes the use of cultural assets as an economic development tool. The Program is designed to connect artists and cultural organizations to local and state economic development efforts, accommodate new arts and cultural enterprise development, raise awareness of the Commonwealth's cultural products, and attract and retain arts and cultural visitors to Massachusetts.

The MCC is interested in innovative cultural economic development projects that require seed funding for either planning or implementation to:

- Stimulate new economic activity.
- Create or enhance jobs.
- Maximize the economic impact of the arts and cultural industries in Massachusetts.
- Improve the livelihoods of artists and their opportunity to contribute to civic life.
- Stimulate increased participation and engagement by residents and visitors.
- Promote positive, sustainable impact through long-term, strategic development

Several program elements are new this year:

- The MCC is offering a small number of planning grants to those projects that need time to identify the cultural economic development strategies that are most pertinent to their community or industry.
- The MCC is continuing to offer implementation grants, but this year applicants have the option of applying for either one or two years of funding.
- Applications from individual cultural organizations will be considered for funding if they have conceived of a cultural economic development idea that is clearly outside of their usual operations and is in line with the program goals.

As with all MCC grant programs, the application process is a highly competitive one. Proposals are reviewed by an advisory committee with expertise in the field of cultural economic development. The committee will make recommendations to MCC's board, which will then determine which projects to fund. Please review the guidelines online, and if you need more information, contact Christina Hogan, Program Coordinator at (617) 727-3668 x269 or christina.hogan@art.state.ma.us.

