

RE: Becket Cultural Council Announces 2023 Awards

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### Becket Cultural Council Announces 2023 Grant Awards

Rep. “Smitty” Pignatelli and Cathy Terwedow, Chair of the Becket Cultural Council, have announced the awarding of 17 grants totaling \$6,633 for arts, humanities and science projects for the town of Becket for the 2023 calendar year.

The Becket Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by a board of municipally appointed volunteers. The members of the Becket Cultural Council are Cathy Terwedow, chair; Andrea Pecor, treasurer; Shelley Chanler, secretary; Tracy Wilson, publicity; Sarah Reedy, Lisa Rosier, Roberta Goldman, Jane Markham and Carole Rivet.

“It’s the local volunteers who really make this system work,” said Rep. “Smitty” Pignatelli. “They make limited resources go as far as possible. I understand this year, Becket Cultural Council could only fund less than 50% of the applications, with the majority of funded applications being less than the requested amounts. The Council is very thoughtful in their work and the Becket residents are the beneficiaries.”

This year’s grants include Becket Arts Center for its Music Brings Communities Together and Community Arts Workshop; Becket Athenaeum for its Museum Passes program and community performances; Becket Beat for student journalists’ training; Becket Washington School for a field trip to Hancock Shaker Village for grades K-2 and an in-school performance by Berkshire Theatre Group; Berkshire Music School for Drum to the Beat; Music in the (Washington-Becket) Park; IS183 Artcentric after school program; “On the Road” with Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival; Cops and Rodders family day; Creative Movement and Body Language by Laurel Picard Lenski; Windsor Jazz Blues Workshop; Stockbridge Sinfonia Community Concerts; Lara Tupper “Start Your Memoir”; and WAM Theatre community engagement program.

Becket Cultural Council will again seek applications in the fall for 2024 grants. Guidelines and complete information will be available online at [www.mass-cultural.org](http://www.mass-cultural.org). Deadline for applications is October 16. For more information about Becket Cultural Council, send an email to [becketculturalcouncil@townofbecket.org](mailto:becketculturalcouncil@townofbecket.org).