

Dear Western Massachusetts Arts Alliance Members:

Below is information about four regional meetings scheduled by the Massachusetts Cultural Council that I think will be of particular interest to artists, cultural organizations and other arts advocates in the Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin and Berkshire counties. The first three meetings are dubbed "Listening Tours" and will be held in three locations in Western Massachusetts. The Council is also offering an informational session in Northampton for artists interested in applying to the Council's artists program. Below is information about each event. It is vital that the needs and concerns of our region be represented at the "listening tours" so I urge you to attend. In addition, Western Massachusetts artists interested in applying to the Artists Grants program will greatly benefit by attending the information session about this vital program, so please come and be heard!

All Best,

Maren Brown
Western Massachusetts Alliance Steering Committee

LISTENING TOURS IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

MCC's Regional Public Meetings on the Status of Cultural Support seeks to foster continued dialogue between the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the cultural organizations, artists, schools and other constituents it serves, is the focus of a series of MCC regional public meetings. All members of the Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Berkshire County communities as well as members of the general public are invited.

MCC Executive Director Mary Kelley and members of the MCC staff will review how last year's budget cuts affected the statewide cultural community, talk about new programs, and solicit input for future planning efforts. Dan Hunter, Executive Director of Massachusetts Advocates for the Arts, Sciences and Humanities (MAASH), will provide a political perspective on the budget process and detail his organization's future advocacy efforts.

WHEN and WHERE:

Tuesday, September 30 from 4:30-6:30 pm.

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center

14 Castle Street

Great Barrington

For directions see: <http://www.berkshireopera.org/directions.html>

Wednesday, October 1 from 4:00-6:00 pm.

MASS MoCA

87 Marshall Street

North Adams

For directions see: <http://www.massmoca.org/visiting.html#directions>

Wednesday, October 8 from 4:30-6:30 pm.

Northampton Center for the Arts

17 New South Street

Northampton

(ASL Interpreted)

For directions see: <http://www.hookedonswing.org/cfa.html>

Please RSVP by email to amanda.dillon@art.state.ma.us or by phone at 617-727-3668 ext. 555. See also <http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/now/fallmeetings.html> for more information

ARTIST GRANTS PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION IN NORTHAMPTON

The MCC will host four statewide Information Sessions for the Artist Grants Program. This year, \$5,000 fellowships will be available in Choreography, Drawing/Printmaking/Artist Books, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction, Painting, Poetry, and Traditional Arts. Each session will demonstrate the online grant application process and staff will share best practices for preparing work samples.

The first Information Session will be:
Wednesday, October 15, 2003, from 6:00pm-8:00pm
Northampton Center for the Arts
17 New South Street, Suite 303
Northampton

For Further Information, please contact: Amanda Dillon, Program Administrator;
Massachusetts Cultural Council's Artists Program at 1-800-232-0960 x231 or email her at amanda.dillon@art.state.ma.us