



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## READING CULTURAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCES LIST OF 2016 GRANTEES

March 2016 -- The Reading Cultural Council, the local arm of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, has awarded \$6400 in program funding support to eight Reading organizations for arts and humanities programming in 2015 and 2016. Funding was provided to the following organizations:

- **North Suburban Child and Family Resource Network** for a presentation of *Tom Knight Puppets* for young children during February vacation week
- **St. Agnes Summer Theater** for their 2016 musical production, with rehearsals at the St. Agnes Community Center and a community presentation at Parker Middle School
- **Reading Community Singers** for their 2015 Holiday Concert featuring *Diva's Daughters*, presented at Old South United Methodist Church
- **Birch Meadow Parent Teacher Organization** for a visit from author Gregory Mone and writing instruction during the school year
- **Creative Arts** for drop in Family Art Days with *Laura Root* at the Creative Arts Center in January, February, March and April
- **The Ivy Chord Coffee House** for acoustic musical performances in October 2015 and January and May 2016, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading
- **Delvina Theater Company** for a presentation of *Truly Eleanor*, a three-person live performance recounting the life of Eleanor Roosevelt, to be performed at the Reading Senior Center in April
- **The Reading Antiquarian Society** for the Colonial Faire at Parker Tavern on May 14, 2016

According to Reading Cultural Council chair Donna Schenkel, cultural council grants support a range of cultural, artistic and experiential projects and activities in Reading -- including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, workshops and lectures. "We look for local programs that are performed at an accessible Reading venue. You'll see from the list of 2016 awards that our grants cover a range of community interests, ages and locations."

The Massachusetts state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to Local Cultural Councils, like the Reading Cultural Council, which make awards based on community needs, assessed and set by council members.

### How to Apply for a Cultural Council Grant

Individuals and organizations interested in seeking funding from the Reading Cultural Council for 2016-2017 can find application forms online at [mass-culture.org/Reading](http://mass-culture.org/Reading) or at Reading Town Hall. The postmark deadline for the next round of applications is October 15, 2016.

Funds are awarded through an application process which can be competitive based on the number of requests and the funds available. Typically, Reading's Cultural Council receives more applications than it can even partially fund. Average grants tend to be modest and are reimbursement-based, meaning applicants expend their own money, and if approved for a grant, submit paperwork for reimbursement.

### About the Reading Cultural Council

The Reading Cultural Council is part of a network of Local Cultural Councils (LCC) serving all cities and 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. Members of the Reading Cultural Council are volunteers appointed by the Reading Board of Selectmen.

Individuals interested in joining the Reading Cultural Council can visit the Reading Cultural Council page on the Town of Reading website ([readingma.gov/cultural-council](http://readingma.gov/cultural-council)), or email Donna Schenkel, Reading Cultural Council Chair [[donnaschenkel@icloud.com](mailto:donnaschenkel@icloud.com)] or the Reading Town Clerk.

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