

Ayer Cultural Council



The Ayer Cultural Council (ACC) is a group of town appointed volunteers who seek to expand the cultural experiences for the residents of Ayer. Through funding from the state and the town, we provide a variety of engaging activities and events. It is our belief that these programs support a growing and vibrant town, fostering a strong sense of community among residents while making the town appealing to newcomers.

Where Funds Come From

State funding distributed annually to local towns is based on a formula that takes into account populations and property values, and is weighted in such a way to give a larger distribution to less wealthy communities. Ayer receives funds annually from the state. We are grateful that an additional \$4,600 in matching funds was appropriated at the May 2018 Town Meeting. This allows us to fund more programs for FY2019.



Looking for Volunteers

The ACC is comprised entirely of volunteers and is actively seeking new members to promote the arts and cultural events in our community. If you are an Ayer resident with a passion for the arts, please consider joining. It's a great opportunity to get involved in your community without a huge time commitment. Contact the Board of Selectmen for more information.

Types of Programs Funded

Ticket subsidies, field trips, dance, music, pottery, media arts, storytelling, theater, nature walks, history, concerts, exhibitions, after-school programs and other programs of the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences.

Arts - The creation, presentation and education of work in the crafts, performing, visual, media, folk, design, literary, and interdisciplinary arts.

Humanities - Types of learning that deal with human values and aspirations, human thought and culture, language, and creativity – history, social studies, philosophy, criticism, and literature.

Interpretive Sciences - Types of learning that deal with nature, science, and technology in ways that explain how they relate to people's lives – aquariums, arboretums, botanical gardens, nature centers, museums, planetariums, and science/technology centers.

Grant requests accepted year-round.

ACC Funding Priorities

Based on the Community Input Survey, the ACC gives funding priority to:

- Community-wide events
- Programs that serve families, youth, seniors and low-income population segments
- Local artists and cultural organizations
- Arts education in the schools and youth arts programs outside of school
- Programs that support nature and science
- Programs with demonstrated support and secured venue/location

Funding Criteria

Applications are evaluated using the following criteria:

- Meet local funding priorities (see above)
- Take place in Ayer and/or benefit Ayer residents
- Offered by Ayer artists and organizations
- Diversity with respect to age groups, cultural backgrounds and artistic disciplines
- Originality, community support and involvement
- Demonstrate financial need



Autism/Special Needs
ArtsNashoba

Concert with Wendy Frank
Ayer Community School

Summer Reading Program
Ayer Library

Kosmic Kelly
Page Hilltop School

2018 Grant Programs & Recipients

Reading is Magic
Ed the Wizard, Ayer Library

Hands on History
Denis Cormier, Page Hilltop School

Exhibition of Art & Craft
Fitchburg Art Museum

Influenza Commemoration
Fort Devens Museum

Bach's Concert Lunch Series
Indian Hill Music

Monet's Pastel Paints
Gregory Maichack, Ayer Library

Christmas Concerts
Nashoba Valley Concert Band

Guided Learning in Art
Rebecca M. Nehring, Nashoba Park

Edible Perennials
John Root, Ayer Library

EBT \$1 Admission
The Discovery Museums

She Kills Monsters Performance
The Sizer Foundation

School House Open House
Sandy Pond School House Assoc.

River Classroom
Page Hilltop School

Museum Passes
Ayer Library

Who Can Apply for a Grant?

Individuals – artists, science educators, historians, humanists, parents, community members, etc.

Community groups – public schools, libraries, social service organizations, civic groups, neighborhood centers, youth, senior and family associations, etc.

Organizations – incorporated organizations must be nonprofit; unincorporated associations must have a nonprofit purpose.

How to Apply for a Grant

Applications must be submitted online at <https://www.mass-culture.org/Ayer>.

Applications must be received by October 15 or the next business day should the 15th fall on a weekend or holiday.

Grant Cycle Timeline

AugGrant program publicized
SeptState allocations announced; online applications open Sept. 1.
Oct 15Grant applications due to ACC (online only)
Nov/DecVoting meeting; denial letters mailed
JanApproval letters mailed