

Pittsfield Cultural Council  
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Pittsfield Mayor James Ruberto announced Wednesday that the Pittsfield Cultural Council has been awarded a \$100,000 grant to fund an umbrella program entitled Pittsfield Panorama.

The year-long collaborative initiative will involve more than 30 local cultural groups, which will develop collaborative programs throughout the year to explore the rich resilient heritage of Pittsfield from its inception in 1761 to today.

Ruberto sincerely thanked Pittsfield Cultural Council (PCC) and the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) saying "We are so pleased to receive this funding to help us celebrate our great City and teach our citizens of all ages about our rich history, as well as allow residents and visitors alike to experience our cultural diversity. This is especially meaningful during the year that we commemorate our 250th Anniversary."

"This program is a wonderful example of the way the City of Pittsfield successfully fosters and encourages collaborative arts initiatives that bring the community together. The Pittsfield Cultural Council has a long history of supporting this kind of work in the community, and the MCC appreciates the time they volunteer to the arts and cultural community" said MCC's Executive Director, Anita Walker.

Each cultural project under this Pittsfield Panorama umbrella will offer free or easily accessible programs to people of all ages and ethnic and socio-economic groups.

"We worked diligently reviewing the proposals before us, and felt that funding this project would best serve the people of Pittsfield bringing them an extraordinary abundance of wonderful programs. We were particularly impressed by the great array of collaboration between so many local cultural organizations" said Pittsfield Cultural Council president, Sheila McKenna.

The organizations participating this grant initiative include Arrowhead, Artscape, Barrington Stage Company, Berkshire Art Association, Berkshire Athenaeum, Berkshire Carousel, Berkshire Community College, Berkshire Jazz, Berkshire Lyric Theatre, Berkshire Museum, Berkshire Music School, Colonial Theatre, Cultural Development Board, Downtown Pittsfield Cultural Association, Eagles Band, Fourth of July Parade, Friends of Berkshire Athenaeum, Hancock Shaker Village, Here at Home, Lift Ev'ry Voice, Local Church Choirs, Office of Cultural Development, PCTV, Pittsfield Ethnic Fair, Pittsfield Public Schools, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Samuel Harrison Society, Sister Cities, Storefront Artist Project, 3rd Thursdays, Veterans Services, and Youth Alive.

The Pittsfield Cultural Council is a part of the Local Cultural Council Program, the second largest grant program of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which is a grassroots complement to the state agency's centralized grant programs. Allocations are made to all of Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns to support community cultural activities. The LCC Program is the most extensive system of its kind in the nation to support arts, sciences and humanities.

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