

HAMPDEN CULTURAL COUNCIL 2004

The Hampden Cultural Council is responsible for distributing funds allocated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Applications for funds are submitted to the local council in October of each year. The council then meets to consider those requests. The applicants who are rejected are given time to appeal and under the new streamlined granting process; those who are approved are notified by the local council of their approval in December following a brief review by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The actual funds to approved applicants are then available for distribution by the end of January pending budget passage by the state legislature.

Local groups or individuals who would like to request funds can get more information and the grant applications from the Selectman's office. It should be noted that the council gives preference to projects sponsored by town organizations or residents. Due to limited funds, requests are rarely granted in full.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council granted the Hampden Cultural Council our yearly allocation of \$2,000.00. This was the same amount we received for 2003-2004. The council has recently made decisions regarding the re-granting of these monies. Projects and activities that have been awarded grants for 2005 include:

- ❖ A Music Matters program for grades 2 and 4
- ❖ A Stories & Songs From Around The Word program at Thornton Burgess Middle School
- ❖ Support to the Hampden Public Library Summer Reading Program
- ❖ Support to the Hampden Senior Center, Music of Seniors Concert
- ❖ Support to Theatre Guild of Hampden for Guys and Dolls show

We have experienced great pleasure and satisfaction in being able to support these cultural events and hope to continue to support cultural education and enjoyment of town residents of all ages.

Respectfully submitted:

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