



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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REP STRAUS ANNOUNCES FY 2007 GRANTS TO BENEFIT LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS.

Representative William Straus (D. Mattapoisett) is pleased to announce the Massachusetts Cultural Council grants in the amount of \$24,190 to local cultural councils, and \$9,440 for the Creative Schools Program. This years funding totals \$33,630, up from \$17,170 in fiscal year 2006.

The LCC Program is the most extensive cultural funding system of its kind in the nation. This grassroots network provides funding to every Massachusetts city and town through 329 LCCs and 2,500 volunteer members. The councils support community-based projects that explore local arts and history, expand education and accessibility, and celebrate diversity. FY 2007 grant monies to be distributed are as follows:

Fairhaven Cultural Council	\$5,370
Marion Cultural Council	\$4,000
Mattapoisett Cultural Council	\$4,000
Middleborough Cultural Council	\$6,820
Rochester Cultural Council	\$4,000

The Creative School Program funds schools and school districts working to integrate arts and culture into the curriculum connecting students in grades 2-5 to reading, writing and understanding poetry. This is the first year of a two-year grant for the Old Rochester Regional School District in the amount of \$9,440.

Rep Straus said “with these grants the MCC allows children and adults to empower themselves with the knowledge to learn about local arts, history, theatre and much more.”

The MCC will distribute more than \$8 million in direct grants across the state of Massachusetts.