



For Immediate Release  
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### **LOCAL COMMUNITIES AWARDED MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTS**

State Representative Bill Straus (D-Mattapoissett) today announced that the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) has awarded nearly \$14,000 in grants to the towns of Fairhaven, Marion, Mattapoissett, Middleborough, and Rochester. These grants are made available by the MCC in order to enhance the role of arts and culture in all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth.

“The arts and humanities play an important role in the vitality of our communities and I’m pleased that the local cultural councils have been awarded these grants to allow the public greater access to the cultural sector,” said Representative Straus. Local communities received awards in the following amounts:

Fairhaven Cultural Council	\$3,590
Marion Cultural Council	\$2,000
Mattapoissett Cultural Council	\$2,000
Middleborough Cultural Council	\$4,400
Rochester Cultural Council	\$2,000

In addition to local cultural councils, the MCC has awarded grants to cultural organizations statewide and to educational programs for children. The MCC is able to fund many of these programs through an annual appropriation from the Legislature. In the Fiscal Year '05 Budget, the Legislature provided nearly \$8.4 million to the MCC.