

## **WELLESLEY CULTURAL COUNCIL**

The Wellesley Cultural Council consists of a group of Wellesley residents appointed by the Selectmen. Its primary task is to administer the funds that the Massachusetts Cultural Council allots to Wellesley from state funds, including the state lottery. These funds support the arts, humanities and sciences in the Wellesley community.

The Council also serves as an advocacy voice for the arts in our town and state. Members in 2008-2009 were: Ruth Anne Nuwayser (Chair), Karen Griswold (Secretary), Terri Sevilla (Treasurer), Marshall Cannell, Tim Hill, Ann Melanson, Arlene Schulz, and Maria Wardwell.

### **Local Cultural Grants**

The Wellesley Cultural Council meets on average four times each year at a location open to the public. In September, the call for grant applications is announced in the *Wellesley Townsman* and blank applications are made available at the Wellesley Free Library and in the Town Hall. Completed applications must be postmarked or hand delivered to the Town Hall no later than October 15; They are then catalogued on the Council's web site, and copies are given to each Council member.

Members hold two meetings in the fall: first, to determine which grants are of the highest priority, and second, to determine the dollar amounts to be awarded to each successful applicant. Recommendations for grants to be funded are completed by December 15 of each year and decisions are passed on to the Massachusetts Cultural Council for approval. Wellesley Cultural Council is considered to be a "streamlined" local council because we have an excellent track record with grants management and council training. Therefore, our grants are approved by early January and funds are made available by the end of that month.

All grants are "reimbursable," meaning that grant funds are distributed only after an event or activity has taken place and documentation to that effect has been presented to the Wellesley Cultural Council's Treasurer for reimbursement. When approved grants are not used by the recipient, these funds carry over to the next grant cycle.

WCC encourages all Wellesley organizations, as well as individual artists, humanists and scientists residing in the Town of Wellesley to consider applying for Council funds. The Council also considers applicants from other Massachusetts communities who wish to bring cultural opportunities to residents of Wellesley.

For Fiscal 2009, the Wellesley Cultural Council received a total of 16 applications and voted to award funds to the following 8 groups or individuals: Wellesley Symphony Orchestra (\$1200), Wellesley Choral Society (\$950), St. Andrew's Performing Arts Series (\$400), Bridgewater Brass (\$600), Richard Clark (\$450), Yetti Frankel (\$350), Ruth Harcovitz (\$500), Matt Ettore (\$500).

Finally, the Council held its triennial Open House meeting in March 2009 inviting the public to hear samples of performances by groups who had received WCC

grants: a quartet of Wellesley Symphony Orchestra members, members of the Wellesley Choral Society, members of the Wellesley Players, and a choral group from Wellesley High School entertained attendees. The Wakelin Room in the Wellesley Free Library was a particularly effective venue for this meeting.

Wellesley Cultural Council meetings are posted at Town Hall and are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Anne Nuwayser, Chair, FY 2009  
September 2009