****

**www.wellfleetculturalcouncil.org**

*Creating Community Through Cultural Engagement*

 Contact: Kevin McMahon

 wellfleetculturalcouncil@gmail.com

September 1, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**GRANT APPLICATION WINDOW FOR 2024 OPENS FOR ARTISTS AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS SERVING WELLFLEET**

**The Wellfleet Cultural Council is seeking applications from local artists and organizations to support the cultural life of Wellfleet.**

The Wellfleet Cultural Council is now accepting applications for grants that support arts and culture in Wellfleet. New for this year is converting to a direct grant process, where recipients won’t have to wait until their project is completed to receive funding. “*Not only is this a simpler process for all involved, it is more equitable for those who are partially or fully self-funding their projects,”* says Carolyn Rogers, chair of the Wellfleet Cultural Council.

The Wellfleet Cultural Council dispenses funds allocated from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Town of Wellfleet, and individual donations. The funds are intended to support the work of local artists, non-profits, community organizations, and schools. As they did last year, the Council hopes to fund one applicant with a larger-than-normal award, creating a more significant impact for the recipient.

The application window opens on September 1 and closes on October 17, 2023. Grants will be announced in December 2023. In addition to supporting and promoting the 2023 grant recipients, this year, the Council spent considerable time and effort on strategic planning, soliciting community input, and fine-tuning its mission statement. Says Rogers, “We are confident the groundwork the Council has achieved within this granting cycle will benefit the Wellfleet community for years to come.”

The Wellfleet Cultural Council reassesses priorities each year based on community input. The priorities for funding in 2024 are:

* Benefit Wellfleet individuals and organizations
* Support local artistic and not-for-profit talent
* Provide off-season activities for year-round residents
* Promote racial equity and encourage diversity
* Highlight Wellfleet’s local heritage and unique natural resources
* Encourage emerging artists, start-ups, and new programs
* Be evaluated and prioritized to ensure that the assortment of grants funded provide different types of arts and cultural activities (e.g., music, theater, visual arts, performing arts, literature, science, historical, and other types of events).

The application process is fully (and only) online at wellfleetculturalcouncil.org. The Wellfleet Cultural Council has a revamped website designed to simplify the application process and answer most questions. Council members are available to answer additional questions about any aspect of the process by contacting wellfleetculturalcouncil@gmail.com.

# # #