

Norwell Cultural Council

This year, the Cultural Council adopted the state designation replacing the former title of Arts Lottery Council. This made no difference in the modest allocation of \$2000 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for 2004. The forecast for the 2005 budget is just as modest.

In October 2003, the Council members reviewed 31 applications and funded 20 projects, with awards ranging from \$100 to \$500, which funded only a portion of each project's cost. Preference was given to applications from within the town or from outside the town for performances or activities to take place within the town. Awards totaled \$4000 by utilizing previously allocated funds that had not been used because of changes in project plans.

On May 2, 2004, the Council will undertake its first fundraising activity, a day of concerts by the Granite Statesman Barbershop Chorus and Quartets to be held at Norwell High School. This chorus is internationally ranked and was the Champion of the Northeast District for the past five years. The feature quartet is Club NED, which won the district championship in 1999.

Members of the Council hope that the infusion of private funds from this fundraising activity will permit the Council to aggressively encourage art and cultural activities for a cross-section of the community with special attention to the elderly and the cross-cultural populations in the town. We will also be exploring the offering of continuing education courses for town residents or other interested individuals through whatever mechanisms may be available.

Respectfully submitted,
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