



# BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

## Committee on Arts, Culture, Entertainment, Tourism, & Special Events

Tania Fernandes Anderson, Chair

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### REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

July 8, 2024

Dear Councilors,

The following dockets were sponsored by the Administration and referred to the Committee on June 5, 2024:

*Docket #0903, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the Culture Access Fund, awarded by the Boston Foundation to be administered by the Office of Arts & Culture. The grant will fund the support of the Cultural Access Pilot Program, BPS Sundays, from the Boston Foundation,*

*Docket #0904, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Two Hundred Ninety-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$297,200.00) in the form of a grant for the FY24 Local Cultural Council Program, awarded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council to be administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture. The grant will fund innovative arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences programming that enhances the quality of life in the City of Boston,*

*Docket #0905, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the Cultural Access Fund, awarded by the Barr Foundation to be administered by the Office of Arts & Culture. The grant will fund support for the Cultural Access Fund Pilot Program, helping to support the BPS Sundays initiative across several arts and cultural institutions,*

*Docket #0906, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) in the form of a grant, BPS Sundays pilot program support, awarded by Pilot House Philanthropy to be administered by the Office of Arts and Culture. The grant will fund the learning and evaluation component of the BPS Sunday Pilot Program.*

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#### **Summary of Legislation:**

*Docket #0903, authorizes the City to accept and expend \$300,000.00 in the form of a grant for the Culture Access Fund, awarded by the Boston Foundation to be administered by the Office of Arts & Culture. The grant will fund the support of the Cultural Access Pilot Program, BPS Sundays, from the Boston Foundation.*

**Docket #0904** authorizes the City to accept and expend **\$297,200.00** in the form of a grant for the **FY24 Local Cultural Council Program**, awarded by **the Massachusetts Cultural Council** to be administered by **the Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture**. The grant will fund **innovative arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences programming** that enhances the quality of life in the City of Boston.

**Docket #0905** authorizes the City to accept and expend **\$250,000.00** in the form of a grant, for the **Cultural Access Fund**, awarded by **the Barr Foundation** to be administered by **the Office of Arts & Culture**. The grant will fund support for the **Cultural Access Fund Pilot Program**, helping to support the **BPS Sundays** initiative across several arts and cultural institutions.

**Docket #0906** authorizes the City to accept and expend **\$150,000.00** in the form of a grant, **BPS Sundays pilot program support**, awarded by **Pilot House Philanthropy** to be administered by **the Office of Arts and Culture**. The grant will fund the learning and evaluation component of the **BPS Sunday Pilot Program**.

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**Information Gathered at the Hearing:**

The Committee held a hearing on Wednesday, July 3, 2024. The Chair was joined by Council President Louijeune; Councilor Flynn; Councilor Murphy; and Councilor Weber. Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, testified on behalf of the Administration.

The Administration discussed the **Local Cultural Council Grant**, explaining that it is an annual allocation from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Administration stated that the maximum grant size was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and that it would focus on small, community-based organizations.

Regarding the **Sunday's For All** program, the Administration explained that it is a partnership between the City, BPS, and six cultural institutions. It was explained that the program provides free access for students and up to three family members on the first two Sundays of each month. The Administration stated that 16,700 tickets were redeemed in the first three months and that 70% of students using the program are BIPOC. It was explained that the program is funded by a combination of city funds, raised funds, and in-kind subsidies from institutions.

Councilors expressed excitement about the program's transformative impact and discussed the importance of data-driven evaluation for the Sundays for All program. Councilors also emphasized the importance of expanding the program to more families. Focusing on the potential barriers such as transportation and lunch costs, Councilors suggested considering a sliding scale for eligibility to include more families.

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**Recommended Action:**

The Chair of the Committee on Arts, Culture, Entertainment, Tourism, & Special Events, to which the following was referred:

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submits a report recommending that these dockets ought to pass.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Tania', with a large, stylized initial 'A' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tania Fernandes Anderson, Chair  
Committee on Arts, Culture, Entertainment, Tourism, & Special Events