



PRESS RELEASE

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ORLEANS CULTURAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR 2026

Following a competitive selection process, the Orleans Cultural Council (OCC) has awarded full or partial funding to support a number of exciting projects in 2026. These grants are made possible by funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), which partners with artists, communities, and organizations to unleash the power of culture across the Bay State.

The funded programs will serve a variety of audiences in diverse venues. Awardees include the Payomet Performing Arts Center for a circus arts program at Orleans Elementary School; John Dennis Anderson for an historic, costumed presentation, "Gellhorn v. Hemingway: In Love & War"; the Orleans Council on Aging for a summer lunchtime concert by Hyannis Sound; Henry Lappen (aka Henry the Juggler), for a live show and workshop; the Piti Theatre Company for "Story Wizards"; J. Hagenbuckle for "Cape Noir Radio Theater LIVE!" at Orleans' Snow Library; and a Free Family Fun Day at the Cape Cod Museum of Art.

"We couldn't be more excited to present these awards," said council chair Brian Smith. "They reflect the breadth and creativity of projects designed to reach people in Orleans and nearby communities. When artists create with and for the public—from storytellers and musicians to theater companies and educators—the impact ripples throughout our region. Thanks to our partnership with the Mass Cultural Council, the Orleans Cultural Council is helping make the Cape's vibrant cultural life accessible to all."

Orleans is one of 329 Massachusetts towns that receive Massachusetts Cultural Council funds annually to support community-based programs. Decisions about which activities to fund are made at the local level by the Orleans Cultural Council, a board of municipally appointed members. The OCC works with the MCC and the Town of Orleans as leaders, stewards, and advocates for the arts, humanities, and sciences through annual grants, initiatives, and advocacy for nonprofit cultural organizations, schools, and artists. [End]