

# **Creative Sector Advocacy Week 2024**



## **Creative Sector Advocacy Week 2024**

- Welcome!
- Take a moment to introduce yourself in the chat, consider sharing:
  - Your name
  - Where you are zooming in from today
  - Your role / engagement with the creative sector
  - What you are hoping to walk away with from today's session
- Remember to please mute your microphone
- We encourage you to get a notepad, pen/pencil, etc.
- Feel free to use the chat for any questions or info exchange throughout our convening.

## What is Creative Sector Advocacy Week?

MASSCreative is co-organizing a statewide Creative Sector Advocacy Week the week of **January 22 - January 26, 2024**.

- Local and regional convenings are happening that Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Creative Celebration Day at the State House on Wednesday, January 24th from 10 AM - 3 PM.
- Online celebration and actions all week!

We are organizing members of the creative community and building cross-discipline solidarity to raise visibility and support for Massachusetts' creative sector.

# **How To Be An Effective Advocate**

#### **Welcome Norman!**

Norman Abbott, Senior Government Affairs Specialist at Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Formerly Regional Director for Congressman Seth Moulton and in the Patrick Administration.

Also worked for the New England Anti-Defamation League advancing the agency's state and local civil rights legislative agenda.

# **Communicating with Lawmakers**



#### **Emails and Phone Calls**

Subject line: Please support the creative economy this session!

Dear Representative or Senator [name],

I hope this finds you and your staffers in great health. My name is [Richeline Cadet/insert name], I am a constituent living in [state representative/state senate district]. I am reaching out to share with you my support for the bill

→ HD.3110/SD.2051, An Act establishing a program for local art and community engagement (PLACE Act), sponsored by Rep. Mary Keefe, Rep. Steve Ultrino, Sen. Paul Mark, and Sen. Robyn Kennedy.

As a resident of [insert city/town/district], I see how our community benefits from a strong creative sector. [Share personal story/connection if applicable. For example, are you an artist? Is there a particular local art form that you enjoy supporting?]. I am eager to continue advocating for this legislation and I hope as a constituent and community member to count on you [Give them an ideal and realistic solution you'll like to see them take].

In solidarity,

[Richeline Cadet/insert name]

#### **Emails and Phone Calls**

- Start by introducing yourself and exchange pleasantry
  - O Hello representative or senator {name}, my name is, I am a constituent from {--}, how are you today?
- Explain why you are calling and Share your Why
  - I am giving you a call today, to share my support H.3246 / S.2190: An Act establishing a program for local art and community engagement or "PLACE". [Share personal story/connection if applicable. For example, are you an artist? Is there a particular local art form that you enjoy supporting?].
- Make an Ask
  - As an art administrator, I know first hand how important a vibrant creative community is to all of us. Which is why I had to call you today and ask you to [what would you like to see them do?]



## **Actions You Can Take Next Week**

# **Creative Advocacy Week Communications**

- Help us amplify content before and during Advocacy Week
  - Use #CreateAdvocacy2024
- Planning on hosting an event near you? Please share pictures and tag MASSCreative so we can also amplify!
- Expect to receive more emails from MASSCreative and our co-hosts with Advocacy Week information.
- Use our Creative Sector Advocacy Week page to find more resources: blogs, registration forms, downloadable social media graphics.

## **5 Days of Action**

- Monday Find out who your legislator is and reach out
- Tuesday Act on a cultural policy you care about: endorse, write, amplify
- Wednesday Amplify your creative community at home
- Thursday Build our advocacy networks
- Friday Self-reflect / Long-term advocacy planning



- Items to consider discussing with legislators
  - FY25 State budget
  - Bills filed that will support the creative sector
  - Housing Bill

- FY25 Budget
  - State revenues continue to go down
    - THIS WILL BE A TOUGH BUDGET
  - Mass Cultural Council budget
    - FY21 \$18.2 million (COVID budget, level funding)
    - FY22 \$20 million
    - FY23 \$23 million
    - FY24 (current) \$25 million

- FY25 Budget
  - Creative Sector's long term goal \$5 per capital
  - THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN IN ONE YEAR

For FY25 we will advocate for \$28 million

#### Creative Sector Agenda

- Creative Space Preservation Act (H.3241 /S. 530)
- Cultural Equity in Tourism (H.3244 /S. 2194)
- ACE Act (H.151 / S.113)
- PLACE Act (H.3246 /S. 2190)
- Downtown Vitality Act (H.228 /S. 130)

- Affordable Homes Act
  - \$1.83 billion for housing production and preservation
  - Create 22,000 new affordable housing units
  - 12,000 additional units of middle-income housing
  - 1,9000 new home ownership opportunities
  - 35% reduction in residential building energy use by 2030.
  - Allows Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) built by-right without local permitting.
  - Sealing eviction records.

- Affordable Homes Act
  - Joint Committee on Housing holding hearing tomorrow Thursday 17 11am - 5pm
  - Written testimony due Friday January 19th at 5pm

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# **Discussion**

