

The Commonwealth of Massachus::tts House of Representatives State House, Boston 02133-1054

TODD M. SMOLA REPRESENTATIVE **1ST HAMPDEN DISTRICT**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August, 10 2015

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New State Grants Benefit Cultural Community

BOSTON - Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) today announced that the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) has awarded grants totaling \$92,700 to cultural organizations, schools and communities in the First Hampden District.

Representative Smola said these grants support a broad range of cultural activities that benefit local residents, while supporting jobs in the nonprofit cultural sector. The announcement was made as part of MCC's statewide funding program, which benefits from a \$2 million increase to its state appropriation approved by the Legislature in August.

"It is deeply important that we support the arts, humanities, and sciences to ensure that residents have the opportunity to benefit from the unique history and culture in Massachusetts," said Representative Smola. "I am very pleased to announce that Old Sturbridge Village, The Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation as well as all seven Local Cultural Councils in the district, will be receiving funding from the MCC to assist in the continuation of their wonderful cultural projects."

The MCC is a state agency supporting the arts, sciences, and humanities, to improve the quality of life in Massachusetts and its communities. It pursues its mission through a combination of grants, services, and advocacy for nonprofit cultural organizations, schools, communities, and artists.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.