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Date: August 11, 2015  
For Immediate Release

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **New Bedford Cultural Council to Offer Informational Session on Grant Guidelines**

**New Bedford, Massachusetts** – The New Bedford Cultural Council (NBCC) encourages individuals and groups that are interested in applying for a NBCC grant this year attend its information session on **Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at the New Bedford Public Library Main in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Meeting Room**. Several Cultural Council members will be available to review the guidelines and address questions.

The NBCC is charged with making funding decisions that best meet the particular needs and priorities of the New Bedford community based on the annual Community Input Survey. Grants are awarded to individuals and organizations, with a maximum amount of \$4,000.00 per individual or organization. The 2015 NBCC Community Input Survey suggests that the NBCC support proposals that emphasize the following: youth and low income groups, public art projects, events that are free or offer reduced fees to low income New Bedford residents, projects that celebrate New Bedford's cultural diversity and projects that emphasize collaboration with other groups. In addition, field trip grants have new requirements that coincide with the public's opinion to feature field trips that are aligned with curriculum.

The annual Community Input Survey guides the group in adjusting guidelines to better reflect the interests of the public. The NBCC strongly urges new grant applicants, past applicants, and those who may have been turned down for funding in prior years, to attend the informational session for more information about the grant application process.

NBCC funds programs that promote excellence, access, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences to improve the quality of life for city residents. To view all NBCC's guidelines and access grant application forms please visit the 2015-2016 MCC website link (<https://www.mass-culture.org/New-Bedford#>). Please read the guidelines carefully as there are changes that will determine award success. All changes will be discussed at the meeting.

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