

Creative Commonwealth Initiative Arts & Culture Grantees

3rd Eye Youth Empowerment engages and empowers young leaders to positively transform their community through skill-based mentoring, organizing and the arts. They strive to build a movement to improve the community, centered around the principles of economic and social equality, with young people being an instrumental part of that movement in roles of leadership and action. To increase levels of understanding, awareness, confidence, self-esteem, and hope in youth through providing opportunities, mentoring, creative outlets, and resources. 3rd EyE aims to unite young people, utilizing Hip Hop, a common cultural art form and voice for the people, to engage and empower youth to positively change themselves and their community.

AHA! New Bedford AHA! (Art • History • Architecture) Night offers free arts & cultural events which take place the 2nd Thursday of every month in Downtown New Bedford. Their mission is to be a cooperative venture dedicated to invigorating the downtown New Bedford cultural scene. The AHA! model collectively brands and presents the best the city has to offer providing an easy way for residents and visitors to be a part of the city's burgeoning cultural scene.

The **Cape Verdean Association in New Bedford**'s mission is to preserve and promote Cape Verdean culture. The CVANB fosters continued appreciation for the Cape Verdean history, deliver culturally competent programs and services that enriches all communities, making a difference in the lives of the Cape Verdean people here and abroad.

The mission of the **Cape Verdean Recognition Committee** is to foster the recognition and celebrate the contributions of Cape Verdean Americans; and promote the educational development of Cape Verdeans in the Greater New Bedford area.

DATMA Massachusetts Design Art & Technology Institute, DATMA, presents contemporary art with the convergence of design, art and technology through exhibitions, performances and education for all ages and cultural backgrounds in the SouthCoast region and beyond.

The **Day of Portugal Fall River** celebration is designed to appeal to a variety of people, with family-friendly and free activities for people of all ages. Promoting the country and culture of Portugal is the organization's primary mission and goal. In order to achieve the goal, Day of Portugal Fall River features a variety of musical, cultural, and culinary experiences that evokes pride and generates curiosity in the hearts and minds of those who attend.

FABRIC Arts Festival is a celebration of art, music, community, and the city of Fall River, Massachusetts. The festival merges Fall River's past and present narratives and showcases them across the city's urban structures and dynamics. As it strives to preserve tradition by crossing it with new artistic forms, the festival will draw from the city's rich cultural and geographic contexts to establish a synergistic dialogue with its territory and local communities, extending an invitation to direct participation of the city's population and its visitors.

The **Fall River Symphony Orchestra** is committed to providing performance opportunities for local musicians and to present classical and popular music concerts by a full symphonic orchestra.

The **Gnome Surf**'s mission is to create happiness, smiles and heal kids globally through Surfing, Art, and Yoga. Their programming is for all kids of all abilities and socio-economic backgrounds. They aim to teach concepts of love, positivity, and kindness.

The **Greater Fall River Art Association** is home to nine resident artists working and teaching in a variety of media. The GFRAA offers inspiration to visitors where working artists welcome visitors. Classes are taught on a regular basis throughout the year and workshops are offered monthly.

The **Mass Apsara Dance Troupe** helps pass down Cambodian traditions from generation to generation by preserving and teaching dance and music culture in Southeastern Massachusetts. They also assist with citizenship applications and teach Khmer and English classes.

The **Narrows Center for the Arts** has a mission to promote and develop an appreciation of the visual and the performing arts. Artist studios are one component of their ever-growing and successful cultural arts center. An open studio door is a welcome invitation to all the arts enthusiasts who attend live performances and/or visit Narrows Gallery exhibitions.

The **New Bedford Art Museum** is dedicated to engaging a diverse audience in relevant exhibitions, exemplary education and creative experiences as a vital innovative center for the arts. New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! presents a rotating schedule of exhibitions, studio classes, and experiences as a cultural institution.

The **New Bedford Ballet** has continued its mission of performing ballets, providing classical ballet training to children and adults, ensuring access to ballet instruction for all through granting scholarships, and educating the community in the value of the performing arts.

The **New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center** is dedicated to telling the story of the fishing industry past, present, and future through exhibits, programs, and archives. Its mission is to educate the public about the history and culture of New Bedford's commercial fishing industry by engaging them in authentic experiences, to document that culture and history for future generations, and to honor and support the men and women who make their living from the sea.

The **New Bedford Historical Society** is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the heritage of African Americans, Cape Verdeans, American Indians and other people of color in New Bedford, MA.

The **New Bedford Symphony Orchestra** is dedicated to the proposition that classical music can enrich and transform lives. They are committed to expanding the educational programs they offer to children in the region. They continue to build strong relationships with other music and cultural organizations in our region and believe collaboration makes all organizations, and the community, stronger.

Our Lady of Light Band is considered a Philharmonic Marching Brass Band musical ensemble. The band primarily consists of brass, percussion and woodwind musicians. The Marching form is based on

traditional Military style; playing ceremonial and marching music, including national and religious anthems, while street marching. The Our Lady of Light Band Society aims at developing close and progressive ties within the Portuguese and American community and their descendants in the following ways: Musically, Culturally, Recreational.

The **Seaglass Theatre Company**'s mission is to bring the finest classics to the South East, inspiring community engagement and conversation.

The **Southcoast LGBTQ Network** is a collaboration of LGBTQ groups and allied organizations in the South Coast community of Massachusetts who are committed to building and maintaining a comprehensive support network for LGBTQ individuals and families across the age spectrum.

Superflat NB is a creative placemaking, mural art project dedicated to beautifying New Bedford while flattening barriers to the arts. Surperflat NB provides access to the arts by directly engaging New Bedford's youth, artists, and its residents in the ideation and creation of transformative public art through the traditions of mural-making. Serving young people is central to their efforts.

The **YEAH! Corps** YEAH!'s mission is to engage youth, ages 14-18, in the many diverse forms of art to create opportunities that will inspire youth to realize their potential. They're modeled after Artists for Humanity in Boston whose slogan is "Creative jobs for creative youth." The young artists are paid employees who are mentored by working professionals. Projects such as murals, signs, logos, and sculptured are commissioned by municipalities, financial institutions, and businesses.

The **Your Theatre, Inc.** is a non-profit, community theater group in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Founded in 1946, the group has been in continuous operation since, and produces five or more shows each season. YTI provides quality, affordable theatre to New Bedford and its surrounding Southcoast MA communities.

The **Zeiterion Performing Arts Center** provides the region with performing arts programming of excellence that inspires, educates, engages and entertains. Their mission is to present a diverse array of high-quality performing artists and providing engaging learning opportunities that contribute to the cultural, social, and economic vitality of the Southcoast.