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# FYI SALEM

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 12

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## From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

As summer comes to a close in this coming weeks, it's an opportunity to reflect on our past few months as a community and look ahead at the season about to begin.

This summer brought the opening of the new Forest River Park Outdoor Recreation and Nature Center, as well as the completion of first phase of major improvements underway at Salem Willows. Both of these signature park projects are part of our significant investment in our public parks as part of the Salem 400 quadricentennial coming up in 2026. You can find out more about our signature parks at [www.salemma.gov/signatureparks](http://www.salemma.gov/signatureparks) and about Salem 400 at [www.salem400.org](http://www.salem400.org).

This summer also saw the hiring of the City's first Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)—Regina Zaragoza Frey—and our call for applicants for the first Race Equity Commission, which will start their important work for our community this fall. Discover more about DEI in Salem at [www.salemma.gov/dei](http://www.salemma.gov/dei).

Lastly, over the course of the summer we have announced allocations of funding from our federal American Rescue Plan appropriations to support food security, capital projects, transportation needs, affordable housing, and much more. We still have more to roll out over the weeks ahead and invite you to learn more about this work at [www.salemma.gov/recovery](http://www.salemma.gov/recovery).

Looking forward, the next few weeks will bring the resumption of school for Salem Public School families. Grades 1-12 start August 30th, except Carlton which begins August 29th. Pre-K and kindergarten start on September 6th, except for Carlton which starts September 1st. Find out more about the school year ahead at [www.salemk12.org](http://www.salemk12.org).

Lastly, fall means election season! The state primary election will take place on Tuesday, Sep-

tember 6th and the general election is on Tuesday, November 8th. Polling places are open both days from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. You can also vote early. Early in-person voting for the Primary takes place at City Hall Annex, 98 Washington Street 1st floor at the following times:

- Saturday, August 27 - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Sunday, August 28 - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Monday, August 29 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Tuesday, August 30 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Wednesday, August 31 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Thursday, September 1 - 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM
- Friday, September 2 - 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

You can find out more about voting in Salem by visiting [www.salemma.gov/city-clerk-elections](http://www.salemma.gov/city-clerk-elections).

Thanks, as always, for taking the time to read the FYI Salem newsletter!

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor  
City of Salem



# Cultural Grants

**Funding Theme:** *Connecting Salem with Its Vast History*

**Eligibility Requirements:** Applicants must reside, work, have an organization in Salem or have an established partnership with an organization based in Salem. Programs must take place in Salem or benefit the residents of Salem.

**Funding Priorities:** The Council strongly encourages applicants who would like to create a large permanent, semi-permanent, or enduring project that fits the theme to apply. We will consider committing a significant

portion of our funds to projects of this type. Programs that activate unexpected or underutilized canvases and performance spaces within the City of Salem. Programs that celebrate and promote the diversity of our community. Programs that are educational and accessible for the community, regardless of age or ability

**Review Criteria:** In addition to the state criteria, applications will be evaluated using the following: How well the program fits the above stated local funding priorities and theme; Evidence of track record and dedication of the applicant; Ability to address the diverse cultural needs of a community's underserved populations; Demonstrated planning (i.e. the ability to complete the project within the cycle year); Financial need.

**Application Period Opens:** September 1, 2022

**Application Deadline:** October 17, 2022, 11:59pm

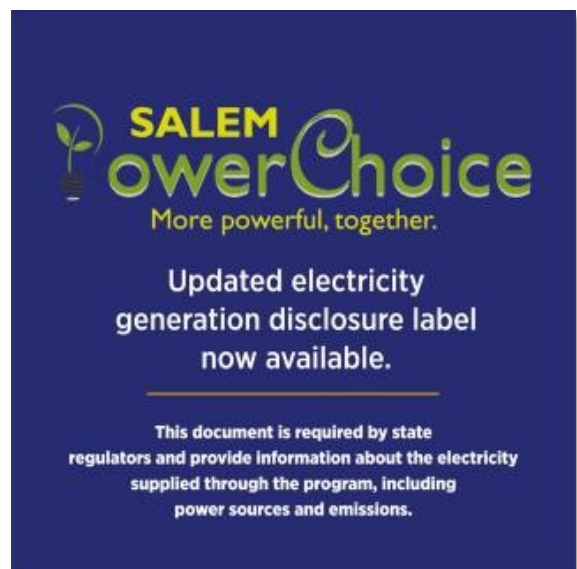
[Click here to review a sample application to start brainstorming your project today!](#)

After September 1<sup>st</sup> you can start your application [here](#). Learn more anytime by visiting the [Mass Cultural Council's LCC Program page](#).

## PowerChoice

Updated electricity generation disclosure labels are available for the City's electricity program, [Salem PowerChoice](#). These documents include details about the electricity supplied through the program, including sources and associated emissions, as well as other information: <https://bit.ly/3P4DuCL>

Salem PowerChoice is the City's municipal electrical aggregation program. Residents and businesses who participate in the program get their electricity supplied through a competitive contract put out by the City. Suppliers provide competitive rates with stability, greater sourcing from renewable energy sources, and no fees or charges to enroll or unenrolled. Find out more at [www.salemma.gov/powerchoice](http://www.salemma.gov/powerchoice).





## Safe Streets Grant

MassDOT has awarded the City of Salem a \$96,000 Shared Streets and Spaces Grant for implementation of the North Street Safety Enhancement Project as well as a \$50,000 Shared Streets and Spaces Grant for equipment to seasonally sweep and plow bicycle lanes in Salem. The grant will fund the installation of new roadway striping, signage, and flex posts to better delineate travel lanes, parking areas, bus stops as well as introduce protected bike lanes. The goal is to reduce unsafe vehicular speeds, improve pedestrian crossings, enhance visibility at intersections and driveways, as well as consolidate and improve access to some of the bus stops serving the North Street corridor. The project is expected to be implemented in late August/early September from Franklin Street to the Peabody line. Following implementation, Bluebikes bike share stations will be deployed at the intersection with Liberty Hill Avenue and adjacent to the MBTA Commuter Rail Station.

“These Shared Streets and Spaces Grants will support our work to make North Street a safer corridor for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists, and to keep our existing bike and multiuse lanes safer and clearer for residents’ enjoyment,” said Mayor Kim Driscoll. “As a result of our many shared and complete streets projects – like the work on North Street – residents, employees, and visitors can travel more safely through the corridor whether walking, biking, or driving. I’m grateful to our state partners who have made this funding possible and to the City staff who have worked to secure these grants and previous shared street grants that the City has received.”

The project design is informed by outreach, analysis, and prioritization from several related initiatives, including the Imagine Salem Community Vision, 2018 Bicycle Master Plan, 2019 North Salem Walk Audit, as well as observations from the rollout of pop-up bike lanes in the summer of 2019. The City and Toole Design developed the project through a series of public presentations, an interactive webpage, and outreach to local businesses. Project plans and other documents are available online at [publicinput.com/northstreet](http://publicinput.com/northstreet). For Bluebikes locations and membership options, see [bluebikes.com](http://bluebikes.com). Please contact [trafficcalming@saalem.com](mailto:trafficcalming@saalem.com) with questions or comments.

## Education Fund Grants

The City of Salem’s Scholarship and Education Committee has announced that it is now seeking applications for small grants from its Education Fund. Education Fund grants are available to provide supplemental education funding for local educational needs and to provide funding for existing adult literacy programs. Applications are due by October 7, 2022. Grant funds cannot be used for salaries or stipends.

The application form and additional information can be found at [www.salemma.gov/scholarship](http://www.salemma.gov/scholarship). Click the “Education Fund Application” button on the left side of the page. If you have questions about the application or to confirm if your project or program is potentially eligible, please contact Dominick Pangallo in the Mayor’s Office at (978) 619-5600.

To donate to the Education Fund, visit [www.salemma.gov/scholarship](http://www.salemma.gov/scholarship) and click on the donation button on the left side of the page.





# ARPA for Housing

	Affordable Housing Construction Grants	\$5,000,000
	Affordable Housing Energy Efficiency Grants	\$1,000,000
	Accessory Dwelling Unit Construction Grants	\$1,000,000
	Affordable Housing Trust Fund	\$1,000,000
	Rental Assistance Program	\$600,000
	Digital Access and Equity Grant Program	\$500,000
	Rights of First Refusal	\$100,000
	First Time Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance	\$100,000
	Neighborhood Stability Manager	\$75,000
	Housing Stability Service	\$50,000
	Salem Relief Fund	\$45,000

As part of its first round of [American Rescue Plan Act](#) funding allocations, several City housing initiatives will receive a total of \$9,470,000 in funds to help address housing affordability and availability in the community.

“For many Salem residents, the last few years of this pandemic have resulted in greater levels of housing insecurity,” said Mayor Kim Driscoll. “This, combined with the rapid increase in home values and rents, has only exacerbated the need for real action on housing and affordability. I am proud of the work that we have undertaken over the past years to address these issues here in Salem, and the availability of these federal resources now enables us to go even further to invest in solutions to our housing challenges.

“While these are major investments in our housing efforts, they only represent the first phase of these measures,” added Mayor Driscoll. “Our ARPA plan is guided by public input gathered from the stakeholder advisory group, public forums, and resident survey. We’re

also committed to being responsive to the efficacy of programs and will consistently evaluate and measure how these initiatives work so that, in future phases of Salem’s ARPA allocations, we can respond accordingly based on results and on the changing context of our local housing needs.”

The slate of housing investments comes as the City also has launched its new [Housing Stability Service](#) and finalizes its draft [Housing Roadmap plan](#), which lays out a strategy for meeting the community’s housing needs over the coming years and will be before the City Council and Planning Board for a vote in September. It is also aligned with recent City efforts to protect vulnerable tenants through a [new condo conversion/tenant protection law](#) and a move to [allocate community impact funds from non-owner-occupied short-term vacation rentals to support affordable housing efforts](#).



**The City of Salem will hold a flag raising to celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day on Wednesday, August 24th, at 10:00 a.m. in Riley Plaza in downtown Salem. The event is free and open to all. Join City officials and leaders from the local Ukrainian community as they mark this special day.**