

December 13, 2024

Nick Ariniello
Commissioner, Assessing Department
Boston City Hall, Room 301
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Commissioner,

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), a Massachusetts charitable corporation, is dedicated to advancing art and education. As one of the Museum's original incorporators, the City of Boston plays a key role in the MFA's governance, with the Mayor, the Superintendent of Boston Public Schools, and a representative from the Boston Public Library Foundation all serving as Trustees. The MFA is a cornerstone of Boston's cultural landscape, where art brings people together to embrace diverse perspectives, challenge conventional narratives, and explore differences.

Serving Boston for over 154 years, the MFA is one of the oldest art museums in the country, and reaches millions of people annually through in-person visits to the Museum, experiences in the community, and online platforms. In FY24, over 222,000 Boston residents visited the Museum. Each year more than \$5.5 million is allocated to Learning & Community Engagement from the MFA's annual operating budget. Within this division, 70 employees work to foster meaningful engagement with Boston residents through partnerships with Boston Public Schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, multigenerational programs, teen educational programs, paid internships, and access initiatives. In FY24, the MFA hosted 255 public programs, including 161 films, 21 concerts, and 54 lectures, providing platforms and financial support for local, national, and international artists and experts.

Each year, the Museum hosts four free open houses and numerous partnership programs, which allowed 210,000 visitors to attend at no cost in FY24. In the last fiscal year, our discounted admission programs also provided greater access to over 80,500 additional visitors. These programs include, but are not limited to:

- **Annual Community Celebrations**
\$5 admission after 5 pm
- **Card to Culture EBT/WIC Admissions Program**
\$3 adult tickets
- **Wonderfund Access Card**
\$3 adult tickets
- **K-12 Teacher Discounts**
\$15 admissions for teachers in MA, CT, ME, NH, RI, and VT

- **Institutional Pass Program**

\$10 tickets through partners, including the Boston Public Library

Cultural institutions like the MFA are vital to the City, contributing to the vibrancy, diversity, and dynamic energy that define Boston and fuel its long-term growth through tourism and resident-retention. In addition to the MFA's educational and social benefits, the Museum attracts tourism, stimulates the local economy, and strengthens the City's cultural and scholarly identity. The influx of visitors supports local businesses, from restaurants to hotels, and creates jobs in sectors such as retail, hospitality, and event planning. The MFA not only enriches Boston's cultural fabric but also generates significant economic benefits, making it indispensable to a thriving urban environment. Past estimates suggest that for every dollar spent at the Museum, at least five additional dollars are returned to the City of Boston.¹

Thank you for your continued support of the MFA and the integral role it plays in our City's cultural and economic landscape.

Sincerely,



Darcy-Tell Morales
Patti & Jonathan Kraft Chief of Learning and Community Engagement
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

¹ <https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/research-studies-publications/arts-economic-prosperity-5>