CAPE COD COMMISSION

Barnstable County
FY27 License Plate Grant Application Submission

MassHire Cape and Islands Workforce Board

CONTACT INFORMATION

Organization Name: MassHire Cape and Islands Workforce Board
Location: 88 North St, Hyannis, MA 02601
Project Manager Name: Samantha Fonseca
Project Manager Title: Director of Youth Services
Project Manager Email: samantha@masshire-capeandislandswb.com

PROJECT INFORMATION

Name of Project: ArtWorks

Brief Project Description:
For over 30 years, the award-winning and nationally recognized ArtWorks Program, an initiative of the MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Board, has connected students in grades 8–12 with professional local artists for hands-on mentorship and career exploration. Grant funding will support and expand ArtWorks by increasing access to mentorships, supplies, and career-connected learning opportunities across Cape Cod. Through a minimum of 40 hours of individualized instruction, students develop artistic, technical, and workplace skills while exploring creative career pathways. ArtWorks strengthens connections among students, educators, and local professionals while developing the next generation of Cape Cod's workforce and supporting a vibrant, year-round creative economy.

How does the project advance one or more 2024 Cape Cod CEDS Key Actions?
The ArtWorks Program directly advances the 2024 Cape Cod CEDS Key Action to "Develop and Connect Students and Workforce to Educational and Training Opportunities." The CEDS identifies expanding educational and vocational training opportunities, improving student awareness and access, and aligning programming with the needs of local businesses as critical to developing and maintaining an effective regional workforce. It specifically identifies MassHire as the lead in advancing this work.
For over 30 years, ArtWorks has put this strategy into practice by connecting students in grades 8–12 with professional artists throughout Cape Cod for individualized, hands-on mentorship and career-

connected learning. Students complete a minimum of 40 hours internship alongside working professionals, gaining technical skills within their chosen artistic medium while developing workplace readiness skills and greater awareness of career and entrepreneurial opportunities within the creative economy. By bringing together students, schools, professional artists, and the workforce development system, ArtWorks creates an accessible bridge between education and the world of work.

The ArtWorks Program also directly supports the CEDs goal of workforce development, economic diversity, and resiliency, which call for growing a talented and diverse local workforce with access to education and training while fostering innovative industries that strengthen Cape Cod's economy. By introducing young adults to viable creative career pathways and connecting them directly with local professionals, the ArtWorks Program helps cultivate local talent, strengthen the pipeline of future workers and entrepreneurs, and demonstrate that careers within the creative economy can provide meaningful opportunities to live, work, and build a sustainable future on Cape Cod.

What economic development needs/priorities will this project address?

Cape Cod faces significant economic development challenges related to developing and retaining a skilled year-round workforce, connecting young people to local career opportunities, and building a more diverse and resilient economy. The 2024 CEDS identifies workforce development as a regional priority and emphasizes the need to ensure that students and jobseekers are aware of and can access high-quality education and training opportunities aligned with local and emerging industry needs.

The ArtWorks Program addresses these priorities by introducing students to viable career pathways within Cape Cod's creative economy while they are still in grades 8–12. Through individualized mentorship with professional local artists, students gain hands-on technical experience, workplace readiness skills, professional connections, and exposure to the business and entrepreneurial aspects of creative careers. This model helps bridge the gap between education and employment by allowing young people to learn directly from individuals who have built careers and businesses within their own communities.

This investment is particularly relevant to Cape Cod's need for a stronger year-round economy. The CEDS notes that regional employment is highly seasonal, with employment historically increasing by approximately 33% during summer months and identifies the promotion of year-round employment as important to building economic resiliency. ArtWorks exposes students to a broader range of career and entrepreneurial possibilities while strengthening their connection to Cape Cod's professional community.

By investing in local youth and the professionals who mentor them, ArtWorks supports the development of Cape Cod's future talent pipeline, expands awareness of local career opportunities, and contributes to the CEDS priorities of Workforce Development and Economic Diversity and Resiliency. The project helps young people envision a future in which their talents can translate into

meaningful education, employment, entrepreneurship, and continued participation in the Cape Cod economy.

Central to the ArtWorks Program is a commitment to accessibility and ensuring that students have equitable opportunities to participate in career-connected learning. By reducing barriers to participation and creating multiple pathways for students to engage in mentorship and hands-on learning, the ArtWorks Program ensures that young people from across the region can explore the opportunities available to them. This inclusive approach broadens access to career pathways, builds confidence and workplace skills, and empowers students to recognize how their individual talents can lead to meaningful employment, entrepreneurship, and long-term economic self-sufficiency.

What is the anticipated impact of this project on these economic development needs/priorities? How will this project support Cape Cod's economic resiliency?

The anticipated impact of the ArtWorks Program is a stronger pipeline of young people who are prepared to participate in Cape Cod's future workforce and who have increased awareness of the education, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities available within their own region. The 2024 CEDS emphasizes that expanding education and training opportunities, increasing student awareness and access, and connecting those opportunities to workforce needs are critical to developing and maintaining an effective local workforce.

The ArtWorks Program addresses these priorities at an important stage in students' career development. Through a minimum of 40 hours of hands-on mentorship with professional local artists, students gain technical and workplace readiness skills, build relationships with working professionals, and explore how their creative interests can translate into viable career pathways. The program also strengthens connections among students, schools, local professionals, and the workforce development system, creating a more direct bridge between education and employment. This work contributes to Cape Cod's economic resiliency by investing in the region's future workforce while supporting greater economic diversity. The CEDS defines greater economic resiliency as creating a stronger year-round economy with more diverse industries and employment opportunities that are better positioned to withstand economic disruptions. The ArtWorks Program supports that vision by exposing young people to career and entrepreneurial opportunities beyond Cape Cod's traditional seasonal economy and helping them recognize opportunities to build careers within the region.

Over time, this investment has the potential to help retain local talent, strengthen the pipeline of skilled workers and entrepreneurs, and support the continued vitality of Cape Cod's creative economy. By helping young people see a future for themselves on Cape Cod, and providing them with the skills, relationships, and career exposure to begin pursuing that future, ArtWorks contributes to a more diverse, connected, and resilient year-round regional economy. By developing career awareness at an early age, the ArtWorks Program helps develop and retain local talent, strength the pipeline of future workers and entrepreneurs, and empowers young people to envision

self-sustaining careers that allow them to live, work, and contribute to Cape Cod's year-round economy.

Are there any anticipated challenges to implementing the project within the required timeframe of the grant award?

No significant challenges are anticipated that would prevent the ArtWorks Program from being implemented within the required grant timeframe. ArtWorks is an established program of the MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Board that has operated for over 30 years, providing CIWB with an existing program structure, established partnerships, and experience coordinating student recruitment, mentor engagement, placements, and program administration. The continued growth of the ArtWorks Program demonstrates both the strength of the program and increasing regional demand for creative career-connected learning opportunities. Over the past year, participation in the ArtWorks Program has increased by approximately 50%, and the CIWB anticipates continued expansion during the upcoming program year.

As with any regional youth workforce initiative, potential implementation challenges may include coordinating schedules among students, families, schools, and professional artist mentors; successfully matching students with mentors based on artistic medium, interests, and geographic location; and ensuring students are able to complete the required mentorship hours. The geographic nature of Cape Cod can also create transportation and accessibility barriers for some participants.

The CIWB has experience addressing these challenges through ongoing communication with students, families, schools, and mentors; flexible scheduling; virtual mentorship opportunities when appropriate; and individualized support throughout the placement process. Because the program's infrastructure and partnerships are already established, grant funding will enhance and expand an existing initiative rather than require the development of a new program.

The License Plate Grant requires projects to demonstrate the capacity to complete work within the allowable timeframe, and funded projects are expected to be completed within one year of the grant contract. CIWB's longstanding administration of ArtWorks positions the organization to begin implementation promptly and complete proposed activities and deliverables within the required timeframe. The grant resources will allow the CIWB to respond to increased student interest, expand access to professional artist mentors and artistic mediums and ensure that students continue to receive meaningful, high-quality career exploration and mentorship opportunities throughout the designated grant period.

Would the funding be used to support a grant program? Yes / No

No

Which municipality or municipalities are supportive of this project? (Optional)

SCOPE OF WORK AND TIMELINE

Task 1

Description: Student Recruitment & Outreach: The CIWB will conduct comprehensive outreach and recruitment to high schools throughout Cape Cod to identify students in grades 8-12 interested in participating in ArtWorks. The CIWB will collaborate with administrators, educators, guidance departments, Cape Cod Art educators, and other school-based partners to promote the program and ensure broad student awareness and access.
Deliverable: Outreach to Cape Cod public high schools; distribution of program materials and applications; recruitment of eligible student applicants.
Estimated Completion Date: January 30, 2027

Task 2

Description: Professional Artist Mentor Recruitment: The CIWB will recruit professional artists to serve as mentors across a diverse range of artistic disciplines. Recruitment will focus on identifying working professionals who can provide students with high-quality technical instruction while also exposing them to career pathways, entrepreneurship, and the business aspects of the creative economy.
Deliverable: Recruitment of professional artist mentors representing multiple creative disciplines. The CIWB has a large network of artists who return to the program annually; some of whom have been involved for thirty years.
Estimated Completion Date: January 30, 2027

Task 3

Description: Student and Mentor Interviews, Screening and Matching: The CIWB will interview all student applicants to assess their artistic interests, preferred mediums, availability, and individuals' needs. All prospective mentors will also be interviewed to assess mentorship approach, availability, and preference of mentoring approach. The CIWB will complete required CORI background checks for all participating mentors prior to student engagement – this is completed annually.
Deliverable: Completion of student and mentor interviews; completed CORI/background checks; finalize student-mentor matches and participant roster.
Estimated Completion Date: February 15, 2027

Task 4

Description: Orientation and Program Kickoff: The CIWB annually conducts a formal program orientation and kickoff for students, parents/guardians, and mentors. Orientation will establish program expectations, communication protocols, safety requirements, scheduling, documentation

procedures, the minimum 40-hour mentorship and mentorship guide, and expectations for all participants which culminate in the Annual ArtWorks Exhibit.
Deliverable: Student and parent/guardian orientation will be held on January 5, 2027 and will be conducted by the CIWB Youth Services Director and Executive Director.
Estimated Completion Date: January 20, 2027 (incase of snow and the 1/5/2027 date needs to be rescheduled.)

Task 5:

Description: Program Monitoring Mentor/Student Visits: The CIWB staff will conduct site visits with participating mentors and students throughout the mentorship period. Visits will monitor student engagement, program goals, program quality, and adherence to program expectations. These visits serve as a way to ensure all students are thriving in the program; and also allow staff to address any issues should they arise.
Deliverable: Visits with participating students/mentor placements; ongoing monitoring and technical assistance; documentation of student progress.
Estimated Completion Date: June 1, 2027

Task 6:

Description: ArtWorks Exhibit Planning and Preparation: The CIWB will coordinate all aspects of the culminating ArtWorks Exhibit, including student artwork selection and preparation, exhibit logistics, venue coordination, installation, outreach and program, and recognition of participating students and mentors. Families, educators, administrators, professional artists, community partners, employers and regional/state stakeholders will be invited to attend.
Deliverable: One culminating ArtWorks Exhibit featuring completed student artwork, student and mentor recognition, and participation from families, schools, professional artists, community partners, employers, and regional/state stakeholders. Exhibit documentation will include the event program, participating student/mentor roster, attendance records, photographs, and outreach materials.
Estimated Completion Date: ArtWorks Exhibit TBD – but typically occurs in early June.

Task 7:

Description: ArtWorks Exhibit and Program Completion: The CIWB will execute the annual Artworks Exhibit, providing the students with the opportunity to publicly showcase the work developed throughout their mentorship experience. The exhibit will celebrate student achievement while increasing community awareness of the creative economy and pathways to viable career opportunities. Following the exhibit, the CIWB will complete program closeout activities, including mentor feedback, documentation of outcomes and completion of goals.

Deliverable: Successful execution of the ArtWorks Exhibit.
Estimated Completion Date: No later than June 15, 2027

PROJECT PARTNERS

Project Partner 1:

Name: Roger Forget
Title: Superintendent, Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School
Email: rforget@uppercapetech.org
Role/Description: MassHire CIWB Vice Chair/Partner; Roger and UCT have hosted the Annual ArtWorks Exhibit for the last two years.

Project Partner 2:

Name: Kim Rumberger
Title: Artist/Owner, Metal and Beads
Email: kimrumberger@metalandbeads.com
Role/Description: Partner/involved with ArtWorks as a mentor for 10 years working with a variety of students with diverse abilities.

Project Partner 3:

Name: Dr. Hope Hanscom
Title: Executive Director, Cape Cod Collaborative
Email: h.hanscom@capecodcollaborative.org
Role/Description: MassHire CIWB Board Member, CIWB Youth Council Chair & Educational partner

Project Partner 4 :

Name: Lee Moynihan
Title: Department Head Special Education Sturgis Charter Public School
Email: lmoynihan@sturgischarterschool.org
Role/Description: School liaison; MassHire CIWB Youth Council Member (assists with student recruitment)

Project Partner 5:

Name: Neil Maciejewski
Title: Artist/Owener, Neil Neil Orange Peel Designs
Email: neilneilorangepeeldesign@gmail.com

Role/Description: Partner/ involved with ArtWorks as a mentor for 5 years working with a variety of students in group settings

FY27 LICENSE PLATE GRANT APPLICATION BUDGET

Please upload this sheet as a PDF as part of your application.

Please fill in all budget categories relevant for your proposed project, including a brief description of the funds requested. The total amount requested should equal the total amount noted in the scope of work. All project expenses are provided on a reimbursement basis.

Category	Amount Requested	Match Amount (optional)	Total Project Cost	Budget Narrative
Personnel/Labor from Staffing Plan)	0	113670.76	113670.76	
Fringe Benefits (from Staffing Plan)	0	0	0	
Travel	0	0	0	
Equipment	0	0	0	
Supplies	3500	17069.2	20569.2	175.00 per youth for artistic project supplies
Contractual/Consulting	15000	77840	92840	750 artist stipend per youth, additional 20 youth in the program
Small Grants Program	0	0	0	
Other	0	77928.49	77928.49	
Total Direct Cost	18500	0	18500	
Indirect Costs*	1850	18909.55	20759.55	
Total	20350	305418	325768	

*Maximum of 15% of project direct cost unless the project applicant has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.

FY27 LICENSE PLATE GRANT APPLICATION STAFFING PLAN

Please upload this sheet as a PDF as part of your application.

For each individual participating in this project, please share their name, title, and associated hourly rate, number of hours. In addition, please list the tasks that each staff member/volunteer will participate in. The staffing plan should be uploaded at the end of the application.

Staff Name and Title	Hourly Rate	Number of Hours	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Match Amount
Example: Jane Doe	$25.00	15	$375.00	$281.25	$93.75
Samantha Fonseca	42.844	1950	83545.8	0	83545.8
Total Personnel					
Fringe (enter fringe rate as percent):					
TOTAL:					

Staff Name and Title	Tasks/Responsibilities
Example: Jane Doe	Example: Management
Samantha Fonseca	Program manager

CAPE COD COLLABORATIVE

— WE ARE ONE COLLABORATIVE —

Hope P. Hanscom, Ed.D. Executive Director
Patrick Murphy Business Manager
Joan M. Woodward, Ed.D. Director of Special Education
Sonia Tellier, Ed.D. Director of Professional Growth and Innovation

September 22, 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Board (CIWB) Boards of Directors and the CIWB Youth Council, I am pleased to provide my strong support for the ArtWorks Program and its continued impact on young people throughout the Cape & Islands.

For more than 30 years, the ArtWorks Program has provided students with meaningful opportunities to explore career pathways within the creative economy through hands-on mentorship and internship experiences with working artists. The program represents the very best of bringing together students, educators, artists, workforce development professionals, and community partners to help young professionals, and community partners to help young people discover their talents while gaining valuable exposure to the creative economy.

The ArtWorks Program provides students with opportunities across a diverse range of artistic disciplines, including drawing and painting, ceramics, photography, stained glass, fashion design, music, culinary arts, and other areas of the creative economy. Through individualized mentorship, students gain not only technical and artistic skills but also important competencies such as communication, reliability, collaboration, confidence, and professionalism.

As the Youth Council Chair and a member of the Board of Directors, as well as an educator, I recognize that career pathway education must extend beyond traditional occupations. The creative economy is an important part of the economic and cultural vitality of Cape Cod, and ArtWorks allows young people to understand that their creativity and interests can translate into meaningful educational, entrepreneurial, and career opportunities within their own communities. Equally important is the program's commitment to accessibility. By offering flexible mentorship opportunities and providing support that help reduce barriers to participation, ArtWorks works to ensure that students from communities across the region can participate and succeed.

The longevity and continued growth of the ArtWorks Program demonstrate the value of sustained investment in youth career development. Its recognition across the Commonwealth and on national levels further reflects the strength of a model built around career pathway education, mentorship, collaboration, career exploration and meaningful connections between young people and industry professionals.

I am proud to support MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Board's application. I strongly support the continued investment in this important program so that future generations of Cape Cod students can benefit from this award winning program.

Sincerely,

Hope P. Hanscom, Ed.D.
Executive Director

The Cape Cod Collaborative's policy of nondiscrimination will extend to students, staff, the general public and individuals with whom it does business. No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against on the basis of race (including traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture, hair type, hair length and protective hairstyles), color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, active military/veteran status, marital status, familial status, pregnancy or pregnancy-related condition, homelessness, ancestry, ethnic background, national origin, or any other category protected by state or federal law.

September 23, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to support the MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Board's ArtWorks Program and its application for funding through the Cape Cod License Plate Grant Program. As a jewelry artist with Metal and Beads Cape Cod and an ArtWorks mentor since 2017, I have experienced how valuable it can be for a young artist to have the opportunity to learn a specialized craft directly from someone who practices and teaches it professionally, outside of the school building, in an occupational environment.

Working with metal clay and jewelry requires patience, precision, creativity, and a willingness to learn through the process of making. There is something particularly valuable about hands-on learning in the arts. Students are able to see a technique demonstrated, try it themselves, work through challenges, and ultimately create something tangible that reflects their own ideas and abilities. A unique feature of my medium is that precise calculations in math, chemistry, and physical science are constantly applied to the creativity process, because the clay is fired and shrinks in the process. Using those skills in real-life situations enhances the education they have been practicing for so many years and actually makes it enjoyable to understand it.

That process is one of the reasons I believe so strongly in ArtWorks. The program gives students dedicated time with professional artists who can provide individualized instruction and encouragement while also introducing them to what it means to pursue creative work professionally. For a young person, seeing an artist working within their own community can help make a future in the arts feel more accessible and attainable.

Teaching my craft also gives me an opportunity to share lessons that go beyond technique. Building a career as an artist involves continually developing your skills, learning how to present and value your work, connect with others, run a business, and find ways to turn creativity into opportunity. Through mentorship, students begin to see the connection between creating something they are proud of and the possibilities that may exist for them beyond the mentorship experience.

I am grateful to be part of ArtWorks and to contribute to a program that values hands-on learning and the relationships that develop between young artists and experienced professionals. I strongly support continued investment in the program so that more students across Cape Cod and the Islands can develop their skills, build confidence in their abilities, and discover where their creativity may take them.

Sincerely,



Kim Rumberger
Metal Clay Artist & Instructor
Artist in Residence
The Cultural Center of Cape Cod
307 Old Main St., S. Yarmouth, MA 0266
www.MetalAndBeads.com

Sturgis Charter Public School
An International Baccalaureate World School

September 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

As an educator serving students on Cape Cod, I am pleased to express my strong support for the MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Board's ArtWorks Program and the meaningful impact it continues to have on students in grades 8–12.

ArtWorks provides students with a unique opportunity to explore the creative economy through hands-on career pathway education, mentorship, and direct engagement with working artists and creative professionals. For young people with an interest in the arts, the program helps them recognize how their creativity can extend beyond the traditional classroom and develop into meaningful educational, entrepreneurial, and career opportunities.

Accessibility is an important component of ArtWorks. Mentorship opportunities are designed to meet students where they are and reduce barriers to participation. Through in-person, hybrid, and virtual options, students from across the region can participate in meaningful career-connected learning and benefit from the guidance of professionals who may otherwise be outside their immediate school or community.

Through mentorship experiences across a variety of artistic disciplines, students gain exposure to the professionals who contribute to our region's creative community and economy. Just as importantly, they develop transferable skills that will serve them across career pathways, including communication, collaboration, problem-solving, creativity, and confidence. Connecting students directly with working artists also provides an authentic understanding of what it can

mean to build a career, operate a small business, pursue entrepreneurship, and contribute to the region.

A particularly impactful component of the program is the annual ArtWorks Exhibit, which gives students the opportunity to publicly showcase the work they have created through their mentorship experience. The Exhibit is more than a display of student artwork; it is a celebration of learning, growth, mentorship, and community. Students can professionally present their work and share their accomplishments with families, educators, mentors, community leaders, and members of the public. It also allows our broader community to see firsthand the talent and potential of young people while recognizing the artists who invest their time and expertise in developing the next generation.

As an educator, I strongly support the continued growth and sustainability of ArtWorks. Programs like this expand what is possible for students by connecting classroom learning with real-world experiences, supportive adults, and future opportunities. Investing in young people through the arts is an investment in their futures and in the communities they will help shape.

Sincerely,

Lee Moynihan, Sturgis Charter Public School - West Campus

September 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am proud to support the MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Board's ArtWorks Program and its application for funding through the Cape Cod License Plate Grant Program. As a stained glass artist, instructor, and owner of Neil Neil Orange Peel Designs, I understand firsthand how developing a creative skill can grow into a meaningful career and provide opportunities to share that craft with others.

Through my work as a stained glass artist and instructor, I have had the opportunity to introduce others to the craft while continuing to develop my own professional practice here on Cape Cod. Teaching has shown me how meaningful it can be for someone to discover a new ability, gain confidence through creating something themselves, and begin to see possibilities they may not have previously considered.

That is one of the reasons ArtWorks is so valuable. Young artists benefit from having opportunities to explore their interests alongside professionals who understand what it takes to develop a craft. Through mentorship, students can strengthen their technical abilities while also learning the patience, problem-solving, persistence, and attention to detail that are essential to creating something by hand.

ArtWorks goes beyond teaching an artistic technique. It gives young people access to working artists who can share their experiences and demonstrate that there are many ways to build a future around creativity. Mentorship gives students the opportunity to ask questions, learn through experience, and gain a more realistic understanding of what it means to pursue creative work professionally.

Supporting ArtWorks means investing in the next generation of artists, makers, and creative professionals in our region. I am grateful for the opportunity to share my craft with young people and encourage them as they develop their own talents and interests. I strongly support continued investment in ArtWorks and the opportunities it creates for students across Cape Cod and the Islands.

Sincerely,

Neil Neil Orange Peel

Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School

220 SANDWICH ROAD, BOURNE, MASSACHUSETTS 02532

www.uppercapetech.com

Roger D. Forget
Superintendent

Telephone: 508-759-7711
FAX: 508-759-7208

September 22, 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to provide this letter in staunch support of the MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Board's application for a License Plate Grant funding to support the ArtWorks Program. As Superintendent of Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School and Vice Chair of the MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Board (CIWB), I have had the opportunity to see firsthand the impact that high-quality career pathway education and work-based learning can have on young people throughout our region.

For more than 30 years, the ArtWorks Program has provided students across the region with meaningful opportunities to explore careers within the creative economy through hands-on internships and individualized mentorship with working artists and creative professionals. Through the ArtWorks program, students are exposed to a wide range of artistic mediums and creative disciplines. The value of the ArtWorks Program extends well beyond artistic development. At its core, this is a career pathway and workforce development program. Students work directly with professionals, learn about the realities of pursuing a career within the creative economy, develop workplace competencies, and gain the necessary skills that can translate into future education, employment, entrepreneurship, and economic opportunity.

As an educator, I recognize the importance of providing students with career exploration experiences before they graduate from high school. Young people benefit tremendously when classroom learning is reinforced through authentic experiences with employers and industry professionals.

The ArtWorks Program supports a critical sector of the Cape Cod economy. Our region is home to a vibrant community of artists, designers, makers, entrepreneurs, cultural organizations, and small businesses. Connecting young students with these professionals helps strengthen the future talent pipeline while proving that the creative economy provides viable opportunities for self-sustaining employment, entrepreneurship, and economic advancement within our region.

Through my role as Vice Chair of the CIWB, I have seen the organization intentionally align ArtWorks with its broader youth workforce strategy, including Connecting Activities, YouthWorks, career technical education, and other career-connected learning initiatives. This approach ensures that young adults have multiple pathways to build relationships with industry professionals and develop the skills necessary to successfully transition from education into the workforce.

The License Plate Grant funding would help the CIWB continue to strengthen and expand this essential program, ensuring that students from all communities have access to meaningful mentorship, career exploration, and creative economy experiences. Investment in the ArtWorks Program is an investment in our young people, our creative economy, and the long-term economic vitality of the region.

I am proud to support the CIWB's application and continued advancement of the ArtWorks Program. The ArtWorks Program embodies the type of collaborative, career-connected programming that is essential to preparing our future workforce while supporting the industries and communities that make our region unique.

Sincerely,

Roger D. Forget
Superintendent