

Rick Lipof
Candidate for State Representative
12th Middlesex District

I will start by giving you some background. My father was an artist and was in Boston University Art School until my mother told him she wanted 5 children. He switched to the business school and yes, they had five children. My father's artistic talent skipped a generation and my daughter Sydney is an amazing artist in oil, water color and collaging. She received an architecture and Design degree from Tulane. As for me, I have always had a love for music and theatre. I managed rock bands in college and my first career was as a talent agent at William Morris in New York City. I was fortunate to help send our stable of actors to the first casting of Les Miserable on Broadway in 1987. I am still a theatre and music and arts fanatic at all levels.

Fast forward to my 22 years on the Council, I have supported every grant and every effort to support the arts in our schools and in our community. Anything that the Office of Cultural Development supports and programs I have supported and often participate. My decades relationship with Linda Plaut and now Paula Gannon can attest to my love of bringing arts and culture to our community. Summer concerts and public art installations are the connectors and color of our City.

As a State Representative I can best support the Brookline and Newton Arts through the state budget allocation for the Mass Cultural Council. I am so grateful to the Governor for her \$26.9 Million allocation, the largest ever. This money flows to the district as grants to the local cultural councils. This money goes a long way for artists. I think Brookline received around \$17,000 and Newton got approximately \$27,000.

The economic impact of arts and culture is undeniable, positively effecting our small businesses and local village economy. I will advocate for increased funding in the MCC budget allocation so more money is funneled down to the local cultural councils in Newton and Brookline. I understand the importance of a vibrant arts scene in my district, from live music, murals, poetry readings, festivals, cultural celebrations and more. I will listen to and work with Michael Bobbitt to hear his priorities for the coming year and I will listen to Mass Creative on their priorities as well. I am excited to support Newton's efforts to apply for a MCC Cultural District along the Washington Street corridor. Support for arts/culture reaps benefits of building community, support for the local small businesses by attendees at these events, brings joy to those that participate, supports local artists & musicians and creates a vibe in the city that is plain fun.

Lastly, I am absolutely intrigued and inspired by the Art Pharmacy-MCC collaboration on Social Prescribing. It makes complete sense to me. Referring patients to community based arts and culture programs to promote whole person health is revolutionary yet intuitive at the same time. I always want to support and be a part of cutting edge programs, especially when they are based on arts and culture – the color and depth of our community.

I could go on but this is what I would put on my political web site, but was in danger of being too much on my issues page. There are many more issues I did not include in fear that the site would be too long and verbose. Please do not take that I did not include this to mean that it is not important to me. To the contrary. Arts and culture will be one of my major issues at the State House.