



Housing Stability Conference

Building Community Through Arts and Culture



REGISTRATION OPEN!

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Four Points by Sheraton Norwood

In partnership with



Join MassHousing and Mass Cultural Council for a one-day conference exploring the role arts and culture can play in supporting resident well-being and strengthening community within affordable and public housing settings.

Designed for resident services coordinators, property management staff, and community partners, the day will combine research, lived experience, practical examples, and interactive experiences to help participants better understand, experience, and apply arts and culture-based approaches in their own communities.

Through speakers, panel discussions, workshops, performances, and opportunities for connection, participants will leave with new ideas, practical strategies, and meaningful connections to support this work moving forward.

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 – 9:00am to 3:30pm

Four Points by Sheraton Norwood

Fee: General Public -- \$120; Gov't/Non-Profit -- \$110; TAP Members – fee waived.

**8:00am -- Registration, Breakfast, Networking, Resource & Vendor Fair, and
Community Painting**

Keynote: Arts, Wellness & Housing – Evidence and Impact

This keynote will explore the growing body of research demonstrating the impact of arts and cultural engagement on individual and community well-being.

Drawing from public health, neuroscience, and social science, the session will examine how participation in the arts can support mental health, reduce isolation, and strengthen community connection—while helping participants connect these findings to their work in housing communities.

Featured Speaker: Lived Experience, Community, and Healing Through the Arts

Drawing from both personal and professional experience, this session will explore the impact of community violence, cumulative trauma, and the realities faced by residents and staff in housing communities.

Through reflections on healing, connection, and creative expression, participants will hear how arts and culture can support resilience, well-being, and stronger communities.

Panel: Models for Integrating Arts and Culture in Housing Communities

This panel will highlight a range of arts and culture models that support resident well-being and strengthen community connection, including Creative Aging, youth arts programming, resident-led initiatives, and social prescribing.

Through practical examples and discussion, panelists will explore how these approaches are being implemented in communities and what it can look like to bring similar programming into housing settings.

Lunch: Networking, Community Painting, Vendor & Resource Fair, and Musical Performance

Afternoon Workshops

Arts, Trauma, and Resident Well-Being

This workshop will explore how trauma can impact residents and communities, and how arts-based approaches can support healing, regulation, and connection within housing settings.

Participants will learn how creative activities can be incorporated into trauma-informed approaches in practical and accessible ways, while gaining ideas for programming that supports resident well-being and community connection.

Creative Aging in Housing Communities

This workshop will explore Creative Aging—an approach that engages older adults in meaningful, participatory arts programming that supports cognitive, emotional, and social well-being.

Participants will learn what distinguishes Creative Aging from more traditional activity-based programming and explore examples of how these approaches have been implemented in housing and community settings. The session will also help participants identify practical opportunities to incorporate Creative Aging principles into their own communities.

Resident-Led Arts in Housing Communities

This workshop will explore how resident-led arts programming can strengthen community connection, foster engagement, and build a greater sense of ownership within housing communities.

Through real-world examples and discussion, participants will learn how resident-driven approaches can elevate resident voices, build leadership, and create more meaningful community participation. The session will also highlight practical strategies for supporting resident involvement and developing arts programming shaped by the community itself.

Engaging Youth Through Arts in Housing Communities

This workshop will explore how arts-based programming can meaningfully engage young people in housing communities while supporting youth development, connection, and community well-being.

Participants will learn how creative programming can help young people build skills, develop confidence, and strengthen relationships within their communities. The session will also highlight practical approaches for developing or expanding arts-based youth programming in housing settings.

Artmaking for Care & Confidence

This interactive workshop will explore artmaking as a practical and accessible approach to self-care, reflection, and connection for those working in housing and community-based roles.

Through guided creative activities, participants will experience how process-based artmaking can help reduce stress, build confidence, and support well-being. No artistic experience is necessary—participants will leave with simple creative practices they can incorporate into their own self-care routines.

Improv for Connection, Communication, and Adaptability

This interactive workshop will use improv exercises and collaborative activities to strengthen communication, active listening, adaptability, and connection in housing and community settings.

Participants will practice thinking on their feet, responding in the moment, and building stronger interactions with residents, colleagues, and community members. The session will highlight practical ways improv techniques can support more effective communication, relationship-building, and responsiveness in day-to-day work.