

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.6, following is a concise explanatory statement:

AGENCY: Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA)

DIVISION: N/A

RULE IDENTIFIER: 665-RICR-20-00-1

RULE TITLE: Rules and Regulations for the State Cultural Facilities Grants

REASON FOR RULEMAKING: This rulemaking amends the regulations in advance of the next round of grantmaking, scheduled for Fall 2021. The regulations have been reviewed and updated to 1) reference new bond funding and 2) make changes and clarifications to program rules.

TESTIMONY AND COMMENTS: No public testimony was provided at the public hearing held July 22, 2021. Three written comments were submitted to RISCA via email.

CHANGE TO TEXT OF THE RULE: The only change made to the proposed regulation was the inclusion of “new construction” to the list of allowable project expenses. This was done following a review by the State-appointed Bond Counsel.

REGULATORY ANALYSIS: Benefits: The arts contribute more than \$2 billion per year to the Rhode Island economy. Many arts organizations operate in old and difficult to maintain buildings, and the funds necessary to operate in these structures reduce the amount and scope of programming in our state. Grants for capital improvements through this program help to expand community-based programs, which contribute to the Rhode Island economy. Costs: The program is funded by bonds approved by the voters of Rhode Island.