



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Southeastern Massachusetts

Community Foundation Names Arts & Culture Program Manager Southcoast Resident Rayana Grace Appointed to New Post

NEW BEDFORD--The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts announced the appointment of New Bedford native Rayana Grace (pictured) as Arts & Culture Program Manager. A new position at the Community Foundation, the Arts & Culture Program Manager post will directly support the new Creative Commonwealth initiative in New Bedford and Fall River.



“We are excited to add someone of Rayana’s skill, talent, and passion for the SouthCoast region to support the important and exciting work of the Creative Commonwealth initiative.” said Nicholas M. Christ, President & CEO of BayCoast Bank and chair of the Arts & Culture Committee of the Community Foundation.

“Rayana’s ability to develop effective community partnerships stood out among an impressive group of candidates, and I am so pleased to have her as a partner in our efforts through the Creative Commonwealth initiative to elevate new voices and expand opportunities for inclusive and innovative ideas that benefit our region.” said John Vasconcellos, President of the Community Foundation.

Ms. Grace joins the Community Foundation after serving as Youth Development Director for the New Bedford YMCA. In addition to her new role at the Community Foundation, Ms. Grace serves as treasurer of the New Bedford Historical Society and is a member of the Leadership SouthCoast Class of 2017.

Ms. Grace began her new role on April 2 and is based at the Community Foundation offices at the DeMello International Center, located at 128 Union St., Suite 403, in New Bedford’s historic Downtown. She can be reached at 508-996-8253 extension 203 and rgrace@cfsema.org.

About the Community Foundation

Our Community. Your Foundation. Since 1995, area residents have been turning to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible. The Community Foundation is a public charity serving thousands of people who share a common concern – improving the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts. To date, the Community Foundation has distributed over \$25 million from nearly 200 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region. More information about the Foundation can be found at www.cfsema.org.

About Creative Commonwealth

A partnership between the Barr Foundation and five community foundations in Massachusetts, the Creative Commonwealth initiative is rooted in the belief that investments in arts and creativity build thriving communities, and it aims to promote the vital leadership role community foundations can play to advance the arts. Creative Commonwealth will pave the way for community foundations to deepen and grow support for artists and cultural organizations. The Community Foundation of Southeastern

Massachusetts has been awarded \$500,000 over 24 months to pilot ideas customized to Fall River and New Bedford. These grants follow a year-long planning process funded by Barr in 2017, during which each foundation worked with community leaders to identify opportunities, needs, and priorities.

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