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**ROSENBERG ANNOUNCES FIRST GRANTS
FROM CULTURAL FACILITIES FUND**

MORE THAN \$1 MILLION FOR WESTERN MASS. PROJECTS

State Senator Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst) today announced that the Massachusetts Development and Finance Agency and Massachusetts Cultural Council have awarded the first grants from the state's new Cultural Facilities Fund, a program Rosenberg has long championed to increase public investment in the state's cultural treasures.

"There's no question that arts and cultural facilities make enormous contributions to our state economy by serving as tools for economic development and community revitalization," Rosenberg said. "But the arts also encourage creative thinking and free expression. And that ultimately helps strengthen our democracy."

The grants, which require a dollar-for-dollar local match, for western Massachusetts projects are:

National Yiddish Book Center - \$352,000
Amherst Cinema - \$675,000
Emily Dickinson House - \$28,500
Available Potential Enterprises, Ltd. (Northampton) - \$18,750