What was the first hike/walking tour you led in Berkshire County and how did it feel to finally be seeing your dream come to life?

I devised two walks in 2020 that were the "proof of concept" for the business. One started in downtown Lee, stopped at High Lawn Farm, went to The Mount, and ended in downtown Lenox. The other was a woodland-oriented hike that started at Tanglewood's entrance and included visits to BNRC's Parsons Marsh and Kennedy Park returning to Lenox Commons. Although it was surreal to step into the role of guide, what made it possible was channeling my passion for the connection I felt on the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Seeing people show up and participate in the experience confirmed for me there was something potent I could offer that comes from everything I've done and experienced in my life up to this point.
What's been your most memorable Berkshire Camino “magic” experience?

There have been many Camino “magic” experiences. I was just reminded that a guest who came solo on the June 2022 multi-day hiking journey heard about Berkshire Camino on a group hike in Central Massachusetts in 2021. She subscribed to our mailing list and thought about coming on a hike for a while. When she arrived at the meet-up spot, she immediately recognized that the people who told her about Berkshire Camino were also guests on the multi-day. They had been random strangers a year prior who never expected to meet again and there they were. Now they are friends...and that solo traveler is now a crew member with Berkshire Camino!

What do you wish more people knew about walking/hiking in Berkshire County?

We have a unique opportunity to walk from town-to-town in creative ways here that are a delight. For example, I wish more people knew that there is a safe and scenic way to get from Housatonic to Stockbridge that does not involve walking along the shoulder of Route 183. That's just one example. I've been scouting a number of ways to connect the towns in a way that emulates the feeling of walking the Camino de Santiago, which is something dear to me having done it twice.

What do people “get” or “come away” with from your tours that is different than what they might experience walking alone or with friends?

Berkshire Camino's guides facilitate a sacred walking methodology on all of our tours whether they are woodland hikes or town walkabouts. It starts with creating a safe space carefully built from the moment we meet our guests to the end. We share with guests an embodied experience of how different their walks and hikes can feel when they set an intention, walk with a present-minded curiosity, and let burdens go. The concept is what I distilled from walking 500 miles on the Camino de Santiago. This very simple yet powerful three-part structure makes the walk/hike feel like the retreat from daily life we all need on a regular basis. With this, we create the opportunity to hear our inner wisdom, pick up interesting information about the Berkshires, or perhaps reconnect to the joy of discovery we had as children.

The BIFF is Back!
Don’t miss your chance to see this year’s **17th Annual Berkshire International Film Festival** running June 1-4 and featuring films in all categories from documentary to narrative shorts. This year’s festival opens with **FOOD AND COUNTRY** about America’s policy of producing cheap food at all costs featuring trailblazing food writer Ruth Reichl, who will be in attendance for a Q & A. The festival’s Tribute night honors actor Stephen Lang, who has starred in such films as AVATAR, GETTYSBURG, GODS AND GENERALS, TOMBSTONE, DON’T BREATHE, and LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN. His work also includes a critically acclaimed solo performance in the 2016 film BEYOND GLORY, which he also wrote.

### Creative Economy Jobs

Find Berkshire County in-person, remote, and hybrid jobs that pay a minimum of $40K a year in all fields, including arts, education, nonprofits, and related, at [1Berkshire's The Jobs Thing](https://www.berkshirebank.com/jobs entreprise). Among some of the current openings of interest are:

- **Executive Director, Berkshire Music School**
- **Program Associate, Community Access for the Arts**
- **Sound & Video Supervisor - Seasonal - Jacob’s Pillow**

You can also find exclusively creative economy jobs, including remote and hybrid opportunities, at [MCC's HireCulture](https://www.hireculture.org). Three sample postings are below.
**Arts Funding and Resources**

Curated information about funding and financial assistance for those working in the creative economy.

**Funding Opportunities to June 30, 2023.** Mass Cultural Council highlights grants, action alerts, community events, opportunities, and resources. Find fellowships, explore artists' galleries, discover apprenticeships, and identify art spaces and resources by subscribing to [MCC's Monthly Newsletter](#).

**Artist Opportunities: April and May 2023**

Creative Capital is a nonprofit, grantmaking organization funding artists in the creation of groundbreaking new work, amplifying the impact of their work, and fostering sustainable artistic careers. Examples of upcoming grants on their site include [SaveArtSpace](#) (Deadline: 6/19/23) and the [CUE Open Call for Solo Exhibitions & Curatorial Projects](#) (Deadline: 6/30/23).

**New England Foundation for the Arts**

cultivates and promotes the arts in New England and beyond. Among their upcoming grants are [New England States Touring (NEST)](#) (Deadline: 8/1/23) and [National Theater Project Creation & Touring Grant](#) (Deadline: Preliminary applications 9/27/23).

**ArtsHub** is an ever-evolving idea designed to highlight and bring together the amazing artists, organizations, and events that are happening within the creative communities of Western Massachusetts. The site regularly updates with opportunities, events, news, and more. Among this month's listings can be found a great opportunity to get an [ArtUniverse](#).
Scholarship to study on 3-Month Distance Learning Courses at New International Performing Arts Institute and a Call for Regional Dancemakers at Jacob’s Pillow.

**MASSCreative** advocates for a well-resourced and equitable creative sector essential to the economic and civic vibrancy of Massachusetts. See their COVID-19 relief resources here.

### What | When | Where

**What:** [Olga Dunn Dance Company: Bach, The 60s, Billie Holiday, and More!](#)

**When:** May 20

**Where:** St. James Place

**Details:** The Schumacher Center for a New Economics will host Bayo Akomolafe for “Why We Need Postactivism Today,” a talk about racial justice, freedom, the future, and the promise of a different kind of politics altogether. The talk will take place in the Great Hall and will be followed by a Q&A and reception.

**What:** [Lines and Colors](#)

**When:** June 10

**Where:** Bernay Fine Arts

**Details:** Bernay Fine Art is pleased to present our 5th Annual Lines and Colors show. This is an exciting show in which we feature the work of gallery artists that work in abstraction. This year we will feature the work of Diane Ayott, Hideyo Okamura, Dana Piazza and Audrey Stone. We are excited to also include work from Susan Dory, Erick Johnson and Warren Isensee.

**What:** [Ryan Hamilton](#)

**When:** June 17

**Where:** Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center

**Details:** Armed with the unique perspective of growing up in rural Idaho to become a favorite in the New York stand-up comedy scene, Ryan is one-of-a-kind!
Mass Office of Travel and Tourism

The Massachusetts Official Travel and Tourism (MOTT) website includes a FREE business database where you can list your business! To get started, visit their website, where you can sign on as a new business or update your information if you are already registered.

Are you making the most of the #mylocalMA campaign? Submit Your Story for a chance to be featured on social media and in MOTT's My Local MA e-newsletter. You can find more information and resources at Lovemylocalma.com.