Join Mindy Miraglia and Berkshire Camino for the last of her FREE summer walking tours on August 19 and 25th from 4-5:15 pm starting at the gazebo behind Town Hall! Enjoy a leisurely walk through town learning about Great Barrington's fascinating history, the important figures who lived here, and pick up some fun facts about this great town -- whether you're a long-time resident or weekend visitor! Everyone will come away with new knowledge under Mindy's expert guidance.

The Triplex Brings Back the Movies!
It's an understatement to say Ben Elliott, The Triplex's new Managing Director, is busy.

Now that Save the Triplex! has secured 501(c)3 status for the commercial movie theater, officially making it a community-owned and operated cinema, Elliott is determined -- despite a pandemic and a writer's and actor's strike -- to realize his own and the community's desire for a movie theater that serves as both anchor and Third Space for Great Barrington's residents and visitors. We spoke with Ben Elliott about what's in his sights between now and the holiday box office season.

What are the next steps in The Triplex's re-opening process?

In August and September, we're preparing the four theaters, improving the experience, and doing Phase 1 lobby rejuvenation with Allegrone Construction. By mid-October, we hope to do a regular cadence of special events so people can come back to see the work. We'll do a soft opening after that and a stress test on the operational structure to ensure we have staff. We'll do that for about a month so by Thanksgiving, when the programming calendar heats up again, we hope to be open for a regular schedule.

What does it mean to be a community-run theater?

That means re-envisioning the theater as a gathering space to not only see movies but also embrace our role as the center of downtown. I feel strongly about making The Triplex accessible and ensuring it appeals to diverse audiences. That includes Hollywood movies families want to see and re-establishing a commitment to art cinema because that's what people think of when they think of The Triplex. We want to offer programming you don’t get from competitors. The kind of movies people travel to NYC to see. Programming that's off-the-beaten-track. We want to bring in talent and special guests as well as family programs. And we want to incorporate our Spanish-speaking community and be a resource for everyone who has an interest in film.

What does The Triplex's relationship with the Berkshire International Film Festival (BIFF) look like going forward?
We've had a great relationship with the BIFF and want to remain a home for them into the future. They've expressed a desire for more year-round programming and for us, it's about harnessing the excitement BIFF brings to town and creating a sense of a film festival year-round so there's always that level of engagement.

**How do you get people back in theater seats when there's competition from streaming services like Netflix and Max?**

It's an industry-wide question. I truly believe seeing a movie in a theater is the way it was meant to be seen. In terms of the home theater experience, there are still ways it's lacking, especially if you look at sound. A study last year noted that 55% of home viewers reported issues hearing dialogue and turned on subtitles to understand what they were seeing. If you come to a movie theater with a top-of-the-line sound system, you hear a film the way it's supposed to be heard.

I also think there's a real benefit to seeing a film with a crowd. We're seeing it with *Barbie* and *Oppenheimer*. And the biggest difference for me is I'm not at my house – not worrying about light hitting the TV, or the dog barking, not looking at my phone, I'm fully immersed. There's a real benefit to that. There's a pent-up desire people have to get together to see something. We want The Triplex to do that, to bring people together.

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**ArtWeek Berkshires 2023 Welcomes Submissions**

County-Wide Event Announces Call for Artists in All Disciplines

Following successful ArtWeek Berkshires festivals in 2021 and 2022, featuring over 100 events each year, Berkshire County’s five Cultural Districts are partnering again on an even more ambitious ArtWeek Berkshires 2023, to be held October 14-22.

The coalition recently [posted its first call for artists](https://example.com). The non-juried event is free to all Berkshire County individuals, organizations, and businesses interested in showcasing creative work. Submissions from actors, cartoonists, crafters, dancers, designers, filmmakers, illustrators, mimes, multimedia artists, musicians, performance artists, poets, puppeteers, theater artists, visual artists, writers – and more – are welcome and encouraged. The event will feature open studios, gallery talks, theater, performances, workshops, and more interactive experiences.
Funds pooled by the five cultural districts from Mass Cultural Council will bring greater exposure to this year’s event. Promotions include billboards within Berkshire County, thanks to support from LAMAR Outdoor; print and digital ads in Berkshire Magazine through a generous media sponsorship from Old Mill Road Media; print and digital ads on the Berkshire Eagle’s website; advertising on WAMC through an underwriting package from WAMC; a rack card and a web-based map to help people easily find events on a landing page hosted by 1Berkshire, the primary promotional partner of ArtWeek Berkshires.

If you’re an artist, arts organization, or business that would like to participate in ArtWeek Berkshires 2023, you can sign up through this online form: [https://form.jotform.com/231105324546043](https://form.jotform.com/231105324546043).

Go to [https://berkshires.org/artweek-berkshires/](https://berkshires.org/artweek-berkshires/) for more information, or reach out to your closest Cultural District. In Lenox, that's lenoxcultural@gmail.com.

### 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.1berkshire.org/jobs). Among some of the current openings of interest are:

- **Director of People and Culture, Norman Rockwell Museum**

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

- **Co-Director of Ops & Humans, Arts Connect International (ACI)**
- **Residencies and Riotous Youth Programs Manager, Shakespeare & Co.**
- **Visitor Services Manager (Remote) The House of the Seven Gables**
- **Operations Manager, Berkshire Pulse**

### Arts Funding and Resources

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

Resources for Artists and Arts Organizations

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](https://www.mcc.org/newsletter).
Upcoming...

Project for Public Spaces takes its long-running “Placemaking: Making it Happen” training online, featuring new content along with the enduring lessons and examples from the original in-person training. Sessions run September 5-21, 2023. Register by August 31.

Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism hosts a statewide calendar of events and invites cultural organizations to contribute their events.

Cultural nonprofits may qualify for the Internal Revenue Service’s Federal Employee Retention Credit. File for the 2020 credit ($5K/employee) by April 15, 2024 and for the 2021 credit ($21K/employee) by April 15, 2025.

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Artist Opportunities for August and September 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 Bloedel Reserve Creative Residency, a residency that provides artists in Visual Arts, Performance, Film & Composition, Poetry, Prose Fiction and Nonfiction, and Research & Design with a three-week stay in a well-appointed home on Bainbridge Island, WA, with unlimited access to the Reserve’s 140 acres of sculpted gardens, forests, meadows, and wildlife habitats. The fellowship is supported by a $2,000 stipend. (Deadline: September 1, 2023).

NEFA cultivates and promotes the arts in New England and beyond. Check out their monthly news updates August 2023 Jobs and Opportunities. Examples include:

- August 27, 2023 | Cambridge, MA: Gallery 263’s New Language: Contemporary Abstraction call for art

- September 15, 2023 | Providence, RI: RISCA’s Folk and Traditional Apprenticeships and Folk and Traditional Fellowships

- September 17, 2023 | Watertown, MA: Edible Watertown’s Call for Art
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. Are you an artist? Have you listed your services on ArtsHub? You should!

See profiles and list yourself here and learn about promoting yourself on MCC's related site: CreativeGround.

Check out this month’s Call for Art as one example.

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: **Berkshire Busk!**

When: Ongoing - Fridays and Saturdays starting at 6:30 pm

Where: Downtown Great Barrington: Various Locations

Details: Berkshire Busk! strives to improve economic development and community engagement during the summer in downtown Great Barrington, MA, by harnessing artistic talent from the community and beyond to create a new and vibrant downtown cultural experience. Check out the weekly event lineup here!

What: **Flufferknitter Night with Fluff Alpaca**
When: August 23 and 30
Where: Fluff Alpaca

Details: We're gathering on Wednesday nights to do some knitting and enjoy each others' company! All skill levels are welcome; bring your knitting, crochet, felting, or embroidery if you like! No purchase necessary; while we do have knitting supplies in the store, everyone is welcome to bring to their own supplies to work with. We hope to see you there!

What: The Dreamatics Launch Party with Author Michelle Cuevas!
When: September 16
Where: The Bookloft

Details: Join Michelle Cuevas from 1-3pm to launch her new book The Dreamatics! There will be snacks, author readings, book signings, and more! Michelle graduated from Williams College and holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Virginia. She is the author of several children's books, including Confessions of an Imaginary Friend and The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles. She lives in Berkshire County.

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.