Great Barrington Welcomes New Library Director

According to the Berkshire Edge, on Wednesday, January 10, the Library Board of Trustees named Dawn Jardine as its new library director.

Jardine was named as the permanent library director seven months after Samara Klein, the previous director, resigned in May after serving for nine months. During the past seven months, Donna Brown has been serving as the interim library director.

As stated in her LinkedIn profile, Jardine earned her bachelor of arts degree from the University of New Hampshire in 1988. She worked at the Red Hook Public Library in New York starting as an assistant to the director, from August 2014 to November 2016. She was named the director of the library in 2016, a position she held until October 2023. Starting in June 2023 she worked full time as the interim manager of the Catskill Public Library in New York.

Read more about Dawn Jardine and her new role here.

Photo Courtesy of the Red Hook Public Library

Great Barrington can lay claim to the cup that started it all

As mentioned in The Berkshire Eagle, Plug the term “Stanley cup” into any number of social media platforms right now and you’ll see sights of crazed celebrations — with nothing to do with hockey. (Different Stanley, different Stanley Cup, with a capital C.)

All that online chaos, especially among millennial and Gen-Z consumers, is being fueled by large, insulated cups that come in all manner of colors and carrying capacities. And its roots are deeply planted here in the Berkshires — thanks to an inventor who, in addition to pioneering work in distributing electricity, wanted hot coffee at his desk.
Stanley company lore is that inventor William Stanley Jr. of Great Barrington, while working to invent an electric oven for General Electric, applied part of his research for the oven to the first area of his life where he saw a need: Keeping his coffee hot all day while he was working in his lab.

Click here to read more about the Stanley cup craze.

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. Among some of the current openings of interest are:

- Full-Time Faculty for Technical Theatre, Berkshire Community College

You can also find exclusively creative economy jobs, including remote and hybrid opportunities, at MCC's HireCulture. Several sample postings are below.

- Development Intern (2), Shakespeare & Co.
- Box Office Manager, Shakespeare & Co.
- Volunteer Coordinator, Berkshire Botanical Garden
- Manager of Installation, MASS MoCA
- Archivist, Barrington Stage Company

Arts Funding and Resources

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

Opportunities & Resources for Organizations - January 2024

Learn about grants, events, and resources, find fellowships and apprenticeships, and identify art spaces by subscribing to MCC's Monthly Newsletter.

An overview of MCC's FY24 Programs and Funding Opportunities is available HERE. Be sure to check out NEW programs including Grants for Creative Individuals and Operating Grants for Organizations.
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.

**Artist Opportunities for Artist Opportunities for January and February**

Upcoming opportunities include the **NXTHVN Fellowship** which welcomes up to seven artists and two curators to participate in its paid 10-month intensive Fellowship Program. Each Fellow will receive studio or office space, a stipend, and subsidized housing. Selected from an international pool of applicants, Fellows relocate to New Haven to participate in NXTHVN’s mentorship-driven curriculum which includes professional development sessions led by visiting artists, curators, scholars, and practitioners. (Deadline: February 26).

NEFA cultivates and promotes the arts in New England and beyond.

**Check the NEFA website for a wide range of resources, including:**

- **Recent Publications**
- **Arts & Accessibility**
- **Community Initiatives**
- **Racial & Social Justice Resources**

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 Mass.

**The ArtsHub site regularly updates with opportunities, events, news, and more.**

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

Mass Creative advocates for a well-resourced and equitable creative sector essential to the economic and civic vibrancy of Massachusetts.

**MASSCreative's Organizing and Advocacy Fellowship** is a stipended year-long advocacy leadership development cohort for artivists, creative workers, and emerging cultural leaders to sharpen their organizing skills and grow their advocacy capacity for a more equitable and inclusive creative sector.
When: January 20, 7 pm
Where: The Mahaiwe
Details: On a bitterly cold London evening, schoolteacher Kyra receives an unexpected visit from her former lover. As the evening progresses, the two attempt to rekindle their once passionate relationship only to find [...]

What: Scott Eyerly’s Virtual Met Opera Lecture: Bizet’s Carmen
When: January 25, 5:30 pm
Where: The Mahaiwe
Details: Scott Eyerly will offer a free opera talk via Zoom the Thursday prior to the Metropolitan Opera’s broadcast the following weekend.

What: Met Opera Live in HD: Bizet's Carmen
When: January 27, 1 pm
Where: The Mahaiwe
Details: Acclaimed English director Carrie Cracknell makes her Met debut, reinvigorating the classic story of deadly passion with a staging that moves the action to the present day, amid a band of human traffickers.

When: February 2, 7 pm
Where: The Mahaiwe
Details: Bill Murray is Phil Connors, a TV weather reporter caught in a time loop reliving February 2 every day. Harold Ramis directs this comedic favorite from 1993. (PG, 1h 41min.)

What: Close Encounters with Music: The Art of the String Quartet
When: February 11, 4 pm
Where: Saint James Place
Details: The notable Avalon String Quartet returns with a Berkshire premiere, “For Such a Time as This,” a retelling of the biblical Esther
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.