ArtWeek Berkshires is an annual celebration of local creativity. Enjoy 100+ hands-on or behind-the-scenes events and open studios across the region, from gallery shows to live performances, poetry readings to painting demos, and so much more. ArtWeek is presented by the five Cultural Districts of Berkshire County and promoted by 1Berkshire.

ArtWeek Berkshires is open to any individual or organization interested in sharing their work in an interactive, experiential way. No professional experience is required. ArtWeek includes visual art as well as performances of music, spoken word, behind-the-scenes tours, workshops, demonstrations, artist talks, etc.

Ready to sign up? Fill out the online registration form [HERE](HERE).
The deadline to register is May 8, 2024. To learn more about registration, participation, and FAQs, click here. Do you still have questions? Contact us: culturalgb@gmail.com

Greenhouse Yoga: Owner Profiles

Jodi Hurwitz and Alex Cosgrove, the owners of Greenhouse Yoga, moved right around the corner from their old studio to their new space located at 47 Railroad Street. The new location is a brighter, more accessible space where visitors can experience an open, comfortable waiting area to shop the new Greenhouse yoga merchandise or hang out with friends before or after class.

The pair hopes that within the new space, they can collaborate more with other businesses in the cultural district. This weekend, April 19th, from 7-9:30 pm, Greenhouse Yoga will host its first collaborative event, Word of Mouth, an evening of spoken word to celebrate poetry, storytelling, stand-up comedy, monologues, and more. Another local collab visitors can look forward to is a Pinot and Poses night followed by a wine tasting with DARE Bottleshop & Provisions, another Railroad street business.

We had the opportunity to ask Jodi and Alex about being small business owners in Great Barrington, their practice, and plans for their new space.

What inspired you to open Greenhouse yoga studio?
We felt a strong sense of purpose in providing a space for the community to feel safe and welcome, to find a sanctuary on the mat, and to find peace in a world turned upside down. The practice of yoga has been so beneficial & transformative for each of us individually, and we are honored to be able to share this practice with others together.

How does the new yoga studio compare to the old one?
We doubled our space to create a welcoming environment the community can enjoy before and after classes. We are selling new yoga merchandise and have added a few
comfortable areas to spend relaxing, reflecting, and connecting after class.

**What is your favorite class to teach? Why?**

Jodi: I love teaching SLOW FLOW because we take time to break down the poses. Nothing brings me more joy than seeing students break through and accomplish tricky balances and postures they doubted they could master.

Alex: My favorite class to teach is FLOW because it allows students to create ease while embracing challenges, to be fully in the moment, fully in their body. In every class, we draw inspiration from the elements of earth, air, fire, water, and space to create an experience that grounds, uplifts, ignites, and opens one up to the experience of flow both on and off the mat.

**What is the most rewarding aspect of being a business owner in downtown Great Barrington?**

We love to collaborate with our fellow small business owners in GB. After morning classes, you will see a steady stream of students enjoying coffee at Marjoram + Roux and after evening classes at Baba Louie's or Mooncloud.

**What is the most challenging aspect part of being a small business owner?**

We adore our students and teachers but sometimes forget to practice a "work/life" balance. If we are not teaching classes, you will find us taking classes. We are learning to take precious time to enjoy our hobbies or spend quality time with family & friends.

**Advice for running a business like yours?**

Consistency is the KEY. Envision a path forward and stick to it. Spend time supporting the local chamber of commerce. Be humble & kind to everyone - including ourselves.

Follow [Greenhouse Yoga](https://www.greenhouseyoga.com) on social media to check out classes and future events!

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**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://bit.ly/1BerkshireJobsThing). Among some of the current openings of interest are:

- [Business Partnerships Coordinator, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival](https://bit.ly/BPCoordinatorJBsPillow)

You can also find exclusively creative economy jobs, including remote and hybrid opportunities, at [MCC's HireCulture](https://bit.ly/MCCJobsThing). Several sample postings are below.
Arts Funding and Resources

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

Resources for Arts Organizations - April 2024

Check out programs including Operating Grants for Organizations. Operating Grants for Organizations will provide multi-year, unrestricted operating grants to nonprofit organizations that enrich Massachusetts' cultural life – for arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences.

An overview of MCC's FY24 Programs and Funding Opportunities is available HERE.

Artist Opportunities for April and May

Upcoming opportunities include the Peyton Evans Artists Residency Program At the Pear House. The Studios of Key West, the premier arts organization at the Southernmost Point of the United States, offers a residency program for emerging and established artists and writers worldwide. Residencies are available to visual artists, writers, composers, musicians, media artists, performers, and interdisciplinary artists.

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

Recent Publications
Arts & Accessibility
NEFA cultivates and promotes the arts in New England and beyond.

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.

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 Massachusetts's economic and civic vibrancy.

MASSCreative's Action Network fights for policies that benefit cultural nonprofits, creative businesses, and individual artists in Massachusetts. Where arts, culture, and creativity are recognized as vital components of civically engaged, economically vibrant, and equitable communities.

Opportunities for smaller organizations:

Public Impact Projects at Smaller Organizations. This program aims to meet small and mid-sized organizations where you are by supporting projects that are appropriate in scope and content to each organization’s resources and community needs. Up to $25,000 will be awarded to various activities focusing on enriching interpretive strategies, strengthening interpretive skill sets, or enhancing community engagement with public-facing programs.

Proposals Due: June 12, 2024

What | When | Where

What: Joanne Shaw Taylor
When: April 19, 8 pm
Where: The Mahaiwe
Details: Join Joanne Shaw Taylor and her
stellar band performing songs from her critically acclaimed studio album, *Nobody’s Fool*, and songs from the upcoming new album. Her guitar prowess, vocal abilities, and songwriting talents reach new heights as she presents a bold slate of material at the peak of her career. Taylor has become one of the hottest live acts on the modern Blues scene, and soon you’ll see why.

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**What:** GBAM Winter Arts Market  
**When:** April 21, 10 am - 3 pm  
**Where:** Saint James Place  
**Details:** Call to all lovers of artisan-made, locally crafted goods! The Great Barrington Arts Market presents their Winter Arts Market from 10 am – 3 pm on the first floor of Saint James Place on the following dates. Entry is free of charge.

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**What:** Dewey Drop-In: Jazz Jam  
**When:** May 8, 7 pm  
**Where:** Dewey Hall  
**Details:** Inspired by the storied, genre-defining, open jazz jams from the formative era of jazz music, we will hold a monthly open jazz jam to unite members of the region’s vibrant musical community, inspiring new connections across a diverse range of skill levels, often pairing professional musicians with budding talent. $10-$25 suggested donation at the door.

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**What:** Lyle Lovett and Lisa Loeb: In Conversation and Son  
**When:** May 10, 8 pm  
**Where:** The Mahaiwe  
**Details:** Texas-based musician Lyle Lovett fuses elements of country, swing, jazz, folk, gospel, and blues in a convention-defying manner that breaks down barriers. Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Lisa Loeb started her career with the platinum-selling Number 1 hit song “Stay (I Missed You)” from the film *Reality Bites*. A trailblazing independent artist, Lisa was the first pop musician to have a Number 1 single while not signed to a recording label.
What: Olga Dunn Dance Company: Six Dances by Four
When: May 11, 2 pm - 3 pm
Where: Saint James Place
Details: This dance program premieres new works, including a piece accompanied on live piano by Joaquin Pachano playing a Chopin nocturne. Admission is free; donations are welcome—featured company members: Sarah Fol, Kate Chester, Hope St. Jock, and Jane Singer.

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.