

Your DGB Cultural District E-News



The Curated Collection - Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District Galleries

[Vault Gallery](#) - Artist Marilyn Kalish draws inspiration from Parisian salon-style installation, using complex layering of beautiful, antique objects to create stunning vignettes within the gallery space. This form of presentation pays homage to the great artists of the Renaissance such as Da Vinci and Michelangelo. By showing contemporary art surrounded by vintage frames and vestiges Vault Gallery integrates the respected aesthetics of the past with the progress of the present.



[Bernay Fine Art](#) - Bernay Fine Art represents distinguished artists working in a variety of media including: painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics, glass and works on paper. Founded in Chicago, IL in 2008, the gallery opened in the Berkshires in March of 2019. The gallery is located in downtown Great Barrington at 296 Main Street.

Our mission is to create an inviting and approachable space where anyone—from seasoned art lovers to those discovering art for the first time—can explore, learn, and find pieces that inspire them. We take pride in helping individuals discover artwork they truly love, ensuring it holds personal meaning and fits beautifully into



their lives. By blending artistic excellence with a welcoming spirit, we aim to make engaging with art an inspiring, rewarding, and pleasurable experience.

This month Bernay Fine Art presents "Two To Tango Two", the second iteration of our popular exhibition showcasing the individual works of artist couples. Opening on October 25th, the show invites audiences to explore the many ways relationships influence artistic expression.



[Frederic Gallery](#) - *There are many types of galleries, but we try to make ours comfortable. As a family-run business on our third generation, we want to welcome you to our gallery to peruse our collections so that together, we can find the right piece for you. Our focus is on delivering interesting, investment-quality art, well-preserved and expertly framed by us.*

Frederic Galleries current collection spans across Asian art, European, and the corners of the US. With a focus on signed, original prints, offering most mediums, sizes and price points.



[Scott Barrow Gallery](#) - *I can attest to the idea that a love of photography is indeed genetic. Playful images taken by both sides of my family go back to the 1860s. My own love of for it began as a boy when I would spend evenings with my father in his darkroom. Seeing an image appear in an amber lit tray was and still is for me, magical. After graduating from the University of Virginia with a fine art degree I had the good fortune to be taken under the wing of a freelance photographer who showed me that making a living with a camera could be rewarding, creatively fulfilling and fun.*



I experience the world as a beautiful place and my photographs emphasize that. The challenge for me as an artist is to go

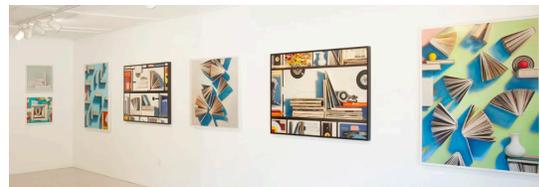
beyond beauty and find my connection to the scene, to become part of it in the moment that I release the shutter. It is only then that I can truly share what I saw and felt with you the viewer. Scott Barrow Gallery is located at 40 Railroad Street.



[Iris Gallery](#) - Located on upper Railroad Street the Iris Gallery of Fine Art is a contemporary art gallery representing fine art photographers, painters, and mixed-media artists. Since opening in 2004 Iris represents both emerging and established artists.



Iris Gallery offers a diverse group of contemporary fine artists, displaying fine art photography, painting, and mixed media. The gallery represents over 45 artists including Beth Moon, Peter Garfield, Maggie Taylor, and many more. Be sure to check their website to check out more artists and preview their work.



Now through December 1st Iris gallery presents Constructs by Andrew Sovjani.

Rewind and Rediscover - History of Saint James Church

Saint James Church - Located in the center of downtown Great Barrington, Saint James Church was built in 1857 constructed in a Gothic Revival Style made from blue dolomite from the local East Mountain Quarry. Other buildings such as the rectory was constructed in 1893 followed by the Parish House in 1911.



Historical Note: In 1918 the parish house was used as a hospital during the influenza epidemic.

Saint James Parish, was founded in 1762 by English missionaries from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

On the Feast of St. Matthew (September 21st, 1762), Thomas Davies, an Anglican priest, instituted a new parish here consisting of seventeen families who expressed their willingness to conform to the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England.

Gideon Bostwick the parish's first priest served as a Lay Reader from 1765 until 1769, when he went to England and was ordained to the priesthood by the Bishop of London, who had ecclesiastical oversight of the British Colonies. Bostwick returned as a missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in 1770 and served as Rector of Great Barrington until he died in 1793.

During those years he not only served faithfully in this parish but used Great Barrington as a base for missionary endeavors to the northward. He rode on horseback up to 100 miles per week to spread the Christian Gospel to people in Connecticut, Vermont, New York State, and Massachusetts. In 1804 the church's name was changed to "St. James" to honor Gideon Bostwick.

The congregation has had three different church buildings in Great Barrington. In 1857 Saint James Episcopal Church was built of locally quarried blue dolomite limestone, featuring pointed arches filled with elegantly crafted stained glass.

As the first Church of England parish in western Massachusetts, it has a long, faithful, and colorful history. The church which was converted into an entertainment space acts as cultural space and community hub.

In 2008 Saint James Place was very close to demolition, and a back wall had partially collapsed. That along with other infrastructure issues created a dangerous and expensive problem to solve. In 2010, Sally and Fred Harris, former parishioners and Great Barrington residents, stepped up to rescue this significant building. The Harris's envisioned a new life and purpose for the crumbling church. A nonprofit entity was formed to purchase the property and transform it into a secular multi-use cultural and educational center.

Passionate about Saint James Place, the Harris's launched a research project to find grant opportunities to restore and renovate the buildings. Through that research, they found Partners for Sacred Places and began a collaboration with executive director Bob Jaeger who supported their process and spoke to the Great Barrington community about how old sacred spaces can be repurposed. For inspiration and information, the Harris's toured other renovated and repurposed church buildings.

Partners for Sacred Spaces then conducted an Arts Market Study, including the Berkshire cultural community, which generated interest in Saint James Place and, ultimately, garnered \$500,000 funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The Town of Great Barrington put the renovation project in front of taxpayers and was able to allocate \$150,000 to the preservation project. Additional funds from individuals, foundations, and state programs — with the support of former State Representative William “Smitty” Pignatelli — were then raised with an active board of directors, other community leaders, and support from Sally and Fred Harris.

After seven years of extensive renovations, which included the work of local artisans as well as nationally known preservation experts, Saint James Place reopened to the public in January 2017.

Saint James Place offers 17,000 square feet of space for performance, business and community, and is a vital asset for the Great Barrington arts and culture scene.

Check out more about the [history](#) of Saint James Place following the link, and be sure to check out their [events](#) page for monthly programming such as performances, Holiday concerts, artist markets, and more!

Great Barrington Historic Walking Tours

The Great Barrington Historical Society offers two, self-guided walking tours now available on the Apple and Android App Store!

The *Great Barrington Walking Tour* allows visitors to explore the history of Great Barrington from its colonial origins, through the industrial revolution, to the Gilded Age and the 20th century.

While the second historic walking tour allows visitors to explore the Du Bois Freedom Center. This tour explores the history of African American heritage in the Berkshires, the biography of W.E.B Du Bois, and the story of the town's first black church.

Download the Great Barrington Walking Tour App and explore the towns rich history, cultural significance, and historic sites!



Great Barrington Open Space & Recreation Plan

Great Barrington is updating its 2013 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) and needs your help! Your input will help guide the planning process and help determine the future of recreation and open space in the town.

Please complete the online [survey](#) — or, if you prefer, paper copies of the survey are available at the Great Barrington Town Hall, Mason and Ramsdell Libraries, and The Claire Teague Senior Center!

Public Forum 1: Survey Announcement - during the Planning Board Meeting, October 23rd in the Town Hall, 334 Main Street, on the second floor .

Use this QR Code, or the URL below, to get to the survey! *The survey is available until November 15th.*

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GreatBarringtonOSRP>



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SURVEY IS AVAILABLE UNTIL NOVEMBER 15, 2025



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Chaos & Control, Fiber in Art - October's show at Art on Main Gallery in West Stockbridge, features 5 diverse artists who use fiber to create art. Hand and machine stitching, felting and collage are some of the techniques used by Jessica Dearborn, Pat Frik, Elsa Karr, Dawna Johnson and Sarah Morrison.

The gallery is open Thursday through Sunday from 11:00am to 4:00pm throughout the month.

About the Artists:

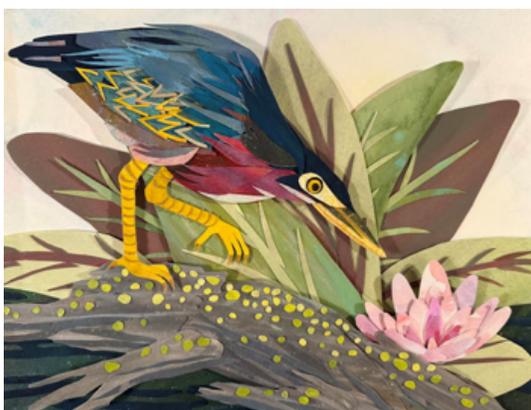
Pat Frik's small scale Fiber Art derives from patterns and textures found in nature. She uses hand stitching to enhance and reinterpret imagery, sometimes in whimsical ways.

Dwana Johnson is a multimedia artist who loves painting, felting, sculpting, stitching and combining various elements together. She prefers hand-stitching over machine stitching. Traditionally most women's work and especially stitching has largely been invisible. All her stitches are direct and in plain view.

Elsa Karr likes to work in a variety of media. In fiber, she makes art quilts for wall hangings, thread paintings, and collages.

Jessilyn Dearborn is a mixed media artist using hand-painted cut paper to build layered images. Her process involves finding colors and textures in nature to paint on paper that will be cut and used in future projects. There is some amount of play in cutting and arranging paper scraps into specific subjects, which means pieces can evolve organically from sketch to finished product. Her favorite subjects include brightly-colored feathered or scaly beasts.

Sarah Morrison's fiber art is inspired by nature and memories of childhood art making. She enjoys the tactile experience of creating with fiber, especially the process of wet felting.



Creative Economy Jobs

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

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:

- [Family Resource Center Clinician, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition](#)
- [Occupational Therapist, Berkshire Health Systems](#)
- [Executive Director, Dalton Community Recreation Association \(CRA\)](#)



- [Retail Sales Associate, R&D Store \(Part-Time\), MASS MoCA](#)
- [Managing Director, Chester Theatre Company](#)

The National Organization for Arts in Health (NOAH) provides transformational leadership to bring the arts in health together and advance the field.



Check out current open hybrid/remote positions in the field of arts in health [here](#).

Arts Funding and Resources

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



Learn about grants, events, and resources, find fellowships and apprenticeships, and identify art spaces by subscribing to [MCC's Monthly Newsletter](#)

[Opportunities & Resources for Orgs – October 2025](#)

Metro Credit Union Foundation Invested In Our Communities - grant program is open to nonprofit organizations with a mission or focus on Community Development, Securing Safe & Affordable Housing, or Financial Wellness & Advancement.
Deadline: October 31st, 2025.

The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation - supports organizations and programs for which a relatively small amount of funding might make a large difference. Funding priorities include

museums, arts and cultural programs, schools, hospitals, youth and senior services, disability programs, environmental and wildlife protection, and other local initiatives.

Deadline: November 10th, 2025.

**The Alliance for Digital Equity
Community Space Public Wi-Fi Program**

- Entities must be ready and able to expand public internet access, and have primary operations in western Massachusetts or municipalities in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, or Hampshire counties. The overarching intent is to provide access to the internet for low-income or otherwise digitally disenfranchised people.

Deadline: Late Fall 2025.

An overview of MCC's FY25 Programs and Funding Opportunities is available [HERE](#).



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 October and November](#)

[Studios at Mass MoCA](#) - The Studios at MASS MoCA runs year-round, hosts up to 10 artists at a time for stays of 2 or 4 weeks, and primarily seeks applications from visual artists (painters, sculptors, installation artists, photographers, video/new media artists, fiber artists, printmakers, etc.) and writers in all literary disciplines. Artists from around the world are encouraged to apply.

Deadline: November 1st, 2025

[The Iris Artistic Residency](#) - is a collaboration between the Studios at MASS MoCA and The Berkshire Immigrant Center. This open call is for artists in Western or Central Massachusetts (Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden, Worcester) who are foreign-born, or identify as first or second generation American. We welcome applications from artists in all career stages, income levels, and disciplines (painters, sculptors, installation artists, fiber artists, printmakers, writers, performers, designers, photographers, filmmakers, etc.) whose practice allows them to work quietly (nothing is sound-

proofed, so power tools and loud music are discouraged).

Deadline November 1st, 2025

[Mentorship Residency Program](#) - The Indigo Arts Alliance studio located in Portland, Maine is the host site for our Mentorship Artists Residency program. This program is the heart of IAA, modeling our values of global community building. Our goal is to bring together artists from diverse backgrounds of the African Diaspora to engage in their creative process, while building lasting relationships rooted in co-mentorship. We believe artists hold the key in creating a better world, and in our work, we allow for Black and Brown voices to lead the way.

Deadline: Rolling



Access online courses and resources designed to help artists build thriving practices at any career stage and in any discipline.

[Creative Capital Artist Lab](#) - is a new online professional development curriculum designed to help artists build thriving practices at any career stage and in any discipline. Free for individual use, courses are created by art professionals, industry experts, and fellow artists who share vital concepts, skills, and tools to help grow artists' careers—including courses on crafting artist statements, grant proposals, managing multiple income streams, and more.

Videos include ASL and Spanish interpretation, as well as CART services.



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](#)



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.](#)

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.



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.

Great Barrington Libraries



Adult Programs - Mason Library

1 on 1 Financial Planning with Luke Delorme, CFP, of Tableaux Wealth has offered to give 30 minute appointments to our patrons. Schedule yours today!

- See available appointments on our website. Each appointment is 45 minutes in length.
- Thursdays - 2:00pm - 4:45pm

Children's Programs - Mason Library

Touch-a-Truck

- Get up close and explore big vehicles at our Touch-a-Truck event, designed especially for ages 0–5! But, all are welcome to join in the excitement! Held right at Mason Library, this hands-on experience is fun for the whole family.
- Friday, October 24th | 11:30am - 12:30pm

Halloween Scavenger Hunt

- Join our spook-tacular Halloween Scavenger Hunt from October 27th to 31st!
- Kids and teens ages 3–18 can search the youth section of the library for hidden themed pictures. Those who find them all will receive a special treat!

Read to or Visit a Therapy Dog!

- Join us in the Children's Room most Friday mornings at 11:30, to meet a therapy dog who will be available for an hour for patrons to greet, pet, and read to.
- Fridays - 11:30am

Youth Chess Club

- Join our Youth Chess Club, and have fun! Whether you're a beginner or a budding grandmaster, come learn, play, and sharpen your skills in a friendly, relaxed environment.
- Saturdays - 11:00am

Be sure to visit the [Great Barrington Pubic Libraries](#) website to view more and programming and events!

OtherWords - Poetry Reading Series

OtherWords, is a monthly poetry reading series that takes place at the Mason Library. Curated by poets [Michael Gottlieb](#) and [Evelyn Reilly](#), *OtherWords* is a continuation of the series that was hosted at the Familiar Trees Bookstore and RA Gallery on Railroad Street for the past two years.

The October poetry reading will take place Saturday, October 25th at 4pm. Featuring poetry readings by Matthew Klane, Rachel Levitsky and Joel Lewis.

Mathew Klane's recent books of poetry include *Of the Day, Hist and Canyons*. His e-book *My* is online at FENCE. In 2025 he also released his first record, *Too Little Too Late*. The founder and co-editor of Flim Forum Press, Matthew currently co-curates the poetry and performance series *Salon Salvage* in Troy. He has an MFA in Poetry from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, an MA in Poetics from SUNY Buffalo and lives and writes in Albany.

Rachel Levitsky is a feminist avant-garde poet, novelist, essayist, translator, editor, educator, and a founder of Belladonna Collaborative. She is the author *Under the Sun*, *NEIGHBOR*, *The Story of My Accident is Ours* and numerous chapbooks. She is Professor of Writing at Pratt Institute and Naropa University's Summer Writing Program. Her most recent book is the bi-lingual *Against Travel/Anti-Voyage* with Pascal Poyet.

Joel Lewis is the author seven poetry collections, including *My Shaolin: A Poem of Staten Island*, *Surrender When Leaving Coach* and the recent *Well You Needn't*. He edited the *Bluestones* and *Salt Hay* anthologies of contemporary New Jersey poets for Rutgers University. He is also the editor of *Reality Prime: Selected Poems of Walter Lowenfels* as well as *On the Level Everyday*, Ted Berrigan's selected talks. A poetry activist in his Garden State, he led the effort to establish the New Jersey Poet Laureateship.

Come for great readings and good company, along with drinks and food provided by the Friends of Great Barrington Libraries.

OCT 25
4 PM

OTHERWORDS
READING SERIES

**POETS MATTHEW
KLANE + RACHEL
LEVITSKY + JOEL
LEWIS**

**AT
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON MA**

**CURATED BY
MICHAEL GOTTLIEB
& EVELYN REILLY**

**SPONSORED BY
THE FRIENDS OF
GREAT BARRINGTON
LIBRARIES &
BOARD OF LIBRARY
TRUSTEES**

ALL
TO
OPEN
AND
FREE

What | When | Where



What: [Matt Cusson](#)

When: Friday, October 24th | 8:00pm

Where: The Indigo Room

Details: Matt Cusson is a Grammy-nominated, multiple award-winning singer, pianist, songwriter, producer, and arranger.



What: [London's National Theatre in HD: Mrs. Warren's Profession](#)

When: Saturday, October 25th | 7:00pm

Where: Vivie Warren is a woman ahead of her time. Her mother, however, is a product of that old patriarchal order. Exploiting it has earned Mrs. Warren a fortune – but at what cost?



What: [Natalie Merchant with Erik Della Penna: Autumn Acoustic Tour](#)

When: Friday, October 31st | 8:00pm

Where: Over her 40-year career Natalie Merchant has earned a reputation for being a songwriter and recording artist of rare quality, a captivating stage performer, and a skilled producer.



What: [SilkRoad Ensemble Featuring Wu Man: American Railroad](#)

When: Saturday, November 8th | 7:00pm

Where: A Grammy Award-winning musical ensemble, Silkroad is a collective of artists representing dozens of nationalities, traditions and ideas, who use music and art to demonstrate how great beauty can emerge from great difference. The Ensemble strives to engage difference, sparking radical collaboration and music with a purpose, for a more hopeful and inclusive world.

Be sure to follow the Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date on all the latest news and events happening downtown!



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](#).

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