

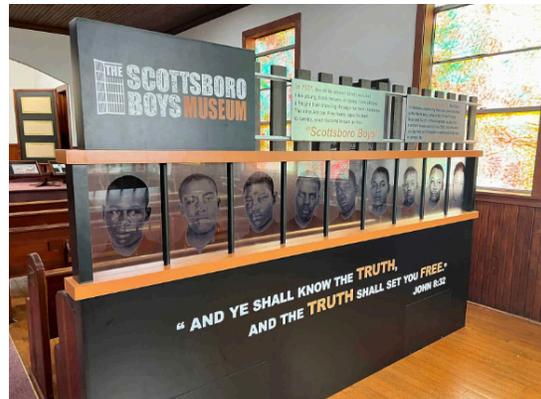
February 2026

## Your DGB Cultural District E-News



### History and Heritage - *The Scottsboro Boys* *Traveling Exhibit*

The Du Bois Freedom Center invites you to experience ***The Scottsboro Boys Traveling Exhibit***, opening Tuesday, February 10th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Center's Main Street office, located at 309 Main Street in Great Barrington. Presented by [The Scottsboro Boys Museum](#) in Scottsboro, Alabama, the exhibit will remain on view through late April.



The exhibit tells the story of nine Black teenagers who became international symbols of racial injustice in the 1930s. The Scottsboro Boys case sparked global outrage and was the foundation for two paramount U.S. Supreme Court decisions. Its legacy to the civil rights movement is immeasurable.

"This exhibit connects the Scottsboro Boys' legacy to the enduring fight for justice that W.E.B. Du Bois championed," said [Dr. John D. Lloyd](#), Interim Executive Director of the Du Bois Freedom Center. "We are honored to bring this history to Massachusetts."

The partnership between the Du Bois Freedom Center and the Scottsboro Boys Museum brings together two seminal forces in civil rights history. It explores the NAACP's involvement in the Scottsboro Boys case, the responses of communities in the North—particularly in Massachusetts—and the enduring legal strategies that emerged from the case, many of which continue to shape justice efforts today. This will be the first showing of the travel exhibit outside of Alabama.

[Dr. Thomas Reidy](#), Executive Director of The Scottsboro Boys Museum, said, "We have shown it throughout the state, but this is its first journey above the Mason-Dixon line."

Join us to welcome and witness this extraordinary collaboration. More information about the associated events or the travel exhibit is available at [www.thescottsboboysmuseum.com](http://www.thescottsboboysmuseum.com). For media inquiries, please contact [office@duboisfreedomcenter.org](mailto:office@duboisfreedomcenter.org).

---

*Reflections on Justice* - In conjunction with the exhibit, the Du Bois Freedom Center and the Scottsboro Boys Museum will host a moderated conversation on Thursday, February 12, at 5:00 p.m. at the Indigo Room.

The program will feature Dr. Thomas Reidy and Dr. Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Center at UMass Amherst, and will be moderated by [Marcus P. Smith](#), History and Archival Fellow at the Du Bois Freedom Center.

“The history of the Scottsboro Boys Case—and the work of the Scottsboro Boys Museum—is both inspiring and essential, highlighting the powerful role museums can play in fostering community and advancing justice,” said Marcus Smith.

The exhibit will be open for viewing prior to the discussion. This event and free, registration is required - to reserve your spot visit [Mahaiwe.org](http://Mahaiwe.org).

## Rewind & Rediscover - Clinton A.M.E Zion Church

Dedicated in 1887, the Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church in Great Barrington served as the spiritual, cultural and political home for the local African American community for nearly 130 years. It was also a place of significance for author and civil rights leader W.E.B. Du Bois, who was born and raised in Great Barrington.

From its earliest years, the church included both established families from Great Barrington and the wider region as well as newcomers from the South.



After years of fundraising, the congregation purchased a parcel of land on Elm Court, a small lane a block away from Main Street, and began construction of the sanctuary in 1886.

Tucked away at 9 Elm Court in the heart of downtown, the church is a distinctive example of 19th-century vernacular church architecture. The sanctuary consisted of a simple wood-framed building, gable end to the street, with a two-story square entry and bell tower at the northeast corner. White-painted clapboard siding covers the majority of the building's first floor, but decorative shingles with alternating bands of round and square edges cover the gable.

This unique landmark is a prominent site on the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Massachusetts Register of Historic Places. In 2018, Preservation Massachusetts added the church to its list of Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources.



As is true of many African American churches in the North, this church served not only as a religious center but also as a cultural, political, and charitable institution for local African Americans.

After years of falling into disrepair in members from the community gathered to discuss options for purchasing, restoring, and preserving the history and legacy of Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church in Great Barrington.

The 'Clinton Church Restoration' organization was formed in late 2016 by a group of local community members concerned about the fate of the de-consecrated church. The organization's goal is to preserve and re-purpose the historic property as a vital, self-sustaining entity for community use that celebrates and honors the local African American community, the church's 130-year history and its first female pastor, Rev. Esther Dozier, and the legacy of Great Barrington's most famous native son, W.E.B. Du Bois.

The renovation is still in its early phases and will likely take several years. The leaky roof has been removed and replaced with a watertight, base layer roof and substantial structural repairs have been made to support the new roof.

Once the renovations are complete the Du Bois Freedom Center will return the historic church to the center of public life. As a vital, new public entity, it will serve as a visitor center, an interpretive venue, a hub for African American heritage sites throughout the region, a community meeting space, and a cultural gathering spot offering contemporary programs and performances. As it was for many decades, the building will continue to be a "refueling place" that informs, empowers, delights, and serves as a beacon in the community

To learn more about the project and view conceptual renderings of the new space visit, [The Du Bois Freedom Center](#).

## 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.

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, the Clinton A.M.E Zion Church.

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



## News From Your Neighbors

**From The Berkshire Eagle - ['Flavor master' Matt Scott and his wife, Caitlin, have taken over SoCo Creamery in Great Barrington](#)**

GREAT BARRINGTON — Seventeen years after he first hauled boxes of ice cream around for SoCo Creamery, Matt Scott is back to doing it twice a week.

But now he's the boss. Matt and his wife, Caitlin, are the new owners of the Railroad Street business.



After months, if not years, of conversations with longtime owner and mentor Erik Bruun, the couple purchased the shop last April. Bruun stayed on as a consultant through October to help guide them through their first busy summer season.

Matt started at SoCo Creamery in 2009 as a part-time truck driver during a transitional period where he just needed a job. But it quickly evolved into a passion as he learned the rhythms of the business and discovered a love for ice cream-making.

When Bruun first joined SoCo in 2015, Matt was considered the "flavor master," responsible for developing over 100 different ice cream recipes.

"Matt was the person who made the ice cream when I first got involved, and he has a strong belief in the brand and all that sort of thing," Bruun said in August.

Bruun had been thinking about moving on for a long time, but wanted to make sure the business would not only survive but would remain a contributor to the community.

"Erik has a sage-like quality about him where he's just a very well-spoken, thoughtful person, and we just stayed in touch and it just aligned in a way," Matt said. "He wanted to move on, but he also really values SoCo's position in the community."



SoCo lovers shouldn't expect many changes to the store, aside from a few improvements for the staff, like new equipment and eventually an improved space, but because the business is working, there is no reason to make "dramatic changes."

"This store has been here for like, a really long time, and it is like a fixture in the community. And because of that, like, there is some community ownership with places like that," Matt said. "It's a great little business and a really nice town and we are just going to keep doing what we've been doing."

Read the [full article Berkshire Eagle.com](#).

## Berkshire Grown - Winter Farmers Markets!

Berkshire Grown's Winter Farmers Markets host farmers and producers from Berkshire County and the surrounding region. Markets run monthly, November - April in Great Barrington.

Vendors offer an abundance of locally-grown food, including fresh greens, winter squash, root crops, apples, meat, cheese, jam, honey and maple syrup, baked goods, and more. Local artisan crafters round out the market offerings, and each market features live music.

We welcome SNAP and HIP at our markets: SNAP users receive a Market Match of up to \$30 per market, and each market includes vendors with HIP-eligible products, providing SNAP shoppers with an immediate reimbursement for benefit dollars spent on fresh fruits and vegetables. Visit the market manager's table to make the most of your benefits!

**Where:** Housatonic Community Center (Housy Dome)

**When:** 10:00am - 1:00pm

- February 21st
- March 21st
- April 18th



## ArtWeek Berkshires 2026 - Call to Artists

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 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.

In the past, artists from the following southern Berkshire towns have participated Becket, West Stockbridge, Lee, Stockbridge, Housatonic, Tyringham, Great Barrington, Otis, Monterey, Egremont, Sandisfield, Sheffield, New Marlborough, and Mount Washington.

Ready to sign up? Fill out the online [registration form](#).

Click the link to learn more about [ArtWeek 2026](#) including registration, participation, and FAQs. Still have questions? Contact your closest Cultural District: [culturalgb@gmail.com](mailto:culturalgb@gmail.com)



## 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:

- [Manager of Communications, WAM Theatre](#)
- [Executive Director, Susan B Anthony Birthplace Museum](#)
- [Public Health \(Inspector\) Trainer, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission](#)



- [Executive Director, Aston Magna Foundation for Music and the Humanities](#)
- [Tanglewood Ambassador / Guide, Boston Symphony Orchestra](#)

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 –](#)

[February 2026](#)

[Lee Bank Foundation](#) offers grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofits advancing programs that reduce opportunity and wealth gaps for youth and families in Berkshire County, with a focus on education, food security, economic development, health and human services, and workforce pathways. Deadline: March 2nd, 2026.

## [Mass Cultural Council's YouthReach](#)

application opens on February 5, 2026. Grants are awarded to Creative Youth Development programs that integrate substantive and ongoing arts, humanities, and science opportunities into a collaborative community response. Deadline: April 2nd, 2026.

## [Things to Attend- February 2026](#)

### [The International Association of](#)

[Accessibility Professionals](#) hosts How to Build Accessible Digital Tools Together with Vijay Mathew, for accessibility professionals, procurement officers, organizational leaders, and people who think of software as public good and a human right. \$39 fee. February 11th, 2026 at 11am.

An overview of MCC's FY26 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 February](#)

[Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grants](#) - The Foundation welcomes applications from visual artists who are painters, sculptors, and artists who work on paper, including printmakers. Grants are intended for a one-year period of time. The Foundation will review expenditures relating to an artist's

professional work and personal expenses, and amounts range up to \$50,000. Artists must be actively exhibiting their current work in professional artistic venues, such as gallery and museum spaces.

#### [Rauschenberg Medical Emergency Grants](#)

- Rauschenberg Medical Emergency Grants provide one-time grants of up to \$5,000 for recent unexpected medical, dental, and mental health emergencies to artists in financial need who are creating in the visual arts, film/video/electronic/digital arts, and choreography.



*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](#)



*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.

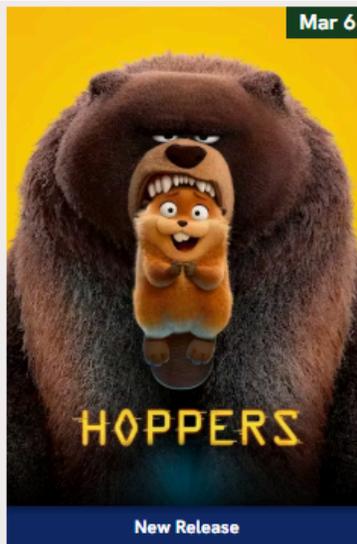
[See profiles and list yourself here](#) and [learn about promoting yourself on NEFA's related site: CreativeGround.](#)



Mass Creative advocates for a well-resourced and equitable creative sector essential to 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.

## The Triplex Cinema - Coming Soon!



Be sure to click the link to view upcoming [showtimes!](#)

Triplex Cinema Special Events:

**BLKNWS**



**What:** [BLKNWS: Terms & Conditions](#)

**When:** Sunday, February 22nd | 11:00am

**Details:** Adapted from Kahlil Joseph's renowned video art installation, BLKNWS: Terms & Conditions is a distinctive cinematic experience that mirrors the sonic textures of a record album, weaving fiction and history in an immersive journey where the fictionalized figures of W. E. B Du Bois and Marcus Garvey join artists, musicians, Joseph's family, and even Twitter chats, in a vision for black consciousness.



**What:** [Bad River](#)

**When:** Sunday, February 22nd | 3:00pm

**Details:** Wisconsin's tribe's ongoing fight to protect Lake Superior for future generations. "Bad River" shows the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's long history of activism and resistance in the context of continuing legal battles with Enbridge Energy over its Line 5 oil pipeline. The Line 5 pipeline has been operating on 12 miles of the Bad River Band's land with expired easements for more than a decade. The Band and the Canadian company have been locked in a legal battle over the pipeline since 2019. Tickets to this screening are \$15.

**Great Barrington Libraries**





# Mason Library



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Children's Programs Teen Programs Adult Programs *registration required	3 10:30 am Brain Builders	4	5 3:00 pm Origami	6 10:30 am Sing and Dance* 4:00 pm Legos	7 11:00 am Chess Club 1:00 pm Skiing Craft & Cocoa
9 6:00 pm Author Talk: Tracy Wolff	10 10:30 am Brain Builders	11	12 3:00 pm Beading Financial Consult (by appointment)	13 10:30 am Sing and Dance* 4:00 pm Legos	14 11:00 am Chess Club
16 Closed: President's Day	17 10:30 am Brain Builders 1:00 pm Make Your Own Trail Mix	18 1:00 pm Pizza and Pages	19 1:00 pm Make a Fruit Car	20 10:30 am Sing and Dance* 1:30 pm Books & Bagels	21 11:00 am Chess Club 1:00 pm Du Bois Scavenger Hunt
22	23 10:30 am Brain Builders	24	25	26 10:30 am Sing and Dance* 4:00 pm Legos	28 11:00 am Chess Club 4:00 pm OtherWords Poetry



## Adult Programs:

- Free 1 on 1 Financial Consultation: Luke Delorme, CFP, of Tableaux Wealth has offered to give 30 minute appointments to our patrons. February is full. Contact Dawn to schedule for March.
- Author Talk: Tracy Wolff: Please join us for a special evening featuring local author Tracy Wolff as she discusses her new book, *The Aftermyth*, with New York Times bestselling author Gayle Forman. Tracy and Gayle will be happy to sign copies of their latest books after the discussion. 6:00pm, 2/9

## Children & Teen Programs:

- Skiing Craft & Cocoa: Bundle up for a cozy winter craft at the library! Children will create their own playful skier or snowboarder then warm up with a cup of delicious cocoa while sharing their snowy creations. 1:00pm, 2/7
- Make Your Own Trail Mix: Create your own tasty trail mix at the library! Children ages 3 and up are invited to mix, match, and snack while exploring fun flavors and textures in this hands-on activity. 1:00pm, 2/17
- Pizza & Pages: Love pizza and books? Join us for a fun program where participants aged 9–14 will read, chat, and relax with friends. Then, pizza arrives! 1:00pm, 2/18
- Make a Fruit Car: Turn bananas and grapes into an edible vehicle. 1:00pm, 2/19. Ages 4+
- Bagels & Books: Enjoy your day with a good book and a tasty treat! Bagels & Books invites readers ages 9–14 to enjoy 30–45 minutes of quiet reading, followed by bagels with cream cheese and time to relax with friends. 1:30pm, 2/20
- W.E.B. Du Bois Scavenger Hunt: Find facts about W.E.B. Du Bois around the library. Celebrate your success with donut holes and cocoa. For all ages. 1:00pm, 2/21
- Teen Time: Stop by Mason for snacks and a weekly craft, including origami and beading. 3:00pm, 2/5 & 2/12
- Brain Builders: Join us for a fun weekly drop-in program designed especially for curious two-year-olds (younger kids and older preschoolers welcome too)!

- 10:30am, every Tuesday
- Sing & Dance: Looking for a way to get up, get out, and get moving? We'll sing, dance and play together with drums, bells, balls and hoops. Circle time, dancing and lots of fun! Registration required, 10:30am, every Friday
  - Legos at the Library: Every Friday at 4:00, join us for Legos at the Library! Come construct and create with Mason's collection of Legos. 4:00pm, every Friday
  - 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. 11:00am, every Saturday
- 

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

## What | When | Where



**What:** [Jackson Whalan & Mahaiwe](#)  
[Present: The Berkshires Music Mixer](#)

**When:** Tuesday, February 17th | 7:00 pm

**Where:** Indigo Room

**Details:** Hosted by Berkshires-born recording artist and music producer Jackson Whalan, the goal of The Berkshires Music Mixer is to bring the entire local music industry together. This is a space to meet and network with new collaborators, converse about the music scene, and play music together. Whether you're a musician, audio engineer, venue owner, songwriter, or someone who just loves being around music, you are invited. All are welcome. Free entry (RSVP required to reserve your spot).



**What:** [Wanda Houston Concert & Dance](#)

**When:** Thursday, February 26th | 7:00pm

**Where:** Dewey Hall

**Details:** Musicians and Music Lovers alike-come join Wanda Houston to experience music in the moment. Tickets to this event are \$15.



**What:** [Black Violin](#)

**When:** Friday, February 27th | 8:00pm

**Where:** Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center

**Details:** Step into Black Violin's Full Circle Tour, where Grammy-nominated duo Wil Baptiste and Kev Marcus redefine the possibilities of music by merging classical depth with hip-hop's pulse. Tickets range from \$30 to \$60.

**DU BOIS FELLOWSHIP CONVERSATION**

*Unnamed: A Conversation at the Edge of Sense*  
with Bayo Akomolafé, Nora Bateson, and Alex Forrester



Saturday, March 7, at 3PM EST  
Saint James Place  
Great Barrington, MA



**What:** [Unnamed: A conversation at the Edge of Sense](#)

**When:** Saturday, March 7th | 3:00am - 5:00pm

**Where:** Saint James Place

**Details:** The Schumacher Center for New Economics presents Unnamed: A Conversation at the Edge of Sense featuring Bayo Akomolafe and Nora Bateson. Hosted by Alex Forrester. Unnamed gathers two thinkers – Nora Bateson and Bayo Akomolafe – to sit at this edge. They gather not to explain. They gather not to solve. They gather to notice what trembles just before language coheres, and to ask: what forms of aliveness are stirring outside the logics of healing, justice, and progress? Tickets to this event are \$10.



**What:** [La Cecchina — The Songbird](#)

**When:** Sunday, March 8th | 4:00 - 6:00pm

**Where:** Saint James Place

**Details:** Crescendo's first spring concert offers La Cecchine — The Songbird featuring works for voice, lute, and virginal by the 17th century Italian composer Francesca Caccini. Caccini was a celebrated singer, lutenist, composer, poet, and music teacher of the early Baroque era. She is recognized as the first woman to compose opera. Her opera, "La liberazione di Ruggiero dall'isola d'Alcina", is one of the few of her works that survive today. The selection of vocal works on this program is from Il primo libro delle musiche (1618). Her solo songs are full of dramatic harmonic surprises, and melodically fluid melismas. Tickets are \$45.

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](#).

Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District | 334 Main Street | Great Barrington, MA 01230 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!