

April 2026

Your DGB Cultural District E-News



ArtWeek Berkshires 2026 - Call for Artists

ArtWeek Berkshires, a county-wide collaboration, will take place May 15 - 25th, and you can be a part of it!

The non-juried event is free to all individuals, organizations, and businesses in the Berkshires interested in showcasing creative work.



ArtWeek Berkshires features more than 100 events each year. 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 encouraged. The event will feature open studios, gallery talks, theater, performances, workshops, and more interactive experiences.

“ArtWeek Berkshires is unique in that it is the only county-wide collaborative cultural event hosted by the Cultural Districts of Berkshire County,” said Jen Glockner, Pittsfield’s Cultural Development Director and ArtWeek Berkshires 2026 Steering Committee co-chair, along with Laura Brennan at Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. “We welcome all artists and organizations, whether you’re an emerging artist or seasoned professional, to consider submitting an event to ArtWeek Berkshires.”

The county-wide collaboration spotlights Berkshire County’s five state-designated Cultural Districts - the Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District, Lenox Cultural District, North Adams Cultural District, Upstreet Cultural District in Pittsfield, and Williamstown Cultural District. Funds pooled by the five cultural districts, through grants from the Mass Cultural Council, make this event possible and support marketing and promotion to shine a spotlight on participants.

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.

If you are an artist, arts organization, or business that would like to participate in ArtWeek Berkshires 2026, you may sign up online: ArtWeek Berkshires [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.



Rewind and Rediscover

The City Store Block on the southern corner of Main and Railroad Streets dates back to 1853, making it the oldest surviving in Great Barrington downtown commercial structure. This building narrowly escaped destruction in 1896 when a devastating fire wiped out both sides of Railroad Street.



According to Berkshire Eagle Archives, and the Great Barrington Fire Department The fire of 1896 started shortly after 10 o'clock on the evening of October 12, 1896 in a tenement-house opposite the Consolidated railroad station.

Fed by high winds, the fire destroyed a row of wooden buildings that lined the rear of the north side of the street. The Hope Fire Company laid the first of 11 lines of hose through the alley of the Miller House on Main Street. By the time it was set up, the fire had extended onto Railroad Street itself and soon devoured the whole north side of the street, including the attic of the block on the north corner of Railroad and Main Streets which originally was the Episcopal Church.

The tenement-house in which it started is a frame building, unoccupied at the present time and is owned by what is known as "The Syndicate" composed of Dr. Camp, E.D. Humphrey, Charles Watson and L. Ramsey. Within 15 minutes after the alarm was given the town's only steamer was at work and eight streams of water were on the blaze, but with the high wind, all their efforts toward checking the fire were fruitless.

Within two hours the fire destroyed 12 sizable blocks and buildings, and was raging unabated until after midnight. In all, 22 business blocks, holding 36 businesses, and three houses burned leaving 12 families homeless. The origin of the fire is unknown.

From the 1930s through the 1970s, the street-level store was known as the Ann Louise shop, a popular clothing boutique owned by the Ralph Zenowitz family. Other stores in the building include Cooper's Hardware, Farshaw & Co. paper goods, Ogden-Bates clothing, Community Credit Corporation, and First Agricultural Bank.



After the Ann Louise shop closed, Yellow Balloon Gift Shop followed and was open for several years. Today, T.P. Saddleblanket clothing and accessories store has been the tenant for the past 33 years.

To learn more about the history of the [City Store Block](#), follow the link.

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!

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



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:

- [Assistant Director for student Involvement, Williams College](#)
- [Stewardship Manager, Williams College](#)
- [Director of Programming and Performing Arts, Community Access to the Arts](#)



HireCulture
Creative employment in Massachusetts



- [Resident Dance Faculty Artist, Community Access to the Arts](#)
- [Institutional Support Manager, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival](#)
- [Special Events Coordinator, Chesterwood](#)

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



Use the [NOAH website](#) to check out current open hybrid/remote positions in the field of arts in health.

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 - April 2026](#)

[Landscape Partnership Grant](#) for acquisition of property interests in large, unique, unfragmented conservation and working landscapes, in single or multiple parcels, by two or more entities acting in cooperation [including municipalities working through specific departments and non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations that have been formed for purposes related to land conservation and stewardship]. Deadline: April 23, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

[Mass Cultural Council's Creative Experiences](#) provides grants of \$2,500 or \$5,000 to organizations, creative businesses, government entities, and schools to fund festivals, projects, residencies, and other cultural activities in the arts, humanities, and sciences. Deadline: April 30, 2026.

[Land Conservation Assistance Grant Program](#) – Obtain assistance preparing a grant application to permanently protect land; complete tasks that advance land protection transactions; develop or update a municipal Open Space and Recreation Plan; or plan for the development or renovation of a park. Applications will be

reviewed, and grants awarded, on a rolling basis through April 30, 2026.

Follow the link for an overview of [MCC's FY26 Programs and Funding Opportunities](#) is available.



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.

[Creative Capital Artist Opportunities for April](#)

Find residencies, grants, and award opportunities for artists working in all disciplines.



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

[Creative Capital Artist Lab](#)

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.

The Triplex Cinema - New April Releases



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

Great Barrington Libraries - Mason Library April Programming

Adult Programs:

- Free 1 on 1 Financial Consultation: Luke Delorme, CFP, of Tableaux Wealth has offered to give 30 minute appointments to our patrons. Contact Dawn to schedule.
- Tech Help Hour: Stop by Mason to get help with your everyday computer issues such as working with files, using popular editing software, and navigating the internet. Supported by the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, and the MassTech Collaborative.
- Author Talk: Madeline Schwartzman: Madeline will talk about her new book *Alive: Synthetic Cells, Feral Robots, Rebellious AI, and the Design of Radical Life*, published by Thames & Hudson. Presented by the Friends of GB Libraries. 6:00pm, 4/24

- OtherWords Poetry: Poets Ann Lauterbach and Kate Colby, curated by Evelyn Reilly and Michael Gottlieb. Sponsored by the Friends of GB Libraries and Board of Library Trustees. 4:00pm, 4/25

Children & Teen Programs:

- Outer Space Art with Kim: Zip to the library so you don't miss out on this creative space art. Ages 3+, 10:30am, 4/22
- 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.) Ages 2+, 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, ages 0-5, 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. Ages 5+, 4:00pm, every Friday
- Youth Chess Club: Whether you're a beginner or a budding grandmaster, come learn, play, and sharpen your skills in a friendly, relaxed environment. Ages 6-18, 11:00am, every Saturday

OtherWords Reading Series is back at the Mason Library! Please join us Saturday, April 25th, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM for a readings by poets Kate Colby and Ann Lauterbach.

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

Kate Colby's most recent book is *Paradoxx*, published last year. It was listed as one of the five most notable of 2025 by Literary Hub, as well as one of CLMP Members' Most Celebrated Books of the year. She has received awards and fellowships from the Poetry Society of America and the Woodberry Poetry Room at Harvard University, where she was a fellow in 2018. She is also a founding board member of the Gloucester Writers Center. Her work has recently appeared in *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Conjunctions*, *Harper's*, *Lana Turner*, *Literary Hub*, *The Nation*, *The Paris Review* and *Poetry*.

Ann Lauterbach is the author of eleven poetry collections, several chapbooks and three works of prose, including *The Night Sky: Writings on the Poetics of Experience*. Her *Or to Begin Again* was nominated for a National Book Award. Her most recent book *Door* (2023), was a finalist for the International Griffin Poetry Prize. She's received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation and the New York Council of the Arts. She was co-chair of Writing in Bard College's MFA program from 1992 to 2020, where she continues to teach as the David and Ruth Schwab Professor of Languages and Literature.

APRIL 25
4 PM

OTHERWORDS
READING SERIES

ALL
TO
OPEN
AND
FREE

**POETS KATE
COLBY + ANN
LAUTERBACH**

**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**

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

What | When | Where



What: [Smithsonian Academy Orchestra](#)

When: Thursday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Saint James Place

Details: Founded in 2024 by conductor Kenneth Slowik, the Smithsonian Academy Orchestra is a resident ensemble of the Smithsonian Chamber Music Society, a program of the National Museum of American History. The Orchestra's repertoire ranges from Bach to Schoenberg, all performed on period-appropriate instruments. This event is free.



What: [Sheffield Contra Spring Fling](#)

When: Saturday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Dewey Hall

Details: Contra dancing is easy to learn and beginners are welcome. No partners necessary – come alone or bring a friend.

There is live music at every dance, and a caller to call out every step. The evening starts with a beginner session from 6:30-7:00, and the dance goes from 7:00-10:00. We offer refreshments during the break. All dances are taught on the spot; you just follow along! This event is free.



What: [Choral Sounds of Latin America](#)

When: Sunday, April 26 at 4:00 p.m.

Where: Saint James Place

Details: A Choral Performance of Tango's Rhythmic Spirit with Martín Palmeri's MisaTango and "Jüdische Kantate" (Jewish Cantata). The Misa a Buenos Aires (Misatango), is a groundbreaking work by Argentine composer Martín Palmeri that blends the dramatic rhythm of tango with the powerful expression of choral music.

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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