

May 2026

Your DGB Cultural District E-News



ArtWeek Berkshires 2026

ArtWeek Berkshires 2026 Festival Will Be Largest Ever

Sixth Annual County-Wide Event
Offering Hundreds of Events!



Berkshire County, MA (May 12, 2026) – With nearly 300 events over the course of 11 days, this year's ArtWeek Berkshires is the biggest ever.

Taking place May 15-25, 2026, events are located throughout Berkshire County's five Cultural Districts - [the Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District](#), [Lenox Cultural District](#), [North Adams Cultural District](#), [Upstreet Cultural District in Pittsfield](#), and [Williamstown Cultural District](#), as well as in Adams, Becket, Cheshire, Lee, Otis, Richmond, Stockbridge, Tyringham, and West Stockbridge.

The events feature performances, open studios, gallery shows, college and high school student art, musical theater, dance, poetry, interactive print making, family friendly activities and so much more. There are organizations and locations joining [ArtWeek](#) for the first time including a sculptor at [Berkshire Botanical Garden](#); a high school musical at [Taconic High School](#) in Pittsfield; [a nationwide arts activism initiative](#) in North Adams and an artist trading card workshop at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts. Many returning participants have been a part of all five years including [Alan Papsacun](#) in Stockbridge; [Berkshire Art Center](#); [Clock Tower Artists](#) in Pittsfield and many arts organizations.

ArtWeek events within the Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District include:

- Pilobolus at the Indigo Room
- Great Barrington Public Theater: Berkshire Voices Reading at Saint James Place
- Jordan Loder: Kirtan Concert at Better Yoga
- Paint n' Sip at Art in the Berkshires Gallery & Studio
- Wendy Holmes Noyes and Friends at Studio 31
- Craft Fair at St. Peter's Church
- Small Works - Oil Paintings at 292 Main Street

Funds provided by the Mass Cultural Council (MCC) to the five cultural districts partially sponsor ArtWeek Berkshires. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) and 1Berkshire are lead partners, with 1Berkshire hosting the event landing page. Go to <https://berkshires.org/artweek-berkshires/> for a full list of activities or to search by event, location or activity. *Media Sponsors include: WAMC Northeast Public Radio; LAMAR Advertising Company and Berkshire Magazine.*



Berkshire International Film Festival - Celebrating 20 Years!

The 20th annual Berkshire International Film Festival (BIFF) announces a blockbuster lineup and celebratory weekend of films, events, and very special guests.



Berkshire County, MA (May 12, 2026) –
With nearly 300 events over the course of 11 days, this year's ArtWeek Berkshires is the biggest ever.

Marked with strong international programming and an ongoing commitment to presenting the best in independent film, the festival brings together films, filmmakers, industry professionals and fans for a four-day celebration.

This year's lineup features 31 documentaries, 29 narrative features, 29 short films, and free animated shorts selection for kids. The festival brings stories from 27 countries including Germany, Greece, Norway, Netherlands, Estonia, France, Finland, Israel, Czech Republic, Finland, Canada, Luxembourg, UK, Spain, Hungary, Belgium, India, Italy, Portugal, Poland, Ireland, Sweden, Ghana, Korea, Iceland, Australia and South Africa.

This year's festival promises to not only transport film fans to foreign lands, but also deliver important, engaging, powerful and entertaining stories from around the United States. And finally, BIFF will not only present a curated selection of feature films and four short film slots at the in-person festival, but also a selection of films can be screened virtually.

Films with Berkshire connections include: Admission Possible, Born That Way, Unfinished Song, Thickly Settled, Rockwell Comes to Life: The Runaway, House of Light, Barbara Prey: Painting to Scale, Material Matters: The Art of Dee Shapiro, The Investigator, and I Love You More Than Dinosaurs.

A number of BIFF Events take place within the Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District including:

- Opening Night at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, sponsored by Beacon Bank, Friday, May 29
- Tribute Night at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center honors award-winning actor Karen Allen, Saturday, May 30
- Closing Night at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Sunday, May 31

View the calendar of events and get [tickets to BIFF](#).

Rewind and Rediscover

The memorial stone located in front of Great Barrington Town Hall on Main Street marks the site of the first Berkshire County courthouse, erected in 1764.

This historic stone highlights the location of two very important historic events to take place at the former courthouse.



On August 16, 1774, the former courthouse is the site of the first "open resistance" to British rule, where colonists held the first armed resistance against British judicial rule. A large crowd from Great Barrington and surrounding towns gathered at the court house. They blocked the doors and refused admittance to a British-appointed judge and his associates.

Later in 1781, it was the site where Elizabeth Freeman ("Mumbet") successfully sued for her freedom, a case that helped end slavery in Massachusetts. Elizabeth "Mumbet" Freeman argued that the 1780 Massachusetts Constitution's declaration that "all men are born free and equal" made her enslavement unconstitutional. The jury found in favor of

Freeman. This historic case established a legal precedent that effectively ended slavery in Massachusetts.

Today the stone memorial sits in front of Great Barrington's Town Hall. The Georgian-style building erected in 1875 for over \$50,000, serves as a historic center for government, culture, and community celebrations.

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 town's 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:

- [Chief People Officer, Jacob's Pillow](#)
- [Creative District Fellow, MassDevelopment](#)



- [Preparator, Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute](#)
- [Educational Tour and Workshop Manager, Shakespeare & Company](#)

- [District Administrator, Berkshire Conservation District](#)

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 - May 2026](#)

Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board is accepting applications for the Roving Archivist Program which connects stewards of historical records with a professional archivist. Typical grantees include historical societies, museums, historical commissions, special libraries, schools, community archives, and public libraries with local history collections. Deadline: June 1, 2026.

National Endowment for the Humanities is currently accepting applications for Media Projects that supports the development, production, and distribution of radio programs, podcasts, documentary films, and documentary film series rooted in humanities scholarship. Deadline: June 25, 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

[Creative Capital Artist Opportunities](#)

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

the impact of their work, and fostering sustainable artistic careers.



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](#)
-



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 - May Releases



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

BIFF announces \$600,000 gift to The Triplex Cinema to support critical capital improvements and long-term partnership - The Berkshire International Film Festival (BIFF) announced on Friday, March 20, a transformative \$600,000 gift to The Triplex Cinema to support critical capital improvements over the coming years. The funding, through an anonymous donor, will underwrite essential upgrades to seating, sound, and

projection systems, ensuring the long-term sustainability and modernization of the beloved cultural institution in downtown Great Barrington.

This significant investment reflects BIFF's continued commitment to strengthening the region's independent film ecosystem and preserving the theatrical moviegoing experience in the Berkshires.

In addition, BIFF and The Triplex solidified a long-term deal for the theater to continue as the official home of BIFF's festival weekend for the foreseeable future. The partnership will anchor key festival events at the theater, which will also serve as a hub for BIFF's year-round programming, further deepening the relationship between the festival and one of the county's most important cultural venues.

"BIFF is honored to contribute to preserving the future of The Triplex," said BIFF Board Chair Pat Fili-Krushel. "For two decades, our partnership has been essential to the growth of both organizations, and we're excited to keep expanding, engaging, and connecting audiences through film."

Through this ongoing partnership, BIFF and The Triplex will support one another in advancing their respective missions in the Berkshires while collaborating on select screenings and events.

Read more about [BIFF's support of The Triplex Cinema](#).

Great Barrington Libraries - Mason Library May 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, djardine@townofgbma.gov
- Staying Safe Online: Learn about online risks and how to stay safe while navigating the internet. This project was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative, under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Program. 4:30pm, 5/20
- OtherWords Poetry: Poets Fiona Templeton and Amie Zimmerman, curated by Evelyn Reilly and Michael Gottlieb. Sponsored by the Friends of GB Libraries and Board of Library Trustees. 4:00pm, 5/30

Children & Teen Programs:

- Insect Craft: Flutter over to the library so you don't miss out on this six-legged fun. Ages 4-8, 1:15pm, 5/15
- Stenciling Craft: Join us for some fun creating with stencils in the kids' space. Ages 4-8, 10:15am, 5/30

- **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 - With Fiona Templeton and Amie Zimmerman. It's sure to be a night of great poetry, great company, and great refreshments provided by Friends of Great Barrington Libraries.

Fiona Templeton is a poet, playwright, and the artistic director of the Manhattan-based performance group The Relationship. She is the author of twelve books, including the poetry collection, *Cells of Release* (Roof Books, 1997).

Amie Zimmerman's work has been published, or is forthcoming, in *Denver Quarterly*, *Prelude*, *Protean*, *Lana Turner*, and *mercury firs*, among others. She is the author of four chapbooks, including *Compliance* (Essay Press) and alongside Hajar Hussaini and Matthew Klane, she curates the poetry and performance series *Salon Salvage*.

The OtherWords reading series is sponsored by the Friends of Great Barrington Libraries and the Board of Library Trustees, and curated by Evelyn Reilly and Michael Gottlieb. Friends of the GB Libraries sponsors events and programs to bring community members together with library resources. Poetry readings will generally take place on the last Saturday of the month.

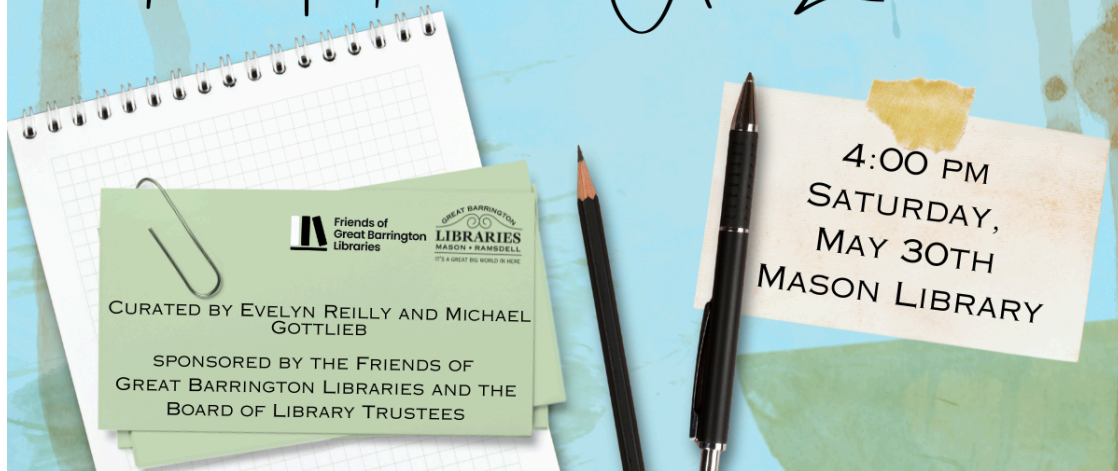
When: Saturday, May 30th at 4:00PM

Where: Mason Library

OTHERWORDS

POETRY SERIES

Fiona Templeton and Amie Zimmerman



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

What | When | Where

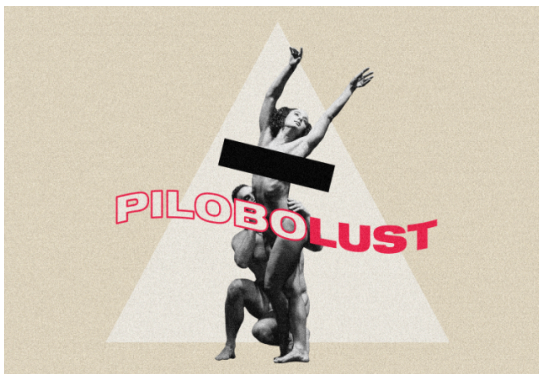


What: [Berkshire Voices Reading of *The Telling*](#)

When: Saturday, May 16 at 7:00PM

Where: Saint James Place

Details: *The Telling* is a Southern Gothic ritual play set in Deadfall Run — a small American town built on a particular kind of secret everyone knows but has, by long practice, agreed not to speak aloud. When sixteen-year-old Billy Hardy accidentally shoots and kills his sister, Mary Beth, the town does what towns in Mercy County have always done: closes in around the wound and demands what a town like this always demands. Standing witness are Chronos — time made patient flesh — and Coyote, the old American trickster, who has watched this machinery grind up the innocent before. What Billy discovers, at great cost, is that the pressure bearing down on him has roots going back generations... *The Telling* is about what a community makes its children carry instead of the truth.



What: [Pilobolus](#)

When: Sunday, May 16 at 6:00PM and 8:30PM

Where: Indigo Room

Details: Rebellious dance theater company Pilobolus turns up the heat with tantalizing talent, bawdy bewitchment, and scintillating scenarios in their full-bodied, censor-unfriendly Pilobolus. This show contains nudity - ages 21+.



What: [Feathers and Fur: Creatures of the Berkshire Woodlands in Art by Melody Lea Lamb](#)

When: May 16 & 17 at 12:00PM

Where: Dewey Hall

Details: Berkshires artist Melody Lea Lamb brings to life the feathered and furry creatures of our beloved local landscapes through collectible masterpieces in a variety of mediums. Melody's paintings, prints and upcycled repurposed tins feature Berkshires woodland animals rendered in exquisite detail across all seasons. Profits from this special show and sale will be donated to the Egremont Fire Department.



What: [Baroque Music for a Vocal Ensemble](#)

When: Saturday, May 30 at 4:00PM

Where: Saint James Place

Details: While not composed as a set, these six motets BWV 225- 230 are considered to be among the pinnacles of the choral repertoire. All were written for St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, where Bach was director of music. Four of the six were written for funeral services of prominent Leipzig citizens, and are scored for double chorus without instrumental accompaniment. Bach took the traditional motet and elevated it into a more ambitious, multi- movement choral concerto, expanding the boundaries of the genre. Beyond their technical brilliance these motets express a unique emotional and theological depth.

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!