

September 2023

## Your DGB Cultural District E-News



### SAVE THE DATE!

Downtown Great Barrington  
Cultural District Annual Meeting  
**Thursday, October 26th at 9 am**

## ArtWeek Berkshires 2023 Invites Registrations



### County-Wide Event Announces Call for Artists in All Disciplines

Berkshire County's five Cultural Districts are partnering again on ArtWeek Berkshires 2023, to be held October 14-22.

The coalition [posted its call for artists](#), and encourages submissions before the end of September. The non-juried event is free, and submissions from all artistic and creative disciplines are welcome and encouraged. **Over 60 events are registered already!**

Funds pooled by the five cultural districts from Mass Cultural Council will bring greater exposure to this year's event. Promotions include billboards within Berkshire County, thanks to support from LAMAR Outdoor; print and digital ads in Berkshire Magazine; print and digital ads on the Berkshire Eagle's website; advertising on WAMC; a rack card and a web-based map to help people easily find events on a landing page hosted by 1Berkshire, the primary promotional partner of ArtWeek Berkshires.

If you're an artist, arts organization, or business that would like to participate in ArtWeek Berkshires 2023, you can sign up through this online form: <https://form.jotform.com/231105324546043>.

Go to <https://berkshires.org/artweek-berkshires/> for more information, or reach out to your closest Cultural District. In Great Barrington, that's [culturalgb@gmail.com](mailto:culturalgb@gmail.com).

# Festival Latino of the Berkshires



Presented during National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) Festival Latino recognizes the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrates their heritage and culture. Its 27th Anniversary will take place on Saturday, September 30, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., behind the Town Hall and Saint James Place on Main Street in Great Barrington. The Festival is free of charge, open to the public, and alcohol-free.

- Food Vendors
- Sale of Traditional Crafts
- Social Services
- Dance Companies

More information [HERE](#).

*The Festival Latino of the Berkshires is a non-profit organization created in 1995 to promote and celebrate Hispanic heritage in Berkshire County. [Learn More.](#)*

## Great Barrington Public Theater



“Theater is currently going through a bit of an existential crisis,” says Jim Frangione, Artistic Director of [Great Barrington Public Theater \(GBPT\)](#). He’s talking about COVID and its aftermath—audiences retreating from live performance and the threat that still poses, especially to theaters like GBPT focused on developing new works. Many of the developmental theaters across the US are facing monumental challenges. The Lark in New York City recently closed; the Humana Festival of New American Plays in Louisville is on an extended hiatus; and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival has had staff lay-offs. The list goes on.

Yet Frangione remains optimistic about the future of theater and is so encouraged by the welcome GBPT has already received. “We’re a theater focused on small casts and new plays, with a focus on local talent. This year, GBPT’s third season has seen rave reviews and audience responses for new shows like *The Stones*, *Off Peak*, *Just Another Day*, and in collaboration with The Mount, *Representation* and *How to Get It*.

An actor in New York City for many years on and off Broadway and in films and TV, Frangione met his wife, Anne O’Dwyer, 20 years ago while she was in NYC for a sabbatical, and she introduced him to the Berkshires. O’Dwyer is a longtime psychology

professor at Bard College at Simon's Rock, where Great Barrington Public Theater makes its summer home. The theater's office is located at Saint James Place, where it presents developmental readings of new plays and events all year long. Frangione observes, "We're beholden to our friends Fred and Sally Harris for their vision and for creating Saint James Place and to Simon's Rock for the support of their superb staff."

Frangione first got started here in the Berkshires co-leading Berkshire Playwrights Lab with colleagues Joe Cacaci, Bob Jaffe, and Matthew Penn. "We presented a summer season of readings from 2006 to 2016 at The Mahaiwe, bringing in actors and directors for three to four days to rehearse and then performing the new plays, script in hand, on Wednesday nights, but the scale of the space wasn't exactly right for staged readings."

He started GBPT in 2019, along with Executive Director Deann Simmons Halper, with a production of Frangione's new play, *Breakwater*, before COVID hit in 2020. The company tiptoed back in 2021 with three plays before going full tilt in 2022 with a slate of six. This year's season featured four new works, including the co-production with The Mount.

We talked to Jim about what it's like helming a small, startup, local, theater company devoted to keeping ticket prices affordable in a post-pandemic world.

**What does it mean to be a theater company in the Berkshires now surrounded by so many other equally passionate companies like Shakespeare & Co., Barrington Stage, Berkshire Theater Festival, etc.?** It's a good question. I guess you could look at it two ways. We're all nonprofits, all creating theater in one region, and you could think that this would mean competition. But I see it differently, the more a region supports and is known for theater, that makes opportunities for more theater. People come to this region for theater in the summer. It's a real selling point, and I only hope that GBPT can continue to contribute to the region's theater offerings.

**There's already a Public Theater that's well-known in New York City. Why call yourselves the Great Barrington Public Theater?** Essentially, as we first started envisioning GBPT, one of our strongest commitments was to keep our company financially lean, thus allowing us to keep prices down. We genuinely hope that lower ticket prices means our theater events are accessible to more members of the public. We also hope that by developing a theater company located right here in Great Barrington, we can be an economic support to downtown businesses and restaurants.

**In addition to ensuring new audiences and donors, what else does GBPT need to stay vibrant?** We're doing the things that, I believe, will serve us for years to come. We plan to continue to offer new plays that resonate with audiences and convey meaningful stories about relationships; we want to continue to foster young, mid and even late-career emerging playwrights, providing them with directors and actors at the top of their craft to help shepherd their work, and we hope to provide resources to local area playwrights to help them tell their stories in new and innovative ways. Of course, I'm always looking for community support from folks who'd like to help and get involved—either longtime residents or new additions to our region who love theater and are interested in helping support the development of new plays. I'm always on the lookout for new board members and would encourage anyone interested to reach out to me personally at [greatbarringtonpublic@gmail.com](mailto:greatbarringtonpublic@gmail.com).

**And when you're not reading or writing plays or directing productions, what are your favorite things to do or places to go in GB?** Well, 20 years ago, when my wife brought me here for the first time to the place we live now, Housatonic, I was like Housa-what? But now... I love this little village. It's a real community. The Simon's Rock

community has also been a great source of friendships and colleagues. You can find me on most days at the Kilpatrick Athletic Center, a great facility. I also ride a motorcycle and love to get out on the beautiful country roads of Northern CT, upstate NY, and Southern VT. I'm not a speed demon by any means, I cruise slowly, taking in the scents of the flowers and our natural world—a unique experience on a bike. I'm deeply grateful to my wife, Anne, who makes me laugh every day... and for our two cats, Mookie and Jackpot, who constantly remind us that cats don't have bosses—only staff.

## 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](#). Among some of the current openings of interest are:

- [High School World Language Teacher, BART Charter Public School](#)

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



**the jobs  
thing**



- [Production Designer, Shakespeare & Co.](#)
- [Administrative Associate, Berkshire Film & Media Collaborative](#)
- [Advancement Coordinator, Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute](#)
- [Facilities Manager, Berkshire Botanical Garden](#)
- [Communications Coordinator \(Assets for Artists\), MASS MoCA](#)
- [Membership and Development Associate, Berkshire Museum](#)

## Arts Funding and Resources

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



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

### [Resources for Artists and Arts Organizations](#)

An overview of MCC's FY24 Programs and Funding Opportunities is available [HERE](#). Be sure to check out NEW programs including [Grants for Creative Individuals](#) and [Operating Grants for Organizations](#).

Deadline to apply for grants through the **Local Cultural Council Program**: October



## Creative Capital

*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 September and October 2023](#)

Upcoming opportunities on the Creative Capital website include [residencies for Architects, Artists, and Writers at Art Omi in Columbia County, NY](#). (Deadline: October 15, 2023).



*NEFA cultivates and promotes the arts in New England and beyond.*

Check the NEFA website for upcoming grant deadlines, including:

[Public Art for Spatial Justice grant](#) to support public art that creatively expresses and embodies a more just version of what's possible in public.

**Deadline December 4, 2023**



*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 the economic and civic vibrancy of Massachusetts.*

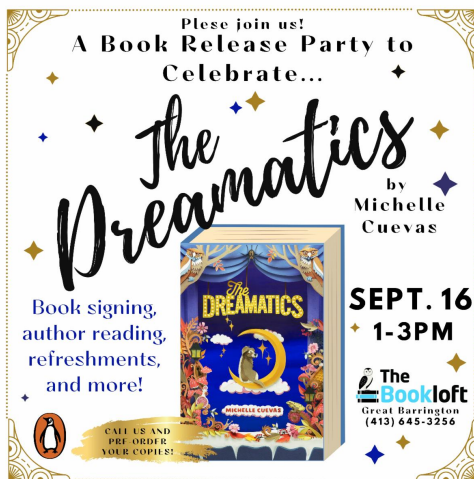
MASSCreative's [Organizing and Advocacy Fellowship](#) is a stipended year-long advocacy leadership development cohort for activists, creative workers, and emerging cultural leaders to sharpen their organizing skills and grow their advocacy capacity for a more equitable and inclusive creative sector.

## What | When | Where

**What:** [The Dreamatics Launch Party with Author Michelle Cuevas!](#)

**When:** September 16

**Where:** The Bookloft



**Details:** Join Michelle Cuevas from 1-3 pm to launch her new book *The Dreamatics*! There will be snacks, author readings, book signings, and more! Michelle graduated from Williams College and holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Virginia. She is the author of several children's books, including *Confessions of an Imaginary Friend* and *The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles*. She lives in Berkshire County.



**What:** [Dahlia Festival and Contest](#)

**When:** September 17

**Where:** Dewey Hall

**Details:** Doors Open at noon. Dahlia Contest entrants must bring blooms between 9 and 10 am. Dahlia Contest winners will be announced around 3:15 pm. Free to attend. Workshops are ticketed and you must register in advance.



**Qué:** [Comediante Alfredo Campo & Mariachi "Emperadores de Puebla"](#)

**Cuando:** 30 Septiembre

**Dónde:** Centro de artes escénicas Mahaiwe

**Detalles:** ¡Un evento del Festival Latino con música, danza y humor internacional! La banda de mariachis Emperadores de Puebla abrirá la velada con hermosas y clásicas canciones de mariachi muy conocidas en la cultura mexicana. Se anima al público a cantar y bailar.



**What:** [Alliance for a Viable Future presents: Honoring Native America featuring R. Carlos Nakai, Shawn Stevens, and Cheryl Fairbanks](#)

**When:** October 6

**Where:** The Mahaiwe

**Details:** This unique event goes beyond "performance" into the interactive realm of ceremony and collective prayer.



**What:** [Jazz at the Ballroom presents:](#)

[Accentuate the Positive](#)

**When:** October 7

**Where:** The Mahaiwe

**Details:** Accentuate the Positive this fall with music from the American Songbook!

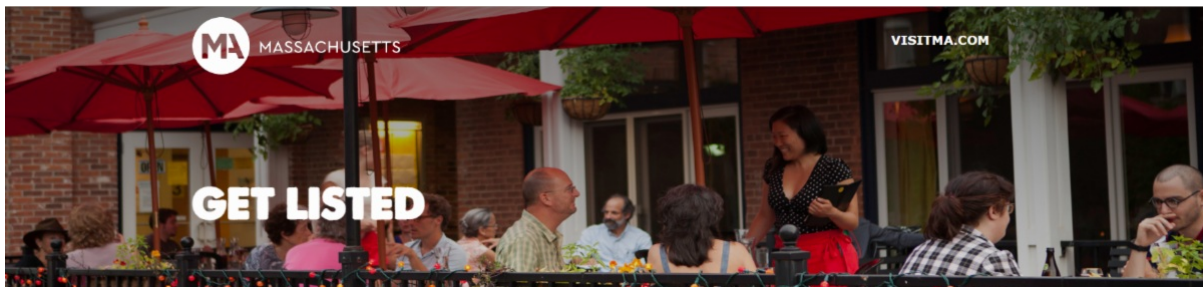


**What:** [Clarion Concerts: Young Concert Artists on Tour](#)

**When:** October 15

**Where:** Saint James Place

**Details:** Clarion Concerts presents Young Concert Artists on Tour featuring the music of Ludwig van Beethoven, Joseph Marx, Salina Fisher, and Robert Schumann.



### 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  
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