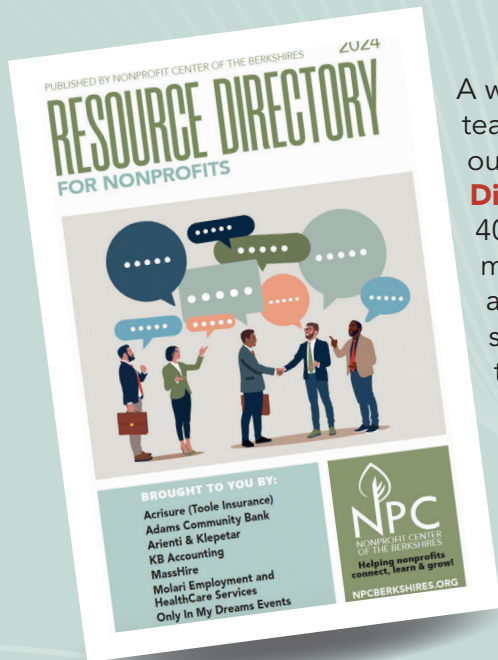


# See what our donors



A wide array of businesses teamed up to sponsor our **Nonprofit Resource Directory** mailed FREE to 400 nonprofits! It's our most popular offering according to a recent survey. With thanks to Adams Community Bank, Acrisure (Toole Insurance), Arienti & Klepetar, KB Accounting, MassHire, Molari, and Only in My Dreams Events.



There's nothing like having a party at 8am in the morning! That's what this **Get on Board** networking event felt like when nonprofits got together with community members considering board service. Maggie Buchwald was the mastermind behind the matching service initiated by Berkshire United Way and NPC. Special thanks to Get on Board matchmakers Maggie Buchwald and Diana Wall, our marketing partners 1Berkshire and Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, and Shakespeare & Co. for the meeting space.



The **7th Annual Berkshire Nonprofit Awards** was held in May at Kripalu. Many nonprofit leaders have since attended transformational Kripalu retreats. **Thank you to our Awards Sponsors for bringing us together to celebrate nonprofit leaders!** The Berkshire Eagle, Berkshire Bank, Berkshire Health Systems, Black Rock Foundation, Jane & Jack Fitzpatrick Trust, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Acrisure, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Berkshire United Way, Lamar, NBT Bank, Warrior Trading, Williamstown Community Chest.



Herberg Middle School students experienced NPC's Philanthropy Curriculum for the first time as part of their Civics class. After learning about nonprofits and philanthropy, students researched local organizations and chose Breaking Bread (a free dinner program of Gt. Barrington Rotary) and Berkshire Immigrant Center as recipients of their donations. **This program, in which students are empowered to give back to the community, is funded in part by donors like you!**

# made possible in 2024!



Jessica Provenz of Barrington Stage takes notes for the breakout group.

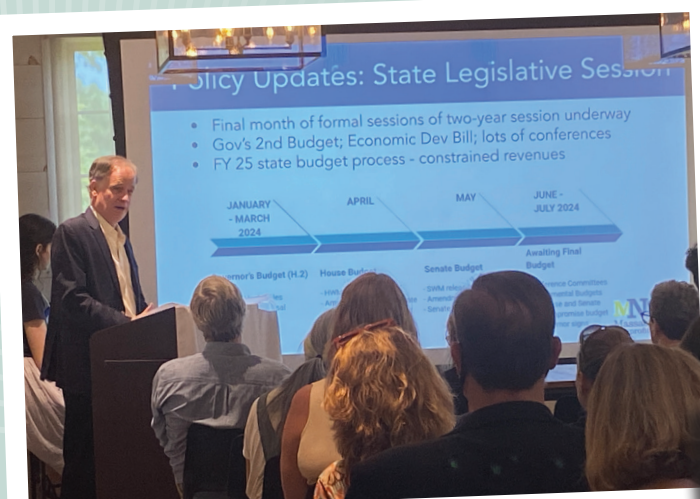
Arts integration educators enjoy a day of professional development each November at the Linde Center. **NPC's Giving Back guides help teachers plan** community service days and other civics projects. NPC Education Consultant Stacey Schultze created this spiral display!



**Sharing resources and services** is top of mind for Berkshire nonprofits looking for ways to expand internal capacity. In June, host Rep. Smitty Pignatelli welcomed a group of 45 nonprofit leaders to Lenox Town Hall to brainstorm a way forward, discussing benefits and barriers, and ultimately creating a task force and issuing a preliminary report. One long-term goal is to address skyrocketing health insurance costs.



In a culminating event for this year's Blackshires Leadership Accelerator Program, NPC joined other presenters and partners in celebrating this professional mentorship program. NPC shared vital information about **servicing on nonprofit boards** with cohort participants.



MNN CEO Jim Klocke talks about the Commonwealth's budget process. Thanks to Rep. Smitty and the Berkshire Delegation, NPC has received another earmark to support our two dozen programs for nonprofits.

Each year, NPC hosts the MA Nonprofit Network's visit to the Berkshires for **policy and legislative updates**. Sponsored by the CORE 401K program, the networking, presentation and luncheon were held at Berkshire Botanical Gardens in July.



NPC Board Member Hari Kumar leads a **"Mission-driven Storytelling"** workshop at Hotel Downstreet in North Adams. It was inspiring to share our stories with each other. Just being in the same room with colleagues is refreshing after several long pandemic years. **This year NPC hosted 26 workshops and webinars.**

# Helping nonprofits connect, learn & grow!

*NPC has been crucial to the health of our small project. Always responsive at critical times. Always direct and relevant in its interventions. Always practical, experience-grounded, thoughtful about context. Always highly morale-boosting. Can't overstate their importance, not sure how we would survive without the Center.*

—Laird Townsend/Freelance Investigative Reporters (FIRE)



## NPC HELPS GUIDE THE W.E.B. DU BOIS SCULPTURE PROJECT



*Image of Blake and sculpture courtesy of Du Bois Sculpture Project*

The campaign to honor W.E.B. Du Bois with a seated statue outside the Mason Public Library has been several years in the making. Despite wide ranging support from the public and municipal entities, bringing a bronze likeness of Great Barrington's most famous native son to fruition required funding—which is why a group of local citizens founded the W.E.B. Du Bois Sculpture Project and went looking for a fiscal sponsor.

"The Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires was instrumental in organizing us from the ground up, which is extremely important for small nonprofits that have specific

goals and need guidance on how to launch," says Board Co-Chair Julie Michaels.

Beyond fiscal sponsorship, the NPC pointed Michaels and colleagues to an attorney. The organization also fielded myriad questions about the grant application process which—for individuals without prior fundraising experience—can feel like jumping through countless hoops.

"Our board has raised over \$400,000, in large part due to the NPC directing us toward local funders and coaching us about what to expect from each," says Michaels, likening the scope of the project to working with a mechanic:

"It's not all shiny, and most folks don't understand how the car works, but it's really important to have someone who can guide you through the nuts and bolts of the process," she says of this invaluable resource.

Come spring, when Richard Blake's life-size sculpture of Du Bois is unveiled upon the only green space downtown, it will be a gift to the entire community—one made possible by collaboration.

"The NPC has consistently pointed us in the right direction, all the while educating us about how the nonprofit world functions."

## BERKSHIRE PRIDE TURNS TO NPC

In 2017, a small group of volunteers (with a little bit of money) endeavored to plan a celebration in downtown Pittsfield for Pride Month. After successfully launching their inaugural event—the first annual Berkshire Pride Festival at the First Street Common—the seeds of Berkshire Pride were sown.

"People tend to forget about the queer community outside of June," says Executive Director Cass Santos-China, part of the early group whose ideas were rapidly multiplying.

"Our fiscal sponsor was not interested in expanding, so I turned to the Nonprofit Center of

the Berkshires—and their free workshop and webinar series—for guidance," says Santos-China of a pivotal growth moment for Berkshire Pride.

"I met so many amazing people," she recalls, among them attorney Ethan S. Klepetar who encouraged Berkshire Pride to apply for their 501(c)(3) status. Since 2023, the nonprofit has flourished in concert with their ongoing connection to NPC.

"I joined the NPC board in January 2023 and kept learning and growing [as an individual and nonprofit leader] which has allowed Berkshire Pride to expand as well," she says.



Thanks to grant funding sent their way via NPC, the nonprofit has secured a physical location, hired two staff members, and launched the Berkshire Pride Certified Safe-Space project.

"Liana has guided us through the process of taking programs needing funding under our umbrella," says Santos-China in a nod to the North Adams Pride Night, the Northern Lights Ball, and the Fall Foliage Parade Float.

Proud of the partnerships formed there, Santos-China says it all: "I'm excited for the future of the NPC."