

MASS MoCA's "Dream Life of Bricks" includes interactive kids performance

12:00AM / Wednesday, June 19, 2002

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Choreographer-in-residence Martha Bowers engages children in an interactive exploration of The Dream Life of Bricks, her site-specific dance piece about MASS MoCA's past, present, and future. Children will explore North Adams' heritage through dance, theatre, music, and even storytelling in Daydreaming and Dancing on Saturday, June 15, at 10:30 A.M. The event is free with museum admission, but advance reservations are required. Children should come dressed appropriately for dancing and movement. "I was intrigued by the massive scale of the complex, the simple beauty of its architecture and by the enormity of what the Museum sought to achieve," Martha Bowers has said of the complex. "I began to think of the site as a two hundred year old person, asleep for a long time. If a building could dream, what would those dreams look like?" As part of MASS MoCA's MASS Manufacturing series, choreographer Martha Bowers and her dance company - Dance Theatre Etcetera - will showcase a work about North Adams and MASS MoCA, The Dream Life of Bricks, on Friday and Saturday, June 21 and 22. Daydreaming and Dancing on June 15 is an opportunity for kids to not only see but participate in a similar exploration of local history. Martha Bowers has worked extensively as a choreographer, performer, and teacher since 1978. Her work has been presented at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, DTW's Bessie Schonberg Theater, PS 122, St. Mark's Church, the Dia Center for the Arts, Central Park Summerstage, the Brooklyn Arts Exchange, and at Prospect Park's Picnic House and Bandshell. She is a recipient of choreographic fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts (1984, '88, and '96), the New Jersey State Council for the Arts, and the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Art, and has received commissions for new works from the Jerome Foundation through DTW's First Light program, the Main Festival, Mayfair, Dancing in the Streets, the 651/Kings Majestic-An Arts Center, the Brooklyn Arts Exchange and the Wagon Train Project, among others. Bowers has focused her work in recent years on the creation of large-scale, interdisciplinary performance events designed to bring community members together with professional artists as performers in site-specific works. Recently commissioned works include Safe Harbour-Cork for the Institute for Choreography and Dance in Cork, Ireland, and a new work for the Warwick, N.Y., Summer Arts Festival. Bowers' work has been commissioned by numerous professional dance companies, including the Dance Alloy, the Toronto Dance Makers, DansTheater Uppercut and Dublin's Contemporary Dance Company. Daydreaming and Dancing is sponsored by Berkshire Bank. Admission for Daydreaming and Dancing is free with museum admission. Beginning June 1, museum admission is \$9 for adults, \$3 for kids between six and sixteen, and free for children under six. Admission is free for members. Space is limited, so advance reservations are required (even for members and children under six). Reservations can be made through the MASS MoCA Box Office located off Marshall Street in North Adams from 10 A.M. until 6 P.M. daily. Reservations can also be made over the phone by calling 413.662.2111 during Box Office hours or purchased on line at www.massmoca.org. MASS MoCA, the largest center for contemporary visual and performing arts in the United States, is located on a 13-acre campus of renovated 19th-century factory buildings. MASS MoCA focuses on the work of visual and performing artists charting new territory. MASS MoCA 1040 MASS MoCA Way North Adams, Mass. 01247 www.massmoca.org 413.662.2111

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North Adams City Council Hears From Berkshire Food Project

By Tammy Daniels

iBerkshires Staff

05:59AM / Friday, November 28, 2025

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. — More people are seeking food and warmth and social connectedness — and that's been reflected in the Berkshire Food Project's numbers.

The nonprofit's Executive Director Matthew Alcombright was asked to speak to the City Council on food insecurity by Councilor Andrew Fitch.

Alcombright came with hard numbers: There's been a 21 percent increase over last year in people availing themselves of the free lunch and a 52 percent jump in the last five or six weeks. Between September and October, it was 119 percent and Alcombright said at 361 new people have been coming in.

"The Berkshire food Project serves to provide a healthy, nutritious, homemade-from-scratch meal every single day of the week, Monday through Friday, 11:30 to 1, to the community at no cost, no questions asked," he said.

"To date, we have served 40,897 meals to this community, we have served 26,577 individuals this year, from January 2025, and the largest number is our increase in new faces. ... That number has seen an increase overall in the past five to six weeks of approximately 77 percent increase. So in total, this year, 361 new people have come to us for services."

For Thanksgiving eve, the project was doing double takeout meals was preparing almost 300 Thanksgiving dinners on top of what was served for its actual Thanksgiving dinner on Monday. It also provides meals to the Louison House, the Have Hope Recovery Center, the Roots Teen Center and UCP of Berkshire County, and has a delivery program of 50 meals three times of week with Northern Berkshire Transit.

Alcombright said the rise in numbers was indicative of homelessness, and the increasing need for safe spaces. Many of the guests coming into the dining don't eat, he said, they just want to be warm and put their heads down in a safe place to sleep.

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