

PRESS RELEASE

Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center Announce “Food, Farms and Factories”

January -December 2024

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA

Made possible through a grant from Mass Humanities and the Mass Cultural Council

<https://greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org/foodfarmsandfactories/>

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CALENDAR RELEASE

Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center Announce

“Food, Farms and Factories”

A Year-Long Exploration from January-December 2024

2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

Exhibitions, Performance, Workshops, History Talks, Discussions

Kick Off Documentary Film: Sunday, January 14, 2pm

“A Long Row in Fertile Ground” by WGBY with comments by Rus Peotter

Made possible through a grant from Mass Humanities

More Info at greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org

FULL PRESS RELEASE

The Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center Announce “Food, Farms, and Factories”

The Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls, will host a year-long exploration on the themes of “Foods, Farms and Factories.” This multi-faceted programming will examine the topic from historic, Indigenous, immigrant, economic, industrial, and artistic perspectives. Programming will kick-off on Sunday, January 14 at 2pm with the local documentary film “A Long Row in Fertile Ground” by WGBY with comments by Rus Peotter. Free public events will expand throughout 2024 to include history tours, an exhibition examining Polish and Eastern European immigration, gardening and sustainability workshops, a multi-disciplinary performance by Exploded View, talks about our industrial and agricultural heritage, and a harvest potluck and contradance. Visit www.discoverycenter.org for more information, as it becomes available.

“Take a walk in the woods surrounding any of our towns and villages and you are treading on hallowed ground. Whether you step carefully around an indigenous sacred stone structure, the traditional fishing grounds of our first peoples, or the colonial walls that once corralled grazing animals into clear-cut hills and farm fields, or whether you are wading around the vestigial remains of a sawmill, tannery, or broom factory, the sacred trinity of Franklin County, food, farms, and factories, are embedded in our communal heritage, and continue to evolve and change to this very day.” -Dr. Leo Hwang, *UMASS/Amherst* and “Food, Farms and Factories” Humanities Advisor

“We live in a region blessed with rich soil for growing crops and generations of inventive businesspeople and craftspeople who created useful products,” said Sarah Doyle from the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center. “We’re so excited to extend our programming offerings about rural Franklin County for another year,” adds Dawn Ward from the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

“Food, Farms and Factories” has been developed through a partnership between the Department of Conservation and Recreation, RiverCulture, Montague Public Libraries, and The Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association with the generous support of Mass Humanities and the Mass Cultural Council. This programming is an extension of the themes developed through the 2023 Smithsonian Museum on Mainstreet traveling exhibition, “Crossroads: Change in Rural America,” presented at the Great Falls Discovery Center last winter. ###

