

1.

PROJECT PLANET PROCESSION + CELEBRATION

Custom House Square

Three cheers for the planet! **Watch the annual Project Planet procession** this AHA! Night as we celebrate the Earth and all we can do to protect it.

Around 5:15pm, cheer on the parade participants as they make their way around downtown (stopping and ending at Custom House Square). The SouthCoast Brass Band will help lead the parade, along with AHA!'s jellyfish puppets, and CW (Buzzards Bay Coalition's mascot).

T'em Blessed is our MC, and will introduce this year's **Planet Protectors, Deidre Healy and Bernadette Souza**, honored for their environmental contributions to our community.

From 5-7 pm, explore over **20 tables with interactive activities** focused on protecting our planet. Play sorting games, learn mending skills, paint with ink made from local plants, build birdhouses, get an "energy bill check-up" and so much more. Plus, get a pop from the Sorbae Frozen Treats truck.

Don't forget to enter to win one of the Project Planet raffle prize packages featuring a family membership to the Buttonwood Park Zoo, a year membership to Mass Audubon, sustainable fashion, free swim lessons at the YMCA, membership to Whaling City Rowing, and a backyard compost kit. **Raffle winners must be present at 6:45 pm, when the winning numbers will be announced.**

2. THE DRAWING ROOM

22 William St., 3-8 pm

Help us bid a fond farewell to the Drawing Room on its final AHA! Night. Come say hello and celebrate what this little corner of William Street has meant to so many of us. There will be **complimentary popcorn** on hand in support of the New Bedford Film Festival.

3. STUDIO 2B, OLD POTTERY WORKS BUILDING

Corner of 8th & Union St., 3-6 pm

Check out **abstract mixed media paintings and drawings** by Susanne Delatour Carey. There will be art, treats, and music.

4. BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

800 Purchase St., 3-7 pm

SCRAM Fest is a hyper-local comics fest featuring Southcoast creators, original comics, drawing challenges, and more! Meet local cartoonists, discover amazing comics, & develop your drawing skills in the DIY maker space.

5. THE BEYOND HOUSE, YOUNG ADULT ACCESS CTR.

175 William St., 4-8 pm

Trash to Treasure: Upcycled Art Night! Step into a creative, eco-friendly art experience where imagination meets sustainability. Young adults (16-25) are invited to transform everyday recycled materials into bold, expressive works of art.

6. NEW BEDFORD WHALING MUSEUM

18 Johnny Cake Hill

4-5 pm Enjoy free admission and full gallery access.

Pick up a scavenger hunt card at the front desk and search for hidden whales throughout the Museum. Find them all within the one-hour timeframe and earn a special treat!

4-7 pm In Explore Our Ecosystem: Climate Change, Whales, and Us, explore how watersheds and ecological networks connect people, plants, and the environment.

Plus, meet UMASS Dartmouth ecology students to learn about their Capstone projects (4-6 pm).

4-7 pm OSS Ocean Science & Art Showcase: Data, Climate, and Creativity: experience a powerful student showcase from Our Sisters' School in collaboration with scientists, fishermen, and artists. Students present their findings from 5-6 pm, with a reception at 6 pm.

7. ROTCH-JONES-DUFF HOUSE & GARDEN MUSEUM

396 County St., 4-5 pm

Gardening with Native Plants with Mass Audubon.

Learn how to transform your corner of the earth into an eco-friendly haven for native flora and fauna.



WELCOME TO AHA! NIGHT

PROJECT PLANET | April 9, 2026

Each AHA! Night is a celebration of art, history, architecture—and community! Use the activity listings below and the map on the back to explore all the creativity that New Bedford has to offer on this magical AHA! Night.

GO EXPLORE, CREATE, & HAVE FUN.

8. NEW BEDFORD RESEARCH AND ROBOTICS

1277 Purchase St., 4:30-6:30 pm

Open lab night! Meet the team, tour the lab, and watch industrial robots create, design, and innovate using cutting-edge technologies.

9. NEW BEDFORD COMMUNITY HEALTH

384 Acushnet Ave., 4:30-8 pm

Grow Your Health, Grow Your Planet. Stop by for fun, hands-on activities that connect healthy living with caring for our planet. **Decorate your own pot and plant fresh herbs** like mint, basil, or cilantro to take home. **Try your luck with Healthy Habits Bingo** and enjoy healthy snacks.

10. NEW BEDFORD MAIN LIBRARY

613 Pleasant St., 4:30-5:30 pm

Earth Day Sensory Play with Miss April! The activities are designed for ages 2-10 years old & are available while supplies last. While here, browse the Friends of the Library's book sale.

11. INTERWOVEN, 634 Pleasant St., 5-8 pm

Pop into Interwoven for a **presentation on natural dyes** (6-6:30 pm). There will also be a **seed swap as well as a printmaking and stamp station** to decorate seed packets and garden journals. (5-8 pm)

12. NEW BEDFORD WHALING NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK VISITORS CENTER, 33 William St., 5-6 pm

View **Ash: Drawings by Elena Peteva**. There will be an opening reception as well as an artist talk. Peteva is a Bulgarian-American artist and associate professor at UMASS Dartmouth.

13. GALLERY X, 169 William St., 5-8 pm

Explore two exhibits: **Patchwork**, featuring sustainable, reused, handmade, and natural mediums, and **Ben Berke: Dead Whale City** in the Frederick Douglass Gallery for Berke's first solo exhibition of photographs reflecting the city's history as it stands today.

14. NEW BEDFORD ART MUSEUM

608 Pleasant St., 5-8 pm

View **UMASS Dartmouth's MFA Thesis exhibition**, showcasing the artwork of graduating Master of Fine Arts students from the College of Visual and Performing Arts. The evening includes a reception (5-8 pm) and artist talks (6 pm). With your free admission, you can also explore the **RESISTANCE: Cultural and Political Narratives in Mexican Art exhibit**, and take part in a scavenger hunt through the galleries. (Note that this exhibition contains some mature themes/imagery & is recommended for ages 13+.)

15. PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH HOME

634 Purchase St., 5-7 pm

Make your own self-sustaining soda bottle terrarium and visit the Booker T. Washington Mural on the side of the building!

16. STAR STORE, 715 Purchase St., 5-8pm

Artists representing 38 cities across 21 states converge for the **third edition of Curious Figure, a national juried exhibition** highlighting contemporary figurative artists. During the evening reception, winners of this year's exhibition awards will be announced.

17. 3RD EYE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, 230 Union St.

5-8 pm Stop by **3rdEyE** for their **monthly AHA! Open House** where you can draw on the free wall, and take part in open mics & spontaneous dance parties, Silent DJ sets, and other hands-on activities.

7-9 pm It's Anomaly Poetry's Open Mic Night! Bring new work, old work, or poems by artists you love. Sign-ups will be available at the door on a first come, first served basis. ☾

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18. NEW BEDFORD HARBOR HOTEL

222 Union St., 6-8 pm

Enjoy some speakeasy jazz from the Buttonwood Brass Band, on every AHA! Night.

19. CORK WINE AND TAPAS, 90 Front St.

6-7 pm Sample wines from Anchor Rock Vineyards, a family-owned vineyard in South Dartmouth

6-8:30 pm Enjoy a live musical performance from Ken 'n Donna: Livin' the Dream. ☾

20. ZEITERION 684 Purchase St.

6-7:30 pm Join an **open level dance workshop with members of the cast of Step Afrika!** Comfortable clothing & sneakers are strongly recommended! (ages 5+)

6-8 pm Calling all musicians, performing artists, music lovers and enthusiasts! Join **Emmanuel "Manny" Escobar and Mwalim DaPhunkee Professor for a free, fun jam session** in the Speakeasy. Grab your instruments and play—or just enjoy the live music. **Hosted by Blair Taylor.**
8-10 pm It's a special edition of **AHHHhhh! at The Speakeasy** featuring music from the newly released project **INTERSESSION by WAMPTRONICA**, a journey into Deep Afro Jazz House Music. Musicians are welcome to stay and flow over the grooves. ☾

21. NEW BEDFORD FISHING HERITAGE CENTER

38 Bethel St., 6-7:30 pm

Stop in for a special presentation & film screening about the Center's **Hauling Back Generational Fishing Family Project**, which presents stories of multi-generational fishing families and businesses in New Bedford and along the South Coast. Learn about some of the featured families and watch four of the short films produced for the project.

22. STEEPLE PLAYHOUSE

159 William St., 8 pm

Kick off the 2026 New Bedford Film Festival at Steeple Playhouse! During this opening night, we'll be celebrating community leaders including Lindsay Mís, Samia Walker, and Shane Burgo, plus giving out the AHA! Special Achievement Award! ☾

23. THE NATIONAL CLUB

24 Union St., 8-close

DJ Anj Kep sets the tone at the National Club for late night bites, craft cocktails, and cool vibes. ☾

24. THE POUR FARM TAVERN

780 Purchase St., 8-11:30 pm

Grab a bite or a pint and listen to **Electric Blues & Rock with the Neal McCarthy Trio.** ☾

25. PLAY ARCADE, 34 Union St., 8 pm-midnight

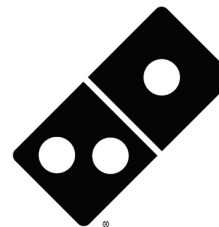
Belt out some tunes with karaoke, food, fun and games! 21+ ☾



AHA! AFTER DARK

AHA! After Dark features AHA! Night activities that begin or continue past 8 pm! After Dark activities are noted with a crescent moon icon!

April's AHA! Night is sponsored by



Domino's Team New Bedford

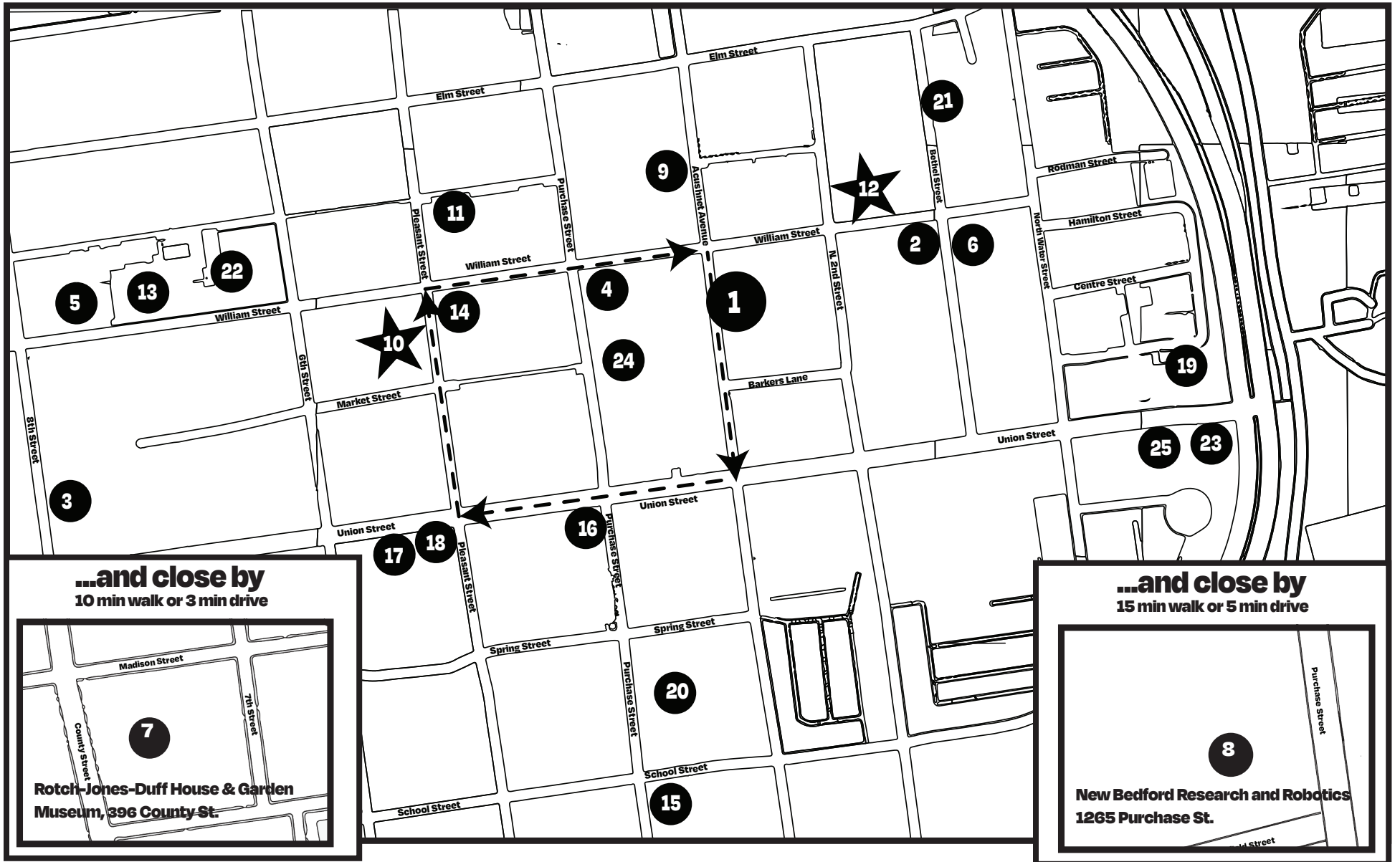
Thank you to our ongoing supporters



AHA! NIGHT DOWNTOWN MAP

Numbered spots indicate program locations.
Dashed line is the parade route.

STARRED LOCATION HAS PUBLIC RESTROOMS (Public Library & National Park Visitors' Center)



Shopping & more

- Ambiance Settings Home Boutique** 65 William St. Unique home decor and furniture
- The Art Box** 246 Union St. Custom frame & preservation shop with original art
- Aviary Books** 10th N 6th St. Flr 2 Quality used books in most genres
- Beauty Union** 338 Acushnet Ave • Hair Salon
- The Bedford Merchant** 28 William St. Home decor, farm chic and antique replicas
- be jeweled** 26 Centre St. • Eclectic mix of modern jewelry
- Boulder Union Rock Climbing** 174 Union St. Climbing and fitness center
- Bushwood Tailor Opp Shop** 763 Purchase St. Slow fashion tailor shop
- Calico** 173 Union St. • Stylish womenswear boutique
- Carters Clothing** 55 William St. High end footwear and work gear
- Celia's Boutique** 111 William St. Upscale women's fashions
- Cojo Toy World** 104 William St. • Vintage toy store
- The Drawing Room** 22 William St. Curated art, wine, & design shop
- Hewn** 760 Purchase St. New and secondhand clothing and accessories
- Indigo Spa** 26 S. Water St. • Massages and facials
- JNSQ Home** 58 Spring St. Curated consignment & interior design
- Local Blooms** 200 Union St. • Plant and flower shop
- MadLila** 741 Purchase St. Eclectic vintage and preloved clothing
- Moby Dick Nauticals** 27 William St. Nautical jewelry, souvenirs, and gifts
- NB Barber Shop** 98 William St. • Appt. only barber shop
- New Bedford Fiber Arts** 753 & 761 Purchase St. Yarns, notions and classes
- New Bedford Tattoo Company** 82 Front St. • Tattoo shop
- Painting at Splash** 772 Purchase St. • Painting studio
- Plugged in Downtown** 211 Union St. Rare and exclusive sneaker boutique
- Salt & Sol** 30 N. Water St. • Unique, locally sourced gifts
- SANGHA New Bedford** 693 Purchase St. • Yoga studio
- Serlingpa Meditation Center** 514 Pleasant St. Meditation center with classes
- Shimmer** 187 Union St. Skincare, makeup, and clean beauty shop
- Solstice Skateboarding** 801 Purchase St. Quality skate shop and apparel
- Stepping Razor** 747 Purchase St. Traditional American barbershop
- TLG the Gallery** 100 William St. • Art gallery & gifts
- U7 Shoe Store** 102 William St. Gently used, designer sneakers and streetwear
- Yum Yum Tiger** 767 Purchase St. • Asian mini market

Restaurants, bars, and bites

- 222 Union Restaurant & Bar (Harbor Hotel)** • 222 Union St. • Happy hour food, great cocktails, vegetarian dishes.
- The Baker** • 562 Pleasant St. • Artisan baked goods, breads, sandwiches, and coffee highlight this small-batch bakery. (Until 2 pm on Thursdays)
- Bento's Bar & Grill** • 555 Pleasant St. • Apps, entrees and dessert. Full bar.
- BestTeas Bubble Tea Room** • 498 Pleasant St. • Casual teahouse offering a variety of bubble tea drinks, macarons, cookies, and now ice cream! (Until 7 pm on AHA! Nights)
- The Black Whale** • 104 Co Op Wharf (State Pier) • Contemporary bar & eatery serving innovative seafood dishes & raw shellfish amid harbor views.
- Bomb Dog New Bedford** • 79 N. Water St. • Takeout hot dogs, chips, drinks, snacks and ice cream. (Until 6 pm)
- Brick Pizzeria Napoletana** • 163 Union St. • Wood-burning brick oven pizza, sandwiches, and salads. Beer and soda.
- Café Arpeggio** • 800 Purchase St. • Cozy cafe offering smoothies, plus micro-roasted coffee, pastries, and breakfast and lunch sandwiches. (Until 4 pm).
- Candela Cucina** • 72 N. Water St. • Upscale Italian in the historic Candleworks Building
- Coastal Bubbles + Wine Bar** • 1 Johnny Cake Hill, Unit 4 • Champagne + wine bar with a curated selection of wines, sparkling beverages, and beer, with educational wine classes on select dates.
- Cork Wine & Tapas** • 90 Front St. • Tapas, full entrees, dessert, fresh seafood, expansive wine and cocktail menu.
- Cultivator Shoals** • 35 Union St. • Fresh apps, entrees and dessert. Craft cocktails.
- Delicias de Anita** • 285 Union St. • Cozy eatery with Salvadoran, Guatemalan, & Mexican meals, including pupusas.
- Destination Soups** • 149 Union St. • Hot & cold soup, salads & sandwiches, with many vegetarian options. (Until 7 pm on Thursdays)
- Green Bean** • 740 Purchase St. • Bright, colorful cafe offering coffee drinks, pastries & wraps, including vegan options. (Until 4 pm on Thursdays)
- Ground Floor Coffee** • 61 Merrills Wharf • Coffee, pastries. (Until 5 pm)
- Izzy's** • 72 Spring St. • Cozy, family-friendly eatery offering Cape Verdean fare such as cachupa & refogado. (Until 7 pm)
- Last Round Bar & Grille** • 908 Purchase St. • Casual hangout with food specials and events such as dancing, karaoke, and trivia nights, plus sports on TV.
- Merrill's on the Waterfront** • 36 Homer's Wharf • Harborside restaurant dishing up local seafood in an upscale setting with waterfront views.
- Ming's Sushi** • 774 Purchase St. • Low-key restaurant featuring a wide-ranging Japanese menu plus all-you-can-eat lunch & dinner.
- Miguel's Restaurant** • 253 Union St. • Portuguese restaurant serving small plates for breakfast and lunch in a comfy environment. (Until 2 pm on Thursdays)
- Minerva Pizza** • 280 Union St. • Pizza, subs and more.
- Moby Dick Brewing Co.** • 16 S. Water St. • Creative pub eats & house-brewed beers in a rustic, relaxed setting.
- The National Club** • 24 Union St. • Contemporary and elevated Mexican cuisine.
- New Beige** • 39 Union St. • Local kitchen with a full lunch and dinner menu, along with craft cocktails, beer, & wine.
- No Problemo** • 813 Purchase St. • Colorful hipster-chic taqueria also serving beer, sangria & wine. Cash only.
- PLAY Arcade** • 34 Union St. • Arcade & rooftop bar offering scratch-made comfort fare & a selection of craft beers.
- Port Royal** • 26 S. Water St. • Casual bar offering craft beer, cocktails, and cigars in a cozy, charming setting.
- Pour Farm Tavern** • 780 Purchase St. • Craft beer, eclectic sandwiches & a rotating display of art on the walls.
- Quahog Republic Whaler's Tavern** • 24 N. Water St. • Charming tavern in historic digs offering a seafood-heavy menu, draft beers & creative cocktails.
- Rose Alley Ale House** • 94 Front St. • Polished tavern & bistro featuring high-end bar bites, flat screens in the bar & live music nights.
- Sixes & Sevens** • 7 S. 6th St. • Informal bar with a variety of craft beer, burgers, hot dogs, & other classic pub grub.
- Spicy Lime** • 522 Pleasant St. • Classic Thai dishes in a simple setting for dine-in or take away. (Until 8:30 pm)
- Tia Maria's European Café** • 42 N. Water St. • Family-owned breakfast & lunch spot with dinner some nights plus beer, wine & espresso drinks. (Until 2 pm on Thursdays)
- The Vault Pub** • 791 Purchase St. • Lively spot offering creative American grub, house-made brews.