



190 High Street, Bristol, RI 02809
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Plans in place for Bristol PorchFest 2025: seeking your review and approval

STREET CLOSURE REQUEST

Town Clerk Cordeiro and members of the Town Council:

Arts In Common, PorchFest organizer, has already begun to communicate with Captain St.Pierre from the Bristol Police about repeating our request for a formal street closure and police support again for the 2025 event.

We offer this letter and the attached petition as a formal request to be included on the May 28 Town Council agenda.

At that meeting, we ask for the **4-hour street closure of a 6-block section of High Street from Walley to Byfield streets on Sunday September 14, 2025, from 2:30–6:30pm**, and help us work with all Town agencies for any required inputs and approvals. (Rain date the following Sunday, September 21)

Thank you for your time and consideration!

MaryKae Wright

MaryKae Wright
Arts In Common PorchFest Co-chair

Nancy R. Kellner

Nancy Kellner
Arts In Common PorchFest Co-chair

Bradley Wester

Bradley Wester
Arts In Common Founding Member

Doug Popovich

Doug Popovich
Arts In Common Chair

2025 MAY 13 PM 3:36

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND



Note: Banner represented above is from previous years for reference only.



BRISTOL PORCHFEST 2025 PLANNING

This year — after hearing from a broad range of local residents and businesses — we are again expecting a large base of support for a 2025 PorchFest.

With Council and Town Administration support, we are planning to:

- **Hold PorchFest the second weekend in September on Sunday the 14th from 3–6 pm** + a proposed rain date a week later, Sunday the 21st from 3–6 pm
- **Keep it hyper local – a total of 16 porches and 26 bands** on High between Walley & Byfield
- **Work with local officials to close a 6-block stretch of High Street and one block of Walley St. from High to Hope streets for 4 hours in total**, allowing a half hour before and after the proposed 3-hour event. *Due to the success of instituting no street parking, we are asking the Bristol Police to endorse their suggestion again for this year.*
- **Also this year, we are again planning the “Second Line” closing parade and requesting a police escort from 6-6:30 pm** from the Byfield Street edge of the PorchFest event area, 3 blocks down High, up State for a block, then 2 blocks on Wood to Bradford and into Unity Park
- **Maintain the local, hometown, family-friendly charm and focus on porches and music** — like in past years, keeping PorchFest alcohol free (again the PorchFest organizers do not solicit food or drink vendors)
- **Support our local businesses and add to the PorchFest spirit** by having our media and outreach efforts encourage PorchFest audiences to eat and shop downtown before and after the event
- **Leverage social media** to deliver event map and create local/regional opportunities to attract audiences
- **Present a focused, manageable, safe afternoon function** — we are asking for permission to close streets, which will be monitored by police, and will again arrange for handicap-accessible portable restrooms

Members of the Bristol Town Council are receiving this as the part of our finalization plans for 2025. Thanks for your support!

ABOUT THE EVENT SPONSOR

Arts in Common: Culture Connecting Community

Our mission is to develop and support collaborative projects between creatives, arts and cultural institutions, educational, and commercial enterprises to expand and enrich the lives of audiences in Bristol and beyond. Our non-profit status helps to fund and produce unique and independent cultural projects brought to us by local individuals and groups. We are committed to centralizing communications between local cultural organizations and audiences.



Note: Poster represented above and t-shirt at right are from previous years for reference only.



PAST BRISTOL PORCHFEST



“It’s truly a magical day; Play and they will come.”

“I can’t think of anything in the last 17 months that made me feel as good as PORCHFEST. It was an extraordinary event, enhanced only by the perfection of the weather. CONGRATULATIONS to all who made it happen.”

Just two of the hundreds of accolades received by the PorchFest committee at the conclusion of previous events

On a sunny 75-degree day, an estimated crowd of 5,000+ enjoyed 22 bands on 12 porches. Diversity in musical genres brought diversity in attendees, as we truly provided something for everyone. Beyond the wonderful time for all, bands reported earnings total >\$4,500 in tips!



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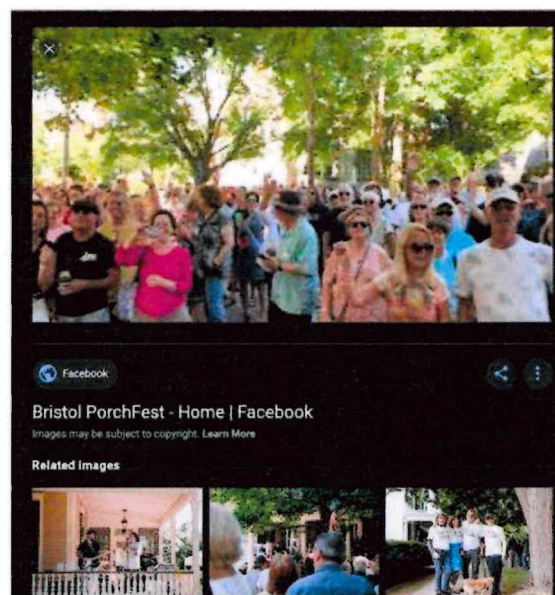
Thank you Boris Apple for these awesome...
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BACKGROUND

In 2019 Bristol PorchFest was held from 3–6pm on Sunday September 15:

- **18 bands played on 9 porches volunteered by local owners** to create a uniquely Bristol experience on historic High Street between Walley and Constitution streets
- **3 hours of local talent playing music** and providing all a free, fun, family-friendly afternoon of music and neighbors
- **More than 3,000 strolling, dancing spectators** enjoyed music and community
- **Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive** with many comparing it to the fun of July 4th, but in some ways better “because I was able to walk around to see neighbors and friends and enjoy the music”
- **Bristol has a new September holiday** originally a local newspaper front page headline in 2018 was mentioned again and again!

PAST BRISTOL PORCHFEST

High Street Porch Music 4pm-6pm Sun Sep 23

118 HIGH Sinner's Pie
85 HIGH Dukes of Dixie
42 HIGH Tyler & Ryan
30 VALLEY Los Duderinos

A FREE, FUN, FAMILY FRIENDLY RAPPELING TO BRING MUSIC AND NEIGHBORS TOGETHER

KICK DATE: SUN SEP 23 @ 4PM
Porchfest@artsincommon.org

High Street porches to host local bands in an afternoon of music

By [Name] Bristol Phoenix, September 13, 2021

Community friends and neighbors who love music, in partnership with Arts in Common, are excited about High Street Porch Music, a new event scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 23, from 4 to 6 p.m. It will feature local bands and live music, creating a social and musical atmosphere in the heart of the city.

The event is a free, family-friendly rapelling to bring music and neighbors together. It will be held on High Street, between Union and Valley streets, from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 23.

Arts in Common, a local organization that promotes local arts and culture in Bristol, is sponsoring the event. They are asking for donations to help cover the costs of the event. Donations can be made at the event or by mail to Arts in Common, 100 Main St., Bristol, RI 02801.

Performers include Tyler & Ryan, a duo of Bristol brothers; Tyler and Ryan; and Los Duderinos, a local band. The event is a free, family-friendly rapelling to bring music and neighbors together.

For more information, email porchfest@artsincommon.org or call 253-6864.



EastBayRI Porch Music Fest in Bristol draws strolling music-lovers



Bristol has a new September holiday

By [Name] Bristol Phoenix, September 13, 2021

The city of Bristol has declared September 23rd as High Street Porch Music Day, a new holiday to celebrate the community's love for music and outdoor gatherings.

The event is a free, family-friendly rapelling to bring music and neighbors together. It will be held on High Street, between Union and Valley streets, from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 23.

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Arts in Common is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes local arts and culture in Bristol, RI. We are currently seeking volunteers for the 2025 Porchfest event. If you are interested, please contact us at volunteer@artsincommon.org.