

Plans in place for **Bristol PorchFest 2022:** seeking your review and approval

STREET CLOSURE REQUEST

Town Clerk Cordeiro and members of the Town Council:

Arts In Common, PorchFest organizer, met with Bristol Police earlier this month during which Lt. Steven St. Pierre agreed that a formal street closure and police support for the 2022 event is again a good idea.

We offer this letter and the attached petition as a formal request to be included on the May 11 Town Council agenda.

At that meeting, we plan to ask for the 4-hour street closure of a 6-block section of High Street from Walley to Byfield street on Sunday September 18, 2022, 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 25)

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Arts In Common PorchFest Co-chair

Bradley Wester Arts in Common Founding Member

Marcy R. Kellner Nancy Kellner

Arts In Common PorchFest Co-chair

Doug Popovich

Arts In Common President

TOWN COUNCIL



BRISTOL PORCHFEST 2022 PLANNING

This year — after meetings with local residents, representatives from Bristol Police, Town Administrator Steven Contente, and Economic Development Director Chris Vitale — we have a large base of support for a 2022 PorchFest.

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

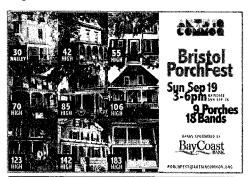
- Hold PorchFest the third weekend in September on Sunday the 18th from 3-6 pm + a proposed rain date a week later, Sunday the 25th from 3-6 pm
- Work with local officials to close a 6-block stretch of High Street for 4 hours in total, allowing a half-hour before and after the proposed 3-hour event. Note: Police Lt. St. Pierre again endorses closing the section of Walley Street, High to Hope, as no sidewalks are available for listeners
- Maintain the local, hometown, family-friendly charm and focus on porches and music like in 2021, keeping PorchFest alcohol free (again no food or drink vendors)
- **Keep it local on High Street** a total of 9-10 porches on High Street between Walley & Byfield, with police presence stationed at various points
- Work with high-school and college student talent and faculty to be a part of the fun —
 we have one porch earmarked for high school and another for college bands!
- Local BayCoast Bank will again sponsor the music supporting and believing local artists should be paid, BayCoast Bank has provided \$3,600 to provide 18 bands \$200 stipends
- 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 about a 6-block stretch of High Street, which will be monitored by police, and will again arrange for handicap-accessible portable restrooms

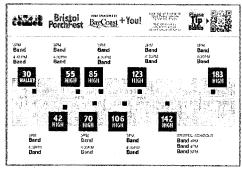
Members of the Bristol Town Council are receiving this as the part of our finalization plans for 2022 — Town administration and Police leaders have signed on. Thanks for your support!

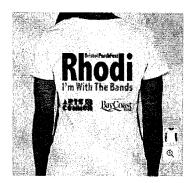
ABOUT THE EVENT SPONSOR

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 their audiences.



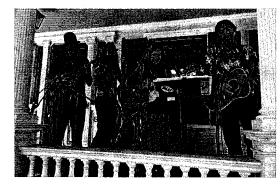




Note: 2021 signage represented above and t-shirt at right are from 2021 for reference only.



2021 BRISTOL PORCHFEST











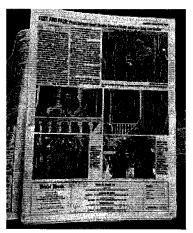


"I can't think of anything in the last 17 months that made me feel as good as PORCHFEST. It was an extraordinary event, enhanced only by the perfection of the weather. CONGRATULATIONS to all who made it happen."

Just two of the dozens of accolades received by the PorchFest committee at the conclusion of last year's Sept.19 event

On a sunny, 75-degree day (who could ask for anything more?), an estimated crowd of ~4,500 enjoyed 19 bands on 9 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 >\$4,300 in tips!







2019 BRISTOL PORCHFEST









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!



2018





TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

10 Court Street Bristol, RI 02809 Tel. 401-253-7000 Fax. 401-253-2647 Email:Mcordeiro@bristolr.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Steven Contente

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

FROM:

Melissa Cordeiro

COUNCIL CLERK

DATE:

April 27, 2022

RE:

MaryKae Wright, for Arts in Common - Request to Close Portion of High and Walley Streets for Annual Porchfest Music Event, September 18, 2022 (rain date

September 23, 2022

May we please have your recommendation or the recommendation of the department head you deem appropriate in order for the Council to review the request at the regular Town Council Meeting to be held on May 11, 2022.

Please note that all council items are due at 12PM noon one week prior to the meeting. All and any items received after the deadline will be held until the next council agenda.

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt reply.

Attachment