



190 High Street, Bristol, RI 02809
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Plans in place for Bristol PorchFest 2023: seeking your review and approval

STREET CLOSURE REQUEST

2023 MAY 17 PM 3:24

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

Town Clerk Cordeiro and members of the Town Council:

Arts In Common, PorchFest organizer, has already begun to communicate with Lt. St. Pierre from the Bristol Police about repeating our request for a formal street closure and police support again for the 2023 event.

We offer this letter and the attached petition as a formal request to be included on the May 31 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 streets on Sunday September 17, 2023, 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 24)

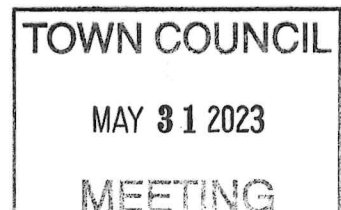
Thank you for your time and consideration!


MaryKae Wright
Arts In Common PorchFest Co-chair


Nancy Kellner
Arts In Common PorchFest Co-chair


Bradley Wester
Arts In Common Founding Member


Doug Popovich
Arts In Common President





BRISTOL PORCHFEST 2023 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 2023 PorchFest.

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

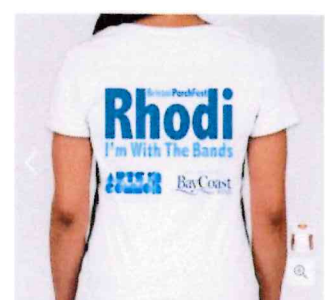
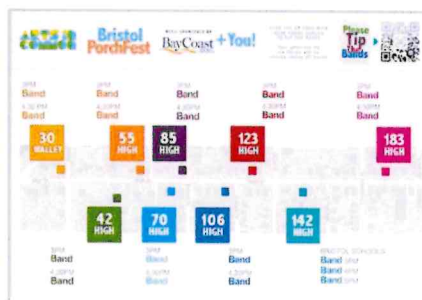
- **Hold PorchFest the third weekend in September on Sunday the 17th from 3–6 pm** + a proposed rain date a week later, Sunday the 24th from 3–6 pm
- **Keep it hyper local** — a total of 10 porches and 20 bands on High Street between Walley & Byfield
- **Work with local officials to close a 6-block stretch 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 last year, 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 no food or drink vendors)
- **Work with high-school and college student talent and faculty to be a part of the fun** — we have at least one porch earmarked for high school and college bands!
- **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 2023. Thanks for your support!

ABOUT THE EVENT SPONSOR

Arts in Common: Culture Connecting Community

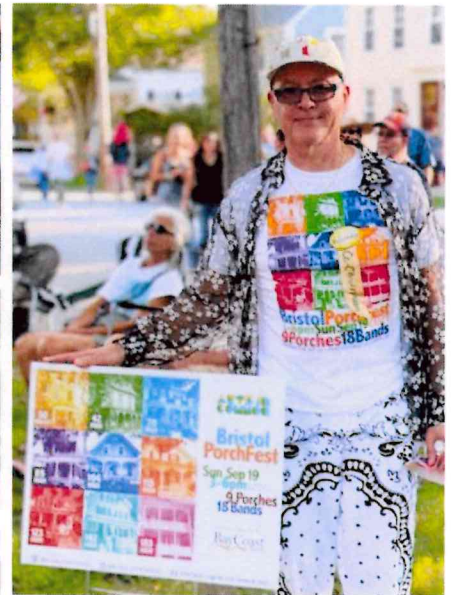
Our mission is to develop and support collaborative projects between creatives, arts and cultural institutions, educational, and commercial enterprises to expand and enrich the lives of audiences in Bristol and beyond. Our non-profit status helps to fund and produce unique and independent cultural projects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



Note: Signage 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.”

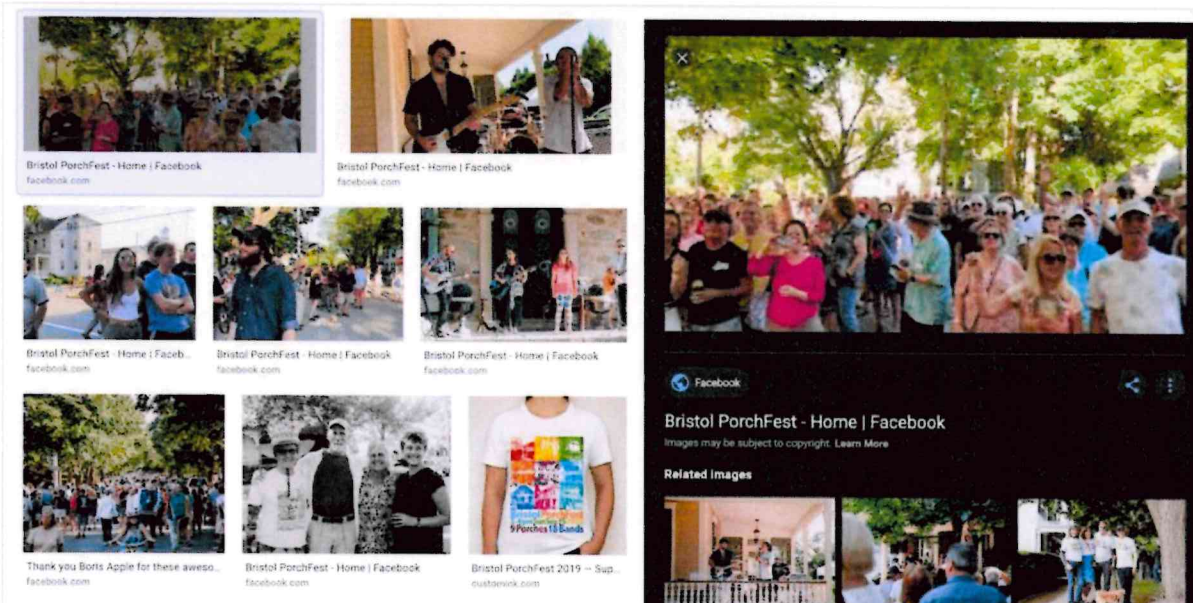
“I can’t think of anything in the last 17 months that made me feel as good as PORCHFEST. It was an extraordinary event, enhanced only by the perfection of the weather. CONGRATULATIONS to all who made it happen.”

Just two of the 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!



PAST 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!



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

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Email: Mcordeiro@bristolri.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steven Contente
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Melissa Cordeiro
COUNCIL CLERK

DATE: May 17, 2023

RE: MaryKae Wright, for Arts in Common - Request to
Close Portion of High and Walley Streets for Annual
Porchfest Music Event, September 17, 2023 from 2:30PM
- 6:30 PM (raindate September 24, 2023)

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 31, 2023**.

All items for this docket must be received in the Clerk's office before 12:00 noon on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. 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