

2026 MAY 18 PM 1:04

Plans in place for Bristol PorchFest 2026: 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 planning this annual event and started communicating with Captain St.Pierre from the Bristol Police about repeating our request for a formal street closure and police support again for the 2026 event.

We offer this letter and the attached petition as a formal request to be included on the June 3 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 20, 2026, 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 27)

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 Chair



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



BRISTOL PORCHFEST 2026 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 2026 PorchFest.

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

- **Hold PorchFest the third weekend in September on Sunday the 20th from 3–6 pm** + a proposed rain date a week later, Sunday the 27th 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 2026. 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.

Re: Bristol PorchFest request for Council agenda

Date Mon 5/18/2026 9:04 AM

>

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. When in doubt, contact your IT Department

Hi Melissa,

I will bring a copy of the cover letter to you today. Here are the porch addresses:

30 Walley St.

High St.: numbers 41, 42, 70, 85, 90, 106, 110, 123,142, 146, 159, 169, 183, 201, 202.

Please let me know if any further information is required.

Many thanks,

MaryKae

On May 15, 2026, at 8:41 AM, Melissa Cordeiro <mcordeiro@bristolri.gov> wrote:

Hi MaryKay,

Thank you for sending that over. We will work on getting this on the June 3, 2026, Town Council agenda.

There are two items I would need from you to help move the process forward:

1. Could you please forward me the list of addresses that will be used for porch entertainment, similar to what you have provided in previous years.
2. Could you also drop off or mail the cover letter to our office with at least one original signature.

In the meantime, we will begin the process of obtaining departmental recommendations.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Melissa Cordeiro

Melissa Cordeiro / Town Clerk
Town of Bristol, Rhode Island
10 Court St Bristol, RI 02809
P: 401-253-7000 F: 401-253-2647
E: mcordeiro@bristolri.gov

On May 18, 2026 11:47 PM

To: Melissa Cordeiro <mcordeiro@bristolri.gov>

Subject: Bristol PorchFest request for Council agenda

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Hi Melissa,

It's that time of year again! We would like to request that the attached be included on the June 3 Town Council agenda. Would that be possible?



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

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


MEMORANDUM

TO: Steven Contente
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Melissa Cordeiro
TOWN CLERK

DATE: May 14, 2026

RE: Arts in Common for PorchFest 2026 request for One-Day Dancing and Entertainment license and street closure of a six-block section of High Street from Walley to Byfield Streets on Sunday, September 20, 2026, from 2:30-6:30 pm



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 Town Council Meeting to be held on June 3, 2026.

All items for this docket must be received in the Clerk's office by Wednesday, May 27, 2026. All and any items received after the deadline will be held until the next council agenda.

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt reply.

Attachments