

# WATERFIRE PROVIDENCE

– CREATIVELY TRANSFORMING OUR CITY



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

### Media Contact

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## **WaterFire Providence to be a Recipient of a New Attractions and Destinations Grant awarded by the McKee Administration and the RI Commerce Corporation**

**Providence, RI** WaterFire Providence announces the receipt of the New Attractions and Destinations request for proposal (RFP) from the McKee Administration and The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation. This RFP funding will support the expansion of WaterFire exhibitions and events to drive tourism to Providence in the off season and shoulder season.

“WaterFire Providence is excited to receive a New Attractions and Destinations grant from the RI Commerce Corporation” said Peter A. Mello, Managing Director + coCEO. “Building upon our proven track record of organizing events downtown and at the WaterFire Arts Center that attract tourists from around the globe, we look forward to creating exciting new experiences for Rhode Islanders and visitors alike that will further strengthen Rhode Island's reputation as a top tourism destination”.

WaterFire Providence is one of nine projects selected throughout the State of Rhode Island to receive federal funding provided by the U.S Department of Commerce and Economic Development Administration. This funding was designated to specifically develop new attractions and recurring events around the Ocean State to drive tourism through November to April.

“Our cities and towns, regional tourism councils, and nonprofits are invaluable partners in our state's tourism and destination marketing efforts,” said Liz Tanner, Secretary of Commerce. “These awards are an opportunity to turn great ideas into realities that bolster tourism, economic development, and a stronger sense of place for Rhode Island.”

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To learn more about the Events and Attractions RFP please visit:

[commerceri.com/mckee-administration-announces-events-and-attractions-rfp-recipients/](https://commerceri.com/mckee-administration-announces-events-and-attractions-rfp-recipients/)

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**About WaterFire Providence**

WaterFire Providence® is an independent, 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization whose mission is to inspire Providence and its visitors by revitalizing the urban experience, fostering community engagement, and creatively transforming the city by presenting WaterFire for all to enjoy. Each year nearly 1 million people come to downtown Providence to experience WaterFire spending over \$114,000,000 to the local economy, generating over \$9,000,000 of direct tax revenue for the State of Rhode Island and supporting 1,294 jobs for community residents and strengthening Providence's Creative Capital and Rhode Island's State for the Arts brands. For information about WaterFire Providence and the WaterFire Arts Center visit <https://waterfire.org/>