

WATERFIRE PROVIDENCE

– CREATIVELY TRANSFORMING OUR CITY



EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE

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WaterFire Providence Announces the 2023 Season

Providence, RI: WaterFire Providence announces the 2023 WaterFire season which currently includes seven (7) full lightings and five (5) partial lightings. The 2023 season started with a pre-season lighting on April 1, 2023 supported by the United Way of Rhode Island followed by the first-ever WaterFire Day on April 19, 2023 in Memorial Park.

"We are thrilled to announce the 2023 WaterFire season on the first-ever WaterFire Day," says Peter A. Mello, Managing Director + coCEO of WaterFire Providence, "Our #Art4Impact initiative continues to highlight the intersection of art and community engagement, with WaterFire's lightings serving as a powerful catalyst for economic growth and vibrancy in the city of Providence. This year's season includes an exciting lineup of full and partial lightings, made possible with the support of our generous sponsors and community partners; and we invite everyone to join us throughout the season to experience the magic of WaterFire and the beauty of our city."

WaterFire favorites like the Clear Currents Community Paddling Night and the Flames of Hope Celebration supported by The Gloria Gemma Foundation will return in August and September. Notably, WaterFire will also partner with PVDfest, an annual arts and culture festival held in downtown Providence, for a full lighting on September 9, 2023. Additionally, the season will conclude with WaterFire's Salute to Veterans on November 4, 2023, a full lighting to honor and recognize the contributions of veterans.

"Spring is here and we are delighted to be announcing the initial 12 WaterFire lighting dates" says Barnaby Evans, the creator and artistic director of WaterFire. "All of us are looking forward to welcoming the entire community back to the river as well as greeting the many thousands of new visitors who will come to Rhode Island to see WaterFire for their first time this season. Your heartfelt notes and good wishes as you look forward to the new season have

been much appreciated. For nearly 30 years WaterFire has filled downtown with joyous crowds, exciting art and peaceful music and our entire team is eager to see you once again in the firelight.”

To celebrate the inaugural WaterFire Day, WaterFire Providence will be hosting a fundraiser called #SparkYourAppetite, encouraging both Rhode Islanders and WaterFire enthusiasts to explore Providence's thriving restaurant and bar scene. The fundraiser features ten locally-owned restaurants including [Bayberry Garden](#), [Bellini Providence](#), [Black Sheep](#), [Blu Violet](#), [Hemenway's Restaurant](#), [Hot Club](#), [Moonshine Alley](#), [Sports & Leisure](#), [The River Social](#), and [Troop PVD](#). As part of the initiative, all participating restaurants will donate 10% of their revenue from WaterFire Day to WaterFire Providence, to keep the fires burning.

Diners who enjoy a meal at any of these establishments on the 19th will also have the chance to win prizes by sharing a photo of their check on Instagram with (@WaterFireProv) and tagging #SparkYourAppetite.

“WaterFire offers companies a unique and one-of-a-kind engagement opportunity anywhere by creating unforgettable customer experiences that very often exceed sponsors’ marketing objectives,” says Ed Cabral, Director of Sponsorships and Corporate relations. Contact ed@waterfire.org for more information regarding opportunities in 2023 and 2024.

2023 WaterFire Lighting Schedule

Saturday, April 1

Supported by United Way of Rhode Island & 401Gives

Partial Lighting, Memorial Park

Sunset (7:10 pm) – 9:30 pm

Wednesday, April 19

WaterFire Day Season Kick-Off &

Strike the Match #SparkTheAppetite Fundraiser

Partial Lighting, Memorial Park

Sunset (7:30 pm) – 9:30 pm

Saturday, June 3

Supported by Rhode Island School of Design

Full Lighting

Sunset (8:15 pm) – Midnight

Sunday, June 18

Supported by The 28th North American Catalysis Society Meeting

Partial Lighting, Waterplace Basin

Sunset (8:23 pm) – Midnight

Saturday, June 24

Supported by Textron Charitable Trust

Full Lighting

Sunset (8:24 pm) – Midnight

Friday, July 14

Supported by Check the Stigma Hockey Classic to benefit Horizon Healthcare Partners

Partial Lighting, Waterplace Basin

Sunset (8:19 pm) – Midnight

Saturday, July 22

Supported by Amica Insurance & Bank of America

Full Lighting

Sunset (8:13 pm) – Midnight

Saturday, August 19

Supported by Cox Business & Cox Media

Clear Currents Fire Community Paddling Night

Full Lighting

Sunset (7:40 pm) – Midnight

Saturday, September 2

Labor Day Weekend

Partial Lighting

Sunset (7:17 pm) – Midnight

Saturday, September 9

Supported by Providence Tourism Council & Fidelity Investments

Full Lighting, PVDfest

Sunset (7:05 pm) – Midnight

Saturday, September 30

Supported by Rhode Island Department of Education, XQ Institute, Gloria Gemma Breast

Cancer Resource Foundation

Full Lighting

Sunset (6:29 pm) – 11:00 pm

Saturday, November 4

WaterFire's Salute to Veterans

Full Lighting

Sunset (5:36 pm) – 10:00 pm

WaterFire Providence thanks our generous supporters for helping to make this season possible. Details of the season schedule will be posted on the WaterFire Providence website at <https://waterfire.org/schedule>. Additional lightings may be added to the schedule as funding becomes available.

WaterFire Providence 2023 Season Supporters

[State of Rhode Island](#), [Governor Daniel J. McKee](#); [Rhode Island Commerce](#); [The City of Providence](#), [Mayor Brett Smiley](#); [The Providence City Council](#); [The Rhode Island General Assembly](#); [Providence Tourism Council](#); [Rhode Island State Council of the Arts](#); [Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau](#); [The 28th North American Catalysis Society Meeting](#); [Bank Newport](#); [Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation](#); [Cox Business](#); [Check the Stigma Hockey Classic to benefit Horizon Healthcare Partners](#); [Amica Insurance](#); [Rhode Island School of Design](#); [Fidelity Investments](#); [Textron Charitable Trust](#); [Bank of America](#); [United Way of Rhode Island](#); [Rhode Island Department of Education](#); [XQ Institute](#); [Cox Media](#); [Rhode Island Monthly](#); [WPRI 12 & FOX Providence & The Rhode Show](#); [Cumulus Media](#); [iHeart Media, Inc.](#); [The Providence Journal](#); [IGT](#); [United Site Services Northeast](#); [Stanley Tree Service Inc.](#); [AJT Supplies](#); [Fire Works Catering](#); [Let's Roam](#).

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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/>.