

WATERFIRE PROVIDENCE

– CREATIVELY TRANSFORMING OUR CITY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Media Contact

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WaterFire Providence Announces Additional Details for PVDfest X WaterFire, a Full Lighting on Saturday, September 9

Supported by the Providence Tourism Council, Fidelity Investments
and in collaboration with PVDfest & FirstWorks

Providence, RI WaterFire Providence announces a full lighting this Saturday, September 9, supported by Providence Tourism Council, Fidelity Investments, and in collaboration with PVDfest & FirstWorks. The lighting will begin at 7:05 p.m. and the braziers will remain lit until midnight. On shore programming will open at 6:00 p.m.

The Providence Tourism Council welcomes visitors to this special WaterFire as part of the PVDfest weekend celebration, which helps cultivate a strong sense of place and rekindles our artistic community, bringing forth the beauty, energy, and hopeful spirit to our incredible city," says Alexis Gorriaran, Chair and Commissioner of the Providence Tourism Council.

"Fidelity is honored to sponsor the September 9 WaterFire lighting as the culmination of a full-day of PVDfest. It is a fitting celebration of our community and Providence as our Creative Capital" said Rick Metters, Vice President of Regional Public Affairs.

"WaterFire is a Providence original. The City of Providence, the Department of Art, Culture and Tourism, and FirstWorks are so proud to partner with WaterFire in celebrating our creative capital. PVDfest as the signature arts/cultural event of our great city, brings together the best of Providence for the nation and world to see. What better way to cap off a festival evening than to acknowledge two of nature's most powerful elements: water and fire. WaterFire is a lasting symbol of the renaissance of our great city and represents her continued growth and abundance for all her residents," says Joe Wilson, Jr., Director of Arts, Culture and Tourism for the City of Providence.

[Grupo Ondas](#), [AMP Academy](#), and [New Wave Martial Arts](#) will be activating the basin stage in Waterplace Park from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with *Rhythms of Creative Resistance: Celebrating Freedom with Capoeira, Macule, Samba, Batuku, and Parkour* an exciting demonstration of Capoeira, a martial art with African roots, creatively evolved in response to cultural suppression. This dynamic discipline combines acrobatics and music, echoing elements of modern breakdancing and parkour in its extraordinary physicality.

There will be a special Edward Mitchell Bannister installation in Market Square in honor of the unveiling of the new statue happening the next day, Sunday, September 10 at 4 p.m. by the [Bannister Community Art Project](#). The special installation on Saturday, September 9 is presented by WaterFire Providence and the [Department of Arts, Culture, & Tourism](#) and will include a projected exhibition of Bannister's paintings by the bridge he used to walk across every day when he lived in Providence. The Bannister Community Art Project aims to honor the memory and contributions of Black artist Edward Mitchell Bannister, a Providence Art Club founding member, and his wife, Christina Carteaux Bannister, by serving as a catalyst for various programs and activities to highlight their legacy.

The Steeple Street Music Stage will feature local musical act, [Funkademic](#). There will be three sets throughout the night, at 8 p.m., 9 p.m., and 10 p.m.

Visitors can stop by at information tents throughout the installation; there will be four tents in total including [Happy Nest](#) and [Aura of Rhode Island](#) on Steeple Street and the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps and [Ocean State Chess Association](#) on Washington Street.

Catch three fire-spinning performances beginning at 8:15 p.m. and continuing at 9:15 p.m. and 10:15 p.m. by [Cirque de Light](#) and [Spogga](#).

The WaterFire Arts Festival Plaza kicks off Washington Street and Steeple Street from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. where visitors can browse and shop from a variety of local artists and makers in mediums such as glass, photography, jewelry, and more. This outdoor artisan fair will showcase some of the great artwork created in Rhode Island and offer visitors the opportunity to support the local arts economy by purchasing work by Rhode Island-based artists.

On Washington Street, visitors can explore Recycled SilverWear, [Deb Hickey Photography and Collage](#), Celeste Diaz Falzone, ASTR NOIR, Design WhatHaveYou, TRACIMOC, Forever Creations, Bare & Brine, Hang On Design, [Jessie Jewels Art](#), [Into the Woods](#), and [Land and Seaglass](#). On Steeple Street: [Roses N Dragons Designs](#), [Sparkle&Glow By Yvonne](#), [Sophie Foulkes](#), [Boojie Lolli](#), The Dapper Flapper, Slay Natural Body, M PEARL, GlassMonkey, Twist of Fate Pottery, and Tigris Handmade.

WaterFire Marketplace will return to Canal Street, stop by to support WaterFire with a donation or a purchase of locally designed apparel, glassware, books, and gifts. Make a quick and easy donation with the DipJar and glass blowing by [Gather Glass](#). WaterFire will also have additional ambassador and merchandise stations in front of the RISD Auditorium, and both sides of the basin in Waterplace Park.

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[Andrew Anselmo](#), Origami Master will be hanging out all night at Market Square and visitors can find [A Silent Soapbox](#) living statue at the bottom of Washington Street Bridge and Canal Walk starting at sunset. [Ten31 Productions](#) will be illuminating the World War Monument in Memorial Park.

The Starry, Starry Night installation returns to Memorial Park near the Crawford Street Bridge; [add your light to the night](#) by wishing on a star or dedicate a luminaria candle lantern.

Food fairs will be open on Washington Street, College Street, and Canal Walk. Enjoy local food from festival favorites. On Washington Street: [Kettle Korn Express](#), [One2Taco&More](#), [Full House Q](#), [Saugy's](#), [The Incredabowl Food Company](#), [Scoop T's Ice Cream](#). On Canal Street: [Gong Cha](#), [Del's Lemonade](#). On College Street: [Vegan Suga](#), [Pita Pocket](#), [Spanglish](#), [Pam's Grill on the Go](#), [FireWorks Catering](#), [Poppin' Minis RI](#) and Sal's.

[Trinity Brewhouse](#) will have two locations, one on the corner of Canal and Steeple Street, and the other on the corner of Canal and Washington Street. They will be serving up local brews and wine from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m..

WaterFire Providence 2023 Season Supporters

[State of Rhode Island](#), [Governor Daniel J. McKee](#); [Rhode Island Commerce](#); [The City of Providence](#), [Mayor Brett P. Smiley](#); [The Providence City Council](#); [The Rhode Island General Assembly](#); [Dunkin'](#); [Providence Tourism Council](#); [Rhode Island State Council of the Arts](#); [Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau](#); [PVDfest](#) & [FirstWorks](#); [The 28th North American Catalysis Society Meeting](#); [Rhode Island Energy](#); [Bank Newport](#); [Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation](#); [Brown University](#); [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](#); [JP Morgan Chase & Co.](#); [Gooseneck Vineyards](#); [United Site Services Northeast](#); [Stanley Tree Service Inc.](#); [AJT Supplies](#); [Fire Works Catering](#); [McLaughlin & Moran, Inc.](#); [Dan's Management Company, a Dunkin' Franchisee](#); [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 contributing over \$149,000,000 to the local economy, generating over \$9,000,000 of

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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/>.