

WATERFIRE PROVIDENCE

– CREATIVELY TRANSFORMING OUR CITY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 18, 2023

Media Contact

Ed Cabral, Director of Sponsorships
ed@waterfire.org | 401.451.0445

WaterFire Providence Announces an Update to the *A Light In Every Town* Campaign

A Campaign to Have a Volunteer Representative from all 39 Cities and Towns in Rhode Island

Providence, RI WaterFire Providence announces the completion of *A Light In Every Town*, a campaign aimed at having volunteer representatives from all 39 cities and towns throughout the state of Rhode Island. As of December 2023, new volunteers from Charlestown, New Shoreham (Block Island), North Smithfield, and Richmond volunteered their time with WaterFire.

“We are so excited to have hit our goal of having a volunteer from all 39 cities and towns in Rhode Island. From participating at WaterFire lightings to participating in volunteer committees for fundraising galas, there are endless opportunities for Rhode Islanders to be a part of the WaterFire magic. We are grateful to Candy Adriance, Abigail and Joanne Bernier, Tonya Rossi, and Samuel Ragosta for stepping up to represent their hometowns.” says Peter A. Mello, Managing Director + coCEO of WaterFire Providence.

Charlestown, Candy Adriance

Candy volunteered through the Summer and early Fall on WaterFire’s 7th Annual FireBall Gala Planning Committee, helping raise funds, plan logistics, and acquire donations for a silent auction. “I happily volunteer for WaterFire, because I know that the time I invest in WaterFire also enriches and supports the arts and humanities, our local businesses, and our overall sense of community throughout Providence.”

New Shoreham (Block Island), Abigail and Joanne Bernier

Abigail and Joanne volunteered at the Salute to Veterans lighting this past November as Ambassadors. During the event, they were both tasked with greeting visitors, answering questions, and soliciting donations to help keep the fires burning. “My daughter and I were extremely impressed with the volunteer experience for WaterFire Providence. We attended to

represent Block Island and had a wonderful time. We were welcomed by experienced staff, led to our volunteer location and thoroughly enjoyed sharing in the torch lighting ceremony. We encouraged people to donate and found most to be very generous. We will certainly participate again in the future."

North Smithfield, Tonya Rossi

Tonya volunteered her time this Summer as a Firetender, one of the many volunteers visitors see on the boats feeding the fires and keeping them lit. "I volunteered as a Fire Tender. I found it very interesting to learn the "behind the scenes" tasks that are done to create such a majestic, fun event!"

Richmond, Samuel Ragosta

Sam volunteered at the WaterFire Arts Center, working with the team to set-up for an event. "When you think of Rhode Island, you think of Waterfire. I am so very blessed to be able to work alongside such faithful and dedicated members of the Waterfire team who collectively strive to give the guests of Waterfire the very best experience the state has to offer!"

Volunteering with WaterFire is a flexible and rewarding experience for volunteers of all ages, offering opportunities during the week, and a choice between volunteering at the WaterFire Arts Center or at WaterFire lightings. Volunteer roles encompass a wide range of activities, including feeding fires, serving as gallery docents, participating in woodpile workouts, and engaging with visitors from around the globe.

To become part of this extraordinary artistic journey and proudly represent your town, interested individuals can sign up as volunteers at volunteer.waterfire.org. By joining, you'll not only contribute to the legacy of an iconic Rhode Island tradition but also forge deeper connections within your community.

WaterFire Providence thanks our generous supporters for helping to make the 2023 season possible. Details of the 2024 season schedule will be posted on the WaterFire Providence website at <https://waterfire.org/schedule> in early 2024. Please reach out to Ed Cabral, Director of Sponsorships for sponsorship opportunities.

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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 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

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Arts brands. For information about WaterFire Providence and the WaterFire Arts Center visit

<https://waterfire.org/>.