



PROVIDENCE INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Ok, I keep hearing about this festival, but I still don't quite know what it is. What's the deal?

The Providence International Arts Festival is...

- 3 jaw dropping spectacles
- 500 artists
- 40+ public art installations
- 7 outdoor bars
- 14 stages
- 21 participating venues

This is a new signature event for the Creative Capital from June 11-14, produced by FirstWorks and the City of Providence. It is a four-day showcase of art, culture, music, dance, theater, food and just about everything else, featuring talent from around the corner and around the world.

Most of the programming and events will be concentrated in Kennedy Plaza and Downtown along the Washington Street corridor on Saturday, June 13, but there will be activity all over the city from Thursday to Sunday. The big celebration on June 13 is free, as are many other festival events, but a handful of extended events will require tickets.

Where can I find out what's going on?

The full schedule of events will be available at pvdfestival.com. Please note that details are subject to change and new information is being added all the time. There will also be an interactive mobile app available soon, which will include a live schedule and map. Check pvdfestival.com for further updates. Printed programs will also be available during the festival at the information booths; the primary booth is in front of the Alex and Ani City Center (skating rink) at Kennedy Plaza.

You mentioned a big celebration on June 13. What's happening then?

Saturday is going to *huge*. Events begin around Downtown and Kennedy Plaza at noon, with the big celebration beginning at 4pm. There will be a parade procession at 5pm. All are welcome to participate in the procession. Check-in for parade participants will begin at 4:30pm and line-up will begin at 4:45pm. The procession will start at Empire and Washington Streets and end at the City Hall steps for the Festival Welcome at 6pm. After that, there will be headline performances until about 11pm, as well as a WaterFire. Several bars and clubs around the city will be hosting after events. See pvdfestival.com for the full schedule and more details.

Can we bring our kids?

Absolutely. Many of the performances and activities on June 13 are family friendly, and some will even feature performances and art *by* children. Plus, the big celebration is *free*, and what's more family friendly than free fun?

Will there be food?

It's called the *Providence International Arts Festival* – how could there *not* be food? There will be food trucks and vendors in various locations throughout the festival area. The surrounding Downtown area is also full of restaurants. If you're going to want a sit-down lunch or dinner, we recommend calling a restaurant ahead and making a reservation.

What about drinks?

There will be 7 bars throughout the festival area so that everyone over 21 can drink responsibly. You will need to provide a valid photo ID to receive an over 21 wristband and purchase *non-refundable* drink tickets. There are also bars and restaurants throughout Downtown.

Where can I park?

There are paid lots and garages available in and around Downtown. Check parkdowntownprovidence.com for information and maps. Parking away from Downtown and walking to the festival area is also recommended for those hoping to avoid traffic.

Speaking of traffic, will any streets be closed?

On Saturday, June 13 the following streets will be closed:

- Washington St.
- Fulton St. between Dorrance St. and Memorial Blvd.
- Exchange St. from Westminster St. to Washington St.
- Eddy St. from Weybosset St. to Washington St.
- Union St. from Weybosset St. to Washington St.
- Adrian Hall Way from Washington St. to Fountain St.

If Kennedy Plaza is closed, isRIPTA still running?

Yes, bus service will continue on the regular weekend schedule, but some bus stops may be moved. Check ripta.com for updated information about bus stop locations during the festival.

You keep mentioning this “festival area.” Where is that?

The festival footprint for Saturday, June 13 will run from the top of Washington Street at Empire Street in Downtown, along that corridor down into Kennedy Plaza. Kennedy Plaza, along with the adjacent skating rink and Burnside Park will be the heart of the festival. The opening ceremonies, headline performances and the Buy Local RI Marketplace will happen here. There will be programming and installations along the Washington Street corridor from Kennedy Plaza to the Providence Public Library, including several cross streets and parking lots along the way.

Outside of that immediate footprint, there will be a WaterFire in WaterPlace Park and along the Riverwalk, as well as the Columbus Theatre's free One Providence Experience concert next to the façade of the old Providence National Bank at 110 Weybosset St.

Will credit cards be accepted at the festival?

The majority of vendors will accept credit cards, but we cannot guarantee it for all of them. There are also many ATMs located in and around the festival area. [See map of ATM locations.](#)

Is everything accessible for people with disabilities per ADA guidelines?

For complete information on accessibility please visit one of the 4 the information booths: in front of the Alex and Ani City Center, at the east end of Burnside Park, on Washington Street next to URI, and at Washington Street and Adrian Hall Way.

Where can I get help if I need it?

A first aid station will be located on Exchange St. and Memorial Blvd. Trained EMTs will be on-hand to address any and all medical incidents. Local police will be present throughout and a Fire Department unit will be on site. If you see anyone at the festival who appears to need help, please inform a member of our security team or local police officer.

What happens if it rains?

There's no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothes! The Providence International Arts Festival will be held rain or shine. However, events may be canceled, rescheduled or relocated without notice in the event of severe weather. Check pvdfestival.com, [Facebook](#) or Twitter ([#pvdfest](#)) for updates.

I'm in. What do I need to bring?

- Lots of smiling family and friends.
- Dancing shoes.
- A sense of adventure.