



August 25, 2016

Contact:

Emily Crowell

Press Secretary

401-340-8212

ecrowell@providenceri.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PVDFest Returns to “America’s Coolest City” for 2017

PVDFest will bring four days of art, music and more to the streets of Providence, June 1-4, 2017

Providence, RI – City of Providence Mayor Jorge O. Elorza, the Department of Art, Culture + Tourism and founding creative partner FirstWorks announced PVDFest, Providence’s signature art festival will return for its third edition June 1-4, 2017. PVDFest will once again transform streets in the heart of Providence into a celebration of art, music, food, performance and more. Artists and performers from around the block and around the globe will converge in Providence for an outdoor event expected to draw thousands of guests.

"PVDFest is the perfect example of our Creative Capital coming together to create, perform and display the amazing talent we have here in our neighborhoods to the whole world," said Mayor Jorge Elorza. "We have had two very successful festivals in the

past years and I look forward to this festival growing as our artists and performers explore new ways to transform our city into a stage."

Building upon the success and energy of the past two festivals, PVDfest will continue to connect the vibrant neighborhoods of Providence with artistic talent from throughout the world. The four days of citywide programming will once again culminate on Saturday, June 3, beginning with a celebration that will turn spaces downtown into a world-class performance stage, cutting edge art gallery, and culturally diverse block party. Further details about programming and line-up will be announced closer to the festival date.

"True to our mission to connect art with audiences, we're thrilled to continue to foster local artistic collaborations and to bring dazzling performing artists from across the globe to delight our ever-expanding audience at this signature festival in the heart of Providence," said Kathleen Pletcher, Founder and Executive Artistic Director of FirstWorks.

In addition to the dates for next year's festival, Mayor Elorza announced the launch of the community portal available at www.pvdfest.com. This portal is a place for musicians, artists, vendors and creative minds of all kinds to connect with festival staff to express their interest in performing, creating, and selling at PVDfest next year. For those looking for more information on how to get involved and how they can become a part of Providence's signature festival, there will be a [community meeting](#) on Tuesday, September 13 from at 4pm at the Providence Public Library (150 Empire Street).

About Providence's Department of Art, Culture + Tourism – FESTIVAL PRODUCER

Established in 2003, the Providence Department of Art, Culture + Tourism (AC+T) ensures the continued development of a vibrant and creative city by integrating arts and culture into community life while showcasing Providence as an international cultural destination. Visit <http://providenceri.com/ArtCultureTourism>.

About FirstWorks – FESTIVAL FOUNDING CREATIVE PARTNER

FirstWorks is a non-profit based in Providence, Rhode Island whose purpose is to build the cultural, educational and economic vitality of its community by engaging audiences with world-class performing arts and education programs. Since its launch in 2004, FirstWorks festivals, performances and programs have attracted more than 366,000 participants. The FirstWorks Arts Learning Program works with over 4,000 students from public and charter schools across Rhode Island to provide transformative learning experiences with world-class performing artists. In June 2016, FirstWorks served as Founding Creative Partner to the City of Providence, for the second annual PVDfest (formerly Providence International Arts Festival). The four-day event drew over 75,000 over the four-day festival to experience music, art and spectacle from around the globe and around the corner. Visit <http://first-works.org> to learn more.

###