

PUBLIC EVENT/SPECIAL ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION

City of Somerville, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Application #: PEL25-000063

File #: 25-009330

Application for: Public Event

Organization name: Somerville Arts Council

Description: This year's ArtBeat festival explores the theme 'Freeze' in all its interpretations. Literally, it evokes icy temperatures—imagine igloos, snowflakes, sleet, and parkas as we playfully trick ourselves into feeling chilly on one of the hottest days of the year. But 'freeze' also suggests freezing time, motion, and moments. In our fast-paced world, what happens when we pause, slow down, or even become glacial? We can't wait to see your creative takes on this cool theme! Now in its 37th year, ArtBeat is Somerville's premier multicultural arts festival, presented by the Somerville Arts Council (SAC) and Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

Date(s): 07/19/2025

Setup starts at (time): 09:00 AM

Entertainment: ArtBeat brings the city to life with a diverse lineup of entertainment and activities. The festival features two stages of live music, dynamic dance performances inside the Somerville Theater, and an array of craft vendors showcasing handmade goods. Throughout Davis Square, visitors can experience interactive art, pop-up performances, and engaging activities for all ages. With its eclectic mix of music, dance, theater, food, and hands-on experiences, ArtBeat celebrates Somerville's vibrant arts community in an unforgettable way.

Attendees:

Max attendance at one time: 3,000

Maximum attendees accommodated: 10,000

Attendee fees or suggested donations: free.

Social or cultural benefits:

ArtBeat is Somerville's largest arts and culture festival, featuring live music, dance performances, craft vendors, and interactive activities for all ages. The festival showcases art in all forms, providing a platform for local artists while bringing the community together.

Event Contact: Iaritza Menjivar

Event name: ArtBeat 2025

Location: Event will span across multiple locations in Davis Square, including Somerville Theater, Statue Park, Seven Hills Park, and Kenney Park.

Rain date(s): 07/20/2025

Event ends at (time): 11:00 PM

Temporary Structures: Tents (will be no larger than 10x10), tables, chairs, porta potties, 2 stages for music. Dimension of the stages are 12x14.

Total people attending: 10,000

Total Somerville residents attending: 7,000

What is your budget for this event: 40,000

Financial benefits:

As one of the city's most well-known festivals, ArtBeat draws large crowds to Davis Square, directly supporting local businesses. The event is designed to highlight businesses along the route, many of which actively participate in the festival.

Event Contact Phone: 617-625-6600 x2985

Event Information	Yes/No	If yes, Describe
Open to the public?	Yes	Open Calls for participation for city departments and community organizations, Newsletters, press release, social media, posters, post cards, news coverage, banners on light posts around the city.
Food served?	Yes	Food Trucks and other food vendors-- at the moment we are still planning these details and will update as needed in the Coordinator Checklist.

Caterer used?	No	
Alcohol served?	No	
Grill/open-flame device used?	No	
Streets blocked?	Yes	Davis Square will be closed to traffic for ArtBeat. Elm Street will be shut down from the center of Davis Square. However, access will remain open from Highland Avenue to College Avenue and from College Avenue through Winter Street into Holland Street. Final road closure details will be determined in the IAP.
Sidewalks blocked?	No	
Describe any accessibility features available to attendees/participants		Sidewalks and crosswalks will remain clear for easy navigation, and the festival layout will follow ADA compliance standards. ADA-accessible parking will be available. Additionally, we're providing a water truck through MWRA to keep everyone hydrated and adding shaded areas for relief from the summer heat
Arrangements:		
Police Detail:	Yes	Public safety needs and help with traffic details. will discuss in IAP.
Parking (for Attendees)?	Yes	We will be reserving parking spots for vendors through Traffic and Parking Dept.
Restrooms?	Yes	We will be providing porta potties through the DPW.
Liability Insurance?	No	
Will any public parks be used?	Yes	Seven Hills Park, Statue Park, and Kenney Park.
Has the event occurred in the last two years?	Yes	July 15, 2023 & July 13, 2024

Approved By:

CS Mayor, Approved

Albert Bargoot, Approved

Maureen Lee, Approved with Conditions

ISD Health has approved with the condition a Coordinators checklist is submitted 30 days before the event to ISD Health. Additionally, 14 days prior to the event, completed vendor Temporary Food Licenses are submitted.

Kevin Roche, Approved

CS Traffic and Parking, Approved

Eric Weisman, Approved

Susan Yerkes, Approved with Conditions

Park permits are also required for this event.

Charles Breen, Approved with Conditions

Will require fire details per past IAP's.

Rico Isidoro, Approved

Kimberly M. Wells, Approved