

# PUBLIC EVENT/SPECIAL ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION

City of Somerville, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Application #: PEL25-000037

File #: 25-007595

**Application for:** Public Event

**Organization name:** Somerville Arts Council

**Description:** PorchFest follows a unique, decentralized approach, with bands performing from local porches while guests move through the city, which is divided into West, Central, and East zones. Unlike a traditional festival with a single activated location, this event spans multiple neighborhoods, showcasing Somerville's musical talent and community spirit. It's about young kids playing in their yards with family and friends and lifelong musicians getting the chance to perform once again for an intimate crowd.

12:00–2:00 PM – West Zone (West of Willow Ave.)

2:00–4:00 PM – Central Zone (Central St to Willow Ave.)

4:00–6:00 PM – East Zone (East of Central St.)

**Date(s):** 05/10/2025

**Setup starts at (time):** 10:30 AM

**Entertainment:** Live music

## **Attendees:**

Max attendance at one time: 2,000 per zone

Maximum attendees accommodated: 6,000

**Attendee fees or suggested donations:** free with suggested donations/ tips to bands.

## **Social or cultural benefits:**

PorchFest fosters community connection by bringing neighbors together through live music. It provides a platform for musicians of all levels to share their talents, especially those who lack access to traditional performance spaces. The event celebrates Somerville's diverse music scene, encourages cultural exchange, and transforms porches into welcoming stages that enhance the city's vibrant arts culture.

**Event Contact:** Iaritza Menjivar

**Event name:** PorchFest 2025

**Location:** The event takes place on people's porches, yards, and driveways across Somerville. However, this year, we are limiting the streets that can participate. We are following a map from the Engineering Department that identifies the "Street Functional Classes." Bands can only apply if their porch is outside of the streets listed below (applications will still be reviewed on a case-by-case basis). Below are the Restricted streets where performances are prohibited:

Broadway  
Cedar St  
Central St  
College Ave  
Elm St  
Highland Ave  
Lowell St  
Powderhouse Blvd  
School St  
Somerville Ave  
Summer St  
Walnut St  
Willow Ave

Bands will also not be allowed to play at public parks.

**Rain date(s):** 05/11/2025

**Event ends at (time):** 07:00 PM

**Temporary Structures:** We will work with the Department of Public Works in placing a number of porta potties and extra trash bins around the city.

Total people attending: 6,000

Total Somerville residents attending: 4,000

**What is your budget for this event:** 3,000

## **Financial benefits:**

PorchFest brings the community out into Somerville's neighborhoods, increasing foot traffic for local businesses. Many restaurants, cafes, and shops see a significant boost in sales, with some reporting it as their busiest day of the year. The event encourages attendees to explore different areas of the city, benefiting a wide range of businesses and fostering economic activity.

**Event Contact Phone:** 617-625-6600 x2985

<b>Event Information</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>If yes, Describe</b>
Open to the public?	Yes	Newsletter, social media, Press Release, posters, flyers.
Food served?	Yes	
Caterer used?		
Alcohol served?	No	
Grill/open-flame device used?	No	
Streets blocked?	Yes	
Sidewalks blocked?	No	We will provide information on how each porch / band host can keep the sidewalks clear for participants. In our form we ask bands to describe if there location is accessible or not. We are also limiting
Describe any accessibility features available to attendees/participants		
<b>Arrangements:</b>		
Police Detail:	Yes	We are working with Police Fire, and the Emergency Management Team. We are working on Incident Action Plans.
Parking (for Attendees)?	No	
Restrooms?	Yes	We are working with DPW to help request and drop several porta-potties across the city.
Liability Insurance?	No	
Will any public parks be used?	No	
Has the event occurred in the last two years?	Yes	May 13, 2023, May 11, 2024

**Approved By:**

**CS Mayor, Approved**

**Albert Bargoot, Approved**

**Maureen Lee, Approved with Conditions**

3/21/25 Temporary Food License required.

**Kevin Roche, Approved**

**CS Traffic and Parking, Approved**

**Eric Weisman, Approved**

**Susan Yerkes, Approved**

**Charles Breen, Approved**

**Rico Isidoro, Approved**

**Kimberly M. Wells, Approved**