

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

Event Information	Yes/No	If yes, Describe
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	
Describe any accessibility features available to attendees/participants		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
Arrangements:		
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