

# Somerville Porchfest Tool Kit

## PorchFest intent

This event is a decentralized effort among bands, neighborhoods, and community---this is not a festival per se. The intent is to showcase Somerville's musical talent.

In 2011, the Council created a decentralized music festival--Porchfest. Perhaps you've sat on your porch and overheard a neighbor strumming guitar on another porch? Porchfest takes this idea and multiplies it. **This is not a festival per se** but rather a community event where Somervillians share their love of playing and listening to music. Think of Somerville Open Studios, which is for visual artists, but for music.

## Sound level and neighbors

Please, please, be respectful of your neighbors and the event around you. If you haven't informed your neighbors already that you will be performing, you better do it now! Invite them over for a pre-show coffee.

**Speaking of surroundings. Please look at the Porchfest Map and see who else is performing around you:**

<https://somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/2022>

If you are aware that multiple bands are performing on your street, can you all reach out to each other and determine: Can you perform in a low amplified manner so folks in front of the house can hear but not disrupt your neighbor performing up the street? Should you do alternating 15 minute sets? How can you perform together? And conversely, can you be mindful as to not blow out your neighbors who might not be too keen of a high dB level of your music? This is a pretty serious issue and hopefully you all can work together for an enjoyable experience for all parties.

\*\*\*\*If you are aware that more than two bands will be performing on your street, we recommend that you apply for a "Public Event (block party)" permit through the City. Applications should be submitted through the City's CitizenServe portal at <https://www.somervillema.gov/citizenserve> at any time. Questions may be directed to the City Clerk at [cityclerk@somervillema.gov](mailto:cityclerk@somervillema.gov).

## Basic courtesies and common sense

Some basic courtesies and common sense will ensure that the event will be joyful and without complaint. If you anticipate a large crowd we recommend that you have a non-performing friend available to monitor your guests to insure common respect:

No public consumption of alcohol in the streets

No loitering in neighbor's yard or driveways

No blocking streets (stay on sidewalks and areas of road that will allow car passage)

No performing beyond your 2 hour limit/zone

No excessive loud, electric music. (If you have to play loud rent a hall, seriously☺)

Excessive noise, blocking streets is the consistent complaint. The local police have the discretion to break up events if your performance poses a public safety problem---don't let it become one. Seriously.

## Registration and make full use of website to promote your band.

And if you haven't done so already, be sure to upload a jpg image, mp3, websites, to your PorchFest profiles. It's easy and makes your page/location look more inviting. You should do this prior to the end of day on the Thursday before the event, at which time registration and editing will close.

On Friday we will be transitioning our dynamic site over to a static site—it will still have you location, image, title, short description but will not have links, etc. We did this in prior years so the site would NOT crash on the amount of traffic. It worked. We'll go back to the dynamic site after the event. Again, update your listing.

## Editing your PorchFest page

Remember you can go back into your page and edit. Log in first, then go to you page. You should see an edit tab, make changes/additions, then click save at the bottom. YOU MUST LOGIN.

## Donations for musicians/bands

You should use the full effect of our website and your own page. Put in links to SoundCloud or other streaming services where you are either selling your work or requesting donations. Also, on the day of the event you can/should put out a tip jar for the band.

## Community Donations

Each year PorchFest collectively raises thousands of dollars for charity. Bands play a huge role in helping with this effort and we thank you! You are making a difference!

We will making a determination soon about which charity to support. Certainly, the earthquake in Haiti, homelessness within our own City, numerous causes or concerns could be supported. More soon.

And help us spread the word through your Facebook and twitter accounts, please tag the Arts Council.

We will be getting a FB event page up, please help us by tagging and sharing.

Have fun. Be respectful. Be save.

Go PorchFest Somerville.

Gregory Jenkins

Gregory Jenkins  
Executive Director  
Somerville Arts Council  
617.625.6600 ext. 2985  
[www.somervilleartscouncil.org](http://www.somervilleartscouncil.org)  
*City of Somerville*  
*Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone*