

Papitto Opportunity Connection

August 2022

Join Us As We Bring Communities Together on Saturday, August 13

For the second consecutive year, Papitto Opportunity Connection (POC) will celebrate Rhode Island's communities of color with a full lighting of WaterFire on Saturday, August 13 in downtown Providence.

The event will be the largest WaterFire of the 2022 season and will be an immersive cultural experience filled with exciting performance artists, locally renowned musicians and singers representing Black, Latin, South Asian, Southeast Asian and Indigenous cultures.



Among the highlights of the evening's celebration is the POC Community Village which features 45 POC-funded organizations that are coming together to offer an interactive experience to share information about critical programs and opportunities for communities of color in Rhode Island.

Visitors strolling along Steeple Street, Canal Street and Washington Street Bridge can connect with the [Indigenous Empowerment Center](#), [Progreso Latino](#), [Rhode Island Black Business Association](#), [Center for Southeast Asians](#) and more!

Learn about hundreds of career opportunities at [Lifespan](#) and the job-training program Rhode Island's largest healthcare network has put together, with POC support, to help ensure its workforce and its leaders reflect the communities it serves.

Understand how [Button Hole](#) provides critical thinking and life skills for inner-city youth

while putting your golf skills to the test with their interactive putting green and learn about how [Southside Community Land Trust](#) is working to eliminate food deserts in Rhode Island's inner cities, while getting first-hand insights into how to grow fresh produce and enjoy healthy food.



Bring Your Dancing Shoes

You'll want to be sure to bring your energy and wear your dancing shoes as exciting performances highlighting a variety of cultures take place at the Waterplace Basin Stage and at stages on Steeple St. and the Washington St. Bridge along the WaterFire activated Providence River.

Waterplace Basin Stage

Dance and cultural performances at the Waterplace Basin Stage begin at 6pm with performances by the [Lao Youth Center Dance Group](#) (6pm), [Cambodian Society of RI Dance Troupe](#) (6:15pm), [Dance BFF](#), and [Napua O'Polynesia](#) (7:15pm).

[Dance BFF](#) (6:30pm)

Dance BFF (Bollywood Fusion and Fitness) will ignite the stage with its upbeat and mesmerizing Bollywood and Bhangra. Get ready to learn some new dance moves and join the fun at BFF's interactive dance founded by close friends Rupa Datta and Rutja Patil, who both were born and raised in India. BFF's mission is to create awareness about Indian dance as a cultural artform.

At approximately 7:35pm at the Waterplace Basin Stage, POC will introduce Mariam Kaba, winner of [POC's Transform RI Scholarship](#), and announce plans to make her vision for her community come alive with a \$1-million investment.

The WaterFire lighting ceremony will begin directly after the speaking program concludes at approximately 7:55pm.



Steeple St. Stage

Chachi Carvalho & the International Players with DJ Cadillac Jack (6pm)

An energetic multi-talented performing artist and educator, Chachi is a native Rhode Islander whose roots stem from Cape Verde. A well-known artist, he sends a positive message of hope through his music. Chachi will perform with his exciting and engaging hip-hop band, the International Players.

Becky Bass (7:15pm)

A native of the US Virgin Islands, Becky Bass brings her angelic, soulful voice and skillful steel pan play to the Steeple St. Stage for a second straight year. A two-time New England Urban Music Award winner and Brown University graduate, Becky performs uplifting and engaging Caribbean soul music.

Sidy Maiga and the The Bridge Where We Meet (9:15pm)

A master percussionist, Sidy Maiga and the Bridge Where We Meet will bring West African Fusion to the Steeple St. Stage that will electrify and bring the audience alive.

DJ Cadillac Jack (10:45pm)

DJ Cadillac Jack will keep the energy high between sets with a broad mix of up-tempo dance music.



Washington St. Bridge Stage

Alexus Lee (6pm)

A rising star from Providence, Alexis Lee's commanding R&B vocals and powerful presence will captivate visitors to the Washington St. Bridge Stage.

Clatta Bumboo and the Roots Government Band (7:15pm)

Influenced by the commanding reggae sound of the likes of The Wailers and Bob Marley, Clatta Bumboo showcases his Jamaican culture and ignites the stage with reggae, along with his band Bumboo and the Roots Government Band.

Learn how to salsa with Rodney Lopez (8:30pm) and dance the night away to Robertico's upbeat and engaging Latin sounds.

Robertico Arias y Su Alebreke (9:00pm)

Robertico, a master percussionist hailing from the Dominican Republic, and his Latin group Alebreke, bring an exciting and energetic blend of Latin Jazz and Latin American rhythms to the Washington St. Bridge Stage.

Rhode Island Kung Fu Club

The RI Kung Fu and Lion Dance Club will share a symbolic part of the traditional Chinese culture with a Lion dance to foster positive energy and bring good luck. They will be making pop-up appearances at both the Steeple St. and Washington St. Bridge Stages throughout the night.



Bring Your Appetite!

After you work up an appetite from all that dancing, sample a variety of global cuisines from an array of food trucks, owned and operated by people of color and each guaranteed to make your mouth water!

Enjoy Indigenous specialties from [Willie's Place](#), cupcakes and other goodies from [Sarcastic Sweets](#), arepas and tacos from [CultroPVD](#) and a variety of delicious fusion bowls from the award-winning [Incred-A-Bowl](#).

We hope you will enjoy this special night as we come together and appreciate all cultures and communities.

Follow us on our social media (links below) for continuous updates on artists, performances, and community partners.

See you there!



The flags of 217 nations will wave in the breeze around the WaterFire installation between Washington Street Bridge and the Crawford Street bridge.

Come and take a selfie and post with the hashtag **#POCxWaterFire**

