

45th Annual RI Heritage Festival

Explore the world through art & music!



Saturday, October 21, 2023
12 pm - 5 pm
WaterFire Arts Center, Providence

Free Admission



**RI Historical Preservation
& Heritage Commission**



This festival is made possible in part by a grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, through an appropriation by the Rhode Island General Assembly, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. We would also like to thank our sponsors, United Way of RI, Amica Insurance, Coastal1 Credit Union, Neighborhood Health Plan of RI, Bird, & Navigant Credit Union for their generous support.

Emcees

Angela Sharkey - A volunteer of the RI Heritage Day Festival for the past several years. Ms. Sharkey is a certified Korean interpreter and real estate agent with Coldwell Banker in East Greenwich. She began teaching the traditional folk dance of Korea in New Jersey in 1982 and established the Hibiscus Cultural Group to extend Korean Folk Dance Heritage to Korean Associations, community events and interest forums. Ms. Sharkey teaches Korean music, dance, and instruments.

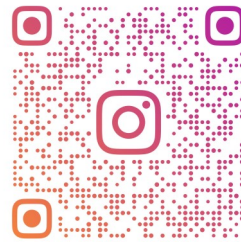
Kobi Dennis - A lifelong Community Activist, founder of Project: Night Vision, RI Midnight Basketball, Turn-up RI Youth Conference, Cultural Festival RI, Director of the Princes 2 King Youth Mentoring program in Providence and current Chief Operating Officer of the YMCA of Greater Providence,. A proud father of 3 and committed family man, Kobi has personally mentored thousands of youth from Providence RI, to Dayton, OH. Kobi has received over 30 Community service awards for his passion and commitment to the betterment of all people. Kobi has lived up to his given title and statewide nickname as the "Community Guy".

Schedule is subject to change

11:50 AM Flag Parade Begins

12:00 PM Opening Remarks - Executive Director Jeff Emidy
Welcome - Governor Dan McKee
RI 250 - Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore
Emcees: Angela Sharkey & Kobi Dennis
National Anthem - Ahlyha Nicole Bright

**Follow us on Instagram to
stay up to date with
Rhode Island
Heritage Events.**



RIHPHC HERITAGE

Performance Schedule is subject to change

12:00 Performance Block

- ◆ Ahlyha Nicole Bright - Singing the National Anthem
- ◆ Eastern Medicine Singers - Drum and Singing Performance
- ◆ PADAM - Dance Performance

1:00 Performance Block

- ◆ Nazeli Armenian Dance Group - Dance Performance
- ◆ Dance BFF - Bollywood Dance Performance
- ◆ Azama Dance Company - Middle Eastern Dance Performance

2:00 Performance Block

- ◆ French American School—Singing
- ◆ The Colombian American Cultural Society Inc. - Dance Performance
- ◆ Valiant Arts - Dance Performance
- ◆ Quisqueya In Action Folklore Dance - Dominican Dance Performance

3:00 Performance Block

- ◆ Medalit Scott—Peruvian Folklore Dance
- ◆ Aftab Dance Group - Iranian Dance Performance
- ◆ Kelly School of Irish Dance - Dance Performance

4:00 Performance Block

- ◆ RI Swedish Heritage Society – Swedish Folk Songs
- ◆ Seoyon Kim - Korean Harp Performance
- ◆ Na Pua O' Polynesia - Dance Performance
- ◆ India Association of Rhode Island - Dance Performance
- ◆ Falun Dafa Association of New England - Meditation Instruction



RI's 45th Heritage Festival

12 pm
Performers



Ahlyha Nicole Bright

<https://www.backstage.com/u/ladybug/>

Ahlyha is an accomplished singer, actor, musician, and student. In 2020/21 she performed the National Anthem at Providence City Hall's MLK Induction Award Ceremony. She acted in the 2018-2019 Season at Trinity Repertory Company. Role of Martha and Mrs. Frezzie Wigs' daughter. Ahlyha was the only child actor and lead in "An Acorn". She worked with Brown University students getting their MFA at Trinity Rep. In "A Mid Summers Night Dream," she performed over fifty shows at Trinity Rep during a two-month period.

Eastern Medicine Singers

<https://easternmedicinesingers.webs.com/>

The Eastern Medicine Singers are an Eastern Algonquin Drum Group. They have been playing for 15 years in the US and International Venues. They pride themselves on the language of their people in song and dance. They play Powwows and Music Festivals worldwide. Their most recent show was the Newport Folk Festival in RI. Their music ranges from old Eastern songs and newly written songs in their language.

PADAM

www.kuchipudiprafulla.com

PADAM, short for Prafulla's Academy of Dance and Music, promotes the heritage of Indian Classical Dance and Music. The founder of the school, Mrs. Prafulla Velury has been teaching Kuchipudi, a form of Indian classical dance, in the Rhode Island and Massachusetts area for the past 20 years.



RI's 45th Heritage Festival

1 pm
Performers

Nazeli Armenian Dance Group

stsahmes.org

In October 2000, the Cultural Committee's Arts Education Program of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence, RI created this dance group with the goal to inspire young Armenians through the traditional music and dance, and to preserve and promote the Armenian heritage in Diaspora. Their dance instructors and choreographers, Lusine Corsini and Narine Lemme, share their enthusiasm and love for Armenian dance and culture with the Armenian youth of RI.

Dance BFF

www.danceBFF.com

Dance BFF, works towards bringing awareness and experience about Indian dance as an art form in greater Rhode Island's cultural communities and among the state's young people. The group is a hub for Bollywood and Indian dances in the Ocean State whose dancers bring together the various moods and flavors of dances from different regions of India using colorful costumes synchronized steps, and upbeat music. This Best of RI Award winning group features co-founders, Rupa Datta, Rutuja Patil, along with several other dancers.

Azama Dance Company

www.inarabellydance.com/azama

They perform colorful, artistic belly dance that represents the many facets of Middle Eastern culture. This vibrant group performs dazzling solo and group numbers for appreciative audiences of all ages. With their artistic director, Inara of Inara Belly Dance, they are sure to bring a smile to your face and to make you want to get up and dance.



French American School

<https://www.fasri.org/>

The French American School of Rhode Island's students will perform songs in French.

The Colombian American Cultural Society Inc.

<https://www.facebook.com/colombianamerican/>

The Colombian American Cultural Society, Inc, established in 1971 as a non-profit organization, has a mission to preserve and promote the cultural, traditional and folkloric of the Colombian American community. Its goal is to disseminate and channel the knowledge of its culture and roots to the Colombian immigrants and descendants who reside in Rhode Island.

Valiant Arts

<http://www.valiantartsri.org/>

Valiant Arts is a space for individuals age 3 and up to come DANCE, ACT, EXPRESS, CREATE, and be FREE.

Quisqueya In Action Folklore Dance

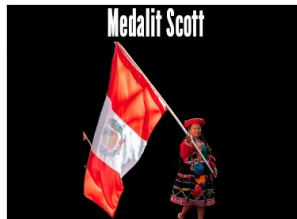
<https://www.instagram.com/quisqueyainaction/>

Quisqueya in Action, Inc., a nonprofit organization, founded in 1987 in the city of Providence by an energetic group of Dominican youth. Every year the youth of QIA performs for the Dominican Festival of Rhode Island to represent their culture and heritage. The group is made up 32 dancers in which each dancer represents a city in the Dominican Republic. With pride they dance as a "A Generation that Cares."

Rhode Island Black Storytellers

ribsfest.org

RIBS is a non profit committed to promoting the Awareness, Appreciation and Application of Black Storytelling through performances, workshops, cultural, historical and educational programs for all people. We define Black Storytelling as the oral arts and traditions of African and African descended people world-wide.



RI's 45th Heritage Festival

3pm
Performers

Centro Cultural Andino, Inc Medalid09@gmail.com

Is honored to present a Peruvian Folklore dance “VALICHA” of the city of Cusco, Peru. The performance is by Medalit Scott . It is important to celebrate our heritage because it breathes life and meaning into our identities and our knowledge of who we are.

Camelia Dance

Camelia started dancing at fifteen with Persian classical dance. She has been a dance instructor for many 20+ years; teaching at private schools and fitness complexes. In 2010, she founded her dance academy, Namanava.

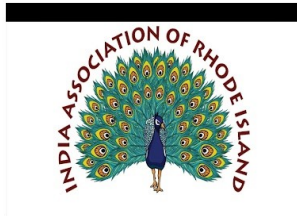
She travelled to many European countries to learn the most recent dance techniques and styles from some of the best dances in the western world. She has been professionally trained in Spanish dances (Flamenco, Bastom, Samba, Quahira, Sevillanas, Fan, Manton), Latin dances (Salsa, Bachata, Tango), Waltz, Fusion and Tribal style, Heels, and Street Jazz. Through the years she has had many performances with her students of different age groups.

In 2021, Camelia started teaching children at one of Boston’s Sunday schools and her students performed at different events. She had performed for the Iranian celebration called Nowroz at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and also different dance workshops at Harvard University.

Kelly School of Irish Dance

thekellyschoolofirishdance.com

The Kelly School of Irish Dance is an internationally renowned performance focused school training dancers in both traditional and modern Irish Dancing with the goal to create dancers who shine with confidence on and off the stage while taking pride and celebrating their culture. The school has shared their love of Irish Dance with performances throughout New England, and also in Ireland, England, Scotland, Germany, Canada, and Walt Disney World.



RI Swedish Heritage Association

riswedishheritage.org

Ellen and Kendall Svengalis will perform Swedish Folk Songs.

Seoyon Kim

Seoyon Kim attends the Wheeler School & is a member of the Oh Jung-Hee Ensemble. She performs "gayageum byeong-chang" (singing with self-accompaniment on the gayageum, a traditional Korean zither). Seoyon won a Gold Medal in the K-12 Category at the Asian Traditional Performing Arts Competition (2018) and the Third Place Award at the 20th Global Competition of Korean Traditional Performing Arts (2022). She has performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Na Pua O' Polynesia

tropicalisland-dancers

This RI based dance troupe was founded in 1988 by artistic director Carolyn Castro. Performing at various events throughout the New England area, the dancers, drummers, & musicians bring you on a cultural tour of the Polynesian Islands of Hawaii and New Zealand, as well as Tahiti and the Philippines. Troupe members have competed three times at the Their performance will be using drums, ukulele, gourds, and more.

The India Association of Rhode Island (IARI)

www.indiari.org

IARI is a non-profit, non-political, and non-religious organization that strives to represent the various issues concerning a growing Asian-Indian community in the State of Rhode Island.

Falun Dafa Association of New England

www.falundafa-ne.org/

Traditional Chinese culture, follow the "truth", "compassion" and "forbearance". The meditation improve people's mind and body and keep peace and happiness. This group will provide a demonstration of Falun Dafa exercises and meditation.

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Instagram



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The.luxe.lemon



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Amica is proud to support
Rhode Island's Heritage Festival

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SAVE THE DATE TO COME JOIN US!


**RHODE ISLAND'S
46TH
HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

from 12 pm - 5 pm

at WATERFIRE ARTS CENTER





United Way of Rhode Island's mission is uniting our community and resources to build racial equity and opportunities for all Rhode Islanders.



**EVERY RHODE ISLANDER.
ONE UNITED WAY.**

We are honored to support the Rhode Island Heritage Day Festival.

www.unitedwayri.org

United Way
of Rhode Island



RI Heritage Festival Cultural Groups & Table Displays

Andean Cultural Center of Rhode Island www.andeancenter.org/

At the Andean Cultural Center of Rhode Island, they have a number of objectives that guide their work to preserve and promote the cultural richness of the Andean countries. One of them is: Reuniting people of Andean descent who live in Rhode Island: They believe that it is important for members of the Andean community to have a place to come together and connect with their cultural heritage.

Anthony Mishihu <https://www.baakweartdesigns.com/>

Armenian Community of Rhode Island

The Armenians of Rhode Island have a rich cultural heritage that they've proudly preserved. The community is home to three prominent Armenian churches, serving as hubs of spiritual and cultural activities. Additionally, vibrant Armenian dance groups, Armenian language schools, and various other cultural and historical organizations actively contribute to the preservation and celebration of Armenian heritage within the state.

Attorney General's Office (401) 274-4400 riag.ri.gov

The Rhode Island Attorney General's Office advocates for and protects the people of Rhode Island. As the State's top legal official, the Attorney General stands up for consumers, defends civil rights, investigates and prosecutes criminals, fights public corruption, and protects Rhode Island workers and the environment.

Book Are Wings booksarewings.org/

Books Are Wings seeks to provide every child with regular access to books. BAW works to engage students in their classrooms, at school functions, community events, and playgrounds. They believe that offering books to children in different environments instills a consistent message that reading is not just school work- it's a way of life!

Cape Verdean Museum <https://capeverdeanmuseum.org/>

The Cape Verdean Museum is dedicated to the preservation of the history and culture of Cape Verde.

Center for South East Asians cseari.org

The mission of the Center for Southeast Asians (CSEA) is to promote the prosperity, heritage and leadership of Southeast Asians in Rhode Island.

RI Heritage Festival Cultural Groups & Table Displays

Cultural Society

CSEBRI – Pioneer in Creativity and Exchange (Cultural Society) is dedicated to enriching the lives of those in our community. They envision a learning environment without borders. Their mission is to inspire curiosity for learning and to nurture the next generation of world citizens embracing diversity with health-conscious lifestyles.

Division of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (ODEO) dedi.ri.gov

The Division of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion at the RI Department of Administration supports a diverse, inclusive culture that values and reflects the changing demographics of Rhode Island by advancing equitable opportunities for all who work for or do business with the state.

Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island www.diiri.org/

They strive to create a welcoming environment for all, working to empower the most vulnerable among us for the past 100 years. They meet clients where they are by providing wraparound programs services helping those seeking to overcome educational, cultural, economic, and language barriers.

Ecuador Cultural Alliance ecuadorculturalalliance.org

Ecuador Cultural Alliance is a nonprofit organization 501(c)3 founded in 2019 that supports education and development of indigenous youth in rural schools in Ecuador.

Falun Dafa Association of New England <https://falundafa-ne.org/>

Falun Dafa (also called Falun Gong) is an advanced practice of Buddha school self-cultivation, founded by Mr. Li Hongzhi, the practice's master. It is a discipline in which "assimilation to the highest qualities of the Universe—Zhen, Shan, Ren (Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance) is the foundation of practice.

Greater Providence YMCA ymcagreaterprovidence.org

The mission of the YMCA of Greater Providence is to build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all, through programs, services, and relationships that are based upon our core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

Haitian American Partnership for Positive Actions RI happari.org

Haitian American Partnership For Positive Actions, is a 5 01 (C) 3 non-profit organization that was founded in January 2001.

India Association of Rhode Island (IARI) indiari.org

IARI is a non-profit, non-political, and non-religious organization that strives to represent the various issues concerning a growing Asian-Indian community in the State of Rhode Island.

RI Heritage Festival Cultural Groups & Table Displays

India Subcommittee/India Museum & Heritage Society

[Debbie & Nitin Trivedi](#)

India Museum & Heritage Society was established in March of 1999. The IMHS actively promotes and offers Indian Heritage and Culture through music, dance and artistic programs. India is a secular country and all of the festivals are celebrated together by most of the Indians.

International House of RI ihouseri.org

International House of Rhode Island (IHRI) is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization, founded in 1963. IHRI's mission is to promote friendship, connection, learning and global understanding by bringing people together from around the world for cross-cultural exchange.

Iranian American Cultural Society of Rhode Island

[Iranian American Cultural Society of Rhode Island](#)

A non-political resource group for anyone interested in Persian culture, language, history, and arts.

Korean American Association of Rhode Island www.rikorean.org

Their Mission Statement is to support Korean-American community through education, fellowship and maintaining Korean heritage for second and third generations.

Lady Elfreda

Originally from Liberia, West Africa, Lady Elfreda and Williametta Thorpe are sisters who draw creative inspiration from their African roots. Lady Elfreda's fabrics and fanti and kanti prints come from West Africa.

For Special apparel design orders: Call: (401) 261-3371

For soap orders: Mary Emma Creations (401) 391-2185

Medalit Scott representing Peru Medalid09@gmail.com

Medalit Scott is from South America Peru. Residing in RI. As a Peruvian with pride I am looking forward to spread my culture, traditions, and folklore here in USA. My dance performances in Providence, Newport RI 2018- 2023 It's important to celebrate our heritage because it breathes life and meaning into our identities and our knowledge of who we are.

Nixon Leger nixonlegerart.com/

Neighborhood Health Plan RI nhpri.org

They serve one in five Rhode Islanders. Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (Neighborhood) is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 health maintenance organization (HMO) insurance company with a consistent record of earning accreditation by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

RI Heritage Festival Cultural Groups & Table Displays

Peace Flag Project thepeaceflagproject.org

The Peace Flag Project, a pro-peace 501(c)3, helps everyone to be a peace-maker. Einstein wrote "Imagination is a preview of life's coming attractions." What we can imagine, we can create. Our work is focused on Imagining peace, understanding peace, creating peace and being peace.

Providence Children's Museum providencechildrensmuseum.org

The mission of the Providence Children's Museum is to inspire lifelong learning for all through play, creativity, and exploration.

Refugee Dream Center refugeedreamcenter.org/

The Refugee Dream Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) post-resettlement refugee agency. Their approach is based on offering direct services to fill gaps in refugee resettlement while also providing a continuation of services to ensure refugee self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

RI Black Heritage Society riblackheritage.org/

As one of the oldest African Heritage organizations in the country, RIBHS has recorded, retained, and interpreted these historical facts and preserved the documents and artifacts of African-American and African descendants' history and accomplishments in Rhode Island. Their primary mission is the preservation of African Diaspora descendants' historical artifacts -- books, art, papers, and images, as well as facilitating the interpretation efforts by those seeking to enlighten others about their heritage.

Rhode Island Black Storytellers ribsfest.org

RIBS is a non profit committed to promoting the Awareness, Appreciation and Application of Black Storytelling through performances, workshops, cultural, historical and educational programs for all people. We define Black Storytelling as the oral arts and traditions of African and African descended people world-wide.

RI Day of Portugal ridayofportugal.org

The purpose of this organization is to celebrate the holiday, Día de Portugal, de Camões e das Comunidades Portuguesas in the State of Rhode Island; to preserve the traditions of the Portuguese culture for future generations; to promote the contribution of the Portuguese people, language and culture to the rich fabric of the State of Rhode Island.

RI Swedish Heritage Association riswedishheritage.org

The Rhode Island Swedish Heritage Association (RISHA), is an educational, non-profit organization, promoting Swedish culture in Rhode Island and southeastern New England by sharing our heritage and traditions, and preserving our history for future generations.

Roger Williams Park Zoo rwpzoo.org

Roger Williams Park Zoo is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), American Humane certified, and is home to many endangered species. Our accreditation is assurance that visitors are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for guests, and a better future for all living things.



ARTS CREATE A BETTER RI, AND NOT JUST FOR ARTISTS...

**THROUGH YOUR STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS, INVESTMENT
IN ARTS AND CULTURE CONTINUES TO GROW AND THRIVE.
EVERY CITY AND TOWN CAN ATTEST TO IT.**

- The Arts contribute more than \$2 billion annually to the RI economy.
- The sector employs more than 18,000 individuals.
- Rhode Island is third in the nation in the number of arts related businesses per capita. Exceeded only by California and New York.

**WHEN THE ARTS THRIVE, RHODE ISLAND BUSINESSES
FLOURISH AND SO DOES OUR ECONOMY. THE ARTS...**

- Keep our restaurants full.
- Fill our parking lots and garages.
- Bring customers to our retail shops and performance spaces.

With all this economic and creative energy from our world-class arts community, your Arts Council will never stop investing in the arts.

SUPPORT THE ARTS! WWW.ARTS.RI.GOV



RI Heritage Festival Cultural Groups & Table Displays

Shea Fashion sheafashion.com

Shea Fashion is an enrichment program committed to providing opportunities to youth interested in careers in the fashion industry or looking to boost confidence and enhance social skills in an inclusive setting. The program curates in-house events, provides opportunities to collaborate with professionals, and promotes creativity and self-expression through the vehicle of fashion and entertainment.

Turkish American Cultural Society of Rhode Island tacsri.org

Turkish American Cultural Society of Rhode Island emerged out of a pursuit to inspire and support the community, and a desire for actions to speak louder than words. Established in 2000, we're an organization driven by progressive ideas, bold actions, and a strong foundation of support..

United Way RI

Their mission is uniting our community and resources to build racial equity and opportunities for all Rhode Islanders. unitedwayri.org





Coastal Credit Union was founded on the principle of "people helping people." That's why we're proud to celebrate **The 45th Annual Heritage Festival!** Because we believe that supporting our community is the smarter way to bank.
 #coastal1inthecommunity



The smarter way to bank

401-777-7717 | coastal1.com



Here for One Another

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island is here for our community.

We are proud to support the **RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission.**

1-800-459-6019

www.nhpri.org



RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) is the state office that identifies and protects historic buildings, districts, and archaeological sites, and carries out programs to document, support, and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Rhode Island's people. Supporting and promoting heritage groups and subcommittees across the state of Rhode Island, the RIHPHC strives to preserve the traditions of each cultural group, foster pride in ethnic heritage, and promote a sense of brotherhood and understanding among our citizens. The Annual Heritage Day Festival has been a signature event for over four decades.

Rhode Island's 45th Heritage Festival was coordinated by Donna Alqassar, RI Heritage Program Coordinator, in conjunction with the support of Jeffrey Emidy, RIHPHC Executive Director, High Output RI, Let's Party RI, and Luminous Creative Agency.

Thank you to the following:

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Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
United Way of Rhode Island

Extra Special Thanks:

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Sarah Zurier

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Please use this QR code or website link to take our survey.



<https://forms.gle/mNtSXBt7pxekjvpQ6>

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel
@rihistoricalpreservationhe836
to see previous performances and workshops.



RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
The Old State House
150 Benefit Street
Providence, RI 02903-1209
www.preservation.ri.gov/Heritage

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