

# MEDIA KIT



JUNE 11 – 14, 2020

*Photo credit: Matthew Huang*





# THE PVDFEST MAGIC CONTINUES IN 2020

**Party with Providence!** The Creative Capital's signature summer festival will return for its sixth edition June 11 - 14, 2020. Since its founding in 2015, PVDFest has elevated local artists, brought communities together and showcased all that Providence has to offer.

Over the last five years, the festival has featured over 5,000 artists and creators from across the globe. Outdoor stages nestled between streets in the heart of Providence have hosted emerging artists and Grammy award-winning performers alike. PVDFest has brought parties to the streets with vibrant and engaging acts, reflective of the world-class creative talent found in our city.

Produced by the City of Providence and founding partner FirstWorks, PVDFest 2020 will yet again transform our city into a celebration of art, music, food, performance and more. The four-day takeover of public spaces, parks, and outdoor stages draws over a 100 thousand visitors and delivers a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



*Photo credit: Jen Bonin*



# A SNEAK PEEK AT 2020'S EXPERIENCE

## Our Anchor is Hope

(working title)

Named the “new face of classical music,” composer and violinist Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR) will collaborate with Rhode Island-based film artist Carlos Toro of STEER Digital Media to celebrate Rhode Islanders and their unique formations of community. The resulting film will premiere at PVDfest 2020 featuring a live score composed by DBR who will perform it with a group of Rhode Island-based musicians, called the Humanist Septet.



*Photo credit: Matthew Huang*

## Hand to Hand

Squonk

Pittsburgh-based PVDfest veterans Squonk return with a new musical spectacle co-commissioned by FirstWorks! Performing on a multi-tiered stage, the Squonkers manipulate gargantuan, house-sized puppet hands to tell a spectacular and comic story. Featuring original chamber rock music and an opportunity for audience members to come together to grab the rigging which powers the movement of the giant fingers, “Hand to Hand” encourages shared discovery and creating a community of the imagination.



*Photo credit: Emily O'Donnell*



# A SNEAK PEEK AT 2020'S EXPERIENCE

## Day of Portugal Torch Procession

Thousands of participants join to honor the spire of fire “chama da Portugalidade,” a cultural ceremony that bridges tradition, values and instilling community pride. The procession begins at Providence City Hall and ends at the BankNewport City Center (formerly Alex and Ani City Center) on Sunday night. The Day of Portugal annual festival happens Saturday and Sunday of PVDFest with Portuguese arts and crafts and cultural displays over two days. The event features contemporary (local and international) Portuguese entertainment, traditional folkloric music and dance from across the region.



*Photo credit: Matthew Huang*

## PVDFest Parade

Audiences can dance with thousands in the streets. Young and old will march with monsters in an eight city block parade. Don't miss this year's parade down Washington Street, always a memorable experience for participants and attendees.



*Photo credit: Erin X. Smithers*



# A SNEAK PEEK AT 2020'S EXPERIENCE

## Food Village

A taste of Providence's world-renowned culinary scene is presented every year in Greater Kennedy Plaza. The PVDFest Food Village features the tastiest flavors of our Ocean State's diverse culinary traditions with over 50 food trucks and booths on hand to serve a delicious variety of food. Expect to see our food village again this year!



*Photo credit: Matthew Huang*





# A SNEAK PEEK AT 2020'S PUBLIC ART

Three temporary art installations have been commissioned to activate public space in the 2020 festival footprint. The three artists were selected through a competitive process and their work will engage audiences and transform the landscape of Downtown. Installations will be on view throughout the entire duration of the festival and remain through fall 2020.

## **Jerold Ehrlich**

### **Head in the Clouds, Feet on the Ground**

(Saunderstown, Rhode Island)

A wine merchant and a construction consultant specializing in historic rehabs, Jerold Ehrlich now spends most of his time thinking and building sculpture. Ehrlich has pieces in the collections of universities, corporations, hotels, and private individuals. He has held solo shows in galleries and museums, and pieces in outdoor sculpture parks.





# A SNEAK PEEK AT 2020'S PUBLIC ART

## Allison Newsome

**Bee Violet** (Warren, Rhode Island)

Allison Newsome is a functional sculptor dedicated to the pursuit of sustainability. She wants to help the Earth to heal with unabashed, beautifully designed passive utility/sculpture. With '**Bee Violet**', Newsome will reprise her collaboration with the Anne Meyer's lab at Rochester University by incorporating its groundbreaking manmade nacre 'Mother of Pearl.'



## Karin Giusti

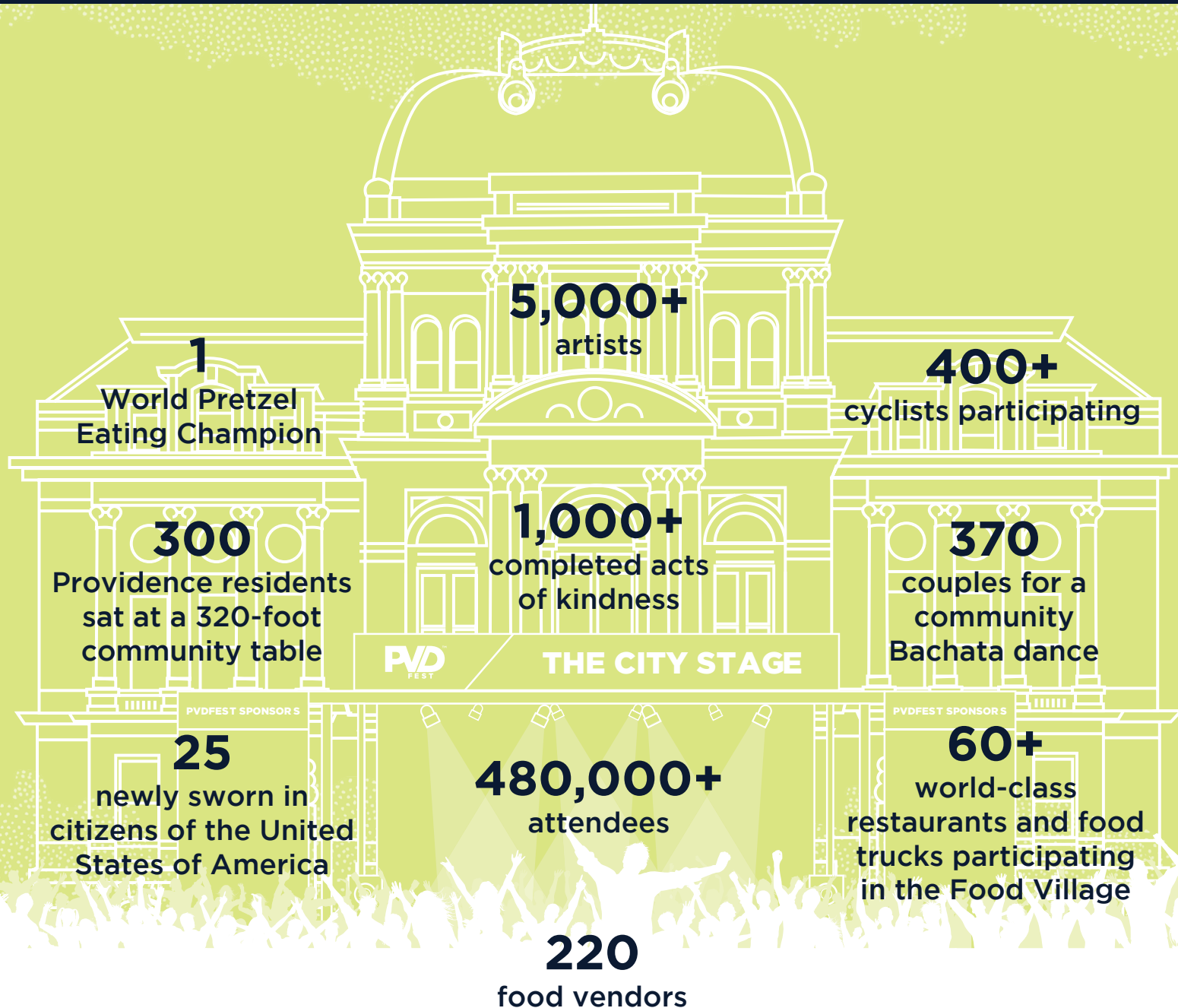
**Dream Weave** (Saunderstown, Rhode Island)

Karin F. Giusti holds a Master of Fine Arts Degree in sculpture from Yale University and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from University of Massachusetts. She has lectured widely and her work has been written about in magazines and newspapers including *ArtForum* and *The New York Times*.





# IN THE PAST 5 YEARS, WE'VE WELCOMED...





# LOOKING BACK AT 2019'S ALL-STARS

## eVenti Verticali

**Quadro** (Italy)

Each year, FirstWorks curates a spectacle for PVDFest that creates indelible memories—2019 was no exception. The extraordinary eVenti Verticali brought **Quadro** to PVDFest, a work of art born from a dream of dancing on a flying wall and performed on a stage suspended high in the air from a construction crane. eVenti Verticali brought their stunning blend of theatre, circus acrobatics, dance, music, comedy and new media on aerial stages all the way from Italy for a stunning PVDFest 2019.



*Photo credit: Matthew Huang*

## Extraordinary Rendition Band (ERB)

(Providence, Rhode Island)

One of Providence's premier street bands and a PVDFest favorite, ERB celebrated their 10 year anniversary at last year's festival with three curated sets at PVDFest. These sets included projection, spoken word and a live participatory musical experience. Offering a multitude of opportunities to dance in the streets, festival-goers enjoyed this PVDFest staple.



*Photo credit: Erin X. Smithers*



# LOOKING BACK AT 2019'S ALL-STARS

## Samite Mulondo

(Uganda)

At once a refugee and a pilgrim, Samite is an acclaimed musician and humanitarian who explores the resiliency of the human spirit through the sounds and stories of the modern African diaspora. At last year's PVDFest, Samite's beautiful, powerful and personal vocals, accompanied by the kalimba, marimba, litungu and flute, reached thousands of festival goers and carried on the PVDFest stage into workshops for students in Providence and Liberian ex-patriot elders.



## The Syncopated Ladies

(Los Angeles, California)

Fierce footwork and female force took PVDFest by storm! The ladies had PVDFest audiences on their toes during powerful weekend performances and off stage inspired Providence students during in-school tap workshops. Founded by Cherry Arnold, the Ladies won the first dance crew battle on **So You Think You Can Dance**, performed on **Good Morning America** and at the U.S. Open. Arnold's choreography has been featured on hit television shows including **The Ellen Show**, **The Talk**, and over 30 episodes of **The Late Late Show With James Corden**.



Photo credit: Eliza Mujica



## PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS OF 2019

## AREA C Projects

## Sign-In (Cranston, Rhode Island)

AREA C Projects is a Providence-based public art practice focused on revealing unexpected points of commonality in shared surroundings. Their project **Sign-In**, whose title is a play on “sit-in,” sought to engage the kind of legwork that makes democracy run: signing on, weighing in, and carving out new spaces for public dialogue.



**Photo credit: Matthew Huang**

# Vinnie Ray

## The Good Luck Gateway (Cranston, Rhode Island)

As an artist focused on inspiring positive energy, Vinnie Ray's **The Good Luck Gateway** was a sculpture that let people take an active role in creating luck for themselves by activating their ability to enter an energetic field where good things happen more often.



*Photo credit: Matthew Huang*



# PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS OF 2019

## PNEUHAUS

**PNIT** (East Providence, Rhode Island)

Design collective PNEUHAUS debuted their new project **PNIT**. The 3D hanging installation took the form of a macro-scale section of a knit textile swatch, drawing inspiration from Providence's rich history in the textile industry.



*Photo credit: Matthew Huang*



# AUDIENCES DISCOVERED NEW IDEAS AT PVDFEST 2019!

## PVDFest Ideas

This constellation of programming highlighted innovations in culture, technology and more while providing participants the opportunity to understand the Creative Capital in new ways through the humanities and arts. Elevating the experiences of scholars, practitioners, and artists from around the city, these curated events featured work that was interactive, playful and accessible to all participants. Past PVDFest Ideas conferences have focused on the history of the maker movement and design within our community. Stay tuned to find out this year's schedule of events and topics.



Photo credit: Ania Szemiot

## 1000 Acts of Kindness

In a world where you can be anything, be kind. PVDFest has a longstanding history of bringing community together with events like our street-long community table and 2018's Bachata dance with over 400 couples! Mayor Elorza recently launched a City of Kindness initiative in the capital city and as part of that initiative. Throughout the four days of the festival, kindness kiosks encouraged, supported, and recorded 1,000 acts of kindness made by festival goers. PVDFest participants were encouraged to spread kindness using #CityofKindness.



Photo credit: Matthew Huang



# AUDIENCES DISCOVERED NEW IDEAS AT PVD FEST 2019!

## Mini Maker Faire

Providence is a maker community. Last year's Mini Maker Faire offered participants the opportunity to pursue creative interests in a playful, interactive way for a second year in a row. Presented in collaboration with AS220, 30 maker booths and family-fun working stations were featured for visitors to make, play and explore.



*Photo credit: Erin X. Smithers*

## Welcoming Rhode Island

An annual cultural event created by Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island, Welcoming Rhode Island celebrated ancestry and cultures from across the globe in the heart of Burnside Park in Downtown Providence. Attendees immersed themselves in a unique multicultural experience as part of a live swearing in ceremony for new United States Citizens.



*Photo credit: Matthew Huang*



# INFORMATION SHEET

**Relive the magic of PVD Fest 2018 and 2019 here:**

**2018:** [bit.ly/PVDFest2018](http://bit.ly/PVDFest2018), video by Steer PVD

**2019:** [youtu.be/UNGxU7Qfz7M](https://youtu.be/UNGxU7Qfz7M)

**Interact with PVD Fest here:**

 [facebook.com/PVDFestival](https://facebook.com/PVDFestival)

 [twitter.com/PVDFest](https://twitter.com/PVDFest)

 [instagram.com/PVD.Fest](https://instagram.com/PVD.Fest)

**Official Event Hashtag:** **#PVDFest**

**Take a look inside PVD Fest here:**

<http://bit.ly/2HwIBOn>

**Find more news and festival events here:** [PVDFest.com](http://PVDFest.com)

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