Providence, RI

Youth Block Party

2026

resource guide

designed, formatted, and printed by C. Wolfgang
@ POD Studio Press
355 S. Water Street, PVD

acknowlegements

This resource booklet is one of the outcomes of a ten-month collaborative project engaging more than 20 high school students and over 30 youth-serving and community organizations in Providence, Rhode Island. Summer Celebrations: Youth Block Party and this resource booklet are made possible through financial support from the Rhode Island Foundation and the Otto York Foundation, as well as countless in-kind resources and hours from dedicated non-profits, local artists, business owners, and more. We are so grateful for folks who supported young people's vision for this celebratory event.

While this collaboration benefited from everyone who lent their support at any level, a few organizations provided exceptional energy to this project.

We're especially grateful to:

DownCity Design
New Urban Arts
Project Open Door
Providence Student Union
RIOT!
Southside Community Land Trust
The Steel Yard
Young Voices

ARISE

151 Broadway, Providence, RI

ARISE combines leadership training with community organizing to mobilize Southeast Asian and other Rhode Island youth of color for education justice.

ariseducation.org

AS220

115 Empire Street, Providence, RI

AS220 Youth is a nationally recognized, award-winning after-school educational program and creative incubator for young people ages 14-21, with a special focus on those in the care and custody of the state. The program strives to dismantle the pipeline to prison by empowering at-risk, beyond-risk and incarcerated youth through arts, culture and collective action.

as220.org/youth @as220providence

Boys and Girls Club of Providence

550 Wickenden Street, Providence, RI

Boys and Girls Club is a safe, supportive, positive place to make new friends, have fun, and get some homework help!

bgcprov.org @bgcprov

The Center For DYnamic Learning

1 Louisa Street, Providence, RI

The CDL is a nonprofit educational organization that provides innovative, hands-on learning programs to help youth develop academic, career, and life skills. Interdisciplinary programs in science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics, and manufacturing (STEAMM), encourage students to explore their creativity, strengthen critical thinking skills, and prepare for future education and workforce opportunities.

cdlri.org @cdl.ri

City Year Rhode Island

77 Eddy St. Floor 4, Providence, RI

City Year Rhode Island (CYRI) is an education nonprofit that hires young adults to serve as mentors, tutors, & afterschool program providers in Providence & Central Falls public schools. We serve the students, families, and school-communities of Providence and Central Falls.

cityyear.org/rhode-island @cityyearrhodeisland

College Visions

180 Westminster St. Suite 203, Providence, RI

College Visions empowers first-generation students from underserved communities to achieve the promise of higher education and become the next generation of leaders. Open to Sophomores and Juniors at public/charter high schools in Rhode Island.

collegevisions.org @bgcprov

Community Libraries of Providence

9 neighborhood locations

Community Libraries of Providence was founded in 2009 by a group of community members dedicated to assuring the continued operation of all nine of our community libraries. CLPVD immediately became the largest library system in the state and, in effect, the city's second largest free educational institution after the Providence Public School Department.

clpvd.org @9librariespvd

CMW Community MusicWorks

1326 Westminster Street, Providence, RI

CMW connects professional musicians and young people ages 6 through 18 for music learning, performance, and community building activities. Programs are free to participants and instruments are provided. Participants need to live in the South Side, West End, Olneyville /Silverlake, and Mt. Pleasant neighborhoods of Providence to be eligible.

communitymusicworks.org @communitymusicworks

Community Voices!

The Center for DYnamic Learning

“Wow! The CDL team is Amazing. I just wanted to say thank you because you all changed my life in such a fantastic way. CDL has shown me that there is nothing wrong with who you are and to reach for what you want and to never let go!”

Community MusicWorks

“Beyond playing classical music ,CMW made me think critically about my place and active role within my community(ies), while also making way for some of the most loving and sustainable friendships I've ever had.”

CYCLE

Roger Williams University, 1 Empire Plaza, Providence, RI

The Center for Youth and Community Leadership in Education (CYCLE) at Roger Williams University partners with youth, families, educators, and other stakeholders to build collective power and fight for educational justice.

cyclerwu.org

DownCity Design

370 Cranston Street, Providence, RI

DownCity Design offers free after-school, in-school, and summer programs for teens grades 7-12 that introduce design fields like architecture, graphic design, product design, and construction/fabrication. In our workshop-style programs, students work closely with design educators to learn a new skill while exploring their creativity. We believe in the power of design to solve problems, and in the power of young people to change the world!

downcitydesign.org @downcitydesign

The FLY Initiative

225 DYer Street, Providence, RI

FLY is dedicated to empowering students with the knowledge and skills needed to achieve financial confidence, providing culturally inclusive lessons paired with culturally responsive educators. Our goal is to help students reach significant milestones like buying a car or house, building a rewarding career, and managing money wisely through investments, borrowing, and saving. Financial literacy can break the cycle of generational poverty and open doors to opportunities that may have seemed out of reach.

www.flyinitiative.org @flyinitiative

Haus of Codec

133 Mathewson St. Unit 101, Providence RI

Building community through the arts and Educational Empowerment. Based in the Creative Capital, Haus of Codec is committed to ensuring an end to transition-aged youth homelessness in Providence through the arts and workforce development.

www.hausofcodec.org @hausofcodec

Movement Education Outdoors

10 Davol Square Street, Providence, RI

Movement Education Outdoors empowers Black, brown, and low-income youth in Rhode Island to connect to the land they live on and the communities they live in. Through land and water based learning experiences that center the knowledge, joy, and liberation of people of color, we guide young people in developing the tools they need to become leaders in their communities for transformative change towards environmental and racial justice. Open to youth 9-18.

meoutdoorsri.com @movementeducationoutdoors

Nettle & Ash

171 Chestnut Street, Providence, RI

Nettle & Ash Clinical is a neurodivergent-affirming behavioral health practice providing compassion-led, ACT-informed support for teens, adults, and families. Our services include 1:1 support, group programming, and collaborative care designed for individuals navigating anxiety, autism, ADHD, trauma, and identity development. We prioritize accessibility, authenticity, and relational safety, creating spaces where clients can explore who they are without pressure to conform, and develop skills that support a life aligned with their values.

nettleandash.com @nettleandash

New Urban Arts

705 Westminster Street, Providence, RI

New Urban Arts (NUA) is a free, drop-in, after-school program for Rhode Island high school students. Our student-led approach allows young people to discover their power, develop agency, and feel free to be themselves. Our art studio on Westminster Street has a black-and-white darkroom, printmaking, a music studio, fashion and sewing, a library, plenty of space for painting and drawing, and hanging out. Our after-school program at Central High School, NUA Knights, includes a book club, cooking club, photography, eSports, and more. A Life After School (ALAS) supports students with college applications, financial aid, scholarships, internships, job searches, and more.

newurbanarts.org @newurbanarts

Onward We Learn

134 Thurbers Avenue, Providence, RI

The mission of Onward We Learn is to prepare and inspire young people in Rhode Island to become the first in their families to attend and complete college. From the time they join through their early years of college, participants experience the steady, nurturing presence of caring adults and participate in programs that focus on academic enrichment, personal development, career exploration and preparation for college. Open to middle, high school, and post secondary youth.

onwardwelearn.org @onwardwelearn

Community Voices!

DownCity Design

"DCD gave me such an amazing experience that I think every young artist should get. They [give you the opportunity] to go out into the real world and put yourself out there and be yourself. It was more than just an afterschool program, it was like a get-together with friends, working together to make great things." —Shaine, DCD program alum

New Urban Arts

“[NUA means] A lot. The amount of support that I’ve received here throughout my high school experience is insane. Little by little I was able to dabble into different fields and experiences to explore new things and even things that I’ve been wanting to try, to which I was definitely able to accomplish.”

Project Open Door

355 South Water Street, Providence, RI

Project Open Door (POD) is a youth arts program housed within the department of Teaching + Learning in Art + Design (TLAD) at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). POD's mission is to increase access to art and design education by providing free, high-quality programs and opportunities year-round for creative local youth. POD serves teens attending a public high school or a public charter high school in Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, or Woonsocket. POD also serves elementary and middle school youth through its Mini Makerz and Middle Makerz partner programs.

www.risdprojectopendoor.com @projectopendoor

Providence After School Alliance

PASA
PROVIDENCE AFTER SCHOOL ALLIANCE

188 Valley St. Suite 204, Providence, RI

PASA helps close persistent opportunity gaps among Providence youth by supporting and expanding access to and engagement in an ecosystem of high-quality out-of-school time learning environments. Open to middle and high school students.

mypasa.org @pasa_afterzone

Providence Children's Film Festival

providenceChildrensFilmFestival.org

PCFF presents the best of independent and international children's cinema to inspire, delight, educate, and connect a diverse community of children and families from Rhode Island and throughout New England. PCFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2009.

providencechildrensfilmfestival.org @pvdfilmfestival

Providence Public Library PPL

150 Empire Street, Providence, RI

Teen Services at PPL teens a place to learn, and explore; to meet, create, think, and discover the possibilities. The Teen Loft is a drop in space within PPL, where we have our young adult books as well as tutoring, games, printing, and many other resources. We also offer programming that rotates throughout the year. Many youth also participate in the library Workshop (Makerspace), both Open Studios and longer term programs. Library resources are available to all teens and teen programming is offered regularly and through our Teen Squads.

provlib.org/youth-services/teen-loft

Community Voices!

Project Open Door (POD)

"Joining POD was one of the very best decisions I have ever made. POD has allowed me to experiment with ways of making art that I have never tried before and offered me very useful teaching and feedback! Being around other artists in a positive, fun environment has also given me motivation and inspiration for my work. My artistic skills have improved immensely in the last two years. POD days are my favorite days of the week! — POD Teen (L.P)"

Providence Public Library

“Spaces like the Teen Loft at PPL are really important. They're a tremendous resource and a source of information, not only a source of comfort. It means that you're able to talk about books that you have disagreeing opinions on. It means being able to have students from Brown coming and giving teenagers help with homework. It means helping people find books that they want to read. It means even while you're sitting and trying to do homework, having people come in and think that you're a librarian here!”

Providence Student Union

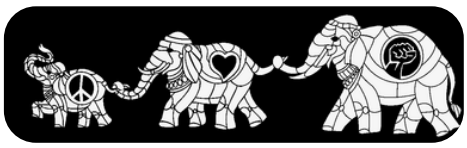
763R Westminster Street, Providence, RI

Providence Student Union (PSU) is a youth-led organization building student power so young people can advocate for their education and well-being. Our programming centers student interests across political education, well-being, art activism, community support, and organizing mobilizations. Members are encouraged to join task forces (Well-Being Aid, Political Education, Art + Design, Events & Fundraising, and more) to help shape the programming they want to see. Everything we do is designed to support young people in becoming the leaders they already are, by providing a safe environment, resources, and community. Open to PVD high school students.

pvdstudentunion.org @pvdstudentunion

Providence Youth Student Movement

www.prYsm.us



Southeast Asian American history in Providence, RI is filled with both struggle and hope.Providence Youth Student Movement envisions a strong, healthy Southeast Asian community free from state, street, and interpersonal violence. Open to Southeast Asian youth and youth of color ages 13-19.

prysm.us @PrYSMFam

Provslam Youth

www.provslam.org/Youth

Here at ProvSlam, we believe that the youth are our future with voices that need to be heard. Youth deserve the opportunity to travel and experience new things. We try our best to provide this to our youth through poetry.

provslam.org/youth @provslam

Rhode Island Civic Learning Coalition

www.ricivics.org

Founded in 2021, The Rhode Island Civic Learning Coalition (RICLC) is a non-partisan, multiracial, multiethnic, and multigenerational coalition committed to ensuring that all Rhode Islanders, including young people and those most marginalized from our democratic system, have equitable access to high-quality civic learning opportunities so that our democracy is one in which all people are empowered, participate and are heard. What unites us together is our commitment to this advocacy and our shared values of equity, diversity, continued learning and the pursuit of systemic impact.

ricivics.org @riclc_youth_committee

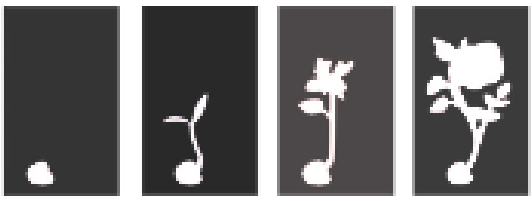
RIOT RI

www.riotri.org

RIOT RI uses music creation, critical thinking and collaborative relationships to foster collective empowerment and the development of healthy identities. Our programs include music lessons, song writing, and opportunities for collective music creation and performance. Our programs center the experiences of girls, women, trans, and gender-expansive youth and adults. Specific programs are targeted for middle school youth, high school youth or adults.

riotri.org @riotrhodeisland

Southside Community Land Trust



404 Broad Street, Providence, RI

Southside Community Land Trust (SCLT) serves people in economically challenged urban neighborhoods where fresh produce is scarce and who, as a result, are at risk for life-threatening, diet-related, chronic diseases.

southsideclt.org @southsideclt

Community Voices!

Providence Student Union

“Participating in PSU has shaped me into a more confident, thoughtful, and intentional leader. It pushed me to step outside my comfort zone, speak up, and take initiative in spaces where youth voices truly matter. Through collaboration, advocacy, and organizing, I’ve learned how to actively listen, uplift others, and turn ideas into meaningful action. PSU has also helped me understand the importance of accountability, empathy, and persistence in leadership. It has shown me that leadership isn’t about having all the answers, but about creating space for others, building community, and working together toward lasting, positive change."

RIOT RI

"...other camps or schools—I just feel specifically, it’s competitive. Who’s gonna do this best? I really left school that year with not feeling confident in myself and that I’m not good enough because of my grades. Girls Rock [aka RIOT] —they definitely put in confidence with me."

The Space

171 Chestnut Street, Providence, RI

The Space is a community-rooted hub in Providence designed for connection, creativity, and collective care, particularly for queer and neurodivergent individuals. It offers low-cost, flexible space for practitioners, groups, and events, removing barriers to entry for those building meaningful, nontraditional work. More than a physical location, The Space is an evolving ecosystem centered on belonging, expression, and mutual support. From workshops and art groups to healing practices and community gatherings, it prioritizes accessibility, sensory awareness, and inclusivity. The Space exists to reimagine what community care can look like when people are given room to show up fully as themselves.

thespaceri.org @thespace.providence

SquashBusters SqB.

257 Hope Street, Providence, RI

SquashBusters is a free, year-round, after-school program that combines the sport of squash with academic support, community service, summer opportunities, and post-secondary counseling. The program begins with students in 6th grade and continues through high school and beyond. SqB students work with tutors on their homework, learn how to play squash, compete in local and out-of-state tournaments, participate in community service activities, and prepare for life after high school.

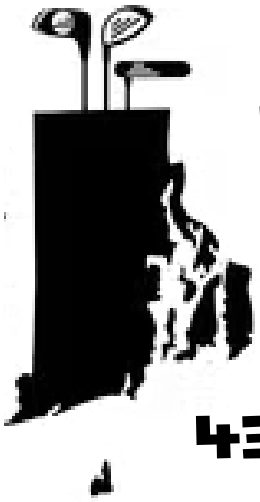
squashbusters.org @squashbusters

STEAM Box

1 Louisa Street, Providence, RI

The STEAM Box mission is to develop equity in high-quality science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education. We serve as a point of collaboration with internal and external partners on projects to improve STEAM synergy and opportunities for youth. Partnerships are geared to ultimately prepare our students in becoming the nation's new innovative, creative, critical and analytical thinkers.

steamboxri.com @steamboxri



The Right Course

43 Park Ave, Portsmouth, RI

The RIght Course provides children with free golf equipment to bridge the affordability and accessibility gap in an otherwise exclusive sport.

squashbusters.org @squashbusters

The Steel Yard

27 Sims Ave, Providence, RI

The Steel Yard champions a world made by hand where collaborative making strengthens individuals, supports local economies, and enriches the shared spaces of our neighborhoods. We advance the industrial arts by providing artists, makers, and community members with the space, tools, training, and education they need to learn, create, and thrive. In this work we strive to dismantle barriers, address inequities, and ensure the future of the industrial arts is inclusive, diverse and sustainable. Open enrollemnt classes available for youth 15 and up. Special programming for children and caregivers and youth summer camps for ages 14-18.

thesteelyard.ord @thesteelyard

Trinity Rep

201 Washington Street, Providence RI

Trinity Rep has theater programs for children and teens (starting at Kindergarten), including our after school Young Actors Studio for grades K-12, Young Actors Summer Institute for grades 1-12 & recent grads, and Write Here, Write Now! student playwriting competition. Financial aid available for all classes and camps.

trinityrep.com @trinity_rep

WattsNatural Tutoring

100 Niantic Ave. Ste. 110, Providence, RI

WattsNatural Tutoring provides affordable and quality access to literacy development with a focus on Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), who are often at an educational disadvantage. We work with families who have school-aged students with both undiagnosed and diagnosed learning differences are significantly behind in reading, as well as adults who have been stigmatized due to illiteracy. We believe that finances and access constraints should not hinder an individual's desire to pursue a more literate life.

wattsnatural.com @wattsnaturaltutoring

Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

45 Eagle St. Suite 202, Providence, RI

The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC) sparks economic development through our work restoring the Woonasquatucket River and communities around it, and by enhancing, extending and bringing people to the Woonasquatucket River Greenway. The WRWC is a successful model of community revitalization that helps people discover this local American Heritage River and its natural resources, channeling life and economic development into neighborhoods.

trinityrep.com @trinity_rep

Community Voices!

SquashBusters

“SquashBusters is my second home. When I come to practice and I interact with my teammates and my coaches, it puts a smile on my face and makes me realize I can Achieve big things.” —Ashley C, '24

Trinity Rep

“My daughter loves her acting teachers, and loves coming to classes to learn new techniques on how to come out of her shell.”

The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

“Thank you for coming into our classroom to help us learn about the fish and their environment. One of my favorite parts that you showed us was the big plush fish, Miss Brookie.” —Alice

“One of the lessons I loved was when we built the fish ladders. It helped me learn that you need to be fair and use teamwork. I was very proud of myself learning that and how it works.” —Genesis A.

Young Voices

204 Westminster Street, Providence, RI

Young Voices transforms urban youth into powerful advocates and civic leaders who have a voice in every aspect of their lives. We partner with our state's major leaders to create systemic reform and policy change that improve the lives of thousands of youth across the state.

youngvoicesri.org @youngvoices_ri

Youth in Action

672 Broad Street, Providence RI

At YIA, we share space and power to co-create opportunities for youth-driven change within our communities. This includes advocacy, organizing, power-shifting and facilitating change. We prioritize and encourage exploration, joy, rest and healing. All of YIA's programs are free for all youth participants.

youthinactionpvd.org @youthinactionri

Youth Pride Inc.

743 Westminster Street, Providence, RI

Youth Pride, Inc. is a nonprofit in Rhode Island specifically dedicated to meeting the needs of LGBTQIA2S+ youth 24 and under. Our mission is to meet the unique, ongoing needs of LGBTQIA2S+ youth and young adults through direct service, support, advocacy, and education. Our drop-in center in Providence offers free programs like support groups, cooking classes, and Dungeons and Dragons; services like case management and therapy; resources like our basic needs pantry, gender-affirming clothes closet, and banned books library; support for school-based Gender-Sexuality Alliances across the state; abundant community and new friends; and much more!

youthprideri.org @ypi_ri

Digital Version of Resource Guide:

Community Voices!

Young Voices

“Young Voices has helped me find my voice in my community and the confidence to take on any challenge that comes my way.” — Phoebe Gardea, Classical ‘28 - RIDOT Project Leader

Youth Pride Inc.

“What I think is most inviting about Youth Pride, Inc. as a trans youth is the availability of resources for people who are scared to ask for help. I’m not an outcast for needing something. When I came here early on, it invited me to feel like I’m allowed to have needs and have those needs met. I could come here, eat a good meal, and feel taken care of with a sense of community and support."— Jeremy, 16