

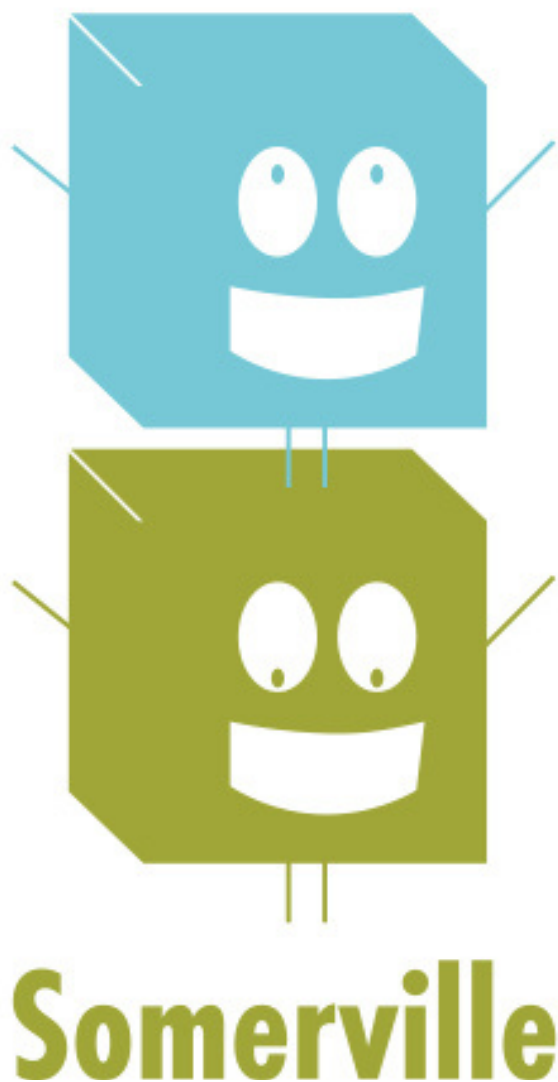
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Somerville Arts Council  
City of Somerville  
[www.somervilleartscouncil.org](http://www.somervilleartscouncil.org)

For immediate release  
June 24, 2025

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne & the Somerville Arts Council present:

# ArtBeat Festival



**Sat., July 19, 12-9pm**

Rain date: 7/20, same times  
Davis Square, Somerville

Suggested Donation: \$3  
Get a cool dog tag.

**Stay cool!** Bring an umbrella for  
Seven Hills Park – and don't forget  
your water bottle! Fill up at the  
Quench Buggy.

## About the Festival

One of the largest cultural festivals in the region, ArtBeat includes 70+ crafts vendors, two stages of music, a dance showcase, roaming performers, food vendors, interactive activities for children, and community vendors. This year's theme is FREEZE. Think igloos and snowflakes in the heat of the summer. Yet "freeze" also connotes freezing time and motion. Also, in this rushed world, what happens when we freeze, pause, and slow down?



*This year's artwork by Genevieve Wallace*

# ArtBeat Schedule

July 19 (Rain date: 7/20; same times)

## New hours this year!

**12-7pm:** Main Street Festival

**7-9pm:** Music and Food continues in Seven Hills Park

### Seven Hills Stage (Seven Hills Park, behind Somerville Theatre)

1:00 PM	Evan Goodrow
2:00 PM	The Smack Dabs
3:00 PM	Thea Hopkins
4:00 PM	Le Prestige
5:00 PM	Pressure Cooker
6:00 PM	Mamadou
7:00 PM	Layzi
8:00 PM	Hilken Mancini

### Elm Street Stage (corner of Elm St. and Chester St.)

1:30 PM	Gompson
2:30 PM	Dandelion
3:30 PM	Bahloul Jazz Trio
4:30 PM	Mada Silva
5:30 PM	Moon Machine

### Somerville Theatre (55 Davis Square)

12:00pm & 2:00pm	Pasy Lay Neer Spero Dance Dara Capley
1:00pm & 3:00pm	Alex Nunweiler Clara Ramona Jo-Me

### Statue Park. (plaza in front of JP Licks)

All day Facepainting, Figure drawing with Boston Figurative Art Center, Caricatures, Polar animal mask making, Community comic activity with Boston Circus Guild, Open Air Circus, and more activities! Plus, over 30 community groups here, and in Seven Hills Park.

### Main Traffic Island

All day Nibble Island: food & activities from the Nibble team. Also, many other food vendors in this area.

### Dover and Day Streets

All day Many more interactive activities in keeping with this year's Freeze theme.

### Throughout the Festival

All day Roaming performers and pop-up happenings



Top to bottom: Clara Ramona will perform at 1:10 & 3:10pm (photo by Joe Chan); Mada Silva will play at 4:30pm; Katelyn Beaudoin as Ms. InTents will be roaming around the festival (photo by Sean Molloy).



## FREEZE Art Installations / Activities

All day unless otherwise noted

### Arctic Circle (Dover Street)

Lavender Menace Press is bringing a playful, glacier-themed snowball toss game to the festival! Participants will aim yarn snowballs at a hand-painted sculpture featuring Arctic animals like orcas, seals, and polar bears, each worth points. Surrounding the game are icy decorations made from recycled plastic, evoking a frozen landscape.

### Ice Cubes (Dover Street)

Ponnapa invites festival-goers to a playful public art space featuring two “ice cube” structures made from PVC pipes and wrapped in cool shades of blue. These 5'x5' shaded cubes offer a cozy spot for children to relax and get creative with sidewalk chalk. Inspired by the Freeze theme, the installation blends imaginative play with visual design, creating a refreshing, interactive area perfect for families to enjoy during the sunny festival day.

### DIY Snow Globes (Statue Park)

Bonny Chen will set up a DIY Snow Globes station where you can create your own wintry keepsake using upcycled jars. She'll provide all the materials—jars, tiny curated figurines, and snowy magic—along with her friendly guidance. It's a chance to 'freeze' a moment in time to create a classic souvenir that evokes the playfulness of a snowy winter wonderland.

### Ice Age-Style photo booths

Nate Devarie brings two fun, hand-painted photo booth cut-outs to ArtBeat! Designed for all ages, one features playful Ice Age-style creatures for younger kids, while the other showcases a frozen Batman and his foe, Mr. Freeze, for older kids and adults. These colorful cartoon scenes invite festival-goers to step into a frozen moment—perfect for playful photos and icy fun.

### The Rubin Brothers (Day Street)

Real-life siblings and born entertainers, the Rubin Brothers blend music, humor, storytelling, and circus arts. For ArtBeat 2025, they'll lead a lively, live-music twist on musical chairs, featuring hula hoops instead of seats! With trumpet and tuba in hand, they'll play until the music “freezes,” sending players scrambling to find a hoop to stand in. Each round brings more fun (and fewer hoops!), with prizes and smiles all around.

### Festival Roamers (throughout the festival)

ArtBeat's Festival Roamers will bring surprise and delight throughout the day! Oatherine will mesmerize with circus props and icy LED lights. Circe Rowan adds bursts of color and fun with hoops, fans, and twirling ribbons—perfect for playful audience moments. And Katelyn Beaudoin, as Ms. InTents, roves on stilts in a handmade igloo hoop skirt, juggling “snow” balls and twirling poi.



Top to bottom: DIY Snow Globes made by Bonny Chen; Winter hand-painted photo booth made by Nate Devarie; The Rubin Brothers.



## Music on the Seven Hills Stage

Seven Hills Park

### 1:00 PM **Evan Goodrow**

New England-based singer-songwriter Evan Goodrow has released 18 albums, performed across Europe and Asia, and held a decade-long residency in St. Barths—where he connected with the legendary Jimmy Buffett. Known for his soulful sound and dynamic live shows, he's played alongside greats like B.B. King, Buddy Guy, and Robert Cray. A dedicated community musician, Evan streamed over 300 concerts during the pandemic and continues to support charitable causes through his music. His ever-evolving Evan Goodrow Band features a rotating lineup of over 30 talented musicians.

### 2:00 PM **The Smack Dabs**

The Smack Dabs bring the joyful energy of 1930s Swing Blues to life with timeless tunes by Tampa Red, Big Bill Broonzy, The Harlem Hamfats, and more. Their music blends soulful blues with upbeat rhythms, perfect for dancing and toe-tapping alike. Featuring some of Boston's most dynamic improvisers, each performance offers fresh takes and lively solos. Whether mournful or celebratory, their sound captures the spirit of a golden musical era—guaranteed to charm music lovers and dancers of all ages.

### 3:00PM **Thea Hopkins**

A member of Aquinnah Wampanoag tribe of Martha's Vineyard MA, performing songwriter Thea Hopkins calls her music - Red Roots Americana. She has been described as a "standout writer" by *The Washington Post*. Her musical journeys have brought her to stages in Canada, the UK and Australia. Her new album is scheduled to be released in September 2025.

### 4:00 PM **Le Prestige**

Based in Somerville, Le Prestige is a dynamic 9-piece band known for their rich blend of 60's soul jazz, 90's hip-hop, and electronica. Their original songs feature horn-driven melodies, expressive solos, and grooves inspired by funk, jazz, reggae, and disco. Taking an organic, low-tech approach, their music carries a playful sense of humor reflected in cheeky song titles like "Le Prestige for President!" and a relaxed stage presence. Fans can always expect a spirited rendition of "Wichita Lineman" in their sets.

### 5:00 PM **Pressure Cooker**

Pressure Cooker is a Boston-based reggae, ska, and rocksteady band founded in 1997. Inspired by 1960's & 70's Jamaican music, the group crafts original songs with infectious energy and expert musicianship. With seven full-length albums, they've performed across the Northeast and select U.S. cities, reaching fans worldwide. Known for dynamic stage presence and classic sound, Pressure Cooker blends horns, soulful vocals, and diverse influences while staying rooted in reggae tradition.





## ArtBeat at Night!

### Music on the Seven Hills Stage

Seven Hills Park

#### 6:00 PM Mamadou

Led by Senegalese luminary Mamadou Diop, this world-class ensemble showcases his original music blending rich African rhythms with soulful storytelling. Mamadou has collaborated with greats like Baaba Maal and Youssou Ndour's Madison Band, sharing stages with legends including James Brown and Nelson Mandela. Now based in the USA, he leads his award-winning band, creating uplifting songs about peace, love, hope, family, and friendship—spreading a joyful, positive energy that resonates deeply with audiences everywhere.



#### 7:00 PM Layzi

Boston-based musician and producer Carissa Myre, known as Layzi, is an innovative DIY artist redefining the indie music scene with her dreamy, groovy bedroom pop. Since launching her solo career in 2020, Layzi has captivated listeners worldwide, with her single "Nothing Ever Feels Right" surpassing 1 million streams. Known for her immersive live performances, she has opened for notable acts like HUNNY and SNØW. Set to release her sophomore EP on Born Losers Records, Layzi continues to push creative boundaries and inspire fans in a male-dominated industry.



#### 8:00 PM Hilken Mancini

The Hilken Mancini Band features original members of '90s indie rock band Fuzzy, bringing together rich alt-rock roots with a fresh, dynamic sound. Fronted by Hilken Mancini on vocals and guitar, alongside Winston Braman, Luther Grey, and Melissa Gibbs, the band's debut LP on Girlsville Records has been hailed as Hilken's best work to date. Collaborations with iconic artists like J Mascis and Thalia Zedek add depth and resonance. Known for their passionate performances and authentic songwriting, they continue to captivate longtime fans and new audiences alike.





## Music on the Elm Street Stage

(Corner of Elm St & Chester St)

### 1:30 PM **Gompson**

Rising from the ashes of '90s Boston pop icons The Barnies, Gompson delivers a unique sound that's lush, angular, hopeful, and raw—fearless of any one genre. Drawing inspiration from Radiohead to Pixies, they push boundaries with songs that surprise and resonate. Led by principal songwriter Avram Gleitsman, who's worked with Blue Man Group, and backed by Somerville veterans Pete Sutton, Ken Lafler, and Nathan Logus, Gompson captures the spirit of Somerville's local culture and the legendary "Barney" identity with humor and heart.

### 2:30 PM **Dandelion**

Lifelong Boston musicians Heather Scott and Talia Rose form Dandelion, sharing their love of musical storytelling across generations. With joyful, folk-inspired songs, they bring warmth, smiles, and a bit of learning to kids and their caretakers alike. Their fun, engaging performances invite everyone to sing along and dance to tunes about gardening, beloved animals, and even intergalactic robots! Dandelion creates a welcoming space where families can connect, learn, and celebrate the magic of music together.

### 3:30 PM **Bahloul Jazz Trio**

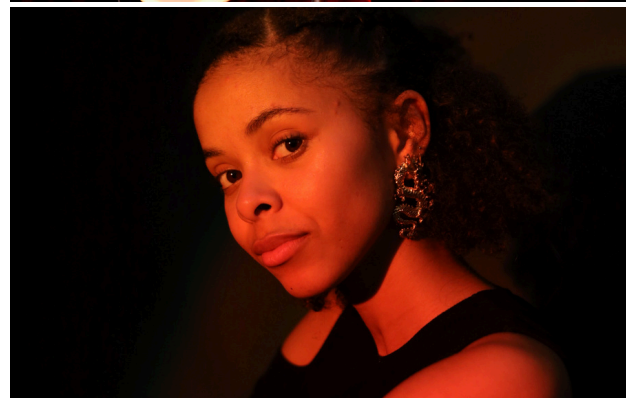
The Bahloul Jazz Trio brings a fresh, cross-cultural sound that blends Middle Eastern melodies with the improvisational spirit of jazz. Led by Bahloul on electric oud, with Rami Abu Olaya on nay and flute, and Julian Pavone on drums, the trio performs both familiar and unexpected pieces, each infused with a distinctive, jazzy twist.

### 4:30 PM **Mada Silva**

Mada Silva is a Cape Verdean singer-songwriter, born and raised under the sun of Lisbon, Portugal. She often finds her creative freedom in channeling emotion, nostalgia, and heritage through her music while drawing inspiration from her roots. You'll find that Mada's sound blends acoustic storytelling with hints of folk, soul, and world rhythms. Beyond the upcoming church choirs and college a cappella groups, her solo music journey began in 2021. Since then, she's been sharing her music with audiences, in hopes that people will pause, feel, and connect – one song at a time.

### 5:30 PM **Moon Machine**

Back in action after a 3 year hiatus, Boston-based prog-metal band Moon Machine is back with a new lineup and new tracks. Featuring electric cello, guitar solos and killer grooves, Moon Machine will keep the gears turning and the moon shining bright.



## Somerville Theater Dance Showcase

(55 Davis Square)

A trio of dance groups perform in 2 time slots

### 12:00PM and 2:00PM Pasy Naay Leer Dance

Pasy Naay Leer is a Contemporary and West African Dance Company founded by Papa Sy from Senegal. They are Boston-based dancers from diverse backgrounds who present *Lu Epp Turu/Enough is Enough*, a powerful Afro-contemporary performance exploring liberation struggles in Senegal and beyond. Blending Sabar, live drumming, and expressive storytelling, the piece moves through emotion, tradition, and hope—offering a vibrant, rhythmic journey of resistance, resilience, and collective joy.

### 12:00PM and 2:00PM Spero Dance

Spero Dance, established by Camryn and Courtney Spero, is dedicated to dissecting notions of performance through genre and musical experimentation in choreographic expression. *Line Dance* is a genre-bending quartet that freezes time at a single, charged moment. Blending choreography with cinematic and musical cues, the piece playfully reimagines the Western and line dance traditions—inviting audiences to reflect on memory, nostalgia, and how time shapes the movement we know and feel.

### 12:00PM and 2:00PM Dara Capley

Dara is a dancemaker whose work stems from the belief that art is both as vital as air and, simultaneously, profoundly unserious. *Strange Attractors (The Lovers)* is a bold, campy duet exploring the chaos of desire, cultural shame, and romantic obsession. Blending cheeky theatricality with thought-provoking movement, this work questions why we normalize pain in love, and how attraction—both emotional and physical—is shaped by history, culture, and hidden longing.



Top to bottom: Pasy Naay Leer Dance; Spero Dance by Luke Ullmann; Dara Capley by Aliza Razell.



## Somerville Theater Dance Showcase

(55 Davis Square)

A trio of dance groups perform in 2 time slots

### 1:00PM and 3:00PM Alexandria Nunweiler

NunweilerTanz, an independent project by Alexandria Nunweiler, equips contemporary dance with comedic theatre to weave lore, truth, and dreams into immersive, thought-provoking performances. *Shoulder* is a hauntingly beautiful duet that reclaims the true weight of awe. Moving through shadow, stillness, and spirit, the piece explores sacred presence and the guardians we carry. It invites us to ask: what does it mean to be overcome—by wonder, fear, or something beyond ourselves?

### 1:00PM and 3:00PM Clara Ramona

Clara is a professional Flamenco dancer of 45 years, as well as a choreographer, teacher, producer and director (Boston Conservatory BFA). She has received international acclaim for her *Carmina Burana* production when she was a dance company director in Madrid. *La Vida Breve* (Clásica Española) is a stunning Spanish classical dance set to Manuel de Falla's iconic score. Featuring castanet mastery, graceful mantón work, and a powerful ensemble led by Clara Ramona, the piece celebrates the passion, precision, and artistry of one of Spain's most beloved musical traditions.

### 1:00PM and 3:00PM Jo-Mé Dance

Jo-Mé Dance Theatre (1st Company) was established in 2013 to create an exploratory process where the company could combine diverse elements, including acting, to cultivate new and innovative movements and ideas. *In Search of the Sun* is a powerful contemporary dance piece that honors the journeys of over 120 million displaced people worldwide. Through moving choreography and storytelling, it conveys the heartbreak, resilience, and hope of refugees seeking safety. A stirring call for empathy, it invites reflection on our shared humanity.



Top to bottom: Alexandria Nunweiler Gabriel Lorena Photography; Clara Ramona by Joe Chan; Jo-Mé Dance by Cohen Hano.



## Throughout the festival

### Craft Vendors

We'll have over 70+ artists, craftsters and crafty companies, including: Henna by Heather, Custom Woodworks, Zooguu, Sparkletown Studios, Momo Glassworks, Small Glories, Pop Zoo, Fish Cakes, Storyteller Jewelry, Long Trail Studio, Fire Garden Pottery, Long Trail Studio, Sassafrass Creations, Chikako Designs, POWPAPER, SepiaLepus Illustration, Designs By Anke and more! From pottery and jewelry to photographs and fine art, we have you covered. So, buy local and support our talented artists and maker communities!

### Community Organizations

There will be a bevy of organizations sharing material and offering activities, including: Boston Figure Art Center, Somerville Public Library, Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs, Somerville Museum, Benjamin G. Brown School, Intercambio, Somerville Garden Club, Somerville Homeless Coalition, Somerville Office of Sustainability and Environment, Padres Latinos, Somerville Community Land Trust, Social Catalysts Charitable Foundation, The Welcome Project, Somerville Media Center, and more.

## Main Traffic Island, Davis Square

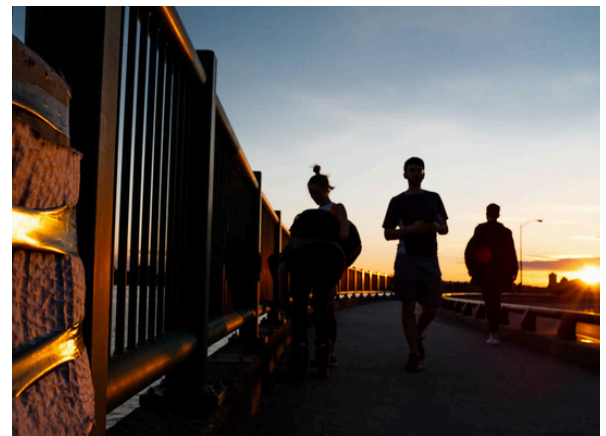
### Food Vendors - and Nibble Global Food Island!

At ArtBeat 2025, expect to find pop-up food vendors and food trucks serving everything from classic Festival foods to global treats from The Phillipines, India, El Salvador, Colombia, and more! Make sure you stop by the Nibble Global Food Island - located on the main Davis Sq. traffic island - where you'll find fan favorites from last year Dos Manos Kitchen and Matki Artisanal Kulfi, plus Nibble newbies Sinta Filipino Cuisine. While you wait for your order check out the Nibble tent to learn more about this great cultural and economic development initiative and participate in interactive food activities lead by Nibble-partner chefs from around the world! Also, definitely visit out our Nibble grads running their Arepa La Mazorca food truck, which will be parked by the main music stage in Seven Hills Park. Que rico!

## CVS Window, Davis Square

### Inside Out Gallery's "FREEZE" Exhibit

Curator, Cindy Weisbart (2025 LCC Visual Arts Fellowship Winner) has gathered a collection of work celebrating this year's theme: Freeze. The featured artists' work demonstrates that "freeze" can be interpreted broadly: cold temperatures; freezing, pausing and slowing down; a freeze frame. Don't miss this display situated in the heart of the festival. On display through the summer.



Top to bottom: Allie Richards Photography will be one of 70 craft vendors; Somerville Ed Foundation will be one of numerous community organizations; Edwin Orellana from Dos Manos Kitchen (Nibble graduate) will be one of many food vendors; and Cynthia Weisbart will be one of the many artists displaying her work at the Inside Out Gallery in the heart of the festival.

## Accessability Information

Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should please contact Adrienne Pomeroy at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or [apomeroy@somervillema.gov](mailto:apomeroy@somervillema.gov).

Interpretation into any language is available upon advance request (at least seven days in advance) by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at [somervillema.gov/ContactSomerViva](http://somervillema.gov/ContactSomerViva) or calling 311 at 617-666-3311.

## MBTA Red Line Closure and Bus Information

MBTA Buses Routes: 87, 88, 89, 90, 94, 96 will be rerouted from 8 am to 8 pm on due to the red line closures at Davis Sq train station. Shuttle stops will be relocated to Mass Ave. Please see [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com) for full detour information.

## Stay Cool and Comfortable!

ArtBeat is an outdoor festival held in the height of summer, so we encourage everyone to come prepared. Bring a refillable water bottle (fill up at the MWRA's Water Buggy in the heart of Davis Square!), and wear sunscreen. Tents and umbrellas welcome on the back half of Seven Hills Park lawn! We want you to enjoy the day safely, so stay hydrated, find shade and let's beat the heat together and have a great time at ArtBeat!



Top to bottom: The Water Buggy will be located in the heart of Davis Square - fill your water bottle as often as you want; dancing in the streets by the Elm Park stage; and finally: we encourage you to bring umbrellas or even small tents to set up on the back half of Seven Hills Park lawn.