

For Immediate Release:

July 1, 2014

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Jamaica Plain Celebrates 1st Annual Porchfest!
July 19th event showcases 55+ bands on over 30 porches

On Saturday, July 19th from 12-4 p.m., Jamaica Plain will come alive with its 1st Annual Porchfest, a free music festival featuring more than 55 bands performing on over 30 porches throughout the neighborhood. Visit www.jpporchfest.org for an interactive map of musicians and locations.

Organized by Marie Ghitman and Mindy Fried, this free, all-volunteer event celebrates JP's creative talent and diversity, using music as a vehicle to weave the community together. JP Porchfest invites neighbors to sample music from a wide range of genres, including Afro pop, Caribbean, punk, acoustic, R&B, rock and roll, country, world music, classical, jazz, reggae and more! Porches, loosely defined, include several JP churches and elderly housing.

"We were inspired by Porchfest events around the country, especially nearby Somerville, which has held a Porchfest for several years. In JP, we intentionally matched musicians and porches to draw diverse crowds to each site, and to encourage music-goers to travel the breadth of the neighborhood," said Ghitman.

"We are thrilled and amazed at the overwhelming response from the community, including musicians of all genres, and the many people who have offered their porches to musicians," commented Fried. "The energy is positive and we are certain that this is the first of many JP Porchfests".

In an effort to ensure that Porchfest is an inclusive event, Fried and Ghitman have reached out to community organizations, including the Hyde Square Task Force, Egleston Main Streets, Centre/South Main Streets, and the JP Neighborhood Development Corporation. Boston Pedicabs will be riding through the neighborhood to give attendees a lift from porch to porch, including those with mobility issues.

Check out the JP Porchfest website - www.jpporchfest.org - which includes an interactive map of all the musicians and the porches where they'll be playing.

Or peruse the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/JamaicaPlainPorchfest>.

For more information, contact Mindy Fried (mindy@jpporchfest.org) or Marie Ghitman (marie@jpporchfest.org).

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