

River Valley Arts Alliance | Dooryard Arts Festival
info@dooryardfestival.com
www.dooryardfestival.com
Facebook: @dooryardfestival



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM DOORYARD ARTS FESTIVAL IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Steering Committee shares a message of pride and positivity; continues future planning.

WOODSTOCK, NB, April 2020 – For the past decade, our community has gathered during the finest days of summer to bask in the beauty of art, live music, and the familiar landscape of Downtown Woodstock. Seeing one another ‘in the Dooryard’ has become, as much as anything, a celebration of being together.

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to impact our local and global communities, we find our routines, rhythms, and traditions being disrupted as we quickly adapt to a ‘new normal’ and are challenged to re-conceptualize what *togetherness* can look like.

The effects of the pandemic on this year’s Dooryard Arts Festival has been a topic of discussion for a number of weeks in our Steering Committee meetings. While meeting virtually by video conference, we have explored many possibilities – from adjusting dates, to scaling down the event, to taking the festival online – all in the interest of continuing this wonderful legacy without missing a beat. We realized, however, that no option would guarantee the safety of our community and artists while delivering the quality of experience that Dooryard aims to create. It is clear now, more than ever, that there simply is no replacement for being together. After deep consideration, our committee has come to the unanimous decision to postpone our festival until July 2021.

While we know this announcement will bring some disappointment, this is not a message of sadness. We want our artists and supporters to know **we remain committed to enriching, energizing, and engaging our local and regional arts community.** We are as excited as ever to continue working and planning so that the festival we envisioned for 2020 can come to life in 2021. Community partnerships remain at the core of what we do, and **we now look to how we can support the many businesses and individuals who have supported us over the years.** Last but not least, we are inspired by all the creativity that is brewing online during this difficult time and will be working on new ways to **bring you doses of Dooryard virtually until we can all meet again.**

In closing, we want to express a great sense of pride in how our community has responded in this time of crisis. Each day we see an abundance of kindness, charity, and solidarity demonstrated through acts large and small. With so much uncertainty upon us, it is comforting to see that the true colours of our community remain the same. Please stay safe, find joy in the arts, and keep looking forward to being together in the Dooryard again. You’ll be hearing more from us soon.

Gloria Yachyshen, Executive Director
RiVA Board of Directors
Dooryard Arts Festival Steering Committee

The River Valley Arts Alliance (RiVA) is a not-for-profit organization based in Woodstock, New Brunswick and is the governing body of the Dooryard Arts Festival – an annual music and arts festival founded in 2009.

###