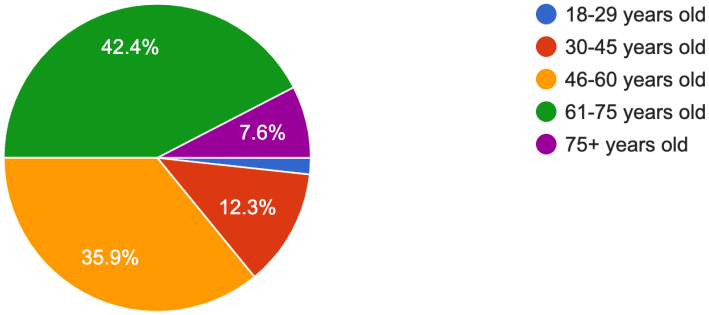
Reopening Survey for Patrons/Community

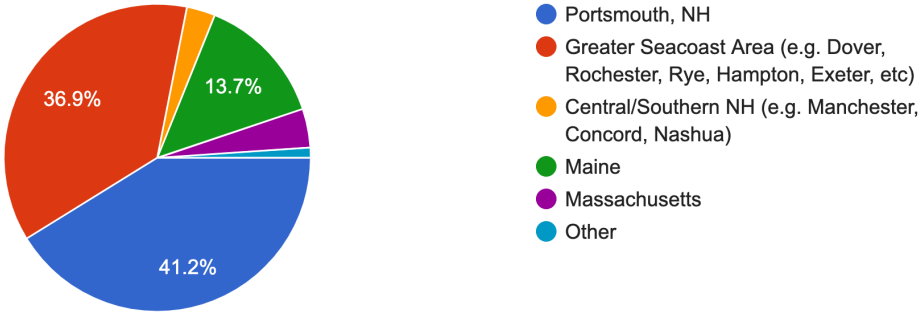
Age

462 responses



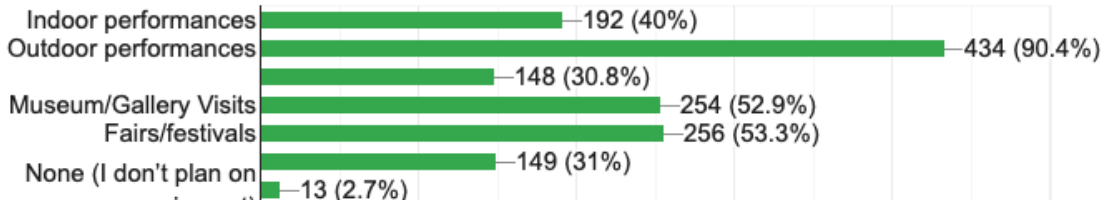
Primary Residence

466 responses



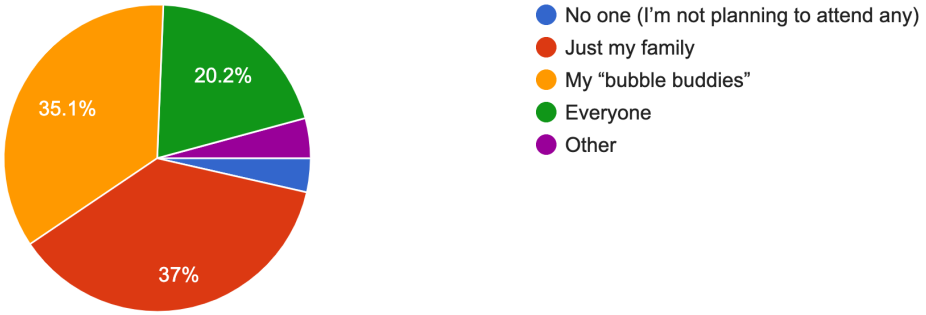
1. For this coming spring/summer, what arts/cultural related activities are you planning to attend? Check all that apply.

480 responses



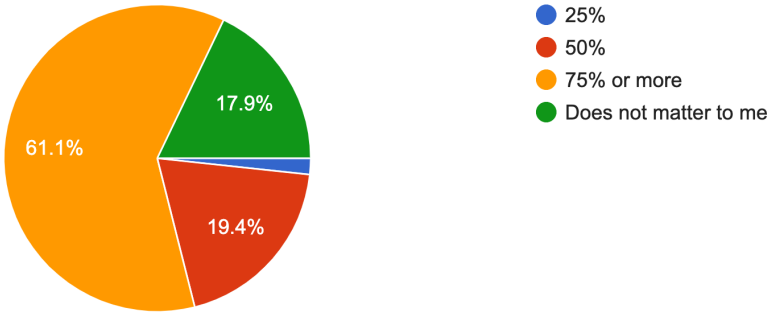
2. Who do you plan to attend events with this coming spring/summer?

476 responses



3. What percentage of the general population needs to be vaccinated before you will resume your pre-COVID "normal" lifestyle?

470 responses

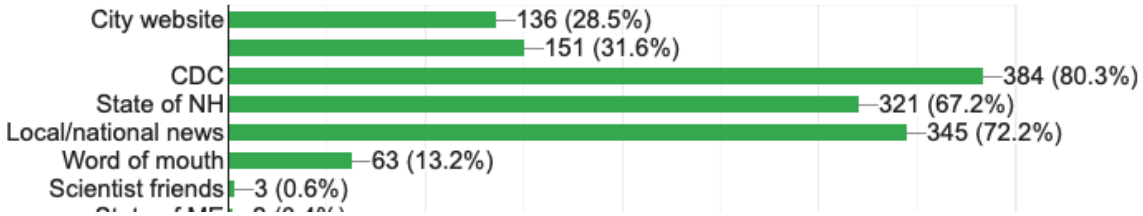


4. On a scale of 1 to 3, what are your top issues or concerns for attending arts-related events this spring/summer?

	1 Not an issue	2 Somewhat of an issue	3 It's an issue/I'm concerned
[% of general population vaccinated.]	16%	35%	49%
[Infection rate/hospitalizations.]	12%	33%	55%
[Continued adherence to current mask wearing/social distancing.]	14%	26%	60%
[My financial situation.]	77%	18%	5%
[Knowing whether people who choose not to wear a mask are breaking the rules or have been vaccinated/had the virus.]	22%	33%	46%
[Arts organizations will become lax in enforcing whatever guidelines exist at that time.]	36%	34%	31%
[I'm no longer comfortable being in large crowds.]	35%	44%	21%

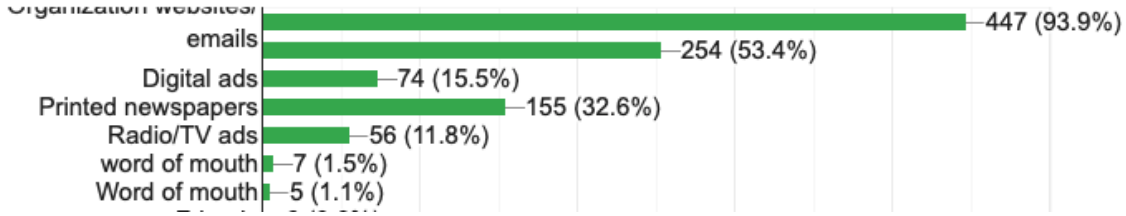
5. Where are you getting your information about what you can/should/shouldn't do? Check all that apply.

478 responses



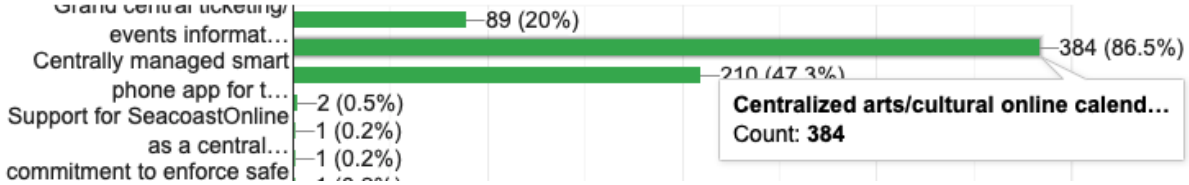
6. Where are you getting your information on what's happening within the arts/cultural scene in Portsmouth? Check all that apply.

476 responses



7. What improvements would you like to see in how nonprofit arts/cultural organizations market and disseminate information about their upcoming events? Check all that apply.

444 responses



8. Anything else you would like the BRC to consider?
1,228 deaths with COVID out of 1,359,000 people. That results in.09% chance. This shouldn't be a concern. This is from the NH.Gov website as of 3/25/21
1. I like the idea of a link on the City's webpage to the arts calendars like seacoastnh.com e. al. 2. I would like to see a representative group from the Committee do follow up with the arts organizations as we emerge from COVID via quarterly surveys to see how our creative businesses fare in 2021 through 2022 or 2023. This info could be reported to the City Council or the Economic Development Commission so that issues can be addresses and /best practices/successes can be acknowledged and shared with other organizations. 3. Perhaps a resiliency planning forum tailored to arts organizations and non-profits can be explored and offered in partnership with the city and local educational institutions.
1. Safety certified and inspected by Town Hall, the status of all upgraded CDC compliant indoor arts venue air handling and Covid filtration systems in use. 2. Venues committed to enforcement of CDC guidelines re masks, distancing, cleaning, etc with town hall inspection and enforcement. 3. All Venue employees 100% vaccinated certified by town hall. 4. Full transparency town hall public website Covid data reporting dashboard on all venues. 5. Signs on all venues re the above compliance issue status.
A little nervous about Portsmouth close proximity to MA residents
AFTER we are COMPLETELY OUT of the pandemic (maybe 2022 or 2023)- ONLY LOCAL advertising, then afterwards, New England and national advertising of history and culture vacation destination, giving time for locals to attend and enjoy our city, without overrun with tourists.
Art Speak a few years ago worked on a central ticketing booth. Alas it never got off the ground. Good luck!

Arts organizations that are TRULY existentially vulnerable should get first priority when it comes to receiving support. (Look, I love The Music Hall ... thank goodness it exists ... but it tends to suck all the oxygen out of the room when it comes to local arts funding.) Smaller organizations, venues, and individuals are the one who really need attention.
At any event, compliance with rules and in general, considerate behavior will be a challenge. There needs to be a massive force of volunteer(maybe with certain perks or benefits to events in which they are not working)staff recruited to encourage comiance and appropriate safe behaviors at most events. Not law enforcement, more like kindergarten teachers.
Be safe about opening!! Stay outdoors as much as possible. Let's drink beer outside!!
Because of covid take advantage of the opportunity to re-evaluate how much use Prescott Park takes on via PPAF. To me this is a good opportunity to decide if pulling back a little for future summer scheduling endeavors makes sense. Find the proper balance. The park deserves it and the festival will be better for it.
BRC should look beyond supporting organizations by advocating for arts and culture workers (artists and administrators) directly and consistently through policies which support housing, fair pay, and collective bargaining for insurance, pensions and childcare. BRC should be asking, what can Portsmouth implement in order be a recognized as a innovative city which fosters and strengthens the creative practice, and livelihood, of arts and culture workers?
Bring it on 😀
By fall, I hope to be more comfortable and positive with my answers/concerns
Certified Ventilation/Air filtering in the Venue is a must !
Congestion of parking and an alternative to the issue within the neighborhoods. More oversight on violations.
Consider continuing mask mandate if state no longer requires it; traffic mitigation efforts
Continued City Mask Ordinance through Summer at all events
Don't rush things. We are still in a pandemic and still need to be careful.
Don't listen to Mark Brighton.
Don't rush, be safe, and be resourceful on new ways to generate revenue safely. and communicate to patrons these new ideas/ways to support the arts community while still being safe.
Encourage more collaborations and opportunities to utilize public spaces
Even though I will be fully vaccinated I am still planning on following CDC guidelines.
Every event/organization is unique. Please respect their ability to make responsible decisions for their particular situation.
Facilitate access transportation/parking
Focus on smaller events, similar to M Hall outdoor events last summer
Follow CDC advice on when/how to reopen arts and cultural venues and events. As we speak, a number of European countries are locking down amidst a third wave of the virus. Don't let the same happen here.
For indoor events, keep the masks mandate through 2021
Get the indoor pool open please!

Hand sanitizer stations
Having a centrally ticket booth with discounted “day of” tickets.
How to restore the existing venues financial health and ability to present shows again
I (and my bubble buddies) will be fully vaccinated in 2 weeks- this makes a huge difference for us- We stated feeling better about going out, eating at restaurants - but still mindful of distancing - we don't want to put ourselves at needless risk. So outdoor Prescott Park events will be welcomed- I get to choose how close I want to be with others. Thank you for your work!
I am just ready to get out again, safely; I’m not a big crowd person in general and avoid them as a norm. At the same time, seeing “normalcy” again would be wonderful!
I can't wait to get back out there!!!
I don't like rude out of staters. The town of Portsmouth seems to cater to them ie. no parking for locals. A lot of public cultural events won't appeal to me for this reason. Events with people I know well like my PMAC family will interest me.
I don't think large gatherings should happen at all until the infection rates are considerably lower in the community and public schools, or vaccination records should be checked upon admission. No vaccine is 100% effective to an individual, so unless the vast portion of a community is protected, nobody is truly safe.
I don’t plan on being rude or inconsiderate to my fellow Americans, but life does need to go on and the mental toil that is going on with many needs to be considered.
I have been supporting live theater all during the pandemic and will continue to do so whether not I can attend live performances. I have done the on line performances
I hope the Mayor will listen to you guys!
I hope you'll consider the ways that the current situation might positively impact accessibility and flexibility differently than it had in the past. I hope organizations will balance the need for "normal" with healthy inquiry into "what's working" and "what can we learn" given how challenged, resilient and flexible we've all been required to be. Thank you for working so hard through this. Be well!
I know these are difficult times for arts organizations, but many of us are unemployed or have taken pay cuts, so it would be nice to have a sliding pay scale.
I love receiving the Music Hall calendar in the mail even though I know it must be a huge expense. It is nice to see the shows/events that are in the way future too. The emails do not have as much info but I would be willing to "click" through to a link of the calendar
I probably will not attend events where I am forced to wear a mask, because I find it too difficult to breathe, and I’m not worried about the virus anymore
I will be the most comfortable when I am fully vaccinated.
I would attend outdoor events with reserved table seating that are appropriately spaced

I would love it venues would hold mask free events or mask free days for those of us who are not concerned and want to see people live rather than all hidden away, unable to properly communicate or breathe. I admit it, I avoid things I would otherwise do because I don't want to be masked or surrounded with masks and fearful people belting out rules, spraying me with sanitizer and the like. - My biggest deterrents from attending events are that so many are closed/only virtual and that so many venues have filled in crazy things that make it no fun or more difficult, such as advance reservations for trivial drop in things like the Rollingsford farmer's market and loud angry fearful people barking distancing orders and, honestly, it isn't fun to be masked for a long period of time unable to properly breathe and communicate. I'd rather go for a walk with friends than to go someplace like the farmer's market where we can't properly communicate because we have to be masked. I love museums, again, you can't for example walk through SBMs grounds without a mask - and that is plain old silly, outside with no one near one another. The culture of control and fear is oppressive and unpleasant and I avoid places that feed that. Honestly, this survey feeds that - 'can't go places until everyone around me is vaccinated' - that is ridiculous - if you think vaccines protect you then get one and stop worrying about everyone else (look and see what the studies show - COVID vaccines protect the vaccinated, not those around them - read the literature) Therefore - this very survey is feeding a cycle of fear which will further hurt the arts and everyone else.
I'd like to see some more creative art experiences similar to what the Music Hall did last year in their courtyard area. Maybe smaller bands in local neighborhoods? or other creative outside the box locations around town. I'd also like to see more art around town - in windows, in alley ways. Maybe an outside art walk through town. Maybe tugboat art...down by the tugboats....bridge art at one of the bridge parks. I would love to see acapella in market square.
I've been very impressed with efforts to provide arts outdoors and in small crowds - like what they did at Seacoast Rep and with PopUp Portsmouth last summer. I don't feel safe downtown right now because most people don't wear masks, Portsmouth PD don't wear masks, and Portsmouth PD don't tell people to wear masks. I can walk to downtown, and would normally shop and dine and go to shows downtown a lot - it's one of the things I love about living here. I don't think the city has taken Covid seriously or taken safety seriously. Individual businesses have stepped up and done a great job, but nobody in the city is enforcing distancing or masks that I have seen, even in situations where it's clearly very crowded. I also want more access to parks and beaches without reservations, although that's not a city decision, it's a huge impact on my quality of life here.
I've had both vaccines. Would like a button that says "vaccinated" that gives me priority getting into events. And it gives other people peace of mind.
Is it possible to separate all vaccinated people from not yet vaccinated people, knowing that you'll be depending on all people to be honest.
Joining forces with the Music Hall is a terrific idea. It is the best way to survive and thrive.
Keep music performances outside as much as possible
Keep up the good work! (Rye seasonal resident since 1959, family since 1800s)
Kiosk in Market Square with event news
LET US HAVE CONCERTS/SHOWS ON TOP OF THE FOUNDRY GARAGE ALREADY!
Let's get behind the hysteria and reopen responsibly.
Limiting size of crowds in summer due to number of people out of state/town who come into the state until more are vaccinated and infection rates stay consistently low

looking forward to feeling the cultural vibrancy in Portsmouth again!!
Looking forward to seeing shows again!
Love the idea of one comprehensive calendar for Portsmouth. Only concern is for those smaller organizations that don't have the ability to keep that site current, or for restaurants that provide special music or dining experiences only occasionally. Site would have to be broken into categories easily accessible to all ages.
Make sure that Arts funding available through the relief bill get to them timely
Make your top priority keeping everyone safe. Masks. Masks. Masks.
Might not be specifically relevant to this poll, but I would love to see Portsmouth have the Market Square area be pedestrian only. It works so well in other cities around the world. Sitting at the intersection of market/pleasant/congress is so much more pleasant without cars and motorcycles to contend with/listen to while enjoying that which the city has to offer.
more outdoor art. more public art. it is the right time for it! :)
more outside events than indoor to include more people of different ages but keep mask for the summer
Music at PPark. Not big names, local bands are great.
My job in performing arts in Portsmouth has been impacted in that I'm not able to return until Fall at the earliest because of my Organizations worry about keeping me safe outside.
N/A
Nice place to visit.
No
No good survey
No. In fact no need for BRC
None
Nothing comes to mind at the moment.
now that i'm fully vaccinated i don't really care that much what the overall percentage is
Offer as many outdoor cultural events as you can this year, with social distancing, to help people become more comfortable being together. Thank you for your efforts.
Once I am vaccinated, I will feel much more comfortable going to indoor events. I hope outdoor events are available and plentiful- bring back Prescott Park concerts!
Once I am vaccinated, my comfort level will go back to almost pre-Covid.
One sign made and posted around downtown and at venues with mask requirements, venue rules, and contact tracing protocol. To help with consistency. All the different signs and messages add to confusion and lack of compliance.
Open EVERYTHING up with NO restrictions and let people decide if they want to go out!
OPEN UP
Open up for all to enjoy. We have suffered enough. Thank you.

Open up. Let people make their own decisions about their health and risks. Stop being a “Nanny State” that looks to control people and restrict their lives. I am vaccinated and not at risk or a risk to anyone. Freedom to assemble, speak and worship...sound familiar?
Outdoor arts, outdoor tours, historic or art focused bike rides.
Outdoor events - food truck event
Outdoor performances at rotating venues every weeknight during the summer and throughout until Columbus Day. Performances can be pop-up non-ticket events, local school bands, or organized community "flash-mobs" or full-on ticketed experiences. Just something to keep it active and vibrant. The Vaughan Mall or Chestnut street or Bow Street would be a perfect location for rotating something every week night.
Outdoor sales of local artist’s creations. Covid has likely encouraged more creativity but at some point artists need a little financial support. Please contact me if anything like this is in the works- thanks. FrendasBoutique1@gmail.com
Personal programs, refreshments, seating, planning, and announcements.
Please don't rush to open until we are safe. It would be even harder to open and then have to close again. Keep social distancing (at some level) and/or mask requirements in place for in person events until we've reached herd immunity. Encourage everyone to get vaccinated!
Please err on the side of caution! My kids will not be vaccinated any time soon!
Please generously and equitably support and encourage Seacoast arts.
PMAC have done an amazing job since March 2020 providing remote instruction. Please continue to stay remote so we can reach herd immunity and return to normal. We are beginning the 3rd phase of infection. If we all STAY HOME, we can get past the Pandemic. We are not there yet. Be responsible leaders so our youth know how to respond to future Pandemics they will nobdoubt encounter in their lifetime.
Portsmouth's next cultural plan
Promotional ticket prices for people with valid vaccine certificates showing they have been vaccinated.
Provide funding for nonprofits to promote their events & services.
Pushing out the story of what is going on. We need newspapers
Reducing crowd sizes at outdoor events in order that we can all have some space. This is a dealbreaker for me if it is not in place.
repeat performances so if capacity is reduced there is enough opportunity for artist to reach a broad audience, and for those interested in the show to be able to see it (if first listing sells out quickly)
Safety over Profit

Something you don't specifically ask above is what role personally *being vaccinated* plays in how we make decisions about what we do this summer. The evidence is pretty strong that if you are fully vaccinated, you not only will not get really sick if you contract the virus - you also are not able to be a carrier of the virus that could get others sick. That's a really big moment in the history of how we combat this pandemic, and it means that once my wife and I are both fully vaccinated, we will likely begin going out for dinner and entertainment. Part of the strategy to get the most vulnerable vaccinated first (mainly older people, so as to minimize hospitalizations and deaths) is that this is largely *not* a group whose consumer spending behaviors would change a lot once vaccinated (nursing home residents were not going out to eat, going to shows, going to retail locations, flying, etc.). It was the right thing to do, but it does mean that the people who would be most likely to impact the economy once vaccinated (people between about 18 and 65) are only now just beginning to get vaccinated. Getting people *under 50* vaccinated quickly is a huge part of what will really allow arts and cultural non-profits to see a big economic rebound this summer.
Stay strong!
Staying safe is the most important thing for me as I consider attending arts events.
Still very concerned over high traffic speeds around town & pedestrian protection
Stop the political "wrangling"....we are all able to handle our own disease and health safety and don't need to be told what we can and can't do....Stop the "lock-downs", they are totally ineffective!
Thank you for all you do to keep the arts alive and well in these trying times!
Thank you for all you're doing to move us forward in a positive way.
Thank you for all your good work
Thank you for this important work you’re doing!
Thank you for your service
Thank you! Looking forward to returning to live performances.
That the state of COVID -19 affairs are monitored closely and appropriate changes to events are changed accordingly.
The booth idea sounds like a great way to reach tourists
The difficulty is that people don't seem to understand that just because they're vaccinated doesn't mean they can't still carry the virus and give it to others. They don't understand that they can still get the virus and be asymptomatic. Having said that, it is imperative that Portsmouth continue with a mask mandate and safety precautions, and it is our fear that will not be the case so all of last year's efforts will have been all for naught. Additionally, re: the question regarding percentage of population vaccinated for my comfort level, my answer is based upon people being vaccinated and continuing to wear masks. You are my favorite city. I miss you terribly but no location is worth risking health - or worse. Please don't be shortsighted. Stay safe. Stay well.
The need for people to start connecting again.
The response to this pandemic has been MUCH worse then the now fully understood statistics of this disease. Continuing to hold back events is an ongoing travesty to human flourishing.
To be credible and most acceptable to audiences, all arts/performance organizations and venues must make it very clear that they will insist on their patrons maintaining all current CDC/NH HHS Guidelines or they will be forced to leave without refund. There is a small percentage of selfish, irresponsible NH people who insist on testing the NH “live free or die” motto and relish the conflict it produces

We all really want to get out again. It will be interesting to see what a crowd is like, how much tolerance there is for it. A concern is parking and travel, and then how the entrance/exits are managed. Even if the hall is 1/2 full, the lobby could be packed unless well managed.
We appreciate all that Portsmouth's art/cultural organizations have done during the pandemic. Their resilience, innovation, and perseverance have been truly impressive.
We are members at many if not all arts venues. We have attended the Seacoast Repertory theatre and the Music Hall. Both do a GREAT job of following CDC guidelines.
We have been completely comfortable attending in person shows at small venues where masks are required throughout the performance (such as at the Seacoast Rep). We have been to fewer shows where mask wearing is only required while not at your seat (indoor dining style).
We live in Dover, but go to Portsmouth pretty much every weekend in the summer, and I worked for the last 9 years downtown. We love the community. One of our favorite venues is the music hall where we have been members for years now. We appreciate all the arts community does.
We need more venues. Outdoors is great!
We should consider offering some events for "Vaccinated Only" (showing proof).
We spent an afternoon in Portsmouth in August and were struck by the number of people NOT wearing masks. This was very concerning, and we have not returned. NH really needs to step up the safety measures.
well done survey
What has happened to ArtSpeak? A centralized calendar was something they often discussed. Seems like the City wanted this organization to exist but didn't want to support it financially. A big loss.
Will you ask patrons for proof of vaccination? Will all staff and p[performers be vaccinated and follow safety protocols? How will you keep the tourists in line?
With everyone having been in lockdown, there will be great demand to suddenly reconnect with the arts community. I think BRC should do what it can to make it easy to quickly see what all events are happening, where, and when so that "bubbles" can coordinate to enjoy these together.
would love to see Chris trapper back at the music hall
You guys are awesome! Thank you for your service and hard work.