

FIFA Fan Festival™ Boston
Details of the Cultural Program

June 12	GROOVERSITY BAND
<i>Somerville / Boston</i>	Afro-Brazilian Percussion & Live Music
<p>Grooversity Band is a high-energy Afro-Brazilian ensemble featuring 8 drummers, 2 vocalists, and a full live band combining thunderous percussion with call-and-response vocals rooted in Brazilian football culture. Led by acclaimed percussionist Marcus Santos, the group served as the official house band for the Boston Breakers for four consecutive seasons and has performed at Gillette Stadium, Fenway Park, and Agganis Arena. In March 2026, the ensemble performed at a Nike Air Jordan activation featuring the Brazil national football team. Members have also collaborated with the Boston Pops Orchestra. A fitting, high-energy opener for Boston's historic World Cup moment.</p>	
June 13	LA DIÁSPORA COMBO
<i>Jamaica Plain, Boston</i>	Salsa · Merengue · Bachata
<p>La Diáspora Combo is a Jamaica Plain–based ensemble led by Dominican-American Berklee College of Music alumnus Angel Javier Camilo, specialising in Afro-Latin rhythms including salsa, merengue, and bachata. The group is renowned for transforming every venue into a full dance party — their recent performance at Lou's sold out all reservations with every attendee on their feet. Camilo performed as a guitarist on the Red Stage at Boston Calling 2024, one of the city's most prestigious music stages.</p>	
June 13	FREDA RARA
<i>Dorchester / Mattapan, Boston</i>	Haitian Rara Traditional Music
<p>Freda Rara is an electrifying traditional Haitian Rara processional ensemble featuring bamboo vaksin trumpets, hand-carved tanbou drums, and brass-led melodies that pull spectators into the rhythm. The group performed at Gillette Stadium (May 2026) and Haitian Culture Night at Fenway Park (May 2026). Their appearance carries deep meaning: June 13 is the day Haiti faces Scotland at Gillette Stadium — Haiti's first World Cup match in 52 years — and Freda Rara is the city's most authentic cultural welcome.</p>	
June 14	LOUDER THAN MILK
<i>Boston</i>	Americana · Blues · Country · Rock
<p>Louder Than Milk is an original Boston band with three released albums spanning Americana, blues, country, and rock. Eight of their original songs are explicitly set in Massachusetts, name-checking landmarks from Provincetown to Greenfield — making them among the most distinctly local acts in the program. They have performed at the Steam Kettle Festival, JP Music Festival, and Wake Up the Earth, and regularly sell out the Burren Backroom. Individual members have performed before crowds of up to 5,000.</p>	
June 14	MIRANDA RAE
<i>Boston</i>	R&B · Soul · Funk
<p>Miranda Rae is a Boston Music Award-winning R&B vocalist, songwriter, and live performer whose powerful stage presence fuses classic soul and funk with contemporary R&B. She has performed at Boston Calling and BAMS Fest, sung the National Anthem at Gillette Stadium, and curated her own showcase series — Miranda Rae & Friends — at venues across the city. A Boston-born artist whose sound is shaped by the city's diversity and resilience, she brings authentic community spirit to every performance.</p>	

June 15

DEEJAY PIUS

Boston

Afrobeats · Amapiano · Dancehall · Hip-Hop

Deejay Pius is a Boston-based multicultural DJ whose high-energy sets fuse Afrobeats, Amapiano, Dancehall, Hip-Hop, and Afro House. With experience performing in stadium settings, nightlife events, and multicultural gatherings in both Rwanda and the United States, Deejay Pius has a proven ability to sustain energy at scale. His sets are crafted experiences — cultural soundtracks designed to unite diverse audiences under one rhythm, perfectly aligned with the spirit of the World Cup.

June 15

DJ MIKE

Boston

DJ

DJ Mike brings a crowd-focused, high-energy DJ performance to the Cultural Showcase, contributing to the diverse musical tapestry of the June 15 program.

June 15

DÀN

Boston

Latin Pop · Afro R&B · Urban

DÀN is a Venezuelan-born, Boston-based artist performing original music in Spanish that blends Latin pop, Afro R&B, and urban influences. Beyond performing, DÀN co-founded MUSA Collective, a community initiative uplifting Boston's emerging Latin creative scene. His intimate, emotionally resonant sets speak directly to the diaspora communities that shape the Commonwealth's cultural identity — a powerful voice for the next generation of Boston Latino artists.

June 16

LISA BELLO

Hyde Park,
Boston

R&B · Soul · Funk

Lisa Bello is a Boston-born, full-time performing artist and former Boston Public Schools teacher. She holds the distinction of having sung the National Anthem at every professional stadium in New England — including Gillette Stadium — and has performed at festivals across New England, New York, and London. Her BAMS Fest appearance is among her most celebrated. A musician, activist, and proud Bostonian, Lisa delivers an all-ages, soul-driven live experience deeply rooted in the communities she serves.

June 16

META MOVEMENTS

Boston

Latin Music & Dance / Cultural Theater

MetaMovements is a Boston-based international artist collective bridging communities across the US, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic through original live productions. For the Fan Festival, they present Un Sueño Habanero — a live music and dance show blending projections, poetry, live percussion, and dance to explore migration, belonging, and cultural identity. The collective has headlined the Providence Salsa & Bachata Festival, Boston Salsa Festival, and A Bailar at SubSpace (MOS) for two consecutive years.

June 16

RHETT PRICE

Boston

Live Music

Rhett Price is a Boston-area live musician bringing original artistry and musicianship to the June 16 Cultural Showcase program.

June 17

ZUMIX

East Boston

Youth Live Music (Multiple Genres)

ZUMIX is a nationally recognized creative youth development organization based in East Boston, empowering young people through music since 1991. Their four ensembles — Zukix, Porque Puma, Marmalade, and Beware of Denise — have performed with Roger Waters at TD Garden, opened for Eddie Vedder at Hot Stove Cool Music, sung the National Anthem at Fenway Park, and opened for the New England Revolution's Latin Heritage celebration at Gillette Stadium. ZUMIX young artists are a living embodiment of East Boston's multicultural energy.

June 18

VERONICA ROBLES & HER ALL WOMEN MARIACHI BAND

East Boston

Mariachi / Latin American

Veronica Robles is a powerhouse performer, cultural ambassador, and founder of the Veronica Robles Cultural Center in East Boston. She leads Boston's first — and only — all-women mariachi band in New England, an ensemble redefining a centuries-old tradition. Career highlights include Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Symphony Hall's inaugural Día de Muertos concert (2024) with the Boston Pops — to which she returns as special guest artist in 2025. She has sung the National Anthem at both Gillette Stadium and TD Garden. Mayor Michelle Wu called her "truly a city-wide treasure," and a mural of Veronica in her mariachi attire graces Paris Street in East Boston.

June 19

DJ SUPERSMASHBROZ

Dorchester /
Mattapan /
Roxbury

Afrobeats · Amapiano · Hip-Hop · Dancehall

DJ SuperSmashBroz is a Boston DJ duo whose sound is drawn from the city's most culturally vibrant neighborhoods — Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury — blending Afrobeats, Amapiano, hip-hop, and dancehall into high-energy cultural experiences. They have performed at the Boston Marathon in partnership with CLIF Bar and at AfroFuture Festival in Accra, Ghana, for over 20,000 people. Their sets move across cultures in real time, creating the sense of collective belonging that defines both the World Cup and Boston itself.

June 19

KS DANCE STUDIO

Hyde Park,
Boston

Haitian Folklore & Afrobeats Dance

KS Dance Studio is a Hyde Park-based Haitian dance troupe performing folklore, Afrobeats, and Haitian pop. Approximately six years ago, the studio performed purely Haitian Folklore at TD Garden for the Harlem Globetrotters — wowing a crowd unfamiliar with the tradition and earning a return invitation the following year. The performance went viral globally, with Haitians around the world celebrating the moment of cultural visibility. With Haiti competing in the 2026 World Cup, KS Dance Studio brings powerful community pride and perfect timing to this stage.

June 20

ESHANI – FLETCHERS

Canton, MA /
Boston

Rock / Pop (Cover & Original)

ESHANI – Fletchers is a graduate school band formed through the Fletcher School's Music Diplomacy Club at Tufts University, performing high-energy rock and pop alongside original songs about Boston. The group is internationally constituted: guitarist Yuto Miyazawa is a Guinness World Record holder as the youngest guitarist to perform with Ozzy Osbourne. The ensemble performed at the USA Pavilion at the World Expo in Osaka, Japan — one of the most visited pavilions at the Expo — bringing their original documentary project Dad Rock, about Boston's almost-forgotten rock and roll history, to a global audience.

June 20

CANDACE PERSUASION

Boston

Drag Performance / Dance

Candace Persuasion is a Trans and Vietnamese showgirl, hostess, actress, and one of Boston's most celebrated entertainers. A former Community Relations specialist with the Mayor's Office of LGBTQIA2S+ Advancement, she was part of the core team that removed gender identity disclosure requirements from Boston marriage certificates. She received the 2022 Trans Excellence Award from the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, opened for Chappell Roan (2023), headlined the Made in Asia Festival — the largest drag AAPI festival — in 2025 and 2026, and was featured in Beyoncé's Renaissance Film after her "Trans is Beautiful" sign earned global coverage from Billboard, PinkNews, and Gay Times.

June 20

DIASPORA DANCE COLLECTIVE

Roxbury /
Dorchester / JP,
Boston

Afro-Latin Dance · Hip-Hop · Live Music

Diaspora Dance Collective (DDC) is a Boston-based ensemble presenting Afro-Latin arts through bomba y plena, salsa, Latin fusion, hip-hop, and live Afrobeats. Most recently, DDC choreographed and performed the Pride Night halftime show for the Boston Celtics at a packed TD Garden arena. The collective has performed at Fiesta del Río in Everett, the Puerto Rican Festival of Massachusetts, and the Boston Salsa Festival. Rooted in the neighborhoods — Roxbury, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, East Boston, Mattapan — that define Boston's Caribbean and Latinx cultural identity.

June 21

DJ REAL P

Boston

DJ

DJ Real P is a Boston-based DJ delivering an energetic and crowd-focused set.

June 21

DJ SHY

Dorchester,
Boston

Cape Verdean Music · Coladeira · Funaná · Morna · Kizomba

DJ Shy (Veronica Rosario) is a Cape Verdean-born, Dorchester-raised DJ who specialises exclusively in Cape Verdean music — Coladeira, Funaná, Morna, and Kizomba. With over 13,000 Cape Verdeans in the Boston area and Cabo Verde competing in the 2026 World Cup, her performance is a celebration of neighborhood pride and diaspora identity. She has performed at I Love Cabo Verde events in Providence and on the island of Fogo, and at Zaz Fest in Boston — a homecoming for a community that has long shaped the fabric of Dorchester.

June 22

THE RAY LIRIANO EXPERIENCE

Jamaica Plain,
Boston

Latin Fusion · Bachata · Rock · Merengue · Reggae · Ska

The Ray Liriano Experience (RLX) is Boston's premier Latin fusion act, led by Dominican-born artist Ray Liriano. Their sound collides bachata and merengue with rock, blues, reggae, and ska — a cultural bridge between Ray's Caribbean heritage and Boston's storied rock scene. RLX has headlined premier venues including Roadrunner and the Crystal Ballroom, and transformed the JP Music Festival into an explosive community dance floor. One of the program's most versatile and crowd-ready acts.

June 22

TENILLE JA'NAE

Quincy, MA

R&B · Neo-Soul · Pop

Tenille Ja'Nae is a soulful vocalist, songwriter, and keyboardist whose live performances blend R&B, neo-soul, pop, and timeless classics with powerful stage presence and live instrumentation. She recently sang the National Anthem at a Boston Celtics game at TD Garden. Her performances are built on emotional authenticity, audience interaction, and a deep connection to the cultural life of Boston and the broader Massachusetts community.

June 22

RITMO CANELA ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

Lawrence, MA

Dominican & Caribbean Music & Dance · Merengue · Palos · Bomba · Mangulina · Plena

Ritmo Canela is a Dominican cultural arts ensemble from Lawrence, MA — home to one of the largest Dominican communities in New England — presenting a rich potpourri spanning merengue clásico, palos, bomba, mangulina, and plena. They have performed at the Boston Puerto Rican Parade, Semana Hispana in Lawrence, the Massachusetts State House, and Premios Dominicanísimo. Ritmo Canela represents the Commonwealth's proudest immigrant communities with passion, precision, and cultural depth.

June 23

SAFIYA

Boston / Quincy

Jazz · Neo-Soul · Reggae

Safiya is a Berklee College of Music graduate and rising global force in jazz, neo-soul, and reggae. She has been nominated for New England Music Award Jazz Act of the Year (2022 & 2023) and won the Boston Music Award for Reggae Artist of the Year (2024). Career highlights include performing with the National Chorale alongside Alicia Keys and David Guetta at the United Nations, opening for Grammy winner Keznavi, headlining the BAMS and Salem Jazz Festivals, and completing a mini tour of Tokyo (2023). Safiya is also the founder of Travel Through Music — a cultural platform featured in Forbes and The Boston Globe. She has performed in Fiji, Colombia, Aruba, Sint Maarten, Portugal, and Japan.

June 23

BORGA'S BAND

Worcester, MA

Ghanaian Afro-Centric Live Music

Borga's Band is the premier Ghanaian Afrocentric live band in the New England region, based in Worcester. The group has shared the stage with internationally acclaimed Ghanaian artists Kofi Kinaata, Akwaboah, Fameye, Pat Thomas, and Diana Hamilton — artists with massive global followings across Africa and the diaspora. Their June 23 appearance is particularly resonant: Ghana faces England that day at Gillette Stadium, and Borga's Band has specifically requested this slot to celebrate with Boston's Ghanaian community.

June 24

ANOVA BRAZIL DRUMMING ENSEMBLE

Boston

Brazilian Drumming / Percussion

aNova Brazil Drumming Ensemble brings the thunderous, communal energy of Brazilian percussion to City Hall Plaza, rooted in the samba and batucada traditions that have defined football culture in Brazil for generations. Their immersive, participatory performances connect audiences to the global spirit of the World Cup through rhythm, movement, and shared joy.

June 24

ZAIRA

Newton
Highlands, MA

Son Jarocho · Veracruz, Mexico

Zaira Meneses leads a Son Jarocho band presenting traditional music from Veracruz, Mexico — a vibrant blend of Spanish, African, and Indigenous Mexican influences featuring live jarana, guitarra de son, and zapateado footwork dance. Zaira made history as the first artist to present Son Jarocho alongside a full orchestra when she debuted with the Boston Pops, a landmark moment of Latin American cultural representation in the city. She also performs through the Latin American Music Festival and Unidos Orchestra, designing all her shows to be participatory — turning audiences into co-creators of the fandango experience.

June 25

FM COLLECTIVE

Boston (Berklee
alumni)

Bilingual Latin · Hip-Hop · Jazz

FM Collective is a bilingual Boston-based Latin band formed by Berklee College of Music graduates. Their name traces to "FIFA Mansion" — the apartment where members first gathered to play music and FIFA video games, making them uniquely fitting for this stage. Named World Act of the Year at the New England Music Awards, they have performed at Boston City Hall, Somerville ArtBeat, Fluff Fest, and Sofar Sounds. Vocalist and MC Marcelo Trisano is also a recipient of a Creative Individual Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

June 25

INTERNATIONAL SHOW – ROY STURDMIRE

Boston

Live Hip-Hop

Roy Sturdmire delivers a fully arranged, live band-powered hip-hop performance built on crowd engagement, motivational storytelling, and dynamic musicianship. A professor at Berklee College of Music with deep community roots — including work in juvenile centers and correctional facilities across Boston — Roy represents hip-hop with purpose and message. His Soul Fest performance was so intense that venue staff asked him to stop the audience jumping for fear of the floor giving way.

June 26

MAS TOMBAR

Boston

Afro-Latin Percussion

Mas Tombar is an Afro-Latin percussion ensemble dedicated to celebrating the diverse expressions of the drum across Latin America. The ensemble has performed at a celebrated Red Sox and Venezuelan community celebration event in Boston. Their mission — to connect, energize, and inspire through rhythm — aligns directly with the Fan Festival's vision of bringing the world together through culture and sport.

June 26

LEGENDS OF SUMMER

Boston

Live Music

Legends of Summer brings a high-energy live music experience to close out the penultimate day of the Cultural Showcase, celebrating the summer of sport and culture that has defined Boston's 2026 World Cup experience.

June 27

POET LAUREATES (TBC)

Massachusetts

Spoken Word / Poetry

The closing day of the Cultural Showcase will feature Massachusetts poet laureates delivering spoken word performances that reflect on the Commonwealth's cultural richness and the historic significance of hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup. This literary closing moment honors the storytelling traditions of the many communities that have made Boston's World Cup celebration extraordinary.

June 27

SULLIVAN STEWART SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

Plainville, MA

Irish Step Dance

The Sullivan Stewart School of Irish Dance is a family-run studio of nearly 30 years, located in Plainville, MA — the closest Irish dance school to Gillette Stadium. Their fusion routine blends ceili (team) and solo-style Irish dancing with a contemporary remix of traditional reels, featuring both hard shoe percussion and soft shoe athleticism. World-qualifying level dancers have performed in Ireland, England, Scotland, and Canada. Alumni have performed in WGBH's A Christmas Celtic Sojourn (2022) and in Michael Flatley's Feet of Flames world tour in Taiwan (2023), performing to stadium-sized audiences. The school closes the Cultural Showcase with a proud celebration of Boston's deep Irish heritage.

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