

SPRINGING THE BLUES MUSIC FESTIVAL RETIRES ON A HIGH NOTE

After more than 30 years of bringing world-class blues music to the oceanfront, the Board of Directors has voted to retire the Springing the Blues Festival

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- After more than three decades of bringing world-class blues music to the oceanfront, the Board of Directors has voted to retire the Springing the Blues Festival. This announcement comes after the massive success of the 34th annual festival held in April 2026. The Board of Directors wishes to extend its deepest gratitude to the community.



Springing the Blues Festival in Jax Beach Festival at Seawalk Pavilion

The board unanimously agreed that the core mission purpose, which began back in 1991, has now been fully accomplished. While organizers know this news will come as a shock to many dedicated fans, a thorough review of 34 years of "Keeping the Blues Alive" efforts shows the festival has done its part exceptionally well. Today, the blues genre is very much alive, well, and growing stronger every day.

"This decision was reached with heavy hearts but an immense sense of pride," said executive director, Sam Veal, "We wanted to close this incredible chapter on a high note, celebrating the massive cultural and economic footprint we have left on Jacksonville Beach. We are endlessly grateful to our fans, artists, volunteers, and the City of Jacksonville Beach for making this dream possible for over 30+ years."

Founded with the mission to celebrate traditional and contemporary blues music, the festival grew from a small local gathering into an iconic three-day coastal tradition. However, balancing the escalating operational costs, logistical shifts, and the evolving landscape of large-scale free events led the board to determine the festival has reached its natural, successful conclusion.

The Board is planning a digital retrospective over the coming weeks to honor the musicians, staff, and unforgettable moments that defined the festival's historic run. Reflecting on the festival's deep history and massive community impact, Founder and Executive Director Sam Veal shared a powerful look at what the event achieved.

"In the beginning, our goals were to bring the community together through music by creating a 'Point of Destination' event and help preserve and promote Blues Music," said Veal. "Our 'Blues in the Schools' programs turned thousands of area students onto the blues. Our economic impact exceeded \$50 million. We provided a tremendous economic opportunity to many area businesses and filled area hotels. We provided an amazing musical experience and fun-filled weekend each year that was completely free to the public. We presented the best contemporary and traditional blues artists that we could afford."

The legacy of the festival will continue to live on through its two core organizations. The Springing the Blues Foundation, Inc. (the charitable arm) and Jax Beach Festivals, Inc. (the operational arm) will remain a permanent force for good" in the community. Exciting new initiatives and plans will be revealed by both organizations over the coming months.

About Springing the Blues Festival:

Founded in 1991, the Springing the Blues Festival was a multi-day oceanfront music festival held in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. For 34 years, it served as one of the largest and oldest blues festivals on the East Coast, dedicated to preserving the heritage of blues music and boosting the local beach economy. Downbeat Magazine named Springing the Blues one of the top 50 music festivals in the world. For more visit springingtheblues.com.

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