CAPE VERDEAN MUSEUM



20th Anniversary Fundraising Gala

HONORING KIM ALVES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025
55 MEMORIAL DRIVE
PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND

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Tonight's Program

6:30pm Doors Open

7:30pm Dinner

8:30pm Hall of Fame Award Presentation; Guest Speaker, Dr. José Luis Livramento Brito, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Communities, RCV

9:30 Live Music with Assol Garica, Jack Pina, Vuca Pinheiro, Djuta Barros, Harmony Band and Silas Pinto



Dr. Isadore Ramos shows his family around the museum.



Cape Verde's Prime Minister José Ulisses Correia e Silva with Corsino Delgado, Chairman of the Board of the Cape Verdean Museum, July, 2025.

Delgado joined a delegation from Rhode Island which traveled to Cape Verde where they met officials from the government to discuss issues important to the diasporic community.



Welcome

Thank you for joining us to celebrate this milestone year for the Cape Verdean Museum!

From the early days when Denise Oliveira envisioned a place to celebrate our history and culture, we have been rooted in our community's values. From our humble beginnings in East Providence, we have been dedicated to telling the important story of Cape Verdeans in America.

Since then, we've grown and been embraced by Cape Verdeans not just in this country, but from all over the world. We have held events large and small, and hosted important dignitaries, artists, families and school groups with equal enthusiasm. We embarked on a building campaign and moved to a beautiful new home with the incredible support of the Cape Verdean-American community.

At the museum, we pay respect to that community with our Hall of Fame and we are here now to honor the incredible musical talent of Kim Alves, who has dedicated his life to uplifting Cape Verdeans through his art. Congratulations, Kim!

Today, the Cape Verdean Museum serves as more than a repository of history, it is a vibrant center where we celebrate a living culture through music, arts, and education. This achievement has been made possible primarily through the generous support of our community members. Thank you to everyone who has shown us such incredible support!

— Corsino Delgado, Chairman of the Board, Cape Verdean Museum

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OF THE CAPE VERDEAN MUSEUM

Founder Denise Oliveira, at a golf tournament fundraiser, 2010.



The Cape Verdean Museum officially opened its doors on October 8, 2005, but a great deal of time and energy had been spent in the years prior envisioning a home for Cape Verdean history and culture in southern New England.

Originally named the Cape Verdean Museum Exhibit, the project was the brainchild of Denise A. Oliveira. Denise worked for the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission when, in the early 2000s, plans began circulating for a “Heritage Harbor Museum” to highlight the state’s diverse heritage.

Denise worked tirelessly to raise funds so that Cape Verdeans could be part of this new state museum. In early 2003, she held a dinner-dance at Venus de Milo and an “Afternoon Tea” at the Cape Verdean Progressive Center in East Providence. She wrote a mission statement and recruited a board of directors for the project. In the fall of 2003, the museum’s board was officially announced and a plaque of original donors was unveiled at the Progressive Center. Johnny Pina performed for the crowd that had gathered.

Over the next two years, Denise continued to raise money, but she began to sense that Heritage Harbor might not come to fruition due to funding and construction issues. She was determined, however, to honor her commitment to the Cape Verdean community and, in February of 2005, proposed the idea of an independent home for the museum. She wanted a space created by Cape Verdeans, managed by Cape Verdeans and ultimately, owned by Cape Verdeans.

After Denise circulated a written proposal, plans came together quickly. At the end of February, 2005, it was announced in the *Providence Journal* that the Cape Verdean Museum Exhibit was seeking nominations for a “Hall of Fame” to recognize Cape Verdean-Americans who had made outstanding contributions to the community.

Dr. Isadore Ramos, an early supporter of the museum and the first mayor of an American city of Cape Verdean descent, generously located a space for the exhibit in East Providence.

Others who had long been involved in promoting Cape Verdean culture in Rhode Island, such as Virginia Gonsalves and Yvonne M. Smart, joined the cause and donated handicrafts and historical items for the new space.



Virginia Gonsalves, a longtime board member, speaks to the Mayor of Brava and other vistors, inside the museum’s original East Providence location, 2007.



Students from the Norwich Free Academy of Connecticut stand in front of our old building after a tour.

Raymond A. Almeida, who, in 1975, had spearheaded a very successful display of Cape Verdean culture at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. became an informal advisor to the project and also donated important items from his exhibition.

On October 8, 2005, the museum had its grand opening at 1003 Waterman Street in East Providence. The space officially opened to the public on March 25, 2006 and in October of that year, the Prime Minister of Cape Verde made his first visit.

The growth of the museum over these years was aided by collaborations with Cape Verdeans from Massachusetts and Connecticut, as well as the incredible help of members of the Progressive Center and CACD.

But Denise always had her eye on a larger and permanent home for the museum. She made a considerable effort to reach out to organizations in East Providence, Pawtucket and Providence looking for assistance. She was always proud of the fact that the museum was entirely funded and run by members of the Cape Verdean-American community. She saw the space in East Providence as a launching pad for something bigger.

On November 20, 2020, after Denise Oliveira had retired from the museum and Joe DaMoura took over, a new era began. Joe located a building in Pawtucket and undertook an ambitious fundraising campaign with the help of Ismael DaSilva to pay for the purchase and renovation of the structure. Thanks in no small part to the efforts of our Cape Verdean contractor, Egidio DaSilva, the first phase of the project was completed and an official grand opening held on September 17, 2022. To commemorate this, a sold-out fundraiser was held at the Omni Providence Hotel.

On December 17, 2022, an official delegation from Cape Verde visited our new building at 617 Prospect Street in Pawtucket, led by Prime Minister José Ulisses Correia e Silva. Since then, our museum has been a great success with the invigorated support of Cape Verdeans from across the United States.

With our greatly expanded space, the Cape Verdean Museum has been able to highlight much more

of our collection, welcome larger school groups and host a variety of classes and events. Since then, the museum has expanded its Hall of Fame, which now honors 65 pioneers who helped break down social barriers and elevate Cape Verdean-Americans. We've also partnered with universities like Bridgewater State University, University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College and Brown University to become a place of respectful and honest scholarship.

Some of the most memorable moments from the last three years have been the visits from individuals and families who have found a personal connection to something in our collection. They might see a photo of a relative from half a century ago, or learn something new about their ancestral home. Many have been so moved by the museum that they've donated items that have great personal meaning to their families because they saw the importance of sharing this history with others.

With this groundswell of support, the Cape Verdean Museum has evolved to become a community space, a place of living culture. Through art shows, book release parties, historical exhibits, musical events, health symposiums, comedy shows and Kriolu and music classes, we are always looking for new ways to engage anyone interested in learning about Cape Verde and Cape Verdean-Americans.

Today, the museum is a hub of activity, helping educate the next generation while honoring those from the past, like Denise Oliveira, who dedicated so much of their lives to uplifting the Cape Verdean-American community.





Top: Artist's sketch of the museum's new home, 2020. Bottom: Cape Verde's Prime Minister José Ulisses Correia e Silva speaks at the museum's grand opening,

2025 CAPE VERDEAN MUSEUM HALL OF FAME HONOREE



Kim Alves

Joaquim Fernandes Pina Alves, known as Kim Alves, was born in Praia on November 3, 1966. Raised in a home filled with music thanks to his father, the violinist João “Nho Djonsinho” Alves, Kim and his brothers learned instruments from an early age. He began with homemade rattles made from condensed-milk cans containing “black thorn” seeds. From there, he quickly advanced to cavaquinho, 12-string viola, guitar, and eventually violin. His musical ear was evident early on as older musicians trusted him to tune their instruments even before he played them.

By age seven, Kim was performing full dances on cavaquinho with his father, and by eight he was already playing guitar left-handed, teaching himself by observing right-handed players. At nine, he astonished his family by mastering his first violin lesson instantly. At eleven, he won Cape Verde’s Best String Instrumentalist award and soon began formal studies in theory and keyboard at the São José Seminary.

As a teenager, Kim founded the groups Sodade and Voz d’África, and at seventeen he joined the legendary ensemble Abel Djassi, eventually becoming its musical leader. The group revolutionized Cape Verdean harmony and stage performance, influencing generations of musicians at home and abroad. During this period, Kim also became known for his mastery of keyboards and synthesizer sound design.



Kim Alves with the children of his 2025 Music Learning Program.

After Abel Djassi, Kim performed with Tubarões and Finaçon, later moving to the United States to work as a studio musician and producer. He went on to establish successful studios in the U.S., Cabo Verde, and Portugal, producing dozens of acclaimed albums. During this time, he worked with Haitian and Jamaican artists, as well as Cape Verdean musicians such as Chandinho Dedé, Pulonga Bita, Zeca nha Reinalda, Zé Rui de Pina, Pai & Filhos and Heavy H. In 2003, Kim established KMagic Digital Studio in Cabo Verde, creating an accessible production hub for emerging artists.

His contributions earned him national honors, including the Medal of Merit by Prime Minister Dr. José Maria Neves in 2005 and the Order of the Volcano in 2006 by the President of the Republic, Commander Pedro Pires.

Kim Alves now resides in the United States, where he serves as Music Program Director at the Cape Verdean Museum, teaching music to children and adults. Last month, he celebrated 50 years in music and released *Dança das Ilhas 2*, the second edition of his instrumental album.

Special Recogniton: The Museum's Community Builders





Maria Fatima Barros, left, and Dr. Vanessa Britto, right.

- Adriana Rocha Santos
- The late Virginia Gonsalves
- Maria Fatima Barros
- Vina Leite Pereira
- Dr. Vanessa Britto
- The late Dr. Galen V. Henderson

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

- Gabby Santos, Head Docent
- Sheila Conway, Librarian & Docent
- Carlos Spinola, Docent & Community Outreach
- Al Gomes, Docent & Community Outreach
- Milton Spencer, IT
- Nilton Tavares, Volunteer
- Maria DaMoura, Volunteer
- Marilia DaMoura, Volunteer



Gabby Santos always makes a special effort to explain our exhibits to visiting students.



Sheila Conway has been a great help bringing order to all the donations to our library.



We are grateful to Marilia DaMoura, who is ever willing to lend at hand at our events!

2025 Events at the Museum



Dr. Donaldo Macedo (second from left) is joined by members of the Cape Verdean Museum staff after his lecture at the opening of our exhibit on slavery, June 2025.

As part of our mission to be the home of a “living culture,” the Cape Verdean Museum hosted a wide variety of events this year. Musical performances, book release parties, art shows and play readings were just some of the things on our calendar in 2025.

In February, we held a screening of *Cape Verdean Cranberry: The Fernandes Story,* a documentary about one of the last remaining Cape Verdean-owned cranberry bogs on Cape Cod. Later in the year, we welcomed a group from a national teacher’s conference, an event celebrating female entrepreneurship and a retreat for WTL Health Clinic, a nonprofit group supporting community health.

In July, we opened a successful exhibit on the history of slavery in Cape Verde and its Rhode Island connection. We were grateful to have Dr. Donaldo Macedo, professor from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, as guest speaker. This exhibit was also shown at the Independence Day Festival in Fox Point.

The Fernandes Family of Carver, Mass, at the opening of our documentary on the cranberry bogs of Cape Cod.



Kriola Events, which promotes Cape Verdean women-owned small businesses, held an expo, September, 2025.



A retreat in our second-floor conference room for WTL Health Clinic, a non-profit that supports community health.





A group from the Big Picture Learning National Conference for Teachers visits us, July 22, 2025.



Dr. Silas Pinto, our dedicated Kriolu teacher and a strong supporter of the museum's mission, seen here speaking at the opening of our exhibit on slavery, June, 2025.

Educational Programs

For the third year in a row, the tireless Dr. Silas Pinto taught his Kriolu language class in our second-floor classroom. The legendary Kim Alves partnered with the Excel & Ready Community Program to lead his children's music program for a second year. It was an afterschool and summer program that enrolled 38 kids. Kim also introduced an adult music class in 2025, which drew several dedicated students.

Additionally, we hosted a symposium on Alzheimer's disease as well as workshops on financial literacy. In partnership with the Pawtucket School Department, the museum led a "Cape Verdean Language & Culture for Educators" course that helped public school teachers learn more about the culture and language of their Cape Verdean-American students.



Kim Alves taught an adult music class on the second floor of the museum.



The Cabo Verdean American Medical Society's symposium on Alzheimer's.

Our Distinguished Visitors



Commander Pedro Pires and Dr. Isadore Ramos stand outside the museum after their visit, June 17, 2025.

We had so many great people come to the museum this year! From the Rhode Island Black Storytellers to our friends at Temple Emanu-El Boomers, from the families researching their heritage to the group that drove up all the way from New York City to celebrate their Cape Verdean friend's birthday, each visit was something special.

The CVM also welcomed several dignitaries, and we were honored to include Commander Pedro Pires, former President and first Prime Minister of Cape Verde, among them. Gabe Amo, U.S. Congressman representing Rhode Island's 1st District spent time with us, as did Augusto Jorge de Albuquerque Veiga, the new Minister of Culture for RCV.

We had mayors from Brava, Fogo and São Nicolau and musicians such as Tito Paris, Tiny Tavares, Chando Grasiosa, Lori Gomes, Hercules Tomar Lobo, Gardenia Benros, Candida Rose and Vuka Pinheiro walk through our doors. Some stopped by simply to say hello, others graced us with a bit of music!



Miriam Mendes brought her family to see the museum, May 4, 2025.



Yvonne Smart shows Congressman Gabe Amo around the museum, May 29, 2025.

This page: Head docent Gabby Santos talks to students from the Norwich Free Academy, May 13, 2025. This is the school's 18th visit to the museum.

Next page, top: Dr. Vanessa Britto's class from Brown University, January 4, 2025.

Bottom: The Jane Jacobs class of the Lifelong Learning Collaborative of Providence, May 9, 2025.



Student Tours

We love having student groups visit the museum. For our docents, it's always a very fun and meaningful experience introducing young people to Cape Verdean history and culture.

This year, we had a number of schools from southern New England make the special trip to see us in Pawtucket. They ranged in age from the 1st graders of the Lincoln School in Providence to the adults of Rhode Island's Lifelong Learning Collaborative.

In addition, we also welcomed students from Meadowbrook Waldorf School of Richmond, Shea High School of Pawtucket, Norwich Free Academy, Davies Career-Tech High School from Lincoln, the Met School of Providence, Nazarene Christian Academy of New Bedford and Dr. Vanessa Britto's class on health and Cape Verde from Brown University.





Community Outreach



Many visitors viewed our exhibit on the history of slavery at the Cape Verdean Independence Day Festival in Fox Point, Providence, July 6, 2025.

In July, we had a large tent at Fox Point's Independence Day Festival, where visitors could see our new exhibit on slavery. The museum participated in the *Meshanticut Cultural Placemaking Confestival* at Providence City Hall as well as the *Festa De Morabeza* at Brown University. In 2025, the CVM partnered with the Boston Red Sox and the Rhode Island Football Club to hold fundraising nights at both stadiums.

The Cape Verdean Museum signed a cooperation agreement with the National Archives of Cape Verde this year. Also, a delegation from the museum traveled to Cape Verde to discuss the priority issues of our diaspora and was greeted warmly by Prime Minister José Ulisses Correia e Silva.



The Cape Verdean Museum joined with CACD and the R.I. Cape Verdean Heritage Commission to gather donations for the people of São Vicente, after the tragic flooding on the island in August.



BROWN UNIVERSITY

Dr. Vanessa Britto, Jose DaMoura and Yvonne Smart attend the Festa De Morabeza at Brown University, April 19,2025.



R.I. FOOTBALL CLUB

On July 5, 2025, the Rhode Island Football Club celebrated Cape Verdean Indepedence with a fundraiser for the museum at their new stadium in Pawtucket.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Dr José Maria Borges Tavares, of the Institute of the National Archives of Cape Verde, signed a partnership agreement with the Cape Verdean Museum.

Donations

We were very fortunate to receive some wonderful donations this year from our very passionate supporters!

Members of *Amidjabraba*, led by former President Dave Barros, brought us a handsome bust of Eugénio Tavares, the famous poet from Brava (top right). This distinguished work of art is a replica of a statue that stands in the town square of Vila Nova Sintra in Brava.

Thanks to Nicole Caffey, President of Cape Verdeans of Southern California, we received a football signed by Tony Gonzales, the legendary tight end for the Kansas City Chiefs and the Atlanta Falcons.

Anny Santos Rocha and Peter Rocha miraculously managed to bring us a full and elaborate carnaval dress all the way from Cape Verde (bottom right)! It's become a favorite sight among our younger visitors!

Thank you to everyone else who helped the Cape Verdean Museum this year with your generous donations!





2025 Press

This year, the Cape Verdean Museum was honored to be featured on the Rhode Island PBS show, *Treasures Inside the Museum*. The 15-minute segment takes an in-depth look at our collection and includes interviews with Yvonne Smart and Joe DaMoura.

The *Providence Sunday Journal* called the museum, "truly one of Rhode Island's hidden gems" in a wonderful profile on April 6th. Elsewhere, *Jewish Rhode Island, East Providence Reporter, Valley Breeze, The Rhode Island Wave* and the *Woonsocket Call* also wrote about the museum.

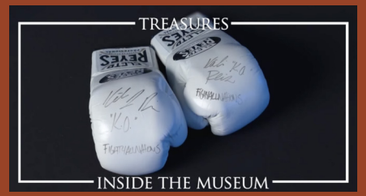

Providence Sunday Journal

DISTINGUISHED NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER

Cape Verdean Museum a hidden gem in Pawtucket

LOCAL PAPERS

"The display is modest, but the honor is great," Robert Isenberg wrote of the museum's new exhibit on Jewish heritage among Cape Verdeans, while the *Valley Breeze* highlighted, "the culture, traditions, and resiliency of this vibrant community."



PROJO SUNDAY

We were grateful to have a very positive story about the museum appear in the *Providence Sunday Journal* by Lynne Sullivan, which included an interview with Jose DaMoura, our Executive Director.


JEWISH RHODE ISLAND

THE VALLEY Breeze

Cape Verdean Museum makes a home in Pawtucket

Cape Verdean Museum highlights Jewish heritage on the island

WSBE, RI PBS

The July episode of the PBS show, *Treasures Inside the Museum*, took a deep look at our collection, discussing everything from *panos* and cranberry scoops to the Tavares brothers and boxer Kali Reis.

Thank you to our sponsors for making tonight happen!



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