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CHIHARU SHIOTA

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Nine ways to kick off summer in Boston this Memorial Day weekend

By Lauren Daley Globe Correspondent, Updated May 21, 2025, 4:14 a.m.

Dave Matthews. Vincent van Gogh. Belgian waffles. A shark. Whales. A trail of ice cream. ... Nope, I'm not having that dream again. (I quit drinking Dunkin' post-midnight after that last episode. Long story.) This is real, I tell ya, and it's all happening this weekend in Boston. Memorial Day weekend, a.k.a. the Official Unofficial Start of Summer. Here are 9 things to enjoy the long weekend — and remember the spirit of the holiday. (Obvious but obligatory note: check details on websites before you go.)

FREE ART BY THE WATER

Soak up two free days of art by the ocean. Kick off the long weekend May 22 with the ICA's "Free Thursday Night" (5-9 p.m., tickets available starting 10 a.m. Thursday). Or explore on free-admission Monday (10 a.m.-5 p.m., advance tickets required; reserve starting 10 a.m. Sunday). On view now: painter Stanley Whitney's first-ever retrospective "Stanley Whitney: How High the Moon" (see him here on CBS Sunday Morning), "Believers: Artists and the Shakers," "Sara Cwynar: Alphabet," and more.

Plus, it's the ICA's Watershed season opener. It kicks off with "Chiharu Shiota: Home Less Home." According to the museum's website, the public can purchase tickets starting May 21 at 11 a.m. for visits starting May 24. Ticket includes regular ICA admission, \$20, 25 Harbor Shore Drive, icaboston.org.