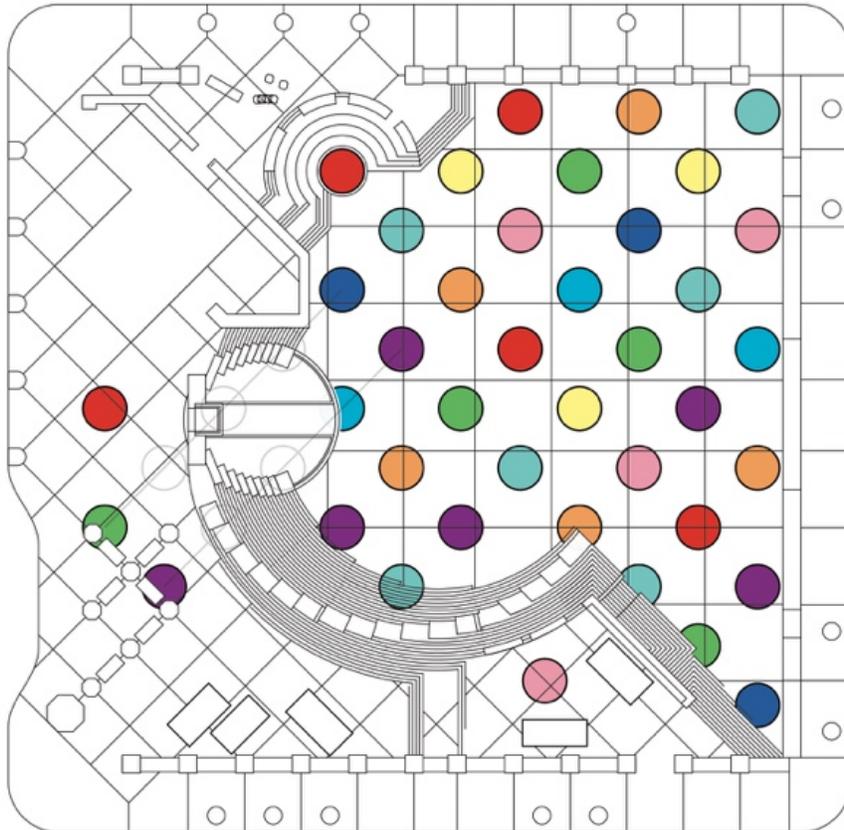




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POLKA DOT COURTHOUSE SQUARE A SOCIALLY DISTANCED SUMMER ART INSTALLATION DOWNTOWN



PORTLAND, OR - (July 13, 2020) - Pioneer Courthouse Square is pleased to announce the upcoming installation of acclaimed Oregon artist Bill Will's *Polka Dot Courthouse Square*. This creative and colorful large-scale art installation will bring vibrancy and unique programming opportunities to the heart of Downtown throughout the summer. This art installation establishes the safe distancing required to support public gathering while encouraging activation.

"I'm grateful to have the opportunity to transform Pioneer Courthouse Square into a playful environment that brings people together safely. The pandemic, climate crisis

and social uprisings have reminded us of how connected we are – how our well-being depends on our neighbors and their neighbors. In this moment of exceptional fragility and potential, I hope we keep finding creative ways to keep our community strong – from a polka dot’s distance away,” says artist Bill Will.

Polka Dot Courthouse Square is a series of 40 colorful, 12-foot, vinyl “polka dots” adhered to the red brick surface of the Square that will be installed this month and on display through September. These dots, spaced 10-feet apart within a structured grid, not only “decorate” our beloved Portland Living Room carpet, but also “set the stage” for pop-up performances by a diverse range of Portland artists, musicians, writers, singers and dancers - while also welcoming the un-choreographed, open space behaviors of Portland’s citizens and visitors. In partnership with Portland Mall Management, 10 dots will also extend along a ten-block length of the Downtown Transit Mall, along SW 5th and 6th Avenues, allowing for pop-up performances to take place through the entire Downtown Core.

“As a board member of Pioneer Courthouse Square, and a person who loves this City, I am excited to help bring this unique art installation to Downtown Portland for all of us to enjoy and experience” says President-Elect Paul Andrews.

With the mission to program and activate our City’s Living Room for the health of Portland’s downtown, Pioneer Courthouse Square’s management organization worked to identify new and innovative ways to connect our community during the COVID pandemic. **Bill Will’s Polka Dot Courthouse Square design provides a unique way for the Square to celebrate the annual cultural traditions that occur in our City’s Living Room each summer and welcome new arts and cultural organizations to perform in an environment that is safe for pop-up live performances and live stream broadcasts.** These performances will be brought to a larger community virtually through social media channels with video and photography.

Summer pop-up performances are being developed in partnership with:

[The India Cultural Association](#)

[Pan-African Festival](#)

[Andisheh Center’s Persian Celebration](#)

[Piano.Push.Play.](#)

[BodyVox](#)

[BRAVO Youth Orchestra](#)

[ARCO PDX](#)

[Classical Revolution](#)

[Portland Opera](#)

Noon Tunes Summer Concert Series

Artists presented by [101.9 KINK](#)

[Portlandia Brass](#)

[Happenstance](#)

[DJ Jupiter Williams](#)

[Pause Meditation](#)

[Switchboard Movement Studio](#)

For more information on upcoming *Polka Dot Courthouse Square* pop-up performances, or to apply to be a part of this year's performance schedule, email inquiries can be sent sage@thesquarepdx.org.

Polka Dot Courthouse Square would not be possible without the generous support of the Square's Downtown partners 200 Market Building, Melvin Mark, Downtown Development Group, Ferguson Wellman, Downtown Portland Clean & Safe, and Portland Mall Management. **To expand the artists and cultural groups performing on the Polka Dots at the Square this summer please donate to Pioneer Courthouse Square's Artist Fund today.** 100% of all donations through September 30, 2020 will directly support these artists and their unique performances.

For more information on the *Polka Dot Courthouse Square* installation, visit our webpage [here](#). For sponsorship inquiries of this unique art installation and platform contact tvetsch@thesquarepdx.org. Follow the Square on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to see this installation come to life throughout the summer.

In Partnership with:



FERGUSON WELLMAN
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT



About Bill Will

Bill Will is an acclaimed Oregon artist who has been creating public projects, museum installations and studio work for the last 46 years. Bill is adept at putting his finger on the irony of the ordinary. Even though his work often focuses on a political or social issue of our time, he is gifted in his ability to stand in the middle rather than expressing his personal position. This approach, often unfound in contemporary art, invites participants of all shapes and beliefs to engage in his work. At the root of Will's work is always the pursuit of respectful humanity.

About Pioneer Courthouse Square, Inc.

Pioneer Courthouse Square, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to manage Downtown's central public gathering space, known adoringly as Portland's Living Room, to achieve an active and healthy downtown environment. Typically hosting more than 300 programmed events each year, through a diverse range of public and private partnerships, Pioneer Courthouse Square, Inc. operates within a budget of \$2.2M composed of cash and in-kind donations.