

As businesses seek downtown's return to normal, Polka Dot pop-up performance series is extended

Jun 14, 2021, 6:56am PDT



COURTESY OF PIONEER COURTHOUSE SQUARE

The Polka Dots, shown here in Pioneer Courthouse Square, encourage artists to perform and passers-by to spend time in downtown.

An art installation and performance series designed to help attract people back to downtown Portland has been extended.

Polka Dot Downtown features artists, musicians, singers and dancers performing on, literally, 12-foot polka dots placed throughout the business district. The performances will take place at 41 downtown properties.

Some 330 performances, by 614 artists, have taken place on the Polka Dots since it began last July in Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Local businesses believe the program will help indicate it's getting safer for shoppers and workers to return to downtown. Nike will back a July 15 performance outside its store, at 638 S.W. Fifth Ave.

It's also served another purpose.

"Polka Dot Downtown has allowed us to safely invite people to experience the Square and Downtown Portland in a new way while simultaneously providing a venue for local artists, since most Portland performance spaces are closed," said Jennifer Polver, Pioneer Courthouse Square's executive director, in a release.

Local businesses, including Melvin Mark and Hoffman Construction, have donated to the program, which has raised \$150,000 for artists and performers.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/portland/news/2021/06/14/polka-dot.html>



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