

For photos, b-roll, or interviews, contact:
Theresa Vetsch-Sandoval tvetsch@thesquarepdx.org
503-223-1613

### **MEDIA ALERT & CALENDAR LISTING**

# HOLIDAY 2021 DOWNTOWN: TOGETHER THROUGH THE SQUARE!



**Portland, Ore- (November 3, 2021)** – In celebration of its 37<sup>th</sup> holiday season, Pioneer Courthouse Square will present nearly two months of free, family-friendly holiday events and beloved traditions beginning this Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM with the delivery of Portland's 75-foot tall Douglas fir, generously donated by <u>Stimson Lumber Company</u>.

2021 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> year that Stimson has harvested, delivered, and set up the tree for Portland's Living Room. What does it take to get the tree to the Square? That was the subject of a <u>short produced by Pioneer Courthouse Square</u> in 2020.

The full calendar of events designed to bring Portland *Together Through the Square* in the Holiday 2021 season include:

### Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 10AM

### **Stimson Lumber Tree Arrival Presented by SmartPark**

The public is welcome to view the arrival of Portland's 75-foot tall Douglas fir, generously donated by <u>Stimson Lumber Company</u>. This year's tree, grown on sustainable forestlands near Gaston, Oregon, will make its journey to Portland's Living Room with the help of <u>Redmond Heavy Hauling</u>, a regional trucking company. Upon its arrival to the Square, the tree will be skillfully lifted into place by <u>NessCampbell Crane + Rigging</u>. Join the Square, volunteers, Santa, and fellow Portlanders to celebrate the tree's arrival.

### Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 6PM

### Portland's Tree Lighting Presented by SmartPark - Televised on KGW

Portland's Annual Tree Lighting, presented by SmartPark, will safely unite Portlanders in a special televised broadcast on KGW 8 the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 26th, at 6:00PM. This half-hour special program hosted by KGW will showcase regional high school band and choral groups who will lead Portlanders in televised caroling singalong. The celebration, which will replace the traditional in-person event held in Portland's Living Room, will include onscreen lyrics and downloadable songbooks for families to celebrate the kick-off of the holiday season from their own Living Rooms!

### Saturday, November 27th at 11AM – 4PM The Portland Bazaar at The Square

New this year, the Portland Bazaar will bring local artisan and maker shopping and cheer to the Square on Small Business Saturday! More than 30 vendors will fill the square, surrounding the beautiful, newly lit tree while visitors can shop outdoors with friends and family. The Portland Bazaar was started in 2011 with a mission to highlight skilled makers, artists and small businesses in town. The market has continued to create a space for vendors to showcase and promote their businesses directly to the community. Over the last ten years, the Portland Bazaar has grown to feature more than 100 vendors each weekend and will round up the best of the best for local holiday shopping! For more information about where to find it this season, visit PortlandBazaar.com.

# November 28<sup>th</sup> – December 5<sup>th</sup>: Time varies depending on the Day Portland's Public Menorah Lighting

Chabad of Oregon will bring light Portland's Public Hanukkah menorah to the Square for its nightly lighting. On the First night, Sunday November 28th at 5:00 PM, there will be live music, Chanukah foods, dignitaries, and festivities to kick off the eight nights of Chanukah. For more information about Hanukkah and a local schedule of events visit <a href="Chabad.org">Chabad.org</a>.

### Saturday, December 4th at 5:30pm

### The Great Figgy Pudding Caroling Competition Presented by Portland Mall Management, Inc.

Pioneer Courthouse Square is excited to host the Great Figgy Pudding Caroling Competition – a fun, festive, and COVID-safe competition that will bring caroling groups to Portland's Living Room and extend to a ten-block radius in the Pioneer District. The

top three caroling groups will hold a "carol-off" at the Square hosted by KGW's Drew Carney and the grand prize winner will be selected by crowd applause and awarded \$1,000. Second and third place prizes, as well as the coveted People's Choice designation, will also be awarded. This FREE caroling competition will be held rain or shine from 5:30-7:30 pm. Team registration is limited to 10 carolers per group. Visit thesquarepdx.org to register.

## Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30PM 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Tuba Christmas Concert Presented by IKEA Portland

The Square welcomes Portland back to downtown for this holiday tradition! Experience the melodic sounds of big brass as 150 tubas play in unison for the 30th Annual Tuba Christmas Concert in Portland's Living Room. This COVID-safe seasonal performance is FREE for the public. Tuba player participation will be limited to 150 and online registration is at <a href="mailto:thesquarepdx.org">thesquarepdx.org</a>.

Beyond these scheduled events, Pioneer Courthouse Square will carry on its tradition of showcasing local artists, schools, bands and performance groups throughout the holiday season with festive holiday events in the Square and throughout the Pioneer District in the heart of Downtown.

In addition, the Holidays on the Mall Series, in partnership with Portland Mall Management Inc., will feature 11 pop-up performances throughout the month of December along Portland's Transit Mall. For a complete schedule of holiday events click <a href="here">here</a> or follow the Square on <a href="Facebook">Facebook</a>, <a href="Twitter">Twitter</a> and <a href="Instagram">Instagram</a> to stay up to date.

### **Sponsors and Supporters**

The 2021 Holiday Season at Pioneer Courthouse Square is made possible by <u>Smart Park</u>, with additional support from <u>Nordstrom</u>, <u>Stimson Lumber Company</u>, <u>IKEA</u> Portland, <u>Redmond Heavy Hauling</u>, <u>NessCampbell Crane + Rigging</u>, <u>Portland Parks & Recreation</u>, <u>EquipmentShare</u>, <u>Portland Mall Management Inc</u>, <u>The Oregonian</u>, <u>KGW</u>, and <u>KINK</u>.

### **About Pioneer Courthouse Square**

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 create a vibrant 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.

Pioneer Courthouse Square, opened on April 6th, 1984 as a communal gathering place for a then-struggling downtown Portland. It has grown into a central hub for community, commerce, and culture and has been frequently lauded by groups like the Project for Public Spaces and the American Planning Association as one of the premier public spaces in the world.