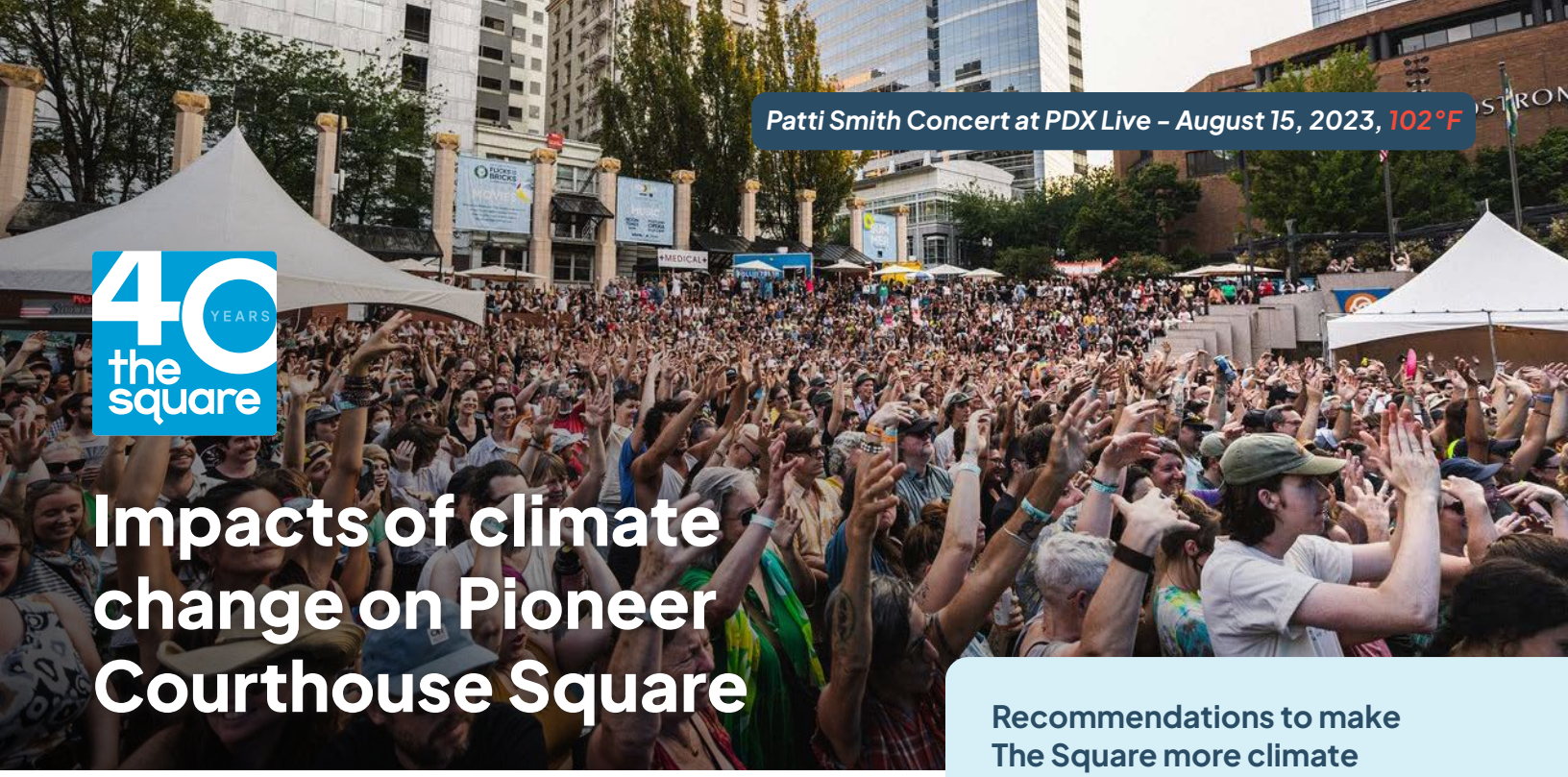

Patti Smith Concert at PDX Live – August 15, 2023, 102°F

Impacts of climate change on Pioneer Courthouse Square

In early 2024, Pioneer Courthouse Square partnered with Portland State University's Masters of Urban and Regional Planning to study the impacts of extreme weather events at The Square and the climate-related implications on community members who gather in The Square in future years.

As part of the study, students surveyed more than 250 Square visitors. The survey found:

45.7%
had already experienced extreme heat at The Square

53.3%
would not visit The Square if the temperature was 90 °F or above

81%
were unlikely or very unlikely to visit The Square during excessive rain

Portland recorded 28 days over 90°F in 2024. It's critical to make The Square more climate resilient to ensure it continues to be a desirable and safe gathering space at the center of Portland's downtown.

The Roots at PDX Live – July 30, 2022, 104°F

Recommendations to make The Square more climate resilient and sustainable:

Covered seating areas, cooling stations and shade structures

- 75.9% of The Square visitors surveyed said they would be more likely to visit The Square while it is raining if there were more covered areas.
- 82.3% of those surveyed said they'd visit The Square on a hot day if there was more shade.

Rebuild the above-ground tenant space

- The glass "jewel box" structure located above ground in the northwest corner of The Square (and currently occupied by Starbucks) was originally built as an outdoor patio with glass panels inserted in the late 1980s.
- The current glass "walls" do not provide protection from weather conditions and are not energy efficient.

Replace the interior HVAC systems

- While uses and programming at The Square have changed over its 40 years, the mechanical and electrical infrastructure has not been upgraded since its installation in 1984.
- During extreme heat, the current HVAC system is inoperable and publicly accessible interior spaces, including the public restroom, must close entirely.

Replace interior lighting system

- Installed in 1984, the current system operates with an inefficient mix of incandescent and fluorescent lighting.