



PITTSBURGH
DOWNTOWN
PARTNERSHIP



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PITTSBURGH DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES
6TH ANNUAL PEOPLES GAS HOLIDAY MARKET™ TRANSFORMS MARKET SQUARE INTO A
HOLIDAY VILLAGE TEEMING WITH UNIQUE SELECTION OF GIFTS**

Opens Comcast Light Up Night® Friday, November 17

New Vendors include MonMade, Yo Sox, Pittsburgh Pottery

Santa House Offers Free Photos with Santa with Every Donation to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

Holiday Karaoke Contest with \$1,000 Grand Prize

Chance to Win a Trip to Germany on Condor Airlines

Downtown Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership (PDP) released details today on the sixth annual Peoples Gas Holiday Market™ which will open on Comcast Light Up Night®, Friday, November 17 and run daily through Saturday, December 23. The Market will be closed for Thanksgiving but will reopen the next day for Black Friday, the biggest shopping day of the year.

The Peoples Gas Holiday Market™ is a European-inspired Christmas market that transforms Market Square into a holiday village featuring 35 vendors of international and locally handcrafted gifts housed in Alpine-style chalets, an entertainment stage featuring local performing groups and bands, and a whimsical Santa's House. Every evening visitors are treated to the BNY Mellon Season of Lights show, a plaza-wide light display incorporating more than 150,000 lights and a spectacular 35' tall sphere tree choreographed to a medley of contemporary and classic holiday tunes.

New Vendors

Although true to its European inspiration, the market has continued its expansion to a more international focus to include Asian, African, Haitian, and Latin American goods to complement its mix of popular returning vendors including Käthe Wohlfahrt, renowned purveyor of German holiday items. This year, the Market welcomes several new vendors including Monmade, Pittsburgh's craft business accelerator who will bring several of Pittsburgh's most sought after artisans to the Market. Additional new vendors include 837 North who produce natural candles, Pittsburgh Pottery who feature Pittsburgh themed mugs, bowls and more, Yo Sox, bringing their funky, ultra-comfortable socks to the market, and Le Petit Chocolat who will feature handcrafted chocolates. Certain to delight many visitors, one vendor returning after a hiatus is Helmut's Strudl bringing with them Austrian strudels, bratwurst, pretzels and more.

"As your trusted energy provider, the nature of Peoples' work invests us in our communities," said Morgan O'Brien, President and CEO of Peoples. "This is the sixth year of the Peoples Gas Holiday Market and we are so proud that it has become a cherished holiday tradition for so many of our neighbors. And, it helps drive regional tourism that supports local downtown Pittsburgh business throughout the season. I invite everyone to join us at this year's Peoples Gas Holiday Market to shop for unique gifts and receive a photo with Santa for a donation to support the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank."

- More -

Santa's House

Santa will again reside in his storybook home, featuring a real gas fireplace, in Market Square where children of all ages will have the opportunity to have a free photo taken with Santa with every donation to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. In five years, more than \$175,000 has been raised during the Holiday Market, providing tens of thousands of meals for local families in need.

Daily Entertainment

The Peoples Gas Holiday Market™ will also feature daily entertainment on the main stage including ethnic performance groups, school and community choirs, bands, local musicians and more.

New Karaoke Contest

New for 2017, the Holiday Karaoke Contest! Every Monday and Tuesday evening from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. through December 12, contestants will compete to move on to the grand finale on Monday, December 18, where one lucky winner will go home with a cash prize of \$1,000.

Condor Airlines Giveaway

Guests who stop by the Kathe Wolfhart tent during the Holiday Market will have the opportunity to enter to win two free tickets to Germany on Condor Airlines, no purchase necessary.

Holiday Website

To provide convenient and updated details on the dynamic range of holiday attractions, the PDP has developed the "Holidays in Downtown Pittsburgh" microsite www.DowntownPittsburgh.com/Holidays. This site will feature Holiday Market details including a schedule of live entertainment, information on Downtown shopping, dining and parking, as well as family friendly activities including those at Fifth Avenue Place, Larrimor's, PPG Place, and the Kidsplay activity zone that offers free family-friendly entertainment on weekends and Black Friday. On Saturdays and Black Friday visitors can take the free horse drawn carriage rides at PPG Place sponsored by Highwoods Properties.

The PDP also produces a weekly Holiday Season e-newsletter that will keep everyone updated with the most current information on events, activities, cultural offerings and retailers in Downtown Pittsburgh. Sign-up to receive this e-newsletter by visiting <http://www.downtownpittsburgh.com/subscribe>.

Peoples Gas Holiday Market™:

Friday, November 17 through Saturday, December 23

Monday – Thursday: 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Closed Thanksgiving

Santa's House Photos:

Monday – Friday: noon to 3:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday: noon to 8:00 p.m.

Sunday: noon to 6:00 p.m.

* Santa's House opens Saturday November 18

2017 Peoples Gas Holiday Market™ Vendors:

837 North - Natural candle company that makes signature fragrance blends inspired by different areas of the world.

Blissed Out Design - Marble drink coasters printed with nostalgic, vintage images and original artwork. Wooden coaster holders, gift boxes and wooden wall prints.

Cha-Ching Coin Jewelry - Earrings, bracelets, pendants and a variety of items made from coins or tokens from around the world. All items made by hand locally.

Diana Kauffman Designs - Men's and women's jewelry hand-made in Pittsburgh, ornaments handmade in Kazakhstan, and hats handmade in Poland.

Euro Haus - Jewelry, scarves, hand-blown glass Christmas ornaments, glass bowls, wooden German scenes, Matryoshkas, nutcrackers, porcelain, religious and ethnic items from Eastern Europe, Russia, Italy, Turkey and China.

European Folk Art - Polish folk art including: hand painted glass ornaments, regional dolls, wooden boxes, wooden carved Santas and Nativities, nesting dolls, wallets, purses and keychains. Hand-painted candle holders, flutes and nutcrackers. Polish t-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, hoodies, onesies, stickers, and buttons.

Gifts From Afar - Nesting dolls, wooden-carved Santas, wooden Christmas ornaments, glass animals, Lithuanian candle houses, amber jewelry, lacquered pins and hairclips, birchbark boxes, and wooden-carved toys.

Global Girl Gifts - Jewelry, small bags, scarves, leather journals and small gift items. Products sourced during trips overseas to Southeast Asia and bought from individual artisans and certified fair trade organizations.

Helmut's Strudl - From Austria, traditional strudel, bratwurst, pretzels, hot chocolate, apple cider.

Himala Home - Hand-made wool and felt products from Nepal: jackets, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, leg warmers, ponchos, pashminas, bags, home decorative items and accessories.

Käthe Wohlfahrt – Huge assortment of holiday gifts from Germany including Advent calendars, traditional smokers, steins, nutcrackers, music boxes, chocolates, wooden, pewter, and glass ornaments, and more.

Kenyan Craft Connection - African hand-made arts, crafts and jewelry including necklaces, bracelets, earrings, bangles, and rings, nativity sets, baskets and handbags.

Linda Barnicott Art and Gifts - Prints and lithographs framed and unframed. Pittsburgh themed ornaments, coasters, mint trays, dishes, magnets, and note cards.

Little Europe - Hand-blown and hand-painted glass ornaments from Europe, hand-carved wood nativity sets and boxes from Poland, Matryoshka dolls from Russia, embroidered tablecloths from Poland, scarabs from Southeast Asia, jewelry and rosaries from Czechoslovakia, and O'platky from a bakery in Poland.

Mistura Timepieces - Handcrafted wood timepieces made with wood, leather, flowers, cork and recycled materials.

Monmade - Supported by Bridgeway Capital's Craft Business Accelerator, Monmade creates retail opportunities for emerging handcrafted producers including: strawberryluna, Worker Bird, and KloRebel Art.

Old German Christmas - All German-made products including glass ornaments from traditional manufacturing, wood crafts, nutcrackers, candle arches, and ornaments.

Pittsburgh Irish Festival Celtic Gift Shoppe - Irish merchandise including ornaments, jewelry, tea, bags, sweaters, ties, books, hats, and much more.

Style Truck - Hats, gloves, and scarves for women, men, and children, holiday accessories, and women's outerwear.

Three Stone Steps - Handcrafted Haitian art, holiday products, jewelry, and home accessories from recycled oil drums and other materials.

Vessel Studio Glass – Hand blown ornaments, vases, decanters, cups, terrariums, bowls, pens, gifts, and accessories.

Wagman Designs - Natural fashion jewelry made with shells, glass, wood, pearls, crystal and metal beads in combination with hypoallergenic materials.

Wendell August Forge – Finely cast ornaments and giftware featuring Pittsburgh skylines and landmarks, Pittsburgh Penguins, and local colleges and universities, ornaments, giftware, and décor.

Women of the Cloud Forest - All products from fair-trade artisans in Nicaragua including luminaries, ceramic vessels, bells, soaps, jewelry, and ornaments.

Yo Sox – Colorful, cool, and funky ultra-soft cotton socks.

Visiting Vendors

Throughout the market, we will be joined by vendors who will be with us for shorter visits. Please note dates are subject to change.

Abandoned Pittsburgh - 11/25 through 12/8 - Abandoned Pittsburgh is an ongoing photography project exploring the Steel City's historical past through imagery. Items for sale include multi-size prints and books.

Audra Azoury Jewelry - 12/16 through 12/23 - Pittsburgh inspired holiday ornaments, jewelry, screen printed bags, and mugs.

Chocolate Moonshine Company - 11/24 through 11/27 - Gourmet fudge and artisan chocolate company featuring 20+ flavors of fudge and Belgian chocolates.

Fabulous Homemade Cookies - 11/17 through 11/24 - Handmade cookies, brownies, cupcakes, and assorted holiday cookie boxes and trays.

JP Diroll Photography - 11/28 through 11/30 and 12/9 through 12/15 - Photographs of Pittsburgh, landscapes and wildlife images in several print options, as well as calendars, ornaments, coasters, and magnets.

Le Petit Chocolat -12/11 through 12/16 - Handcrafted chocolate, cookies, caramels, candy apples, cupcakes and other sweets.

The Milkshake Factory - 12/8 through 12/10 - Homemade hot chocolate and high quality chocolates.

Naked Geometry - 11/17 through 11/22 - Ornaments, pendants, pins & artworks with a focus on geometric and natural design made from sustainable materials.

Pittsburgh Pottery - 12/17 through 12/23 - Pittsburgh themed mugs, bowls, plates, shot glasses, platters and Christmas ornaments.

Three Rivers Clay Works -12/1 through 12/3 - Handmade, functional ceramics that are beautiful, useful works of art.

About the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership

The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership (PDP) is a dynamic, nonprofit organization comprised of business and community leaders, property owners, civic organizations, foundations and residents who provide energy, vision and advocacy for Downtown Pittsburgh. Working collaboratively with its partners, the PDP strives to create a positive Downtown experience for residents, workers and visitors alike. The PDP's strategic initiatives include clean and safe services, transportation, and economic development and advocacy. For more information, visit www.DowntownPittsburgh.com, follow us on Twitter @downtownpitt and "like" us on Facebook.

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