



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MARKET SQUARE IS ALIVE WITH MORE THAN DOUBLE THE FREE FUN THIS SUMMER IN DOWNTOWN

- Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership More than Doubles Programming Hours
 - Free Yoga, Dancing, and Exercise Classes
 - Free Kidplay Program Expands from Tuesdays to include Saturdays
- New Market Square Ambassadors Oversee Family-Friendly, Free Activities Every Day
 - New Saturday Night Market Featuring Food, Fashion, and Art
 - New Wifi Lets People Stay Connected

DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH, PA – This summer, Market Square is a daily hub for fun, games, fitness, markets, and much more! The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership is partnering with a variety of organizations to more than double the daily programming in the center of Downtown, providing a welcoming, vibrant public plaza for everyone.

“We look forward to welcoming more people into the heart of Downtown. Between our new and returning programming, we believe there is something for everyone, each day in Market Square,” said Jeremy Waldrup, President and CEO of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership.

According to City of Pittsburgh Mayor, William Peduto, “I appreciate the hard work and investment the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership is committing in order to make Market Square a premier public space, filled with creative, fun, sustainable programming that is accessible to all Pittsburghers. This programming is already having a positive impact in the Square, bringing thousands in to Downtown this summer.”

Welcome to Market Square!

Every day in Market Square the PDP will provide an ambassador in a new program designed to welcome the public, provide helpful information and help coordinate the many hours of free programming and activities in Market Square. Just look for the “I” Information booth to get your questions answered daily, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Free Activities for Families and Professionals Looking for Midday Rest and Relaxation

Every afternoon in Market Square, there will be opportunities to play, read, and relax. A free-to-use ping pong table, corn hole and giant versions of Jenga, chess, and Connect Four will be available. The PDP is also introducing a daily Reading Room, which is a quiet corner of Market Square featuring books and periodicals that can be borrowed to read while in the Square. This will be a perfect area for people to bring their laptops to do some work while enjoying some fresh air and sunshine.

With all of the weekly events in Market Square, it’s hard to imagine a time when some activity is not occurring but there will always be an opportunity to relax with a book or periodical from the daily Market Square Reading Room or let the kids color on locally created Toonseum coloring pages or use sidewalk chalk at our kids cart. We have also installed locally made benches, designed by Brooklyn-based studio FANTÁSTICA, the zig zag seats were fabricated locally by Greg Gehner of Transit Forge.

New Free Wi-Fi in the Square

Market Square now offers free, easy to use, Wi-Fi every day. Directions to “Connect_Downtown” are available on signs throughout the Square. This now makes Market Square the perfect outdoor office space!

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KidsPlay Now offers Free Activities every Saturday too!

KidsPlay returns on Tuesdays and brings a new edition every Saturday morning to Market Square. Presented along with Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Downtown and Business Branch, children and their families can enjoy fun activities complete with crafts, stories, and special guests. Children can plant their own tree one week, see how cartoons come to life the next, dance with the symphony and ballet, and even touch a real fire truck. Animal Friends, the Three Rivers Storytelling Festival, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, the Riverhounds, and more! All children who attend on Tuesdays can also receive a free meal, thanks to the Grub Up Food Truck. Tuesdays will run through August 29 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. and is followed by The Reading Room, a weekly program of the library where people can purchase books and learn how to use library resources. Saturday Kidsplay occurs from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., through August 26. More details and the schedule are available [on our website](#).

New Markets – Food, Fashion and Art

A new weekly artisan Saturday Night Market joins PDP's highly popular Thursday Farmers Market (10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.), which has been providing fresh produce in the heart of Downtown for more than 12 years. Both Markets run from mid-May until the end of October. The new Saturday Night Market features a revolving assortment of vendors offering artisan merchandise such as clothing, arts and crafts, jewelry and well as a limited number of grab-n-go street foods and other small batch culinary items. There are free games and some of the area's most popular DJ's provide the soundtrack for this weekly party in the heart of Downtown. Beginning next month the PDP partners with WYEP to present some of the areas aspiring singer-song writers in a multi-week competition that will include grand prize recording sessions and paid gigs at a Downtown venue. More details about the Saturday Night Markets are [available here](#).

For several years PDP has presented a bi-annual fashion market in Market Square which will now occur monthly in Market Square on Mondays. The fashion market features Downtown fashion retailers along with local fashion trucks and designers. The markets are scheduled for July 10, August 14, and September 11 and will run from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. [Details are available here](#).

Yoga in the Square Adds Wednesday Happy Hour Session

Sunday Yoga in the Square has become a phenomenon among practicing yogis in Pittsburgh. Presented with Fitt, Sunday Yoga in the Square will continue through September, every Sunday morning from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Yoga practice is led by a variety of instructors from throughout the region.

New for 2017 is a weekly evening Yoga in the Square. Presented in collaboration with Whirl Magazine, every Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. there will be a one hour free yoga class. It's a perfect way to de-stress after work!

Both Yoga classes will continue through the end of September. More details about Yoga in the Square, including the instructor schedules are available [here](#). When classes are cancelled due to inclement weather information is posted on PDP social media channels: DowntownPitt.

Dancing in the Square

Has "Dancing with the Stars" ignited your desire to glide across a dance floor with grace and style? If so, Dancing in the Square is your opportunity to awaken your inner Fred Astaire. Every Friday evening in June, July, and August from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. there will be performances and free instruction in ballroom, swing, salsa and other dance styles. Programmed by USA Dance Pittsburgh, most weeks will also feature performances by local dance groups and instructors. Every week will feature music by DJ John Siefken, playing a variety of music. More details, as well as the schedule are [available here](#).

Move It Mondays Adds Free After work Work-Out

In collaboration with the PNC YMCA, there will be free fitness classes every Monday at noon in Market Square. A mix of Pilates, Zumba and more, these classes offer an opportunity for some mid-day energizing. And if lunchtime isn't your thing, join the Cardio Party! Every Monday evening in Market Square enjoy High Intensity Interval Training from Michael of The Greater Physique – classes consist of two FREE sessions with a live DJ to keep you pumped from start to finish. Choose from the 5:30 session (beginners & children welcome), the 6:00 session (intermediate/previous attendees), or get ready to really MOVE IT and sweat your way through both. Full details and schedules are [available here](#).

Free, Live Music

In addition to all of this programming, thanks to the Market Square Merchants Association there are two lunchtimes each week filled with live music. On Wednesdays, in partnership with KDKA-Radio, stop by the Square from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for live music and vendors. Then again on Friday, Bob-FM and Q92-9, bring Pittsburgh's best live music to the Square, also featuring a variety of vendors, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Market Square is an active, inviting place for people to bring their lunch, play, relax, or even get some work done. Keep up to date with everything that is occurring in Market Square by regularly visiting the PDP's website, DowntownPittsburgh.com, or sign-up for our bi-weekly e-newsletter [on our website](#).

About the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership

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 at <http://twitter.com/downtownpitt> and "like" us on Facebook.

About FANTÁSTICA

FANTÁSTICA specializes in urban design and placemaking services, with a particular focus on strategies that are nimble, community-driven, and replicable. For more information, visit <http://fantastica.is>.

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