



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**'WORLD SQUARE' TO TRANSFORM MARKET SQUARE INTO CELEBRATION OF PITTSBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AND IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES**

- **FREE EVENT JUNE 2-4 & JUNE 9-11 WILL COINCIDE WITH THREE RIVERS ARTS FESTIVAL**
- **LIVE ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDES A GLOBAL RANGE OF MUSIC AND DANCE PERFORMANCES**
- **VENDORS WILL OFFER INTERNATIONALLY DIVERSE ART, CRAFTS AND CUISINE**

**Downtown Pittsburgh** – Returning for two back-to-back weekends during the Three Rivers Arts Festival (June 2-4 & 9-11), World Square celebrates the international newcomer and immigrant communities of Pittsburgh, transforming Market Square with a vibrant mix of sights, sounds and cuisine. With a global perspective from nearby communities – “World Square - Welcoming All of Pittsburgh’s Neighbors” – will present art, crafts, music, dance and cuisine reflecting almost 30 international communities that call the Pittsburgh region their home. World Square is made possible with the generous support of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and media sponsor WYEP, and the collaborative efforts of more than ten diverse community groups that comprise the event’s steering committee.

First launched in 2019 as a community collaboration spearheaded by the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership and the City’s ‘Welcoming Pittsburgh’ initiative, the event showcases businesses, artists, makers, performers, and food purveyors from various international communities. The welcoming environment provides a unique opportunity for vendors and artists to build connections through an entertaining and immersive experience that highlights the myriad of diverse communities taking root in our region. More details, including a complete list of vendors and an entertainment schedule, are available at: [WorldSquarePGH.com](http://WorldSquarePGH.com).

“I’m excited for the opportunity to show once again the growing diversity of our city and the display of cultures that make our city a place where everyone can feel safe and welcome,” said Mayor Ed Gainey.

Vendor offerings are diverse and extensive, with something for everyone to enjoy. From sweet treats including Middle Eastern pastries, Indonesian baked goods and Filipino desserts, to prepared foods like Mexican tacos and gorditas, Nepalese dumplings, Colombian coffee, Salvadoran pupusas, Nigerian dishes and more. Art and home goods include handmade Turkish towels, Balkan terracotta pots, Kenyan crafts and jewelry, plus a range of Middle Eastern, African, Latin American and Asian décor, textiles, pottery, books and clothing.

“Through our partnerships and dedication to inclusion, we’re celebrating the fourth year of the World Square program for two full weekends, an amazing testament to the growth of diversity in our region,” said Feyisola Akintola, manager of immigrant and refugee affairs for the City of Pittsburgh.

Entertainment will vary over the two weekends and include Balinese, Filipino, Balkan, and Indian dance performances, Argentine tango, Chinese folk music, Balkan singers, a drum ensemble by Pittsburgh Taiko, guitar duo Gena y Pena, and more. Plus, **DJ Juan Diego VII** will serve as emcee across both weekends.

**DETAILS**

**Dates:** Friday, June 2 – 5-9 p.m.  
Saturday, June 3 – 12-9 p.m.  
Sunday, June 4 – 12-6 p.m.  
  
Friday, June 9 – 5-9 p.m.  
Saturday, June 10 – 12-9 p.m.  
Sunday, June 11 – 12-6 p.m.

**Location:** Market Square, Downtown Pittsburgh

Additional community organizations served on the World Square Steering Committee and their contributions helped to create this event. These organizations include:

## **STEERING COMMITTEE PARTNERS**

- Asian American Chamber of Commerce Pittsburgh
- Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh
- Global Wordsmiths
- Hello Neighbor
- Midwest USA Chinese Chamber of Commerce Pittsburgh
- Pittsburgh Hispanic Development Corporation
- The University of Pittsburgh's Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) & SBDC / Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence (IEE)
- The University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs
- VisitPittsburgh

*For questions regarding the City of Pittsburgh's Welcoming Pittsburgh initiative, please reach out to the manager of Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA), Feyisola Akintola, at [feyisola.alabi@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:feyisola.alabi@pittsburghpa.gov) or at (412)-255-2276.*

## **About Welcoming Pittsburgh**

*Welcoming Pittsburgh is an immigrant integration strategy that has been absorbed within the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA). The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs is committed to fulfilling mayor Gainey's vision of creating a Safe, and Welcoming community where every resident can thrive and know that they Belong.*

## **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](http://www.DowntownPittsburgh.com), follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/downtownpitt> and "like" us on Facebook.*

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