



Pioneer Courthouse Square: By the numbers

Portland’s iconic Pioneer Courthouse Square celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2024. Since 1984, Pioneer Courthouse Square, also known as “The Square” and as Portland’s “Living Room,” has served as the open, public gathering space in the center of the downtown.

The Square’s positive impact:

Nearly 1 million visitors each year	316 programmed event days	Economic Impact \$15.8 million
40,000 square-foot-block	63% of Visitors come from outside a 5 mile radius	1,760 Artists supported
		26,000 public restrooms users per month
An August 2024 event survey of downtown restaurants, retailers and hotels shows 97% believe The Square plays a “critical or significant role” in bringing activity downtown	47,419 PDX Live concert attendees	A survey of PDX Live concert ticketholders found 92% of respondents are “very likely” or “likely” to recommend Portland as a place to visit

The Square’s challenges:

Like other businesses and organizations operating in downtown Portland today, The Square is challenged to meet rising expenses necessary to maintain a safe and welcoming space.

Annual Budget \$2.3 million = \$1.9M Cash + \$400K In-Kind

Revenue from permitted events **down 61%** from FY 2019–2020 creating an annual funding loss of \$208,346

Meanwhile...
Maintenance and trash **costs rose 89%** from FY 2019/20
Security **costs are up 53%** from FY 2019/20
Restroom attendant and supplies **up 25%** from FY 2019/20
Event equipment costs for signature events are **up 18%** from FY 2019/20
Liability insurance **up 269%** compared to last year