



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 19, 2026

CONTACT:
Lydia Cascaldo
740.398.4377, lydia@irvinpr.com

Downtown Columbus, Inc. Announces 2026 Season Schedule and Free Common Ground Concert

Bruce Hornsby and the Noisemakers to headline free summer concert on Aug. 15

(Columbus, Ohio) – The Downtown Columbus season of free programming returns this spring with more than 200 events at Columbus Commons, Bicentennial Park, and various locations around Downtown. From returning movie nights to brand-new event series, everyone is invited to enjoy community programming all season long.

More information on events can be found on columbuscommons.org and downtowncolumbus.com. Photos for Downtown and Columbus Commons events are available [here](#) with credits.

COMMON GROUND CONCERT

[Downtown Columbus, Inc.](#) and [Columbus Association for the Performing Arts \(CAPA\)](#) invite the central Ohio community to the 2026 Common Ground Concert featuring Bruce Hornsby and the Noisemakers on Saturday, Aug. 15, 2026. The show will be free to attend, but tickets will be required to enter Columbus Commons. Tickets will be released online on Wednesday, July 15 at 10 a.m. Newsletter subscribers are eligible for the early ticket release on Tuesday, July 14. Subscribe to the newsletter [here](#).

NEW INITIATIVES

New community-focused initiatives are part of the 2026 Downtown Columbus season, including a weekly farmers market, public art installation, and pickleball courts.

What: **Downtown Columbus Farmers Market**
In partnership with Common Greens
When: Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | May 7 – Sept. 24
Where: Columbus Commons, 160 S High St.
Details: Shop fresh produce and local goods at the brand-new Downtown Columbus Farmers Market during Food Truck Food Court. Full list of selected vendors available [here](#).

What: **Heartscape by Mark Riegelman**
Where: Columbus Commons, 160 S High St
Details: A new colorful 12-foot public art installation, Heartscape, will welcome visitors to Columbus Commons at the High Street entrance. The artwork will be installed this summer.**

**pending Downtown Commission Approval



What: **Downtown Columbus Pickleball Courts**
When: Opening this summer
Where: Belle Street & Chapel Street
Details: Eight new pickleball courts will open on The Peninsula this summer for free play. Programming to be announced.

EVENTS AT JOHN F. WOLFE COLUMBUS COMMONS

All events at Columbus Commons are free unless otherwise noted.

Daily:

What: **Free Carousel Rides**
When: Daily, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. | April 20 – Sept. 30
Details: Take a ride on the carousel! Need an operator? Call 614-227-3788 to request one. Hours are subject to change due to weather.

What: **Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams and Tortilla Street Food**
When: Hours: Monday – Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday – Saturday: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. | Monday, April 20 – September*
**Subject to change*
Details: Enjoy a tasty treat from Tortilla Street Food or a superb scoop from Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams.

Reoccurring Series:

What: **Kickball facilitated by Go Kickball!**
When: Mondays and Tuesdays, 5:45 p.m. to 8 p.m. | April – October
Details: Kickball is back at Columbus Commons with three spring sessions. Advance registration is required. See details [here](#).

What: **Free Play**
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. | May 5 – Sept. 29
Details: Make your own play! In addition to free spins on the carousel, enjoy lawn activities including a giant parachute, Imagination Playground big blue blocks, and soccer balls. Grab a book from the Little Free Library while you're here.

What: **Free Fitness Classes facilitated by Quality Wellness & RawYoga614 Presented by UnitedHealthcare**
When: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. | May 5 – Sept. 30
Details: Outdoor HIIT and yoga classes for all skill levels. Bring a mat for yoga classes. Sign up for class updates [here](#).

- Tuesdays – HIIT by Quality Wellness Performance & Coaching
- Wednesdays – Yoga by RawYoga614

What: **Taco Tuesday**
When: Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | May 5 – Sept. 29



Details: Eat tacos and more from your favorite Latin food trucks paired with live music in the Bosque.

What: **Breakfast at the Commons**

When: Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | May 6 – Sept. 30

Details: Start the day with breakfast from your favorite food trucks every Wednesday morning!

What: **Food Truck Food Court**

Presented by Fifth Third Bank

When: Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | May 7 – Sept. 24

Details: Thursdays are the place to be at the Commons for lunch with 10 of Columbus' best food trucks. Enjoy live music and shop at the new Downtown Farmers Market, in partnership with Common Greens, during the weekly event.

What: **Commons for Kids**

Presented by Nationwide Children's Hospital

When: Fridays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. | June 5 – Aug. 14

No event on June 19 or July 3

Details: Enjoy kid-friendly fun including giant inflatables**, face painting, unique activities facilitated by community partners, crafts and carousel rides. See the list of themes and featured activities each week [here](#).

**Inflatable available select weeks.

What: **Family Movie Nights**

Presented by Wright-Patt Credit Union

When: June 5: Aladdin, June 26: Zootopia 2, July 10: Up, Aug. 21: Elemental, Sept. 18: Shrek | 7 p.m.

Details: The popular event returns with this season's movies chosen by Columbus Commons Instagram followers! Free popcorn and Wright-Patt Snack Packs available while supplies last. Movies include Shrek, Elemental, Up, Aladdin, and Zootopia 2.

What: **Local + Live Concert Series**

When: All start times at 6 p.m. unless otherwise noted

Details: Summer calls for live music, drinks, and local markets. Find it all at the Local + Live concert series.

Friday, May 22 – The Navigators, a charity concert benefiting Families Flourish

Sunday, May 24 – Shadowbox Live Presents: Women of Rock

Saturday, June 6 – JoyFest, featuring Honey and Blue, Blucone and Lungu Vybz, 1 p.m.

Presented in partnership with Zora's House

Be sure to check out the Woman-of-Color-Owned Vendor Market while you enjoy the show!

Thursday, Aug. 27 – Back to School Night, featuring live music performances by the students of the Fort Hayes Music Program and Joey Aich



Friday, Sept. 4 – The Dead Revival Band with the Groove Brothers Band: A Celebration of The Allman Brothers, including custom projections by local digital arts collective, ReMix

What: **Black Flix & Chill Movie Nights**
Presented in partnership with Black Flix & Chill Cbus
When: Thursday, July 23, Saturday, Aug. 29, Friday, Sept. 11 | 7 p.m.
Details: Enjoy a movie on the lawn with free popcorn while supplies last. Bring a blanket or chair and grab a drink from the bar. Stay tuned for a chance to vote for the movies you want to watch!

What: **Sunset Movie Series**
Presented in partnership with CAPA
When: Thursdays in October | 7 p.m.
Oct. 1: Wicked for Good, Oct. 8: Ghostbusters, Oct. 15: Beetlejuice, Oct. 22: The Craft, Oct. 29: The Sixth Sense
Details: Enjoy a Halloween-themed movie on the lawn with free popcorn while supplies last. Bring a blanket or chair and grab a drink from the bar. Bar and food truck open at 6 p.m. Movie starts at 7 p.m.

One-Time Events:

What: **Family Fun Day**
When: Saturday, May 23 | 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Details: Find giant inflatables, face painting, crafts, live music, and more activities. Down the street, cool off at FountainFest featuring the Scioto Mile Fountain and more free activities.

What: **Harvest Fair**
When: Saturday, Sept. 12 | 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Details: Enjoy fall-themed family fun including giant inflatables, a pumpkin patch, a live petting-zoo, face painting, live music, crafts and more.

Hosted Events:

Columbus Commons is proud to serve as the host venue for a variety of events organized by community partners. For registration and additional details, please visit the event's website.

What: **OhioHealth Capital City Half Marathon Finish-Line Party & Post-Race**
produced by M3S Sports
When: Saturday, April 25 | 8 a.m.
Details: The OhioHealth Capital City Half & Quarter Marathon and Columbus Promise 5K will host their post-race celebration at Columbus Commons. [Register here.](#)

What: **Empower Walk + 5K Run**



produced by Autism Speaks

When: Saturday, May 9 | 9 a.m.
Details: The Autism Speaks Empower Walk & 5k Run is a fundraising event dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with autism today while driving innovative solutions for tomorrow. Participants can join their community to walk or run, raising vital funds, increasing awareness, and showing what true inclusion and belonging look like. [Register here.](#)

What: **Concert for Humanity**
produced by Harmony Project

When: Thursday, May 14 | 7:30 pm
Details: This spring, Harmony Project brings their Concert for Humanity back to Columbus Commons. More than 500 chorus members will take the stage proving music doesn't erase our differences. It gives us a way to connect across them. You won't want to miss this powerful performance! The concert is FREE; tickets are required. Reserve yours at harmonyproject.com

What: **Girls on the Run Central Ohio Spring 5K**
produced by Girls on the Run Central Ohio

When: Sunday, May 17 | 8 a.m.
Details: The Girls on the Run season ends with a 5K closing event celebration at Columbus Commons this spring! [Register here.](#)

What: **SUMMER614 Concert**
produced by Fame Productions

When: Saturday, May 30 | 4 p.m.
Details: Your favorite R&B & Hip-Hop festival brings the best in music and wellness! SUMMER614 —where Music is Therapy— features Keyshia Cole, Keke Wyatt, Ying Yang Twins, Plies & Next in this beloved kickoff to summer! [Tickets are required to attend.](#)

What: **JoyFest**
produced by Zora's House

When: Saturday, June 6 | 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Details: Think: good music, beautiful people, incredible vendors, and joy everywhere you turn. JoyFest (*formerly the Women of Color Owned Market*) is a free, one-day celebration of culture and community in Columbus. Presented by Zora's House and powered by the creativity and entrepreneurship of women+ of color, JoyFest features a curated marketplace, live music and DJs headlined by Honey and Blue, family-friendly fun, and all the vibes! [Learn more here.](#)

What: **Nationwide Picnic with the Pops and Popcorn Pops**
produced by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra

When: June 13 – Aug. 1
Details: As the summer home of the Columbus Symphony, Columbus Commons hosts another season of the annual outdoor concert series, Picnic with the Pops, and the children's focused series, Popcorn Pops. Stay tuned for the Symphony's season announcement! [Tickets required.](#)



What: **Columbus Crew Soccer Celebration**
produced by Columbus Crew
When: Friday, June 19 | 1 p.m. Festivities begin | 3 p.m. Kickoff
Details: Bring your family & friends for an afternoon of soccer, games, and great food as the U.S Men's National Team competes against Australia. This event is free to attend. [Learn more here.](#)

What: **America 250-Ohio Signature Homecoming & Picnic**
produced by America 250-Ohio
When: Saturday, July 4 | 6 p.m.
Details: Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence at Columbus Commons this summer! This family-friendly celebration is made complete with bars, food trucks and a special concert by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. This event is free to attend. [Learn more here.](#)

What: **614 Funk Fest Concert**
produced by Fame Productions
When: Saturday, Aug.8 | 4 p.m.
Details: 614 Funk Fest returns to Columbus Commons on Saturday, Aug. 8th with a high-energy celebration of classic funk, 80s hip-hop, and timeless R&B. Stay tuned for the full artist lineup. [Tickets are required to attend.](#)

What: **Gay Softball World Series Event Opener**
produced by International Pride Softball
When: Monday, Aug. 31 | 4 p.m.
Details: The Gay Softball World Series returns to Columbus for the fourth time this summer and is kicking off the competition with a welcome celebration at Columbus Commons! This event is free to attend. [Learn more here.](#)

Parking for Columbus Commons events is available at the Main Garage located at 55 E. Rich Street. For more information about parking, visit [here](#).

When you park at the Columbus Commons garages, you support programming in the park and help make free events possible all summer long. Thank you!

****All events are subject to change***

DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS EVENTS:

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

What: **Scioto Mile Fountain**
When: May 22 – Sept. 7, daily | 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Where: Bicentennial Park, 233 S Civic Center Dr.



Details: Cool off and splash in the fountain! For information about changes visit <https://downtowncolumbus.com/sciotomilefountain>. A food truck will be on-site daily.

What: **Scioto Mile Fountain Sensory Friendly Hours**
When: Mondays, May 25 – Sept. 7 | 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Where: Bicentennial Park, 233 S Civic Center Dr.
Details: Enjoy the fountain with reduced loud, sudden sounds and music. All ages welcome.

What: **FountainFest**
Presented by Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and Downtown Columbus, Inc.

When: Saturday, May 23 | 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Bicentennial Park, 233 S Civic Center Dr.
Details: Kick off summer with a splash! Enjoy music, food trucks, live performances, and art while cooling off at the Scioto Mile Fountain.

What: **Downtown Fitness Classes**
In partnership with Columbus Recreation and Parks

When: Classes June 1 – Sept. 28
Schedule: Mondays, 6:15 p.m.: Mat Pilates, 7:15 p.m.: Yoga by 614FitClub at Bicentennial Park
Thursdays, 6:15 p.m.: HIIT, 7:15 p.m.: Yoga by Quality Wellness (pop-up locations TBA)
Sundays, 10:15 a.m.: Mat Pilates, 11:15 a.m.: Yoga by 614FitClub on The Peninsula
Details: Enjoy free outdoor fitness classes designed for all skill levels. Sign up for class updates [here](#).

What: **Free Kayak Days**
In partnership with Columbus Recreation and Parks

When: July 11 and July 12 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Boat launch under the Main Street bridge, near Bicentennial Park
Details: Take a free watercraft ride and enjoy the view from the Scioto River. Demand is expected to be high. First-come, first-served.

Reoccurring Series:

What: **Dorrian Days**
In partnership with Columbus Recreation and Parks

When: Tuesdays | June 2 – Aug. 11 | 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.*
**no event June 9 or June 30*

Where: Dorrian Green, 50 South Belle St



Details: Find free family fun, including giant inflatables, games, a themed activity station, a food truck, and the Dorrian Green water feature.

What: **NEW! Art in the Park**

In partnership with Columbus Recreation and Parks

When: Last Sunday of the month, 1 to 3 p.m. | June – September

Where: Topiary Garden at Deaf School Park, 480 E Town St

Details: Learn a craft every month at this brand-new series. Activities include terrarium building, painting, crocheting, and more.

What: **NEW! Downtown Silent Disco Series**

In partnership with Columbus Recreation and Parks

When: 6 to 8 p.m.

Where: Thursday, May 28 | Topiary Garden at Deaf School Park

Thursday, July 23 | Lazarus Building Galleria

Thursday, Sept. 3 | 88 High Water Alley

Details: Expanded due to popular demand! Flip through stations of chart-toppers and hot hits while dancing to the beat at outdoor locations around Downtown.

What: **Street Beats**

When: May – September | Times Vary

Where: Downtown locations

Details: Hear the sounds of the weekend as live musicians warmly welcome you too Downtown. Locations include Gay Street, Columbus Commons, The Peninsula, and more!

Community Collaboration Events

All events are free to attend. Stay tuned for more events to be announced.

What: **Hank's Low Country Oyster Fest**

In partnership with Makeready

When: September 2026

Where: TBA

Details: Celebrate the start of oyster season with live oyster shucking, Low Country Southern-inspired dishes, and cold drinks in a lively outdoor atmosphere.

What: **Bastille Day Celebration**

In partnership with Makeready

When: July 2026

Where: TBA

Details: Celebrate Bastille Day with French-inspired dishes, live music, and a French marketplace in the street.

-MORE-



About Downtown Columbus, Inc.

Downtown Columbus, Inc. is a private nonprofit organization whose mission is to lead city-changing projects and collaborations that improve the connectivity, livability, and inclusivity of the Downtown Columbus experience. Downtown Columbus, Inc. drives development and progress of the Downtown Columbus Strategic Plan, working across sectors toward the vision for Downtown Columbus to become a neighborhood of connected, people-first urban districts that can be enjoyed by all. Learn more at downtowncolumbus.com.

About John F. Wolfe Columbus Commons

Set within the scenic Downtown skyline, Columbus Commons is more than just a six-acre park. It is a gathering space for Central Ohio, a backyard for Downtown residents and an attraction for people of all ages. With over 200 events each year, there is something for everyone. Under the direction of Downtown Columbus, Inc., Columbus Commons has developed into an award-winning event venue and public green space. Columbus Commons is supported each year by generous partners who believe in the Commons' mission to provide free community events in the heart of Downtown, everybody's neighborhood. All the free events would not be possible without these partners:

- CAPA
- City of Columbus
- Coastal Ridge
- Columbus Metropolitan Library
- COTA
- Fifth Third Bank
- G&J Pepsi
- Greater Columbus Arts Council
- Highpoint on Columbus Commons
- Middle West Spirits
- Nationwide Children's Hospital
- Orange Barrel Media
- SWACO
- Thrive Companies
- UnitedHealthcare
- Wright-Patt Credit Union

###