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Columbus Commons Announces 2025 Season Schedule with New Events and Free Common Ground Concert

National artist Nelly joins the line-up of 200+ events at Columbus Commons this year

(Columbus, Ohio) – Columbus Commons will begin its 2025 season on April 17 with more than 200 events, many of which are free, including the 2025 Common Ground Concert featuring artist and 3x Grammy award-winning rapper Nelly on July 20, 2025.

In addition to regular food trucks, fitness classes, concerts, and family-friendly programming, new changes to the 2025 season schedule include Taco Tuesday featuring food trucks serving tacos, Latin dishes, and more on the first Tuesday of each month, and Howl-O-Ween, a free dog-centric event this October. Columbus Commons is also partnering with Friends of the Columbus Metropolitan Library to install and stock a Little Free Library at the south end of the park in the Bosque.

[Downtown Columbus, Inc.](#) and [Columbus Association for the Performing Arts \(CAPA\)](#) invite the central Ohio community to the 2025 Common Ground Concert featuring Nelly on Sunday, July 20, 2025. The show will be free to attend, but tickets will be required to enter Columbus Commons. Tickets will be released online on Wednesday June 25 at 10 a.m. Newsletter subscribers are eligible for the early ticket release on Tuesday, June 24. Subscribe to the newsletter [here](#).

The fun kicks off on Thursday, April 17 marked by free daily carousel rides and the reopening of Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams and Tortilla Street Food.

Set within the scenic Downtown skyline, Columbus Commons is a six-acre park and gathering space for Central Ohio, a backyard for Downtown residents and an attraction for people of all ages. The space is managed and programmed by Downtown Columbus, Inc.

Photos of Columbus Commons are available [here](#).

2025 John F. Wolfe Columbus Commons Summer Events

Daily:

What: **Free Carousel Rides**
When: Daily, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. | April 17 – Sept. 30
Details: No matter your age, there's something irresistible about a carousel. Located at the southern end of the park in the Bosque, be sure to stop by and take a ride.

What: **Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams and Tortilla Street Food Cafés**
When: Jeni's Hours: Monday – Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tortilla's Hours: Monday – Wednesday: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday – Saturday: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursday, April 17 – September*

**Subject to change*

Details: Whether you're at the Commons for an event or just need a bite to break up the workday, 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 sessions to choose from. Grab your friends and coworkers and [register to play](#)

What: **Free Play**

When: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. | May – October

Details: Come Downtown and take a free spin on the Carousel, play under the parachute, build with the Imagination Playground big blue blocks, kick a soccer ball, or make your own fun. Additional programming will be available on select dates.

What: **Free Fitness Classes facilitated by Quality Wellness & RawYoga614
Presented by UnitedHealthcare**

When: Tuesday, May 6 – Tuesday, Sept. 30

Details: Free outdoor HIIT and yoga classes for all skill levels. Bring a friend or stop by solo to get your sweat on in the heart of Downtown Columbus.

- Tuesdays – HIIT, 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays –Yoga, 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

What: **Food Truck Food Court**

Presented by Fifth Third Bank

When: Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | May 1 – Oct. 30

Details: On Thursdays each week, Columbus Commons will continue to offer the Downtown daytime population access to Columbus' best food trucks. Ten trucks will be featured throughout the season with two rotating trucks each month. Plus, visitors can shop at the Good Market for local goods and produce during Food Truck Food Court.

What: **Taco Tuesday**

When: First Tuesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | May 6 – Oct. 7

Details: Enjoy tacos, Latin cuisine, and more from your favorite food trucks on the first Tuesday of each month from May through October.

What: **Breakfast at the Commons**

When: Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. | May 7 – Oct. 29

Details: Consider the most important meal of the day made easy with several rotating breakfast food trucks on Wednesday mornings from May through October.

What: **Free Commons for Kids**

Presented by Nationwide Children's Hospital

- When: Fridays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. | June 6 – Aug. 8*
**No event on July 4*
- Details: Free kid-friendly fun including inflatables**, face painting, unique activities facilitated by community partners, crafts and of course, carousel rides. Check out our website for details on the list of themes and featured activities each week!
****Inflatables available select weeks.**

What: **Sunset Movie Series**

Presented in partnership with CAPA

- When: Thursdays in October, 7 p.m.
Oct 2 - Goosebumps, Oct 9 – Hocus Pocus, Oct 16 – The Goonies, Oct 23 – Wicked, Oct 30 - The Nightmare Before Christmas
- Details: Enjoy a movie under the stars and city skyline at this free series. Bring a blanket, grab a drink from the bar and enjoy the movie! Free popcorn while supplies last.

What: **Free Friday Family Movie Nights**

- When: 7 p.m. | May 9 – Finding Nemo, June 20 – Inside Out, July 18 – Surf's Up, Aug 1 – Tangled and Sept. 5 – Moana 2
- Details: Round up the whole family and head to the Commons for a free flick surrounded by the stars and city skyline. Free popcorn while supplies last.

What: **Free Local + Live Concert Series**

- When: 6 p.m.
- Details: Nothing beats free live music, outside and in the heart of Downtown Columbus. A bar and food trucks will be available.

Friday, May 23 – The Song Remains: A Night of Led Zeppelin with a Pink Floyd Tribute Band

Sunday, June 8 – Parker Louis with The Deeptones (*start time is 5 p.m.*)

Thursday, July 31 – Mojo x Yoncé...A MojoFlo Beyoncé show with Eric Rollin & Friends

Thursday, August 14 – Zoo Trippin', Paul Valdiviez & The Devious Boys, and The High Definitions

Friday, August 29 – The Dead Revival Band with The Groove Brothers Band: A Celebration of The Allman Brothers Band

Sunday, August 31 – Shadowbox Live Performance of Rock This Way: A Music Tribute to Aerosmith and Van Halen

Friday, September 26 – The Navigators

One-Time Events:

What: **Free Family Fun Day**

Presented by Molina Healthcare

- When: Saturday, May 24 | 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Details: Free family fun for everyone to enjoy! Giant inflatables, face painting, live music, crafts and more! Plus, cool off nearby at the free Fountain Fest at Scioto Mile Fountain with music, food trucks, live performances, art, and more surprises.

What: **Free Harvest Fair**
Presented by Molina Healthcare

When: Saturday, Sept. 6 | 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Details: Celebrate the shift to cooler weather with free fall-themed family fun for everyone to enjoy! Inflatables, face painting, pumpkin patch, petting-zoo, live music, crafts and more.

What: **Free Howl-O-Ween**

When: Saturday, October. 18 | 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Details: Enjoy this dog-centric event with your favorite four-legged friends. Find Halloween-themed activities and fun for all in this first-ever doggy celebration. More details to come!

External Events:

What: **OhioHealth Capital City Half Marathon Finish-Line Party & Post-Race Concert produced by M3S Sports**

When: Saturday, April 26 | 8 a.m.

Details: The OhioHealth Capital City Half & Quarter Marathon and Columbus Promise 5K will once again host their post-race celebration at Columbus Commons this spring! [Register here](#).

Prevention Action Alliance “We Are Change Rally” produced by Prevention Action Alliance

When: Friday, May 2 | 10 a.m.

Details: Each year, thousands of young people from across the state convene in Columbus, Ohio, to show their commitment to a healthy lifestyle, deconstruct the stigma around teen substance misuse, and support one another with like-minded individuals. This year, Prevention Action Alliance, in partnership with the Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network Youth Council, is bringing the celebration to Columbus Commons. Registration is required to attend this event. Find more details [here](#). The We Are Change Rally is made possible with funding from the Ohio Department for Mental Health and Addiction Services.

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

When: Sunday, May 18 | 8 a.m.

Details: Each Girls on the Run season comes to an end with a celebratory 5K. This closing event gives program participants of all abilities a tangible sense of



accomplishment. Crossing the finish line instills confidence through completion and is a joyful moment program participants always remember. [Register to join the celebration.](#)

What: **SUMMER614 Concert produced by Fame Productions**
When: Friday, May 30 | 6 p.m. & Saturday, May 31 | 4 p.m.
Details: Your favorite R&B & Hip-Hop festival is expanding to TWO days, bringing the best in music and wellness! Produced by Fame Productions, SUMMER614 — where Music is Therapy— features Tank, DJ Jazzy Jeff, Total, Stokley from Mint Condition, Tweet, J Holiday and more in this beloved kickoff to summer! [Tickets are required to attend.](#)

What: **Women of Color Owned Summer Market produced by Zora's House**
When: Saturday, June 7 | 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Details: Zora's House is bringing their WoCO (Women of Color Owned) Summer Market to Columbus Commons for the third consecutive year. The Market will feature some of the most amazing Women of Color artisans in Columbus! Enjoy live music, food trucks, activities for the kiddos and so much more! A free, family friendly event.

What: **Nationwide Picnic with the Pops and Popcorn Pops produced by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra**
When: June 14 – July 26 | 6 p.m.
Details: The summer home of the Columbus Symphony, Columbus Commons is excited to host 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!

What: **Celebrating the Lasting Legacy of Unstoppable Women produced by Momentum Dance**
When: Thursday, July 17 | 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Details: Join Momentum as they showcase the culmination of their Summer Intensive program. This year, Momentum's free dance performance celebrates seven extraordinary women from Ohio and beyond, who forged their own path and made lasting contributions to science, art, literature, politics, and social change. By illuminating their stories, we are inspired to pursue our passions, embrace our individuality, and bravely build a more equitable world.

What: **614 Funk Fest Concert produced by Fame Productions**
When: Saturday, August 9 | 4 p.m.
Details: The producers of SUMMER614 bring you an unforgettable fusion of Funk and Classic R&B at Columbus Commons! This year's Funkfest highlights legendary artists alongside soulful R&B acts, with great food, drinks, and vendors—all while celebrating the power of Music is Therapy. [Tickets are required to attend.](#)



Whether guests are coming for a free event at the park, dinner at a nearby restaurant, or enjoying a splash in the [Scioto Mile Fountain](#), Columbus Commons Garages will make these experiences easily accessible for those driving into the area. Parking fees provide significant support for the programming and maintenance of Columbus Commons. For more information about parking, visit [here](#).

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

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:

- American Electric Power Foundation
- CAPA
- City of Columbus
- Coastal Ridge
- Columbus Metropolitan Library
- Fifth Third Bank
- Fifth Third Center
- G&J Pepsi
- Greater Columbus Arts Council
- Highpoint on Columbus Commons
- Middle West Spirits
- Molina Healthcare
- Nationwide Children's Hospital
- Orange Barrel Media
- UnitedHealthcare
- Wright-Patt Credit Union

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