

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board](#)

**DANCING IN THE SQUARE AMERICAN INDIAN DAY CELEBRATION WILL BE REIMAGINED WITH LOCAL PARTNERS**

**[Portland, Oregon]** *Dancing in the Square*—a powwow held annually at Pioneer Courthouse Square in the heart of downtown Portland, Oregon—won't be held this year. For 15 years, except during the pandemic, the powwow took place around Indigenous Peoples Day and was led by the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board ([NPAIHB](#)) with the support of several partners and volunteers.

*Dancing in the Square* was originally organized to bring awareness and celebrate the beauty, vibrancy, and resiliency of Tribal Nations in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The event was purposely held in Pioneer Courthouse Square during the workday to draw attention to the beating drum and to encourage those working in downtown to listen and learn about Tribal Nations in the Northwest. Since the pandemic, the downtown population and environment has changed.

Retaining, practicing, and sharing cultural values and traditions is at the core of NPAIHB's work. NPAIHB plans to meet with its local partners to determine the future of the Dancing in the Square Powwow, or to reimagine a new event, that brings awareness to the unique Northwest Tribal cultures and traditions.

NPAIHB is grateful to the many sponsors, national and community-based organizations, drummers, dancers, and arts-crafts vendors for their generous consideration, participation and support throughout the years of this very important community event. At the core of this celebration is the collective efforts of NPAIHB staff, their families, and others who volunteered their time and expertise. We thank everyone for their commitment and care.

The NPAIHB was formed in 1972 and is an Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Public Law 93-638 organization serving the forty-three federally recognized Tribes in Idaho, Oregon and Washington on health-related issues including public health and environmental health programs; research, data and evaluation; and national and regional advocacy.

**Links/Photos for consideration:**

[https://youtu.be/L4Gqt4qp7Pc?si=d2cwkS\\_YQIStwLLi](https://youtu.be/L4Gqt4qp7Pc?si=d2cwkS_YQIStwLLi)

<https://katu.com/news/local/dancing-in-the-square-celebrates-native-cultures>







