

City of Portland

Remote Temporary Art Review Panel

Temporary Art Review Panel

"Painting Outside the Box"

Monday, July 7, 2025 at 10:00 AM via Zoom

at: <https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/89157832987>



1. Presentation by Applicant
 - a. Painting Outside the Box - Cary Tyson and Betsy Boyd
2. Review of Application
3. Public Comment
4. Discussion/Approval

Application for Temporary Public Art
City of Portland ~ Planning & Urban Development Department, Public Art
Committee (Allow up to 3 months prior to installation date)

Today's Date: 5/20/2025		Name(s): Cary Tyson (Alternate Designee): Betsy Boyd	
Artist Name: To be determined (Alternate Designee Cell): 2074325811			
Company: Portland Downtown			
Address: PO Box 8593			
City: Portland		State: ME	Zip: 04104
Telephone: 207.772.6828	Work: 207.772.6828	Fax: N/A	Cell: 501.425.1432
Email Address: cary@portlandmaine.com , betsy@portlandmaine.com			

Title

Painting Outside the Box (utility box murals by various artists)

Summary

Locations:

City-owned utility boxes at various locations within Downtown Portland:

- 1 Civic Center
- 5 Monument Square (outside library)
- Monument Square
- Union & Fore St (outside of Hyatt)
- 315 Cumberland

Materials: Cleaning and sanding materials as needed to prep box, primer paint, Exterior grade Paint, clear coat as needed

Technical Requirements and Description

Portland Downtown is proposing to invite Maine artists to paint murals onto existing public utility boxes. See attached "2025 CALL TO ARTISTS"

this is a continuation of the 2018 & 2023 programs but from a different funding source

Maintenance and Safety

Individual artists will maintain the murals they paint if needed. PDD will coordinate the cleaning and paint touch ups as needed.

Proposed Schedule

Installation Date(s): Jul 25 - Aug 25 Display Dates: Ongoing Removal Date: Murals typically
last 3-5 years depending on individual conditions.

Required Supporting Materials

- ☐ Resume
- ☐ Structural Sketches of the proposed work
- ☐ Detailed photo, map, or maquette of proposed piece on site
- ☐ Up to 10 images of relevant work with slide sheet
- ☐ Optional statement of intention (limited to one page)
- ☐ Signage Listings

(Please read all attachments included with this application.)

FOR CITY USE ONLY

Date Received: _____ Photo Sketch Attached: _____ Resume Attached: _____ Certificate of Insurance: _____ DIG

SAFE (1-888-344-7233): _____ Security Deposit: \$500

Signed Agreement _____

Reviewed By:

Date: _____ Approved: _____

Painting Outside the Box

Utility Box Painting Project
2025

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Project Summary

- PDD Project manager: Betsy Boyd, Outreach & Engagement Manager
- 5 Utility Boxes in the Downtown District
 - Approved by Public Works, Traffic Operations & Public Defender
 - Repeat graffiti locations
 - Project/Selection Committee
 - Target completion: Aug 31
- Call for Artists
 - Open submission process
 - Designs selected
 - Public Art guidelines
- Artist notification
- Painting of boxes
- Promotions
 - PR and Social

Website Link to Open Call for Artists:

<https://portlandmaine.com/programs/painting-outside-the-box/>

*Note: This will be updated to 2025 dates prior to public announcement

Benefits

- Discourage graffiti
- Promote and support local artists
- Beautify spaces
- Reinforce Art as a downtown Portland unique identifier

2025 Proposed Sites

- 1 City Center
- 5 Monument Square (outside library)
- Monument Square
- Union & Fore St (outside of Hyatt)
- 315 Cumberland

2018, 2023 & 2025 Call for Artists

The City of Portland, by and through the Police Department and the Public Art Committee, and in collaboration with NBT Bank and Port Property Management, present:

CALL TO ARTISTS

Painting Outside the Box: Artists to Enhance Utility Boxes in Portland Neighborhoods

The City of Portland, in collaboration with generous donations from NBT Bank and Port Property Management invites artists to integrate art into existing public utility boxes to beautify the urban landscape, increase civic participation, and support the local arts community.

Project Overview

The Utility Box Art Project, organized by the City of Portland, the Portland Police Department, and the Portland Public Art Committee is focused on the recognition and celebration of local artists. All submissions for the competition will be reviewed by a panel and artists will be selected based on the content and quality of their work. Selected artists will paint City of Portland utility boxes with original designs. Once professionally painted, these utility boxes will contribute to the vitality and attractiveness of the urban streetscape.

Requirements

- Artists must live in or have permanent office or studio space in Maine.
- Artists must be 18 or older.
- Up to three (3) designs by each Portland artist may be considered.
- Designs may be submitted on paper or electronically but must conform to the utility box template as provided.
- Selections shall be made by a jury appointed by the Portland Public Art Committee.
- Submissions may be kept on file for future project consideration.
- Proposals must be received or post-marked for delivery on or before October 15, 2018.
- Artists will be notified by October 31 if their designs are selected.

Winning Artists

Selected artists will receive a \$500 stipend from funds donated to the Portland Public Art Committee for this project upon approval and completion of their box design. Artists are responsible for the cost of all materials required to prepare, complete and protect their artwork with a clear and washable sealant.



Portland Downtown presents

2023 CALL TO ARTISTS

Painting Outside the Box: The Utility Box Art Project: Artists to Enhance Utility Boxes in downtown Portland

Portland Downtown invites Maine artists to integrate art into existing public utility boxes to beautify the urban landscape, increase civic participation, and support the local arts community.

Project Overview

Painting Outside the Box: The Utility Box Art Project, organized by Portland Downtown, is focused on the recognition and celebration of local artists. All submissions for the competition will be reviewed by a panel and artists will be selected based on the content and quality of their work. Selected artists will paint City of Portland utility boxes with original designs. Once professionally painted, these utility boxes will contribute to the vitality and attractiveness of the urban streetscape.

Requirements

- Artists must live in or have permanent office or studio space in Maine, with preference given to artists in the Greater Portland area.
- Artists must be 18 or older.
- Up to three (3) designs by each Portland artist may be considered.
- Designs may be submitted on paper or electronically but must conform to the utility box template as provided.
- Selections shall be made by a jury appointed by the Portland Public Art Committee.
- Submissions may be kept on file for future project consideration.
- Proposals must be received or post-marked for delivery on or before June 15, 2023.
- Artists will be notified by July 15, 2023, if their designs are selected.

Winning Artists

Selected artists will receive \$650.00 in funding for each electrical box project 50% of the funds will be allocated upon approval of each box design. Artists are responsible for the cost of all materials required to design, prepare, complete, and protect their artwork with a clear and washable sealant. Additionally, artists are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs. A final 50% payment will be made to artists upon completion of the painting. Judges reserve the right to make a selection contingent upon design changes.

Design Guidelines

- Artwork must be original. Artists must be willing to represent their work by the artist's name or studio brand. No anonymous designs will be accepted.
- All designs must be in color. No black and white designs will be accepted.

2025 Call to Artists

Website Link to Open Call for Artists. Same scope as 2023.

<https://portlandmaine.com/programs/painting-outside-the-box/>

*Note: This will be updated to 2025 dates prior to public announcement

2023 Examples

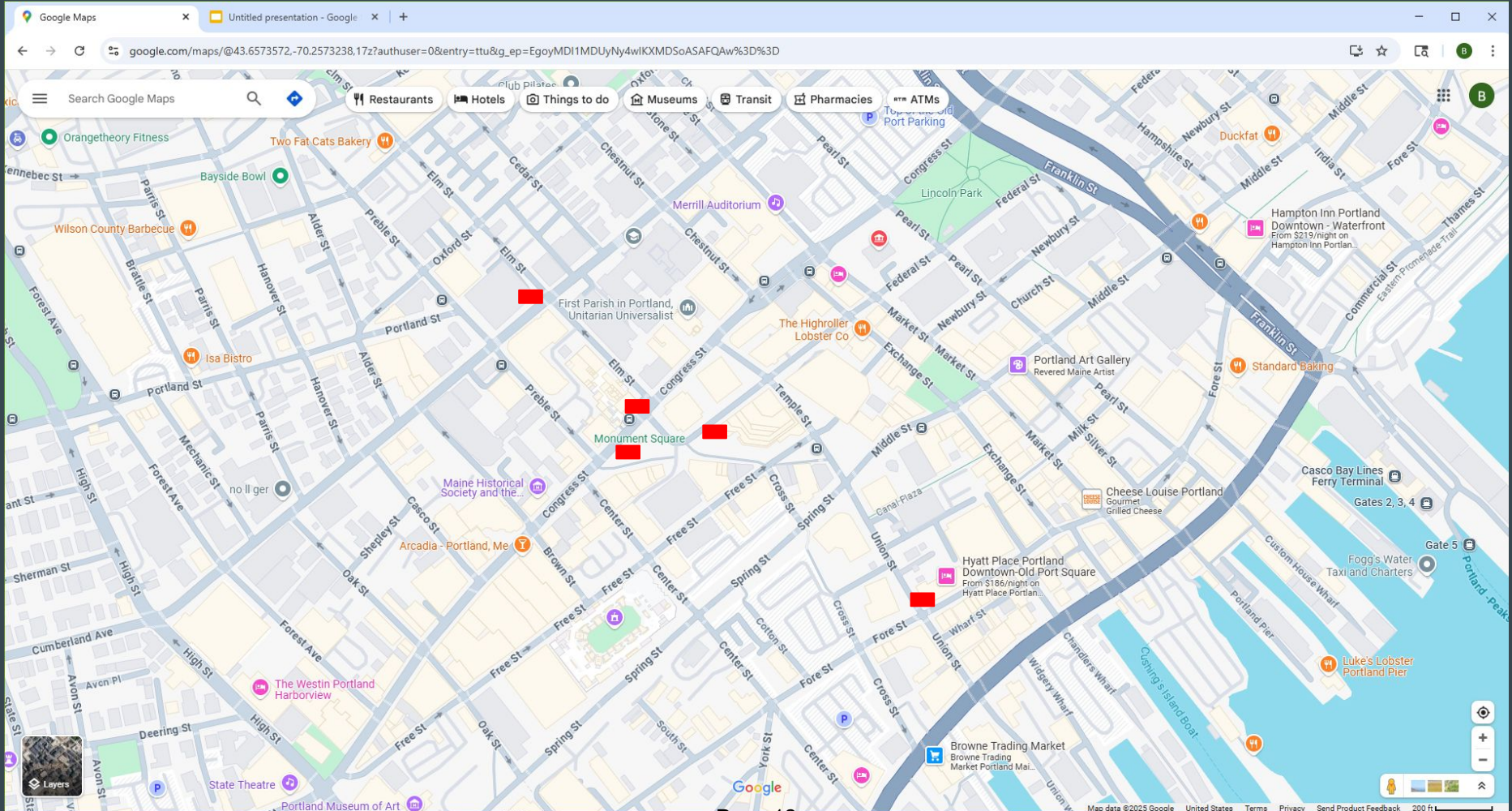


Other Examples

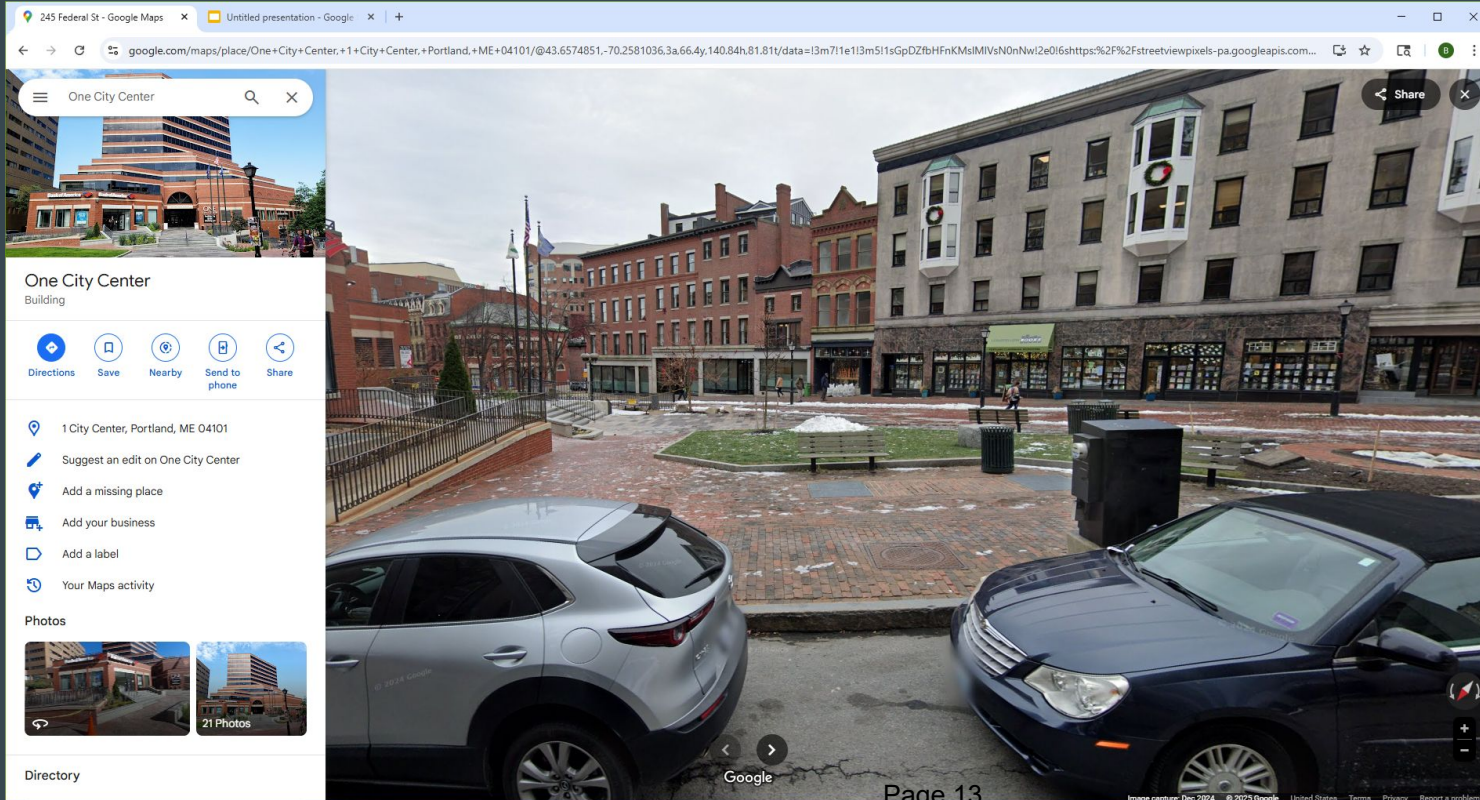


Location Pictures & Map

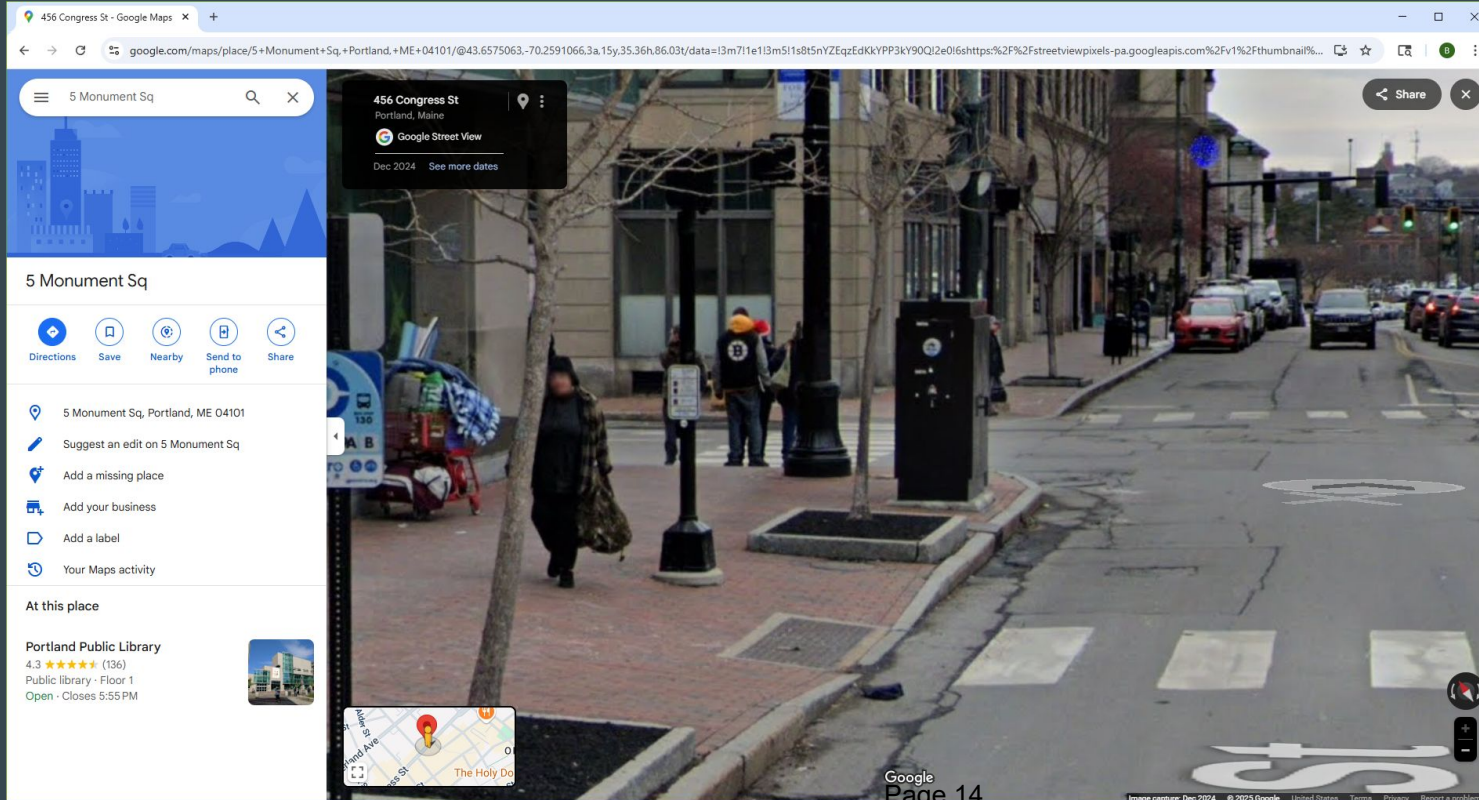
...



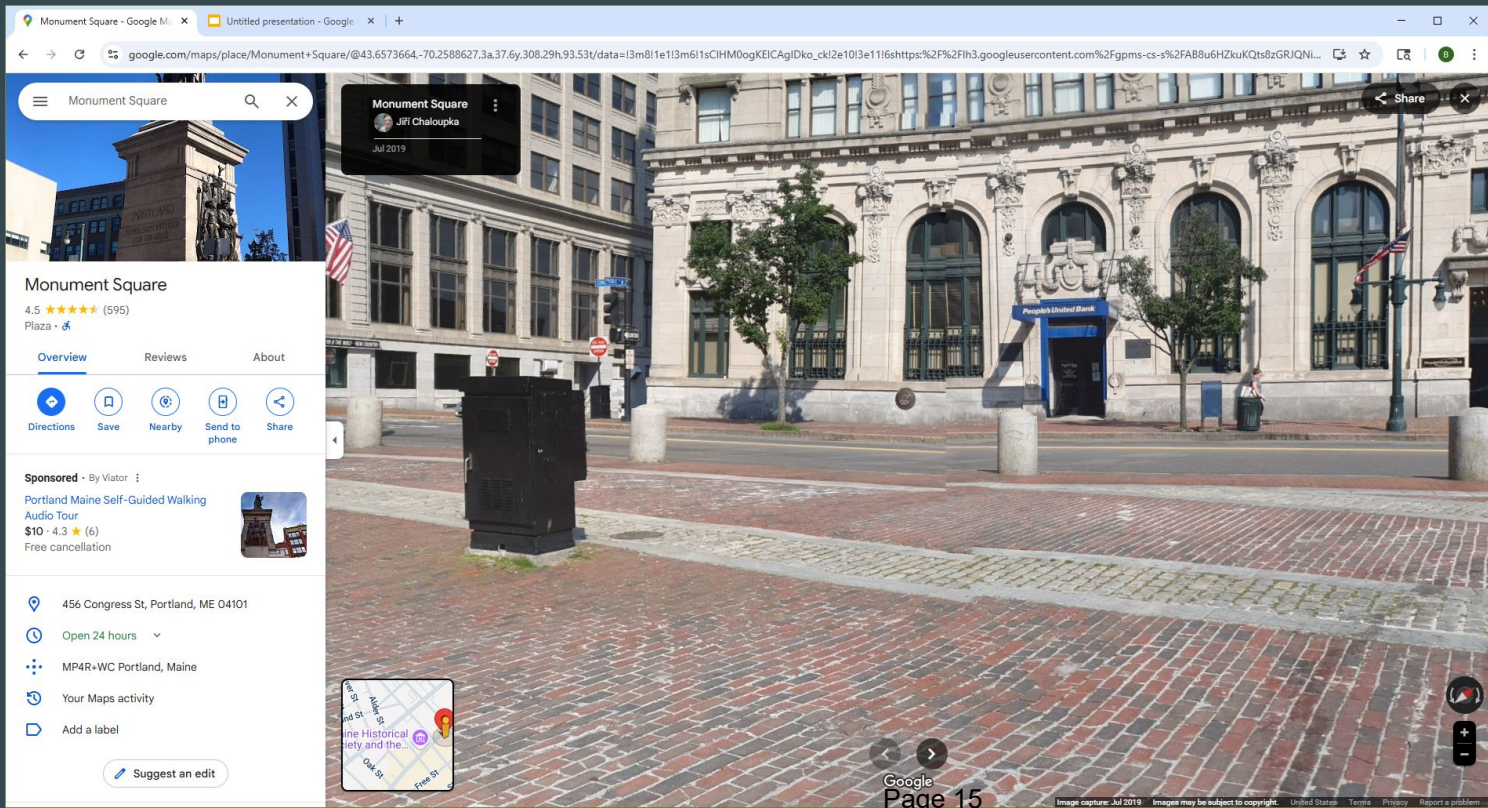
1 City Center



5 Monument Square



Monument Square



2 Union St

Portland, Maine

Google Street View

Dec 2024

See more dates

\$182

Jun 1 - 2

Hyatt Place Portland Downtown-Old Port Square

4.3
★★★★★
(1,152)
3-star hotel

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Free cancellation only ☐

Check in / Check out

Sun, Jun 1

Mon, Jun 2

2

All options

Hyatt Place Portland Downtown-Old Port Square

\$482

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Official site

Get a lower price with free enrollment

See rooms v

Booking.com

\$201 with taxes + fees

See rooms v

\$182 >

More prices from \$185

2 Union St

Portland, Maine

Google Street View

Dec 2024

See more dates

\$182

Jun 1 - 2

Hyatt Place Portland Downtown-Old Port Square

4.3
★★★★★
(1,152)
3-star hotel

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\$482

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\$182 >

More prices from \$185

315 Cumberland

