



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WELLS FARGO FAMILY FESTIVAL SHOWCASES DOWNTOWN OMAHA ATTRACTIONS WITH AFTERNOON OF FREE ACTIVITIES**

*Omaha's Premier Family Celebration Offers Crafts, Music and  
Holiday Fun at Six Downtown Venues*

(OMAHA, Neb.) Nov. 9, 2017 – For the 12th consecutive year, Wells Fargo will present Omaha-area families with the opportunity to experience an afternoon of fun—for free—at a variety of Omaha's leading downtown attractions. This year's Family Festival will be held Sunday, Dec. 3, from noon to 5 p.m. Families can park at any of the six participating venues to access a free trolley service provided by Ollie the Trolley connecting the sites. All offer free admission and family activities.

Families are encouraged to "Shine the Light on Hunger" and donate non-perishable foods and household goods to be distributed to families in need through Food Bank for the Heartland. In support of the campaign and for additional access to food collection barrels, Wells Fargo, The Durham Museum, Joslyn Art Museum and Omaha Children's Museum will host a collection barrel or bin.

"Wells Fargo is pleased to serve as the Family Festival sponsor and continue what has become an important tradition for both us and the community," said Kirk Kellner, Regional Bank President for Wells Fargo in Nebraska. "The Wells Fargo team has enjoyed watching the event grow in the last decade, and we love seeing how much fun parents, children and even grandparents have at the community's best family-friendly venues."

The 2017 Family Festival will feature the following attractions and special programs at these locations:

**Wells Fargo, 1919 Douglas St.**

- Children can pose for a picture with **Wells Fargo's** very own "Jack the Dog" and make holiday crafts.
- Snack on a free bag of popcorn.
- Stop by the company museum and see the historically accurate reproduction of the **Wells Fargo Stagecoach** in the lobby.
- Listen to holiday music and participate in other fun activities.

**Omaha Children's Museum, 500 S. 20th St.**

- Engage in active play in the museum's exhibits.
- Take a carousel or train ride for \$2 each.
- Visit with Santa from 2 to 5 p.m.
- Enjoy the free Amazing Science Shows in the Science Theatre.

**Omaha Police Mounted Patrol Barn, 615 Leavenworth St.**

- Tour the stables and visit with Santa!
- Meet and greet with the officers and horses. Learn how police officers care for the animals at the Mounted Patrol Barn and get your picture taken with the horses; watch officers present horse demonstrations as you warm up with Swiss Miss hot cocoa.
- Saddle up with LaRue's Little Horse Ranch Pony Rides.
- Wells Fargo will be giving free stagecoach rides from 1 to 4 p.m. and helping young buckaroos decorate their own cowboy hats!
- The First Responders Foundation for the Omaha Police Mounted Patrol will offer face-painting and families can enjoy entertainment from a balloon artist.

**The Durham Museum, 801 S. 10th St.**

- Experience the wonder of the season at The Durham Museum during Christmas at Union Station.
- See Omaha's largest indoor Christmas tree, visit with Santa and enjoy an exceptional lineup of family-friendly activities, including live musical performances.
- Visit the "Ethnic Holiday Trees" exhibit, an annual favorite which highlights the holiday traditions of approximately a dozen cultures in the Omaha community.
- View the wonderful temporary exhibitions on display including the Nebraska Sesquicentennial exhibition "Bridges: Sharing our past to Enrich the Future" and the STEM-based "Zoom Into Nano" from the Sciencenter in Ithaca, New York.
- Children can also pan for gold and participate in a scavenger hunt sponsored by Wells Fargo.

**W. Dale Clark (Main) Library, 215 S. 15th St.**

- Meet and get your photo taken with H.A. Rey's timeless storybook character Curious George and Omaha Public Library's (OPL) mascot, Scamper.

- Take home your very own children's book for free while supplies last.
- Family members of all ages can hear live holiday music, color and listen to storytimes by OPL librarians.
- Stop by the Wells Fargo activity area for cookie decorating and Swiss Miss hot cocoa.

### **Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge St.**

- Explore Joslyn Art Museum's galleries including the exhibitions "Marks of Genius: 100 Extraordinary Drawings from the Minneapolis Institute of Art" and "Travels with Brian Floca," a retrospective exhibition of original art from Caldecott Medal-winning artist Brian Floca. "Marks of Genius" is a ticketed exhibition: free for children and a special \$5 discounted admission for adults during the Wells Fargo Family Festival only.
- Swing by ART WORKS: A Place for Curiosity, offering nine creative project stations, all with connections to works of art found in Joslyn's permanent collection. Don't forget to visit the studios to experiment with hands-on activities and create your own works of art!
- Get a free wizard wand and glasses from **Wells Fargo** and watch Amazing Arthur perform magic at 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. in the Abbott Lecture Hall.

### **Sponsors**

The Holiday Lights Festival is produced by Mayor Jean Stothert and the Downtown Omaha Inc. Foundation, and presented by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska with media sponsors KMTV 3 News Now and STAR 104.5.

For more information, visit [www.holidaylightsfestival.org](http://www.holidaylightsfestival.org).