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**KETV FAMILY FESTIVAL SHOWCASES DOWNTOWN ATTRACTIONS
WITH AFTERNOON OF FREE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES**
Crafts, Music and Holiday Fun Featured at Six Venues

(OMAHA, Neb.) Nov. 14, 2018 – KETV Channel 7, Omaha’s News Leader, is proud to 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. 2, from noon to 5 p.m. Families can park at any of the six participating venues to access a free heated trolley service provided by Ollie the Trolley to connect the sites. All offer free admission and family activities.

The KETV Family Festival is part of the series of events comprising the annual Holiday Lights Festival. Families are encouraged to “Shine the Light on Hunger” and donate nonperishable foods and household goods to be distributed to families in need through Food Bank for the Heartland. In support of the campaign and to provide community members with additional access to food collection barrels, The Durham Museum, Joslyn Art Museum and Omaha Children’s Museum will host a collection barrel or bin.

“The KETV Channel 7 team is excited to serve as this year’s Family Festival sponsor,” Ariel Roblin, KETV’s president and general manager, said. “The Family Festival has become an annual tradition for many area families that showcases great downtown venues. We are happy to support this event and are looking forward to being part of the fun.”

The 2018 Family Festival will feature the following attractions and special programs at these locations:

Omaha Children’s Museum, 500 S. 20th St.

- Active play in the museum’s exhibits
- Carousel or train rides for \$2 each
- Visits with Santa and his elves
- Free *Freezing Cold Science Shows* in the Science Theatre

Downtown YMCA, 430 S. 20th St.

- Interactive Activity Tour with stops for: health/holiday-themed crafts, bounce

houses, dancing and tumbling, simple fitness training for adults and kids, hot chocolate/coffee and cookies with Santa

Omaha Police Mounted Patrol Barn, 615 Leavenworth St.

- Stable tours and visit with Santa
- Meet-and-greet and photo opportunities with officers and horses
- Riding demonstrations
- Free Swiss Miss hot cocoa
- Pony rides with LaRue's Little Horse Ranch Pony Rides
- Face-painting and balloon art

The Durham Museum, 801 S. 10th St.

- "Christmas at Union Station" theme showcasing the wonder of the season
- Omaha's largest indoor Christmas tree and visit with Santa
- Holiday Cultural Trees exhibit, an annual favorite highlighting the holiday traditions of various cultures in the Omaha community
- Temporary exhibitions including Thomas D. Mangelsen: A Life in the Wild AND Fighting for the Good Life: Nebraskan Memories of World War I

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

- Meet-and-greet and photo opportunities with Elephant & Piggie and Omaha Public Library (OPL) mascot Scamper
- Free children's books while supplies last
- Live holiday music, coloring activities and storytelling by OPL librarians

Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge St.

- Exhibitions including Pattern and Purpose: American Quilts from Shelburne Museum and Some Illustrator! Pictures by Melissa Sweet, Sibert medalist and Caldecott Honor winner
- Pop-up exhibition of quilts from the International Quilt Study Center & Museum in Lincoln, Nebr., featuring traditional American designs dating to the mid-19th century; Pattern and Purpose is a ticketed exhibition free for children and with a special \$5 discounted admission for adults during the Family Festival only
- ART WORKS: A Place for Curiosity offering nine creative project stations with connections to works of art found in Joslyn's permanent collection
- Hands-on activities and opportunities for children to create their own works of art

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 KETV Channel 7 and STAR 104.5.

For more information, visit holidaylightsfestival.org.