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

(OMAHA, Neb.) Nov. 14, 2019 – The Holiday Lights Festival and 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, sponsored by Lincoln Financial Group, will be held Sunday, Dec. 1, 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 children and families in need through Food Bank for the Heartland. Most participating Family Festival venues will host a food collection barrel or bin.

“The KETV Channel 7 team is excited to present the Family Festival again this year,” said Ariel Roblin, KETV’s president and general manager. “Laying down roots in any community has a lot to do with the traditions we celebrate together. The Family Festival has become an annual tradition for many area families. It’s the fun and heartwarming traditions like these that make Omaha home for so many”

The 2019 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 featuring holiday-themed crafts, healthy snack station, holiday music – and a final stop visiting Santa. Warm up with hot chocolate and cookies while writing wish lists to 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, balloon art and crafts

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 *Race: Are We So Different?* and *Louder Than Words: Rock, Power & Politics*

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

- Meet-and-greet and photo opportunities with Bruce the Bear 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 *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible* and *Everyday People: The Art of James E. Ransome*; *Word and Image* is a ticketed exhibition free for children and with a special \$5 discounted admission for adults during the Family Festival only
- New acquisitions in the contemporary galleries; visit the Riley CAP Gallery to see "picotages" by contemporary artist Paul Anthony Smith
- 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, with media sponsors KETV Channel 7 and STAR 104.5.

For more information, visit holidaylightsfestival.org.

About Holiday Lights Festival

The idea of decorating Omaha with holiday lights had been discussed by downtown advocates for many years. The occasion of the millennium provided the impetus for the project. In 1999, a coalition of city officials, corporations and foundations chose to present a legacy gift of holiday lights to the City of Omaha as the Millennium Lights celebration. That first year, more than 60,000 people came downtown to witness the lighting ceremony. Because the lights were so well received by the public, the Downtown Omaha Inc. Foundation was established the following year to continue Millennium Lights as the Holiday Lights Festival. The Shine the Light on Hunger campaign, sponsored by Conagra Brands Foundation and in partnership with Food Bank for the Heartland, was added to the Holiday Lights Festival in 2007.