



## Children's Museum of Atlanta

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Children's Museum of Atlanta to honor holidays around the world with Celebrations in Light**

*Brand-new programming to educate and entertain during the festive season!*

ATLANTA (November 29, 2016) – Families are invited to jingle all the way to **Children's Museum of Atlanta** for festive fun during the merriest month of the year! Beginning **December 2**, the Museum will honor holidays and traditions from around the world with the debut of **Celebrations in Light**. Each week in December will feature a different holiday – Las Posadas, Hanukkah, Christmas or Kwanza – and include themed story time, art projects, special workshops, guest artists and more for families to enjoy. Whether it's participating in familiar traditions or discovering a different culture, elves of all ages are guaranteed to get into the spirit of the season with the Museum's hands-on, interactive holiday programming!

*Magic Tree House® exhibit-themed daily programming will continue in conjunction with Celebration in Lights. All programs are included with admission unless otherwise noted.*

### **Celebrations in Light: Matsiko World Open Choir**

*Friday, December 2 at 2 p.m.*

In this festive kick-off to the month-long Celebrations in Light activities, 18 children from Peru, Liberia and India will perform at the Museum as part of the Matsiko World Orphan Choir. Sharing a message of hope for the world's 600 million orphaned and at-risk children, Matsiko will perform energetic and dynamic cultural dances in full, vibrant costumes while singing original songs.

### **Celebrations in Light: Las Posadas**

*Saturday, December 3 –Friday, December 9*

A 9-day Latin religious celebration, Las Posadas is commonly observed in Mexico and by Mexican-Americans in the Southwest United States. Families celebrate the holiday in the evenings by participating nightly in Christmas processions that re-create the Holy Pilgrimage of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus during their journey to Bethlehem.

### **Special Story Time**

Weekdays at 1 p.m., Saturdays at 12 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

- “Un, Dos, Tres, Posada!” by Virginia Kroll  
In this special story about Las Posadas, a young girl explains each step of the celebration process – from putting out Poinsettias to hanging the piñata – as she counts to 10 in English and Spanish. Sprinkled with Spanish vocabulary and filled with lively illustrations, this interactive reading event will allow kids to follow along by counting the different items mentioned.
- “The Night Of Los Posadas” by Tomie de Paula  
In this luminous story from Tomie de Paula's, Sister Angie, who is always in charge of the celebration, has to stay home with the flu, while Lupe and Roberto, who are to play Mary and Joseph, get caught in a snowstorm. Just when they think the celebration is ruined, an unknown man and a woman arrive to take their place in the procession, and then mysteriously disappear at the end before they can be thanked. That night a Christian miracle is witnessed, for when Sister Angie goes to the

cathedral and kneels before the statue of Mary and Joseph, wet footprints from the snow lead up to the statue.

### **Special Music and Movement**

*Weekdays at 2 p.m. and weekends at 3 p.m.*

Guests will join the Imaginators for a lively dance with their version of the children's musical bottle cap instrument the *Corcholatas*.

### **Art Studio Projects**

*Weekdays from 10 a.m. –3:30 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m. –4 p.m.*

Children will create their own shining star – to represent the one that shined over the stable in Bethlehem when baby Jesus was born – or construct a homemade rosary to honor Mary, the Mother of God and learn how it relates to Las Posadas.

### **Build It Lab**

*Weekdays from 10:30 a.m. –3:30 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m. –4 p.m.*

Families will celebrate Las Posadas by building a manger for baby Jesus, which Mary and Joseph found in a stable at the end of their pilgrimage.

### **Special Las Posadas Workshop**

*Thursday, December 8 at 11 a.m.*

During this special workshop, guests will create a lantern to light the way in the dark by drilling holes in a coffee can and adding LED lights. Each child will also get to personalize their lantern by adding paint and decorations. Due to limited space available (max of 10 children and 10 adults), registration should be completed in advance. The price to attend the workshop is \$3 and is not included in regular Museum admission.

### **Celebrations in Light: Hanukkah**

*Saturday, December 10 –Friday, December 16*

Known as the “Festival of Lights,” this eight-day Jewish holiday celebrates the fundamental rights of religious freedom. Hanukkah lasts for eight days in December, when the days are shortest and nights are darkest, and is observed by lighting one candle of the nine-branched Menorah each night.

### **Special Guest Performer: Rabbi Brian Glusman**

*Sunday, December 11 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

Guests can join Rabbi Glusman, a leader of the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta, for a fun Hanukkah performance featuring festive songs and stories.

### **Special Story Time**

*Weekdays at 1 p.m., Saturdays at 12 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.*

- “Light the Candles: A Hanukkah Lift the Flap Book” by Joan Holub  
In this spirited story time, kids will enjoy all the fun happenings during Hanukkah – lighting the Menorah candles, opening presents, eating latkes and chocolates, playing the Dreidel game and more. With each turn of the page, another candle will be “lit,” as a new element of the holiday is depicted.
- “Light the Menorah” by Jannie Ho  
Children will celebrate the eight days of Hanukkah with this interactive book that teaches the story of Macabees, how to making potato latkes and how to play Dreidel.

### **Music and Movement**

*Weekdays at 2 p.m. and weekends at 3 p.m.*

Kids will learn the Hanukkah Candle Dance and the Hora with the Museum’s fun Imaginators.

### **Art Studio Projects**

*Weekdays from 10:30 a.m. –3:30 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m. –4 p.m.*

Families will create candle holders using images of symbolic Hanukkah traditions or have the chance to design beautiful stained glass window decorations, which will include a picture of a Menorah.

### **Build It Lab**

*Weekdays from 10:30 a.m. –3:30 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m. –4 p.m.*

Children will break out their tools and build a mini-Menorah using recycled material.

### **Special Hanukah Workshop**

*Thursday, December 15 at 11 a.m.*

In this special workshop, kids will get the chance to build a Menorah with lights and decorations to last all eight nights of the holiday. Due to limited space available (max of 10 children and 10 adults), registration should be completed in advance. The price to attend the workshop is \$3 and is not included in regular Museum admission.

### **Celebrations in Light: Christmas**

*Saturday, December 17 –Saturday, December 24*

**\*\*The Museum will close at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 24 and will be closed all day on Sunday, December 25**

The annual Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ is celebrated on December 25 each year by billions of people across the world. Celebratory customs include completing an Advent calendar or wreath, gift giving, Christmas trees, wreaths and the story of Santa Claus.

### **Special Guest Performer: The Piccadilly Puppets**

*Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18; 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

- *Foxy Christmas*  
*Saturday, December 17 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.*  
This special tale of Christmas spirit and friendship follows a hungry fox and a lonely bunny, as they try to find the true meaning of Christmas. Although there's no mention of any reindeer in the forest, children will delight in Santa Claus' appearance.
- *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*  
*Sunday, December 18 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.*  
A merry tale with silly twists and turns, this classic holiday poem takes on a fresh twist, as the Piccadilly Puppets share the time-honored tale through the perspective of a mouse.

### **Special Story Time**

*Weekdays at 1 p.m., Saturday at 12 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.*

- "How Santa Got His Job" by Stephen Krensky  
This interactive story tells how Santa got his job of delivering presents around the world. From a chimney sweep to a postman and a circus performer, Santa tried it all with no luck. It wasn't until he met a group of festive elves, who helped him use all his special talents, that Santa was able to find his dream job!
- "The Twelve Days of Christmas in Georgia" by Susan Rosson Spain  
Merry Christmas from the Peach State! Guests are invited to join the adventures of cousins Jacob and Ava, as they enjoy a Southern-style holiday hiking the Appalachian Trail, wandering through the Gold Museum and touring the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta.

### **Music and Movement**

*Weekdays and Saturday at 2 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m.*

Who's ready for some reindeer games? The Museum's Imaginators will get kids moving and grooving as they dance and play to Christmas classics.

### **Art Studio Projects**

*Weekdays from 10:30 a.m. –3:30 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m. –4 p.m.*

Kids can get in the festive spirit by constructing a Christmas wreath that is sure to become a staple for years to come or creating a colorful star ornament while listening to the Nativity story and learning about the Star of Bethlehem.

### **Build It Lab**

*Weekdays from 10:30 a.m. –3:30 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m. –4 p.m.*

Families will get the chance to become a Museum Maker and build stocking hangers out of wood. This seasonal take-home will be the perfect way to hang stockings for Santa to fill on Christmas Eve.

### **Special Christmas Workshop**

*Thursday, December 22 at 11 a.m.*

‘Tis the season! Guests and guardians will work together to build their own lit Christmas tree to cherish for years to come. Due to limited space available (max of 10 children and 10 adults), registration should be completed in advance. The price to attend the workshop is \$3 and is not included in regular Museum admission.

### **Celebrations in Light: Kwanzaa**

*Monday, December 26 –Friday, December 30*

Kwanza is a week-long celebration held in the United States and others nations of Western African descent honoring African heritage. With seven core principles, each featured during one night of the seven-day celebration, Kwanza culminates with a feast and gift-giving.

### **Special Story Time**

*Weekdays at 1 p.m.*

- “My First Kwanzaa” by Karen Katz  
Author and illustrator Karen Katz’s wonderful series of picture books for the very young offer a simple and fun way to get familiar with the traditions of holiday celebrations from different cultures. This special story time will help even the youngest children understand the seven days of Kwanza and the holiday’s importance.
- “K is for Kwanzaa : A Kwanzaa Alphabet Book” by Juwanda & Wilson-Max, Ken Ford  
A great educational tool for teaching young children all about the Kwanzaa holiday, this fun story time will also help kids learn the alphabet in a memorable way.

### **Music and Movement**

*Weekdays at 2 p.m.*

Families will join the Imaginators for a special presentation of placing the seven Kwanzaa candles in the Kinara candle holder, while listening (and dancing) to the sounds of drums.

### **Art Studio Projects**

*Weekdays from 10:30 a.m. –3:30 p.m.*

During the Art Studio Project, kids will craft their own exotic Kwanza mask with candle stick hair, or they can make a miniature drum, while learning how music and dance plays an integral role in this holiday.

### **Build It Lab**

*Weekdays from 10:30 a.m. –3:30 p.m.*

To celebrate Kwanza, kids and adults will create and paint miniature Unity Cups.

### **Special Kwanzaa Workshop**

*Thursday, December 29 at 11 a.m.*

During this special workshop, guests will create wax candles with green, red and black colors, symbolizing the lighting of candles on the candelabra. Due to limited space available (max of 10 children and 10 adults), registration should be completed in advance. The price to attend the workshop is \$3 and is not included in regular Museum admission.

For more information on the Celebration of Lights or to support Children's Museum of Atlanta, visit [childrensmuseumatlanta.org](http://childrensmuseumatlanta.org) or call 404.659.KIDS [5437].

**About Children’s Museum of Atlanta:**

Children’s Museum of Atlanta is the only educational venue of its kind in Atlanta, presenting educational programs and exhibits designed for young children ages 0-8. The Museum’s mission is to spark imagination and inspire discovery and learning for all children through the power of play. With six permanent learning zones consisting of bright, creative and hands-on exhibits, the Museum supports inventive play-based exploration and experiential learning focused on the whole child. Core competencies for literacy, math and science are promoted throughout all exhibits and programming in alignment with the state and national Core Performance Standards. The Children’s Museum of Atlanta also offers parties, memberships, field trips, summer camp and private events. For more information or to support Children's Museum of Atlanta, visit [childrensmuseumatlanta.org](http://childrensmuseumatlanta.org) or call 404.659.KIDS [5437].

**Museum Admission:** General Admission is \$14.95 (plus tax) for anyone 1 – 100 years old. Babies and members are admitted for free. All daily programs are included in price of admission. Group rates and military discounts are available. For more information regarding ticket and membership options, visit [childrensmuseumatlanta.org/plan-your-visit/faqs/](http://childrensmuseumatlanta.org/plan-your-visit/faqs/).

**Museum Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Closed on Wednesdays. Please check the Museum website to confirm hours of operation.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/childrensmuseumatlanta>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChildMuseumATL>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/childrensmuseumatlanta>

Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/cmatlanta>

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