DOWNTOWN'S GOT IT GLOWING ON!



MILWAUKEE
HOLIDAY LIGHTS
FESTIVAL

November 19, 2026
through
January 1, 2027
Downtown Milwaukee

PRESENTED BY:
JOHNSON FINANCIAL GROUP®

Festival Info







MILWAUKEE
HOLIDAY LIGHTS
FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY:
JOHNSON
FINANCIAL GROUP

Downtown's got it glowing on!

From arts and culture to dining and nightlife, our city's vibrancy is unmatched. See Downtown Milwaukee shine in all its grandeur during the Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival. Presented by Johnson Financial Group, the six-week celebration transforms Downtown into a winter wonderland with a half million brilliant lights, cascading chandeliers, and dozens of holiday sculptures sprinkled throughout major corridors and four parks.

Milwaukee Downtown, BID #21 and its ambassadors create this shimmering backdrop, continuing a tradition that began in 1999, to invite merrymakers to celebrate the season in the heart of the city.

Whether gathering with family and friends over dinner and drinks, enjoying a show, shopping for unique gifts, riding the festival's Jingle Bus, or snapping a family selfie among the lights, Downtown Milwaukee is where holiday memories are made.

So, experience Downtown's glow. Make plans with your nearest and dearest to enjoy the magic of the holiday season in Downtown Milwaukee!

Festival Info





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Please note: Events and activities are subject to change or cancellation.

Kickoff & Jingle Bus

Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival Kickoff Extravaganza

Thu, November 19 | 6:30pm
Pre-show entertainment starts at 5:30pm
Pere Marquette Park
414.220.4700 | milwaukeeholidaylights.com



More than half a million lights won't be the only things glowing this holiday season. The festival's Kickoff Extravaganza will brighten faces with live music, dance routines, and other jolly performances. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive in time for a spectacular fireworks display, and, after the show, guests can take their glow to-go on a free Jingle Bus tour highlighting Downtown's dazzling holiday displays. Just be sure to register online for a free Jingle Bus voucher, as spots are limited on kickoff night.



Parking Made Easy!

Discounted parking will be available at select locations, courtesy of Interstate Parking. Visit the event's website for details.

Can't Make It Downtown?

Tune in to WISN 12 at 6:30pm for a live broadcast, presented by Stein's Garden & Home.







Kickoff & Jingle Bus



Jingle Bus Tours

December 12 – December 27 (excluding December 25)
Fri – Sun | 5pm to 8:20pm
Milwaukee County Historical Society
414.220.4700 | milwaukeeholidaylights.com

Ooh and ahh at the winter wonderland scenes scattered throughout Downtown Milwaukee by hopping aboard the Jingle Bus, powered by KB Excursions.

This 40-minute narrated tour highlights the main attractions of the Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival, including our four parks: "Community Spirit Park" at Cathedral Square Park, "Santa's Celebration Square powered by We Energies" at Zeidler Union Square, "¡Felices Fiestas!" at Pere Marquette Park, and "Slice of Ice Lights" at Red Arrow Park.



Jingle Bus tickets are $8 per person and can be purchased at milwaukeeholidaylights.com. Guests can choose their tour date and time online, with an option to take a Spanish language tour on select nights.

Tickets may also be purchased on-site with cash. This year, buses will depart from the festival's new Warming House at the Milwaukee County Historical Society, where complimentary cocoa and cookies will be provided to awaiting riders.

Jingle Bus riders can receive discounted parking at the following Interstate Parking locations: CW Lot, 822 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive; MSO Lot, 744 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive; 3rd & Wells Lot, 302 W. Wells Street; and Riverbank Lot, 740 N. Plankinton Avenue. To receive the discount, scan the QR code on nearby signs, select "Buy Parking," enter your license plate and cell phone number, choose the parking duration, and apply promo code "BELLS26".

Please note, the Jingle Bus will operate free from Pere Marquette Park on Kickoff night, Nov. 19 (a voucher is required to board), and will not operate on Christmas Day. Jingle Bus service is weather permitting.

Sights to See

CATHEDRAL SQUARE PARK

Community Spirit Park

SPONSORED BY ATC, IDEAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS

Each year, this park transforms into a festive forest of more than 100 evergreen trees. Take a close look at each tree's unique ornamentation, as they have been artfully decorated by over 100 area schools and organizations. Be sure to discover the magical Singing Tree, which twinkles in real time to the sound of music, singing, and clapping.





RED ARROW PARK

Slice of Ice Lights

SPONSORED BY MGIC & MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS

Home to the "Slice of Ice" skating rink, Red Arrow Park twinkles with holiday décor, setting the mood for enchanting evenings. The rink will open in early December, weather permitting.

PERE MARQUETTE PARK

¡Felices Fiestas!

SPONSORED BY MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS

Explore this festive park packed with lighted scenes of a gingerbread family tumbling through the North Pole. Admire other confectionery-themed sculptures such as oversized candy canes and a gingerbread house. Plus, spot Santa in his sleigh and see the giant stocking.



Sights to See

CATHEDRAL SQUARE PARK

Santa's Mailbox

SPONSORED BY EDUCATORS CREDIT UNION WITH SUPPORT FROM SERVING OLDER ADULTS & NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS – PIONEER BRANCH 2

November 9 – December 13

A magical connection to the North Pole awaits in Cathedral Square Park. Drop your child's letter or wish list into Santa's Mailbox for a personalized reply from Santa himself. No postage is needed—just include a return address.





ZEIDLER UNION SQUARE

Santa's Celebration Square

SPONSORED BY WE ENERGIES FOUNDATION & MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS

Snap a photo of Santa's electric reindeer at Celebration Square! This interactive park is the perfect place for families to create a memory near the cozy fireplace display, snuggled on the oversized chair or sleigh, or inside the giant picture frame.

WISCONSIN AVENUE – 8TH STREET TO PROSPECT AVENUE

Cascading Chandeliers & Oversized Ornaments

Experience this glittering stretch, where nearly 20 elegant chandeliers hang above the intersections, harp lamps are dressed in festive décor, and the festival's Ornament Trail displays oversized baubles with unique themes hand-painted by artists.



The Ornament Trail



The Ornament Trail

November 19 – January 17
Downtown Milwaukee
414.220.4700 | milwaukeeholidaylights.com

Discover The Ornament Trail along Wisconsin Avenue and in nearby neighborhoods. Coordinated by Milwaukee Downtown, BID #21 and the Downtown Placemaking Task Force, the installation features 20 larger-than-life ornaments near restaurants, hotels, and performing arts venues. Each ornament is hand-painted with a theme chosen and illustrated by a locally or nationally renowned artist with Milwaukee ties.

Visit milwaukeeholidaylights.com for ornament themes and locations, and download the Ornament Trail activity guide for the route map and discounts from nearby businesses. Printed guides are also available during business hours at Milwaukee Downtown, BID #21, 301 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 106. Call 414.220.4700 to confirm hours of operation.



The Ornament Trail



Holiday Happenings

Santa's Mailbox

SPONSORED BY EDUCATORS CREDIT UNION WITH SUPPORT FROM SERVING OLDER ADULTS & NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS – PIONEER BRANCH 2

November 9 – December 13
Cathedral Square Park
414.220.4700 | milwaukeeholidaylights.com

Place a child's letter to Santa in Santa's Mailbox. Be sure to include a return address because Santa and his extra special helpers will ensure each child receives a personalized reply. Holiday spirit delivers the letters. No postage required!

Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival Kickoff Extravaganza

Thu, November 19 | 6:30pm
Pere Marquette Park
414.220.4700 | milwaukeeholidaylights.com

Enjoy music, dancing, Santa, and a dazzling fireworks display on the brightest night of the year. Admission is free, including cookies, cocoa, and Jingle Bus tours with advanced registration. Pre-show entertainment begins at 5:30pm.



The Ornament Trail

November 19 – January 17
Downtown Milwaukee
414.220.4700 | milwaukeeholidaylights.com

Explore 20 larger-than-life, hand-painted ornaments by locally and nationally renowned artists. Pick up or download a trail guide to enjoy discounts from businesses along the way.



Christmas at Pabst Mansion

November 19 – January 3
Pabst Mansion
414.931.0808 | pabstmansion.com

Enjoy a family-friendly, self-guided tour of the Pabst Mansion, where each room offers unique holiday magic, from glitz and glamour to trains and festive trees.

113th Annual City of Milwaukee Christmas Tree Lighting

Fri, November 20 | 5pm to 7pm
Fiserv Forum Plaza
deerdistrict.com

The 113th annual City of Milwaukee Christmas tree lighting will take place in Deer District. Enjoy live performances, and a visit from Santa and his reindeer. Program begins at 6pm.

Deck the *Streets* and *Village*

November 20 – January 3
Milwaukee Public Museum
414.278.2728 | mpm.edu

Don't miss one final holiday season immersed in the magic of the *Streets of Old Milwaukee* and *European Village*, both wrapped in festive cheer! In *Streets*, enjoy Victorian-era décor adorning streetlamps and buildings as classic carols play in the background. In the *Village*, look for traditional holiday items from different European heritages throughout nine of the homes.

Holiday Happenings

Deer District Holiday Market

November 20 – December 6
Deer District
deerdistrict.com

Deer District will tip off the winter season with the return of Deer District Holiday Market, presented by Deer District BID #53. Browse a curated lineup of local vendors, and enjoy holiday-themed photo ops and seasonal food and beverage specials. The market is free to attend and open daily, excluding Nov. 26.

Turkey Trails

Sat, November 21 | 9am
Veterans Park
runsignup.com/Race/WI/Milwaukee/TurkeyTrailsMilwaukee

Celebrate fall along Milwaukee's lakefront with a one-mile, 5K, 10K, or half marathon. Children can join the Kids Dash.

FEZtival of Trees

November 21 – 28
Tripoli Shrine Center
414.933.4700 | tripolishrine.com

Walk through a wonderland of trees decorated by local businesses and organizations, snap a photo with Santa, and enjoy a light show during Thanksgiving week. Then place a bid for a chance to win a fully decorated tree to take home.

Friendsgiving at the Bar

Wed, November 25 | 3pm to Close
Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel
414.276.8686 | saintkatearts.com

Gather at the Bar at Saint Kate for an evening of expertly crafted cocktails, seasonal flavors, and effortless conversation in Milwaukee's most stylish lobby lounge.



Friendsgiving Party

Wed, November 25 | 4pm to Close
Upper Bar
414.522.6115 | upperbarmke.com

Bring your crew, toast to old memories and new traditions, and spend the night where elevated drinks, great music, and Milwaukee's skyline come together for the ultimate pre-Thanksgiving celebration.

Milwaukee Turkey Trot

Thu, November 26 | 9am
McKinley and Veterans Parks
wisconsinruns.com

Join the flock during the annual Turkey Trot. It's your preturkey workout. Your body will thank you later!



Pfister Hotel Thanksgiving Bountiful Brunch

Thu, November 26 | 11am to 4:30pm
The Pfister Hotel – Grand Ballroom
414.273.8222 | thepfisterhotel.com

Guests will enjoy an array of fresh seafood on sculpted ice, a harvest of fresh salads and starters, an artisan Wisconsin cheese station, and a room full of chefs preparing eggs and succulent carved meats — plus all the traditional trimmings. Reservations required.

Thanksgiving at Mason Street Grill

Thu, November 26 | 1pm to 8pm
Mason Street Grill
414.298.3131 | masonstreetgrill.com

Enjoy an all-American grill for this quintessential holiday. Mason Street Grill's regular menu will be available along with a Thanksgiving prix fixe menu.

Holiday Happenings

Thanksgiving Brunch at The Studio

Thu, November 26 | 8am to 11am
Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel
414.270.4422 | saintkatearts.com
Gather with family and friends over a festive brunch menu, featuring fresh, seasonal favorites, handcrafted cocktails, and comforting classics in the inviting atmosphere of Saint Kate.

Thanksgiving Harvest Dinner in The Studio

Thu, November 26 | 1pm to 7pm
Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel
414.270.4422 | saintkatearts.com
Enjoy a thoughtfully crafted prix fixe dining experience inspired by the flavors of the season, featuring elevated takes on holiday favorites alongside chef-driven culinary touches.

Twilight Tours

Thu – Sun, November 27 – December 26 & January 2
4:30pm to 7:30pm
Pabst Mansion
414.931.0808 | pabstmansion.com
Enjoy a self-guided tour of the Mansion at night. Music will fill the space and refreshments will be available for purchase.



Annual Pfister Tree Lighting Ceremony

Fri, November 27 | 5pm to 6:30pm
The Pfister Hotel
414.273.8222 | thepfisterhotel.com
Santa returns to light The Pfister Hotel's spectacular lobby tree. Sip warm drinks and nibble on a holiday treat. Non-perishable food items will be collected for Hunger Task Force.

Small Business Saturday

Sat, November 28
Historic Third Ward
414.273.1173 | historicthirdward.org
Explore the unique offerings around the Historic Third Ward as you #shopsmall.



Milwaukee Makers Market

Sat, November 28 | 10am to 4pm
Sun, December 20 | 10am to 4pm
Discovery World
414.765.9966 | discoveryworld.org
Support local crafters, artists, and creators by browsing dozens of booths featuring clothing, visual art, candles, home goods and so much more. This no-charge-to-enter artisan showcase is the perfect opportunity to shop for co-workers, pets, uncles, aunts, and everyone in between.

Storytime with Santa

Sat, November 28 | 11am to 1:30pm
Sun, December 20 | 11am to 1:30pm
Discovery World
414.765.9966 | discoveryworld.org
Discovery World hosts storytime and photos with Santa at 11am, 12pm and 1pm. Between sessions, Santa will stroll the building.



Holiday Happenings



Breakfast with Santa

November 28 & 29, December 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 & 20
8:30am to 10am or 11am to 12:30pm
The Pfister Hotel
414.273.8222 | thepfisterhotel.com

Back by popular demand! Enjoy a festive breakfast buffet in The Pfister's newly renovated Grand Ballroom, with holiday favorites, family-friendly classics, and a kids buffet. Families can take photos with Santa and his elves, and each child will receive a special gift.

Holiday Marketplace

November 28 & 29 | 11am to 4pm
Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel
414.276.8686 | saintkatearts.com

Enjoy the holiday ambiance of Saint Kate's ARC Theatre while interacting with over 75 local artists and vendors. No reservation or purchase is necessary; however, RSVPs are encouraged.

Slice of Ice

December through Early March 2027
(weather permitting)
Red Arrow Park
414.289.8791 | countyparks.com

Ice skate in the heart of Downtown at the "Slice of Ice" rink while surrounded by twinkling lights and dazzling décor. Skate rentals are available for adults and children. Ice skating is free with your own skates.

MIAD Holiday Sale

December 3 – 5
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design
414.847.3200 | miad.edu/holidaysale

MIAD's Holiday Sale offers unique holiday gifts – from prints to photography, paintings, ornaments and more – all crafted by students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

Christmas in the Ward

Fri, December 4 | 5pm to 8pm
Catalano Square
414.273.1173 | historicthirdward.org

Dash into the holiday season with festivities under the Historic Third Ward's Christmas tree. This night is packed with live entertainment, food trucks, local shopping, and photo ops alongside Santa and his reindeer.



Credit: Eric Halverson

Christmas Lights & Desserts Bus Tour

Fri – Sun, December 4 – 20 and December 21 – 23
Various Locations
414.255.0534 | milwaukeefoodtours.com

Show off your ugly Christmas sweater and spread some holiday cheer on the Christmas Lights & Desserts sing-along! This Santa-approved bus tour is the perfect mix of tasty treats and lighthearted holiday spirit.

Holiday Happenings

Christmas Around Milwaukee Bakery Bus Tour

Fri – Sun, December 4 – 20 and December 22 & 23
Various Locations

414.255.0534 | milwaukeefoodtours.com

The Christmas Around Milwaukee Bakery Bus will fill your belly with holiday cookies and your heart with good cheer while you make delicious memories. Great for a girls' outing or a family celebration!

Santa's Christmas Cavalcade

Sat, December 5 | Departs at 5pm
Fri, December 11 | Departs at 5pm
Downtown Milwaukee

414.220.4700 | milwaukeeholidaylights.com

See Santa and Mrs. Claus along their festive route riding atop a vintage fire truck. A vocalist will also be on board singing holiday tunes. Route departs from the Milwaukee Public Market and travels throughout Downtown.

Holiday Dessert Party at Il Cervo

December 5 & 6, 12 & 13, 19 & 20
Il Cervo

414.279.6660 | ilcervorestaurant.com

Add a festive dessert experience to brunch! Enjoy sweet treats and cookie decorating with Mrs. Claus ($20) Dec. 5–6, Santa ($20) Dec. 12–13, or both ($30) Dec. 19–20.



Santa Cycle Rampage

Sat, December 5 | 9:30am
Various Locations

414.626.1540 | wisconsinbikefed.org

Dress in festive attire and join more than 2,000 Santas as they pedal their way through the city.

Breakfast with Santa

Sun, December 6, 13 & 20 | 10am to 2pm
Harley-Davidson Museum – MOTOR Restaurant

414.287.2778 | harley-davidson.com

Celebrate the season with a festive family brunch buffet, cookie decorating, letter writing, and photos with the big guy himself.



Holidays on The Hop

Sun, December 6 & 13 | 4pm to 6pm

thehopmke.com

Enjoy live music and holiday cheer on Downtown's free streetcar service.

Hover Craft: Handmade Holiday Shopping Extravaganza

Sun, December 6 | 12pm to 6pm
Pritzlaff Building

hovercraftmke.com

Brimming with one-of-a-kind handiwork, get your ticket online today!

Holiday Happenings

Jingle Bus Tours

Fri – Sun, December 12 – 27
5pm to 8:20pm
(weather permitting)
Milwaukee County Historical Society
414.220.4700 | milwaukeeholidaylights.com

Marvel at Downtown's spectacular sights aboard the convenient Jingle Bus. For $8 per person, visitors can take in the festive panorama while a narrator shares stories about the jolliest attractions and landmarks. Advance ticket purchases are encouraged.

Breakfast with Santa

December 12 & 13 | 9am & 11:30am
Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel
414.276.8686 | saintkatearts.com

Settle in for a festive morning featuring made-to-order pancakes, classic breakfast favorites, plenty of sweet treats, and a special visit from Santa himself.



Cocoa with the Clauses

Sat, December 12 | 11am to 2pm
Cathedral Square Park
414.220.4700 | milwaukeeholidaylights.com

Santa and Mrs. Claus return for this annual cocoa klatch. The free outdoor event is a chance for kids to share their wish lists and for moms and dads to grab a keepsake photo. Elves and other holiday characters will also be there. Plus, complimentary cookies and hot cocoa will be provided, thanks to Taste of Home and Educators Credit Union.



European Village Alive!

Sat, December 12 | 11am to 3pm
Milwaukee Public Museum
414.278.2728 | mpm.edu

Explore the wonder of the season while learning about the history of European holiday traditions. Museum docents dressed in period attire will be stationed at various homes throughout the delightfully decorated *European Village*.

Holiday Tea at The Pfister

December 12 – 31 | 11am to 2pm
The Pfister Hotel – Blu
414.273.8222 | thepfisterhotel.com

Enjoy a tableside blending of Rishi Tea, your very own Pfister Tea Butler, and a Christmas-inspired menu featuring fresh scones, sandwiches and pastries, and panoramic views. Reservations required.

Christmas Pajama Party

Sat, December 19 | 4pm to Close
Upper Bar
414.522.6115 | upperbarmke.com

Trade the ugly sweater for your favorite holiday pajamas and celebrate the season at Milwaukee's coziest holiday party.

Cocoa & Claus

Sat, December 19 | 9am to 12pm
Betty Brinn Children's Museum
414.390.5437 | bbcmkids.org

Enjoy a festive morning with Santa! Cozy up for stories, hot cocoa, family photos, and hands-on holiday fun.

Holiday Happenings

Hoan for the Holidays

December 23 – 31 | Various Times
Hoan Bridge
lightthehoan.com

Celebrate the magic of the season as Milwaukee's iconic Hoan Bridge lights up the skyline. Sponsored by Miller Lite, enjoy festive holiday light shows December 23–31, plus special New Year's Eve countdown displays to ring in 2027. Free for all to enjoy!

Christmas Eve Brunch in The Studio

Thu, December 24 | 8am to 1pm
Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel
414.270.4422 | saintkatearts.com

Enjoy a leisurely meal featuring brunch favorites, handcrafted cocktails, and the warm, artful atmosphere of Saint Kate.



Christmas Eve Dinner in The Studio

Thu, December 24 | 4pm to 9pm
Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel
414.270.4422 | saintkatearts.com

Celebrate the magic of Christmas Eve with a thoughtfully crafted prix fixe dinner. Each course brings together seasonal flavors, refined culinary touches, and the welcoming hospitality of Saint Kate.



Christmas Day Brunch in The Studio

Fri, December 25 | 8am to 1pm
Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel
414.270.4422 | saintkatearts.com

Enjoy signature brunch favorites, festive cocktails, and a relaxed dining experience surrounded by the creativity and warmth of Saint Kate.

Christmas Day Dinner in The Studio

Fri, December 25 | 4pm to 9pm
Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel
414.270.4422 | saintkatearts.com

Gather around the table for an afternoon or evening of exceptional cuisine, meaningful conversation, and a festive Christmas celebration.

Christmas Celebration Brunch

Fri, December 25 | 10am to 3:30pm
The Pfister Hotel
414.273.8222 | thepfisterhotel.com

Enjoy a spectacular buffet featuring a delicious assortment of fresh seafood, Wisconsin's finest cheeses, carved meats, omelets made to order, holiday salads and starters, a vast array of mouth-watering entrées, and decadent desserts loved by big and small elves alike. Reservations required.



Theater & Comedy

JP Coletta's Rock 'N' Roll Piano Man

November 6 – January 3
Associated Bank Theater Center – Stackner Cabaret
414.224.9490 | milwaukeerep.com

Trace rock piano from Little Richard, Fats Domino, and Ray Charles to Elton John and Billy Joel. JP Coletta and his band will deliver high-energy renditions of classics, including "Great Balls of Fire" and "Bennie and the Jets."



A Gift of the Magi

A MILWAUKEE PREMIERE PRESENTED BY THE MILWAUKEE CHAMBER THEATRE
November 13 – December 6
Broadway Theatre Center – Studio Theatre
414.291.7800
milwaukeechambertheatre.org

In this original musical based on O. Henry's classic tale, two newlyweds – accompanied by live violin and cello – search for the perfect gift for one another.

Big: The Musical

November 13 – December 27
Broadway Theatre Center – Cabot Theatre
414.291.7800 | skylightmusictheatre.org

After wishing to be "big," 12-year-old Josh Baskin wakes up as a 30-year-old in New York City. As he navigates adult work, relationships, and responsibilities, he discovers the challenges of growing up and the magic of childhood. Based on the beloved 1988 film.



Heist

November 17 – December 20
Associated Bank Theater Center – Ellen & Joe Checota Powerhouse Theater
414.224.9490 | milwaukeerep.com

A secretive crew takes on one final, life-changing job. A cinematic crime caper packed with twists, sharp dialogue, surprises, and laughs.

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

November 21 – December 27
Marcus Performing Arts Center – Todd Wehr Theater
414.267.2966 | firststage.org

Experience the wit, wonder, and larger-than-life spirit that audiences know and love, wrapped in toe-tapping songs and Seussian spectacle in this presentation by First Stage.

The Girl, The Galaxy, and the Giant Sound Wave

November 21 & 22
Discovery World – Todd Wehr Theater
414.277.8480 | danceworksmke.org

In Danceworks Performance MKE's futuristic production, a water-covered world becomes the starting point for an adventurous girl's journey across the galaxy in search of answers.

Theater & Comedy

The Sound of Music

November 24 – 29
Marcus Performing Arts Center – Uihlein Hall

414.273.7206 | marcuscenter.org

For 65 years, "The Sound of Music" has been one of our favorite things. With its timeless story and irresistibly charming score, this Rodgers & Hammerstein classic isn't just meant to be enjoyed — it's meant to be shared with a new generation.

The Boys from Baraboo

December 2 – 20
Next Act Theatre

414.278.0765 | nextact.org

Step right up for the rise and fall of the Ringling Brothers of Baraboo, Wisconsin, a tale that's equal parts vaudeville revue and prestige drama.

A Christmas Carol

December 2 – 24
The Pabst Theater

414.224.9490 | milwaukeerep.com

Milwaukee's favorite holiday tradition fills The Pabst Theater with enchanting music, dance, costumes, special effects, and Christmas cheer.



Credit: Rachel Malehorn



Ariana Ferch *(Liesl von Trapp)* and Ian Coursey *(Rolf Gruber)* in The Sound of Music. Photo by Jeremy Daniel.

Sister's Christmas Catechism

Sat, December 5 | 3pm
Marcus Performing Arts Center – Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall

414.273.7206 | marcuscenter.org

In this "CSI: Bethlehem" holiday mystery from the creator of Late Nite Catechism, Sister investigates the Magi's missing gold. Her hilarious nativity retelling features audience casting, so bring your camera – your family may join the show!

The Nutcracker: Drosselmeyer's Imaginarium

December 5 – 26
Marcus Performing Arts Center – Uihlein Hall

414.902.2103 | milwaukeeballet.org

A beloved holiday tradition transforms into a magical adventure of wonder and enchantment for audiences of all ages in "The Nutcracker."

Black Nativity

December 10 – 13
Marcus Performing Arts Center – Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall

414.273.7206 | marcuscenter.org

A Milwaukee holiday favorite, "Black Nativity" tells the Christmas story through scripture, poetry, dance, and song from the African American perspective. Each year, the production is reimagined by Black Arts MKE with new themes and creative approaches while maintaining its core spirit of faith, family, and joy.

Theater & Comedy



Cirque Dreams Holidaze

December 11 – 13
Miller High Life Theatre
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com

An annual tradition that wraps a Broadway-style production around awe-inspiring contemporary circus arts. Guests of all ages will be on the edge of their seats as a cast of holiday characters comes to life, captivating audiences while defying gravity.

Jerry Seinfeld

Fri, December 18 | 7pm
Miller High Life Theatre
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com

Known for finding humor in everyday life, Jerry Seinfeld brings his latest stand-up routine to the Miller High Life Theatre.

A Very Deadly Constructivists Holiday

December 18 – 22
Broadway Theatre Center – Studio Theatre
414.291.7800 | theconstructivists.org

Your alternative holiday programming tradition: freshly ruined holiday songs, theatrical mayhem, and an ever-rising body count.

René Vaca & That Mexican OT

Fri, December 18 | 7pm
The Riverside Theater
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com

Stand-up comedian Vaca brings his wit and bilingual humor to the stage.

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd

Mon, December 21 | 7:30pm
Next Act Theatre
414.278.0765 | nextact.org

A one-night-only staged reading: This highly theatrical adaptation of Agatha Christie's 1926 masterpiece delves deep into the human psyche to create a shockingly modern-feeling whodunnit.

Bluey's Big Play Date

December 26 & 27
Miller High Life Theatre
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com

When Dad feels like a little bit of time out, Bluey and Bingo have other plans! Join them as they pull out all of the games and cleverness at their disposal to get Dad off that bean bag.



Credit: Paquin Exhibition & Theatrical

The Unauthorized Hallmark(ish) Parody Musical

December 26 – 30
Marcus Performing Arts Center – Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall
414.273.7206 | marcuscenter.org

A hilarious twist on the classic holiday movies you already know and love! When a move back to a small hometown brings an old flame back into the picture, sparks are bound to fly.

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Give the Gift of

BENSON'S
RESTAURANT GROUP

ONE GIFT. FIVE RESTAURANTS.

GIVE $100. GET $20.



ONESTO

The BRIDGEWATER MODERN GRILL

The Edison

SMOKE SHACK

BLUE BAT KITCHEN & TEQUILA

SHOP GIFT CARDS

DINE LOCAL. GIFT BIGGER.

*Receive a $20 Bonus Card for every $100 in Benson's Gift Cards purchased 11/23/26–12/31/26. Bonus Card valid to be redeemed 1/1/27-3/31/27, dine-in only. Bonus Card cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Redeemable at all Benson's restaurant locations.

2026 Holiday Ornament



2026 EDITION | $19.95

Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Associated Bank Theater Center

The annual Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival ornament is a one-of-a-kind keepsake. A great gift for family, friends, co-workers, and business associates, each year our holiday ornament features an iconic downtown landmark cast in pewter by local artist Andrew Schumann.

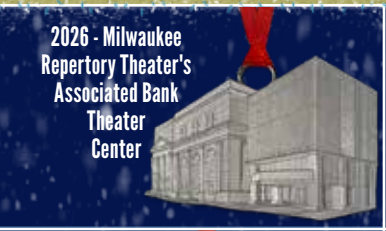
The 26th edition celebrates the historic Oneida Street Station, now home to Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Associated Bank Theater Center. Today, this extraordinary, state-of-the-art building is a vibrant cultural hub in the heart of downtown and a welcoming home for exceptional theater, meaningful connections, and shared experiences.

The 2026 Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Associated Bank Theater Center ornament is available for $19.95 by visiting shop.milwaukeedowntown.com, or by completing the order form on the following pages. A limited number of past editions are available for $24.95 each.

Ornaments may also be purchased in person at Milwaukee Downtown, (414.220.4700), Historic Milwaukee, (414.277.7795), Kloiber Jewelers, (414.276.2457), or Urban Milwaukee, (414.395.0632). Call ahead for hours of operation and available inventory.

- **2026** Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Associated Bank Theater Center
- **2025** Milwaukee Fire Department
- **2024** Baird Center
- **2023** Pfister Hotel
- **2022** War Memorial Center
- **2021** Warner Marquee
- **2020** Hoan Bridge
- **2019** Marcus Performing Arts Center
- **2018** Fiserv Forum
- **2017** Northwestern Mutual Tower and Commons
- **2016** Wisconsin Club
- **2015** Posner Building
- **2014** Iron Block Building
- **2013** U.S. Bank Tower
- **2012** Milwaukee County Courthouse
- **2011** Milwaukee Gas Light Building
- **2010** Cudahy Tower Apartments and Condominiums
- **2009** Milwaukee Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse
- **2008** Milwaukee County Historical Society
- **2007** Northwestern Mutual Corporate Headquarters
- **2006** Central Library
- **2005** Downtown Trolley
- **2004** Milwaukee City Hall
- **2003** Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
- **2002** Milwaukee Art Museum
- **2001** Pabst Theater

Order Ornaments from





























Years Past - $24.95 Each


2024 - Baird Center


2023 - Pfister Hotel


2020 - Hoan Bridge


2019 - Marcus Performing Arts Center


2016 - Wisconsin Club


2015 - Posner Building


2012 - Milwaukee County Courthouse


2011 - Milwaukee Gas Light Building


2008 - Milwaukee County Historical Society


2007 - Northwestern Mutual Corporate Headquarters


2004 - Milwaukee City Hall


2003 - Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

mke DOWNTOWN

The 2026 ornament is available for $19.95 by visiting shop.milwaukeedowntown.com or by completing the order form on page 22. A limited number of past editions are available for $24.95 each.

SHOP.MILWAUKEEDOWNTOWN.COM

2026 Order Form

PURCHASE YOUR ANNUAL MILWAUKEE DOWNTOWN TREASURE

The 2026 Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Associated Bank Theater Center ornament is available for $19.95 by visiting shop.milwaukeedowntown.com, or by completing and returning this order form. A limited number of past editions are available for $24.95 each.

Save on postage! Ornaments may also be purchased at **Milwaukee Downtown**, 301 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 106 (414.220.4700), **Historic Milwaukee**, 235 E. Michigan Street (414.277.7795), **Kloiber Jewelers**, 777 E. Wisconsin Avenue (414.276.2457), or **Urban Milwaukee**, 755 N. Milwaukee Street (414.395.0632). Call ahead for hours of operation.

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❑ CHECK ❑ MASTERCARD ❑ VISA EXPIRATION DATE _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____

❑	2026	Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Associated Bank Theater Center	x $19.95 _____
❑	2025	Milwaukee Fire Department	x $24.95 _____
❑	2024	Baird Center	x $24.95 _____
❑	2023	Pfister Hotel	x $24.95 _____
❑	2022	War Memorial Center	x $24.95 _____
❑	2021	Warner Marquee	x $24.95 _____
❑	2020	Hoan Bridge	x $24.95 _____
❑	2019	Marcus Performing Arts Center	x $24.95 _____
❑	2018	Fiserv Forum	x $24.95 _____
❑	2017	Northwestern Mutual Tower and Commons	x $24.95 _____
❑	2016	Wisconsin Club	x $24.95 _____
❑	2015	Posner Building	x $24.95 _____
❑	2014	Iron Block Building	x $24.95 _____
❑	2013	U.S. Bank Tower	x $24.95 _____
❑	2012	Milwaukee County Courthouse	x $24.95 _____
❑	2011	Milwaukee Gas Light Building	x $24.95 _____
❑	2010	Cudahy Tower Apartments and Condominiums	x $24.95 _____
❑	2009	Milwaukee Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse	x $24.95 _____
❑	2008	Milwaukee County Historical Society	x $24.95 _____
❑	2007	Northwestern Mutual Corporate Headquarters	x $24.95 _____
❑	2006	Central Library	x $24.95 _____
❑	2005	Downtown Trolley	x $24.95 _____
❑	2004	Milwaukee City Hall	x $24.95 _____
❑	2003	Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist	x $24.95 _____
❑	2002	Milwaukee Art Museum	x $24.95 _____
❑	2001	Pabst Theater	x $24.95 _____

SUBTOTAL _____

Number of Ornaments
(Shipping and handling for each ornament) _____ x **$6.10** _____

TOTAL (WI sales tax is included in the final sales price) _____

Make your check or money order payable to Milwaukee Downtown, Inc.
Please do not send cash.
Mail to: Milwaukee Downtown Holiday Ornament
301 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 106, Milwaukee, WI 53203

Music & Movies

Candlelight Concerts

Ongoing
St. James 1868 and Hilton Milwaukee
414.514.5555 | stjames1868.com

Enjoy a live, multisensory concert experience with winter shows saluting the likes of Hans Zimmer, Fleetwood Mac, Michael Jackson, 90s Hip-Hop, Ed Sheeran, Queen, The Beatles, ABBA, Christmas carols on strings, and more.

Brahms Symphony No. 2

November 20 & 21
Bradley Symphony Center
414.291.7605 | mso.org

Guest conductor Iván López Reynoso returns to the MSO to conduct Brahms' second symphony.

Sabaton

Sat, November 21 | 7pm
Landmark Credit Union Live
414.410.4000 | landmarkculive.com

Sweden's Sabaton is sure to deliver a night of power metal.

A Hundred Ways: Thanksgiving

Sun, November 22 | 5pm
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
414.229.4308 | presentmusic.org

Gather for Present Music's annual celebration of gratitude, community, and multiculturalism. Experience a rich tapestry of global sounds within the beauty of this sacred space.

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas Film with Orchestra

November 27 – 29
Bradley Symphony Center
414.291.7605 | mso.org

Discover the magic of the Mean One this holiday season. Starring Jim Carrey as the unforgettable Grinch, enjoy the movie on the big screen while the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra performs James Horner's iconic score live-to-picture. It's the perfect way to kick off the holiday season with a little Whoville magic.



A Celebration of Tom Petty Featuring: The Driveway Thriftdwellers

Sat, November 28 | 8pm
Turner Hall Ballroom
414.242.2800 | pabsttheatergroup.com

With special guests: Joseph Huber, Brett Newski, Laura Bomber, and Derek Pritzl.

Jingle Bell Jamboree

Wed, December 2 | 7pm
Marcus Performing Arts Center – Bradley Pavilion
414.208.4731 | festivalcitysymphony.org

Join Festival City Symphony for a free hour of festive, family-friendly music that captures the spirit of the season. Pajamas, teddy bears, and blankets are welcome!



Celebrating the Season in Song

Wed, December 2 | 5:30pm
The Milwaukee Club
414.291.5700 | florentineopera.org

Join the Florentine Opera at the historic Milwaukee Club for a night of music, cocktails, and easy elegance. It's the perfect blend of festive cheer and a touch of fancy without the fuss.

Music & Movies

The Commercialists: A Charlie Brown Christmas

Fri, December 4 | 7pm & 9pm
Bradley Symphony Center
414.291.7605 | mso.org

Good grief! The Commercialists bring their annual holiday tradition back to the Bradley Symphony Center. Sit right on the stage as you experience a live performance of the Vince Guaraldi Trio's "A Charlie Brown Christmas," complete with bar service. The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra will not perform as part of this event.

Hallmarked Homos: Unwrapping What Matters

Sat, December 5 | 7pm
Bradley Symphony Center
ourvoicemke.org

Our Voice Milwaukee shares a choral concert filled with holiday favorites and amusing takes on Christmas classics, that reflect Milwaukee's diverse LGBTQIA+ community.



Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

December 5 & 6
The Riverside Theater
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com

Rediscover the magic of Harry Potter™ in the latest installment of the Harry Potter™ Film Concert Series. Projected in high definition, the movie is accompanied by a live performance by the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis

Sun, December 6 | 3pm
Miller High Life Theatre
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com

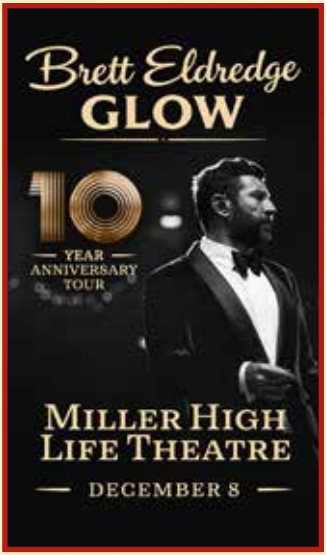
Immerse yourself in the spirit of the season as dazzling multimedia effects create a mesmerizing backdrop for a catalog of Christmas classics played by 15 musicians on more than 20 instruments.



Brett Eldredge: Glow 10 Year Anniversary Tour

Tue, December 8 | 8pm
Miller High Life Theatre
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com

A beloved holiday artist, Brett Eldredge celebrates the ten-year anniversary of "Glow," his first Christmas album.



Music & Movies



Love Actually in Concert

Wed, December 9 | 7pm
The Riverside Theater
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com

Fall in love with the holidays all over again at Love Actually in Concert. As the beloved film plays in its entirety on a full-size screen, a live orchestra performs the soundtrack live.



Carols & Classics

Thu, December 10 | 7:30pm
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
414.291.5700 | florentineopera.org

Enjoy an evening of peaceful reflection and timeless music with the Florentine Opera, and a special performance by the Milwaukee Children's Choir.

The Rush Tribute Project

Fri, December 11 | 8pm
The Riverside Theater
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com

Pay homage to one of the most enduring and influential bands in rock music.

Ben Rector Christmas Tour

Sat, December 12 | 3:30pm & 7:30pm
The Riverside Theater
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com

Join singer and songwriter Ben Rector for a Christmas-inspired folk-rock setlist.



Hometown Holiday Pops

December 12 & 13 and 18 – 20
Bradley Symphony Center
414.291.7605 | mso.org

Celebrate the season with Hometown Holiday Pops, Milwaukee's favorite musical tradition. Your Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra fills Allen-Bradley Hall with festive favorites, joined by an acclaimed guest vocalist, the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble, the Jolly Old Elf himself, and special magical extras throughout the hall.

The Moth in Milwaukee GrandSLAM Championship

Sun, December 13 | 8pm
Turner Hall Ballroom
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com

The ultimate storytelling championship, winners from The Moth's open-mic StorySLAMs return to the stage to battle for the crown.

The MeatEater Christmas Tour

Tue, December 15 | 7pm
Turner Hall Ballroom
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com

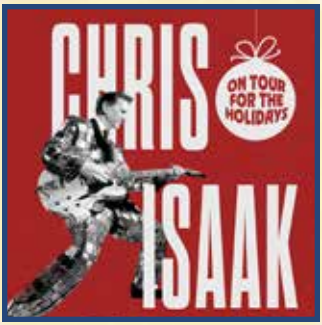
Get ready for a hunt-filled holiday celebration as The MeatEater Christmas Tour heads to Milwaukee. Whether you're a hunter, angler, or lover of wild places, come out for a night of laughs and holiday cheer.

Music & Movies


Credit: Seán Heely Media

Chris Isaak – On Tour for The Holidays

Wed, December 16 | 7:30pm
The Riverside Theater
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com
An evening with multiplatinum-selling and Grammy-nominated musician and actor Chris Isaak whose hits span 40 years.



Christmas with Chris Tomlin

Thu, December 17 | 7pm
The Riverside Theater
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com
An intimate evening of Christmas worship centered around celebrating the Savior and experiencing the sights and sounds of the season together with friends and family.

Gregg Allman: The Music of My Soul

Thu, December 17 | 8pm
Turner Hall Ballroom
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com
A screening of the full-length feature documentary that offers a profound portrait of Gregg Allman, co-founder and frontman of The Allman Brothers Band.

Seán Heely's Celtic Christmas

Sat, December 19 | 2pm & 7:30pm
Marcus Performing Arts Center – Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall
414.273.7206 | marcuscenter.org
Kilts and tartan abound as U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion Seán Heely and a cast of nationally acclaimed Celtic performers take you on a magical winter tour through the Scottish Highlands and across the rugged Irish coast.

Bingo Loco Presents Name That Song

Sat, December 19 | 7:30pm
Turner Hall Ballroom
414.242.8200 | pabsttheatergroup.com
An interactive stage show suited for anyone looking for an incredible night out on the town.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra – The Ghosts of Christmas Eve

Sat, December 26 | 3pm & 7:30pm
Fiserv Forum
414.227.0511 | fiservforum.com
TSO celebrates its landmark 30th anniversary with a major winter tour featuring a spectacular, reimagined staging of its treasured tale, "The Ghosts of Christmas Eve."

Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert

Tue, December 29 | 7:30pm
Bradley Symphony Center
414.291.7605 | mso.org
Featuring the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, this soul-stirring symphony of sound and spectacle evokes Vienna's golden age by bringing the music of "Waltz King" Johann Strauss Jr. to vivid life. With elegant costumes and lush floral arrangements decorating the stage, Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert transports audiences to an era of sumptuous beauty.

Art & History

Guided Central Library Architectural Tours

Sat, Ongoing | 11am to 12pm
Central Library
414.286.3000 | mpl.org
Join a docent-led tour of the Central Library. The docent will share the history of the Milwaukee Public Library and provide insights on architectural points of interest.

Sculpture Milwaukee

Ongoing
Downtown Milwaukee
sculpturemilwaukee.com
Experience world-renowned sculptures throughout Downtown Milwaukee.

Inviting Abundance by Heidi Parkes

Through November 29
Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel
414.276.8686 | saintkatearts.com/exhibitions
Introduced to quilting through a collaborative quilt planned by her grandmother for her birth, Parkes continues the family tradition by combining domestic textiles, heirlooms, and found fabrics with embroidered, stained, dyed, and designed materials.

Jan Serr Summer Paintings

Through November 30
Villa Terrace Museums & Gardens
414.293.5678 | villaterrace.org
Drawing inspiration from Bradford Beach and Lake Michigan, Serr's "Summer Paintings" cover the past 50 years and capture the very landscape surrounding Villa Terrace.


Courtesy of Villa Terrace Museums & Gardens

One Step Ahead of the Wrecking Ball: The Best of David Plowden

Through November 30
Grohmann Museum
414.277.2300 | msoe.edu/grohmann-museum
From railroads to bridges, steel to agriculture, Plowden's portraits of industry remain unparallelled in the canon of American photography. Plowden greatly admired the Grohmann Museum's dedication to preserving and showcasing the art of industry, so much so that he donated over 700 photographs to the permanent collection.


Credit: Front Room Studios

Thursday Nights at MAM

Thu, December 3 – 31 | 4pm to 8pm
Milwaukee Art Museum
414.224.3200 | mam.org
Meet up with friends for an artful evening together. Wander the galleries and ease into the weekend with live music and a bar in Windhover Hall.

Skywaukee Tour

Fri, December 4 & 11 | 1pm
Downtown Milwaukee
414.277.7795 | historicmilwaukee.org
Explore downtown Milwaukee from indoors. Stroll through the skywalk system and learn about significant Milwaukee landmarks from a new angle – one story up!

Taste What's Brewing

Follow the Brew City Trail to the breweries, beer gardens and landmarks that tap into Milwaukee's brewing roots. Hop from stop to stop to discover what makes our city the original Brew City.

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MILWAUKEE

Brew City Trail

Presented by MILLER HIGH LIFE

Central Standard Brewing · Lakefront Brewery · Ope! Brewing Co. · MKE



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WEEKDAYS 4:30-7A



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NEWS
AT 4, 5, 6 & 10PM

LEADING THE WAY WITH IMPORTANT LOCAL COVERAGE

Art & History

MAM After Dark: Sparkle & Shine

Fri, December 11 | 7pm to 11pm
Milwaukee Art Museum
414.224.3200 | mam.org

End the year in style with a festive, dress-up celebration full of music, cocktails, and holiday sparkle – no hosting required.

Lina Bertucci: Railroad Voices – The Milwaukee Road, 1974 – 1977

Through December 30
Grohmann Museum
414.277.2300 | msoe.edu/grohmann-museum

The second woman to work in the Milwaukee Road yards, Bertucci photographed her daily toils as an aspiring artist. The collection offers a rare insider's view of the railroad and its far-reaching impact.

Built to Inspire: The Quadracci Pavilion at 25

Through December 31
Milwaukee Art Museum
414.224.3200 | mam.org

A new installation featuring historic construction photography, an architectural model, original films, an audio guide, and opportunities to share your own memories of Milwaukee's most iconic landmark.



Credit: Front Room Studios

Susan Falkman: From Italy to Milwaukee

Through January 3
Villa Terrace Museums & Gardens
414.293.5678 | villaterrace.org

Blending ancient hand-carving techniques learned in Greece and Italy with power tools, Falkman transforms natural stone into art.

40 Years of Tandem Press

Through January 15
Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel
414.276.8686 | saintkatearts.com/exhibitions

Highlighting selections from editions produced over the years at Tandem Press, this exhibition features the work of notable contemporary artists like Derrick Adams, Jeffrey Gibson, and Mickalene Thomas.

Beneath the Surface: Mining and American Photography

Through January 18
Milwaukee Art Museum
414.224.3200 | mam.org

Spanning 180 years of photography, the exhibition highlights the often-unseen mining and drilling that power modern life. It traces how generations of photographers have developed new ways to depict the extraction, transportation, and processing of natural resources.

The Shakers: A World in the Making

Through January 31
Milwaukee Art Museum
414.224.3200 | mam.org

The first major traveling exhibition to place extraordinary Shaker objects alongside the contemporary artists and designers they continue to inspire. Organized in partnership with the Vitra Design Museum and the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, and featuring rare loans from the Shaker Museum, the exhibition brings together more than 150 historic objects and contemporary installations in a landmark exploration of design, ideas, and how we live.

Art & History



We the People: Milwaukee Stories of Immigration, Citizenship, and Community

Through October 13, 2028
Milwaukee County Historical Society
414.273.8288 | milwaukeehistory.net
For more than 180 years, immigrants have shaped Milwaukee's economy, neighborhoods, and culture. New generations from Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa continue to enrich the city through their traditions, languages, and foods, shaping Milwaukee's future.

Chosen Heroes: The Jewish Comics Experience

Through February 14
Jewish Museum Milwaukee
414.390.5730 | jewishmuseummilwaukee.org
Learn how Jewish creators helped shaped the comic book industry and some of its most enduring stories.

MILWAUKEE
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FESTIVAL

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at our location on the grounds of St. Monica School
5635 N. Santa Monica Blvd.
(on Lake View Avenue in Whitefish Bay)



Ideal's Tree Lot opens daily Nov. 20 - Dec. 23 from 10am - 7pm while supply lasts
(Closed for Thanksgiving on Nov. 26)

Family Discoveries


Credit: Front Room Studios

Drop-In Making: Kohl's Art Studio

Sat & Sun, Ongoing | 10am to 4pm
Milwaukee Art Museum
414.224.3200 | mam.org

Drop in for family art making activities inspired by the Museum's collection and exhibitions. The studio project changes each month to highlight new mediums and techniques.

Kohl's Design It! Lab

Sat & Sun, Ongoing | 9am to 3:30pm
Discovery World
414.765.9966 | discoveryworld.org

Bring the whole family to the Kohl's Design It! Lab to make wonderfully creative projects that you can take home. Projects can take anywhere from 5–20 minutes.

Story Time in the Galleries

Sat, Ongoing | 10:30am to 11am
Milwaukee Art Museum
414.224.3200 | mam.org

Meet in Windhover Hall near the admission desks and walk with the reader to the galleries. Then listen to a story that relates to a work of art before creating a drawing inspired by what you have seen and heard.

Animal Encounters

Fri – Sun, Ongoing | 10am, 11am & 12pm
Discovery World
414.765.9966 | discoveryworld.org

Meet Discovery World's animal ambassadors and gain a better understanding of our Great Lakes ecosystem.

3 Rivers Powwow

Saturday, November 21 | 12pm to 7pm
Milwaukee Public Museum
414.278.2728 | mpm.edu

Celebrate Indigenous cultures through music, movement, and more. Tribal members dressed in beautiful regalia will showcase various powwow dance styles to songs shared by different Wisconsin drum groups. Native artisans will also sell apparel, jewelry, artwork, and other cultural items, and Indigenous food will be available to purchase.

Kohl's Thank You Thursdays

Thu, December 3 | 11am to 3pm
Milwaukee Public Museum
414.278.2728 | mpm.edu

All visitors will receive free admission during the Museum's final Kohl's Thank You Thursday, thanks to Kohl's Cares. Enjoy holiday décor and interactive stations celebrating the Milwaukee of yesteryear.

Code & Create Day

Sun, December 6 | 10am to 2pm
Discovery World
414.765.9966 | discoveryworld.org

Scroll down to Code & Create Day to investigate the amazing world of coding and spark your curiosity in algorithms. Explore the world of coding with fun introductory challenges designed to unleash your inner inventor.


Photo courtesy of Discovery World

★★★★★

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★★★★★

Family Discoveries

Community Access Day

Thu, December 17 | 9am to 7pm
Betty Brinn Children's Museum
414.390.5437 | bbcmkids.org

All guests receive free admission on the third Thursday of every month.

Winter Break Fun: Built to Inspire

December 19 – January 3
Milwaukee Art Museum
414.224.3200 | mam.org

Build a memorable winter break together at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Daily programming offers opportunities to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the iconic Quadracci Pavilion with fun, hands-on experiences, and artmaking for all ages that spark curiosity and creativity.

The Greatest Hits of Greatest Hits

December 28, December 30 – January 3
Milwaukee Public Museum
414.278.2728 | mpm.edu

Need an encore? Close MPM with some favorite activities from each Greatest Hits celebration! Enjoy building a diorama, dashing with dinos, admiring butterflies, and more.



Photo courtesy of Betty Brinn Children's Museum

Wild Kratts®: Creature Power®!

Through January 17
Betty Brinn Children's Museum
414.390.5437 | bbcmkids.org

Step into the world of Wild Kratts® in this hands-on exhibit inspired by the hit PBS KIDS series. Explore animal habitats from around the world, discover incredible Creature Powers®, and complete interactive missions through imaginative play.



Photo courtesy of Visit Milwaukee



STEIN'S

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Sports



Milwaukee Admirals

UWM Panther Arena
414.227.0550 | milwaukeeadmirals.com

Sat, November 28 | 6pm
vs. Rockford IceHogs

Tue, December 1 | 7pm
vs. Texas Stars

Sat, December 5 | 6pm
vs. Manitoba Moose

Fri, December 11 | 7pm
vs. Rockford IceHogs

Mon, December 28 | 6:30pm
vs. Rockford IceHogs

Wed, December 30 | 6:30pm
vs. Chicago Wolves



Milwaukee Bucks

Fiserv Forum
414.227.0599 | bucks.com

Thu, November 19 | 7pm
vs. Portland Trail Blazers

Wed, November 25 | 7pm
vs. Brooklyn Nets

Sat, November 28 | 7pm
vs. Oklahoma City Thunder

Mon, November 30 | 7pm
vs. San Antonio Spurs

Wed, December 2 | 7pm
vs. New York Knicks

Fri, December 18 | 7pm
vs. Phoenix Suns

Sun, December 20 | 7pm
vs. Golden State Warriors

Wed, December 23 | 7pm
vs. Minnesota Timberwolves

Milwaukee Wave

UWM Panther Arena
414.224.9283 | milwaukeewave.com

Sun, December 13 | 3:05pm
vs. Baltimore Blast

Fri, December 18 | 6:35pm
vs. St. Louis Ambush

Thu, December 31 | 3:05pm
vs. San Diego Sockers



Marquette University – Men's Basketball

Fiserv Forum
414.288.4668 | gomarquette.com

Sun, November 22 | 12pm
vs. Chicago State

Tue, December 1 | 6:30pm
vs. Wagner

Sat, December 5 | 1pm
vs. Wisconsin

Wed, December 9 | 6:30pm
vs. New Hampshire

Sat, December 12 | 5:30pm
vs. Mississippi State

Sat, December 19 | 5:30pm
vs. Xavier

Marquette University – Women's Basketball

Al McGuire Center
414.288.4668 | gomarquette.com

Sat, November 21 | 2pm
vs. NJIT

Sun, December 6 | 2pm
vs. Butler

Thu, December 10 | 8pm
vs. Villanova

Sun, December 13 | 2pm
vs. Wagner

Sun, December 20 | 2pm
vs. St. John's

Tue, December 22 | 11am
vs. Alabama A&M

Sports

UWM Men's Basketball

UWM Panther Arena
414.229.5886 | mkepanthers.com

Sat, November 21 | 2pm
vs. **St. Thomas**

Thu, December 3 | 7pm
vs. **Wright State**

Sat, December 12 | 2pm
vs. **UIC**

UWM Women's Basketball

Klotsche Center
414.229.5886 | mkepanthers.com

Mon, November 23 | 6pm
vs. **Marquette**

Sun, November 29 | 2pm
vs. **Toledo**

Sun, December 13 | 2pm
vs. **Eastern Kentucky**

Sun, December 20 | 2pm
vs. **Viterbo**

Thu, December 31 | 12pm
vs. **Purdue Fort Wayne**

MSOE Men's Basketball

Kern Center
414.277.2850 | msoeraiders.com

Sat, December 12 | 3:15pm
vs. **Illinois Tech**

Wed, December 16 | 7pm
vs. **St. Norbert College**

Tue, December 22 | TBD
vs. **Wisconsin Lutheran College**

MSOE Women's Basketball

Kern Center
414.277.2850 | msoeraiders.com

Wed, December 2 | 7pm
vs. **Dominican University**

Wed, December 9 | 7pm
vs. **UW-Whitewater**

Sat, December 12 | 1pm
vs. **Illinois Tech**

Sat, December 19 | 1pm
vs. **Benedictine University**

MSOE Men's Hockey

Kern Center
414.277.2850 | msoeraiders.com

Fri, December 4 | 7pm
vs. **Marian University**

Fri, December 11 | 7pm
vs. **Aurora University**

MSOE Women's Hockey

Kern Center
414.277.2850 | msoeraiders.com

Fri, November 20 | 7pm
vs. **Trine University**

Sat, November 21 | 2pm
vs. **Trine University**

Tue, November 24 | 6pm
vs. **Adrian College**

Sat, December 5 | 4pm
vs. **Marian University**

Fri, January 1 | 7pm
vs. **UW-Superior**

Yoga at the Museum

Sat, December 5 & January 2 | 8am
Milwaukee Art Museum
414.224.3200 | mam.org
Begin your Saturday with a calming 60-minute all-levels yoga class. Registration required.

APFC Fight Night

Sun, December 13 | 2:30pm
Landmark Credit Union Live
414.410.4000 | landmarkculive.com
Experience a huge night of live MMA featuring 15+ professional and amateur fights, top Midwest talent, rising prospects, special guests, and nonstop action.

Kwik Trip Holiday Face-Off presented by Toyota

December 29 & 30
Fiserv Forum
414.227.0511 | fiservforum.com
The sixth annual men's college hockey tournament will feature the Wisconsin Badgers, UMass, Arizona State, and Northern Michigan.

Harlem Globetrotters: Rivalry Tour

Thu, December 31 | 12pm & 5pm
Fiserv Forum
414.227.0511 | fiservforum.com
The world-famous Harlem Globetrotters™ will visit Milwaukee with a whole new game, a new lineup of rivals, and all-new challenges that raise the stakes at every stop.

Dear Santa,
Fiserv Forum has Everyone Covered

For the Sports Fanatic...
Milwaukee Bucks Basketball
Marquette Men's Basketball
Kwik Trip Holiday Face-Off
Flat Out Friday

Give Them Something to Cheer About!

For the Music Lover...
Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Nickelback, Def Leppard + Goo Goo Dolls & Hilary Duff

The perfect gift hits all the right notes!

For the Whole Family...
Dancing with the Stars Live, Monster Jam, Disney On Ice, PBR, Harlem Globetrotters

Big Smiles. Big Thrills. Unforgettable memories.

For the Holiday Enthusiast...
Deer District transforms into Cheer District, the City of Milwaukee Christmas Tree Lighting and Deer District Holiday Market

Making Spirits bright in the heart of downtown Milwaukee

To Get Tickets Visit FiservForum.com





For more events and information
visit DeerDistrict.com

New Year's Eve & Day

New Year's Eve at Noon

Thu, December 31 | 11am to 2pm (members only from 9am to 11am)
Betty Brinn Children's Museum
414.390.5437 | bbcmkids.org

Celebrate New Year's Eve with music, dancing, face painting, hands-on activities, and a festive noon ball drop for the whole family.

New Year's Eve at the Bar

Thu, December 31 | 3pm to Close
Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel
414.276.8686 | saintkatearts.com

Count down to midnight on New Year's Eve at the Bar, where cocktails, music, and celebration take center stage. Join friends and fellow revelers for a night filled with festive energy, live entertainment, party surprises, and a champagne toast as the clock strikes twelve.



New Year's Eve Party at Upper Bar

Thu, December 31 | 4pm to Close
Upper Bar
414.522.6115 | upperbarmke.com

Ring in the New Year above it all at Upper Bar. Celebrate with handcrafted cocktails, live entertainment, festive fare, and unmatched views of the Milwaukee River as the countdown begins.

New Year's Eve Dinner in The Studio

Thu, December 31 | 5pm to 10pm
Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel
414.270.4422 | saintkatearts.com

Welcome the New Year with an unforgettable prix fixe dinner at The Studio Kitchen & Cocktails. Thoughtfully crafted by the culinary team, this special dining experience brings together seasonal flavors, elevated cuisine, and the artistic ambiance of Saint Kate for a memorable evening of celebration.

New Year's Eve in Blu

Thu, December 31 | Seatings start at 7pm
The Pfister Hotel – Blu
414.298.3196 | thepfisterhotel.com

Ring in the New Year high above Milwaukee at Blu. Enjoy stunning skyline views, live music, festive party favors, a bottle of Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label Champagne, and house-made petite desserts.

New Year's Eve Fireworks

Thu, December 31 | 7:30pm
Cheer District, presented by the We Energies Foundation
deerdistrict.com

Ring in the new year with a festive fireworks display.

New Year's Day Brunch in The Studio

Fri, January 1 | 8am to 1pm
Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel
414.270.4422 | saintkatearts.com

Welcome the New Year with a leisurely brunch. Enjoy brunch favorites, handcrafted beverages, and the warm, creative atmosphere of Saint Kate as you begin the year surrounded by good food and great company.

New Year's Day Dinner in The Studio

Fri, January 1 | 5pm to 9pm
Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel
414.270.4422 | saintkatearts.com

Continue the New Year celebration with dinner. Settle in for an evening of thoughtfully prepared cuisine, inviting hospitality, and the artistic ambiance of Saint Kate.

Cool Fool Kite Festival

Fri, January 1 | 11am to 5pm
Veterans Park
414.273.5483 | giftofwings.com

Gather the family for a New Year's Day tradition. Experience the free festival with giant kites, "The Quiet Snow & Ice Carvers," and plenty of free parking. Bring your own kite or purchase one at Gift of Wings.

SPEND YOUR HOLIDAYS

AMONG THE STARS

COMING THIS SEASON TO THE MILWAUKEE THEATER DISTRICT

A GIFT OF THE MAGI
Milwaukee Chamber Theatre
Nov. 13-Dec. 6

BIG: THE MUSICAL
Skylight Music Theatre
Nov. 13-Dec. 27

DR. SEUSS'S HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!
First Stage
Nov. 21-Dec. 27

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
Milwaukee Rep
Dec. 2-24

THE BOYS FROM BARABOO
Next Act Theatre
Dec. 2-20

THE NUTCRACKER
Milwaukee Ballet
Dec. 5-26

MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER CHRISTMAS
Miller High Life Theatre
Dec. 6

LOVE ACTUALLY IN CONCERT
The Riverside Theater
Dec. 9

BLACK NATIVITY
Black Arts MKE
Dec. 10-13

CIRQUE DREAMS HOLIDAZE
Miller High Life Theatre
Dec. 11-13

BEN RECTOR CHRISTMAS TOUR
The Riverside Theater
Dec. 12

HOMETOWN HOLIDAY POPS
Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra
Dec. 12-20

CHRIS ISAAK: ON TOUR FOR THE HOLIDAYS
The Riverside Theater
Dec. 16

CHRISTMAS WITH CHRIS TOMLIN
The Riverside Theater
Dec. 17

A VERY DEADLY CONSTRUCTIVISTS HOLIDAY (WITH MUSIC!)
The Constructivists
Dec. 18-22

SEAN HEELY'S CELTIC CHRISTMAS
Marcus Performing Arts Center Dec. 19

BLUEY'S BIG PLAY
Miller High Life Theatre
Dec. 26-27

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MILWAUKEE
HOLIDAY LIGHTS
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Milwaukee, WI 53203 | 414.220.4700

MILWAUKEE HOLIDAY LIGHTS FESTIVAL
NOVEMBER 19, 2026 – JANUARY 1, 2027
WWW.MILWAUKEEHOLIDAYLIGHTS.COM