

Enjoy lots of holiday fun with Downtown in December

By Van Mitchell
Contributing Writer

Downtown in December presented by Devon, is a series of holiday events and attractions in the heart of Oklahoma City.

This is the 19th year for Downtown in December and runs Nov. 6 – January 31.

Many of the events are free and open to everyone and have taken extra health and safety precautions in light of the pandemic.

“The one-of-a-kind winter experience is returning this year with outdoor ice skating, performing arts, holiday shopping, family activities, virtual events, and more, all surrounded by light displays and decorations,” said Jennifer Bowman, Director of Marketing and Development Downtown Oklahoma City Partnership.

Downtown in December is produced in part by Downtown Oklahoma City Partnership with generous support from Devon Energy, the Downtown Business Improvement District, as well as other corporate sponsors and partners.

Bowman said in 2018, just over 360,000 people attended events in Downtown in December.

“We make it a winter experience for the whole family,” she said. “We have lots of things going on.”

The Automobile Alley Association and Downtown Oklahoma City Partnership will host the fifth annual Lights On Broadway event this season. To make the event as safe as possible and decrease sidewalk and in-store congestion, the event will span four Saturdays: Nov. 21, Nov. 28, Dec. 5, and Dec. 12. Each Saturday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., various retail



shops and restaurants will feature buzz-worthy window displays in addition to family-friendly activities, special promotions, and giveaways.

Amidst the light display, attendees can enjoy additional outdoor programming throughout the district including the much-anticipated free carriage rides sponsored by RCB Bank.

This year there won't be long lines for carriage rides thanks to a new online reservation system. Attendees can sign up in advance for a free 15-minute ride. Ride reservations will open weekly on the Monday before the event at 9 a.m.

The Curbside Chronicle pop-up will return and will be located at NW 8th Street and Broadway Avenue selling holiday wrapping paper benefiting the Wrap Up Homelessness program. One hundred percent of the proceeds from each package of wrapping paper go towards The Curbside Chronicle and its mission to employ and empower men and women transitioning out of

homelessness in OKC. Stop by their table Nov. 28, Dec. 5, and Dec. 12.

Attendees can view the event map online or pick one up at participating businesses throughout the district. Business promotions and programming subject to change.

The Devon Ice Rink returns for its 10th season in the Myriad Botanical Gardens in 2020. At Devon Ice Rink, you can skate across 5,500 square feet of real ice, and indulge in seasonal food and beverage offerings.

The Devon Ice Rink will be limiting the number of skaters on the rink and along with other social distancing measures at the rink site throughout the rink season.

The Bricktown Canal Lights display will be back from Nov. 28 through Jan. 10.

Lyric Theatre will celebrate its diamond anniversary of its production of “A Christmas Carol” this season with an all-new outdoor production, whisking audiences away to a magical holiday village nestled

in the heart of Oklahoma City.

The historic Harn Homestead (1721 N. Lincoln Blvd.) will be reimagined as the Victorian Era setting for Ebenezer Scrooge, Jacob Marley, magical spirits, and a host of unforgettable characters. Patrons will follow Charles Dickens' timeless tale of transformation and redemption, as they are guided from scene to scene at the homestead.

“The Nutcracker: Short & Sweet,” will run Dec. 12-20 at the Civic Center Hall with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic.

This year's production will be shortened to one act, but will still include all of the favorite characters from the dancing snowflakes to the Kingdom of Sweets.

“A Classic Christmas,” will be held Dec. 4-5 at the Civic Center Music Hall.

Featuring Mandy Jiran and host Vince Leseney, this year's Christmas performance is a simpler yet elegant blend of sentimental favorites and fun Christmas standards with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic.

'Tis the Season at Scissortail Park runs Nov. 27-Jan.1 with holiday festivities including lights, entertainment, music, food trucks, and a tree lighting ceremony.

The Oklahoma City Tree Lighting Festival presented by the Sonic Foundation, will be held virtually on Nov. 27 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and streamed online and through the News 9 app.

“We hope these seasonal traditions will bring you comfort and joy and that you create magical memories at this year's Downtown In December,” Bowman said.

For a complete list of events visit www.downtownindecember.com

