

# DOWNTOWN *Holiday Guide*



**DOWNTOWN**  
PARTNERSHIP

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**RISE**

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# Wintertime Wonders

Experiences designed to delight every member of the family.

## Inner Harbor Ice Rink

INNER HARBOR ICE RINK  
Now–January 19, 2026

Glide across the ice at the Inner Harbor Ice Rink with stunning waterfront and city skyline views. This magical outdoor experience is great for families, date nights, and winter outings. Enjoy seasonal music and the joyful atmosphere all season long.

## Festival of Trees

BALTIMORE VISIT CENTER  
Now–December 24, 2025

Explore beautifully decorated themed trees displayed inside the Baltimore Visitor Center. Visitors can vote for their favorite and donate to benefit the Kennedy Krieger Institute. It's a festive stop perfect for pairing with holiday photos.

## MCHC Monument Lighting Open House: Sip and Silhouettes

MARYLAND CENTER FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE  
December 4, 2025

Warm up at MCHC during the historic Washington Monument Lighting. Enjoy a cozy self-serve hot chocolate bar, festive live carols, and a free hand-cut silhouette portrait by local artist Lauren Muney. Free museum admission is available from 5–8 p.m., but registration is required.

## Christmas Village in Baltimore

WEST SHORE PARK, INNER HARBOR  
Now–December 24, 2025

Experience the magic of an authentic German Christmas market right here in Charm City! Returning for its 12<sup>th</sup> season, from Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve, the Christmas Village transforms the Inner Harbor into a European-inspired winter wonderland. Stroll through a warm festival tent and charming outdoor wooden booths filled with international vendors offering high-quality gifts, crafts, and holiday treasures from all over the world.

## The Polar Express Train Ride

B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM  
December 6–7, 13–14, 19–23, 2025

Climb aboard for an unforgettable journey inspired by the beloved holiday classic. Wear your coziest pajamas, sip hot chocolate, and experience live entertainment as you travel to the North Pole. Santa joins the fun to give every passenger a special silver sleigh bell.

## The Holiday Shoppe

LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL  
Now–December 14, 2025

Shop a curated selection of handcrafted gifts and artwork from local small businesses. This boutique pops up on select weekends during the holiday season, offering unique items you won't find anywhere else. It also coincides with the hotel's annual Couture Tree Competition.

## Couture Tree Competition —Lord Baltimore

LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL  
Now–January 1, 2026

Marvel at stunning, creative holiday trees designed by local artists, nonprofits, and community members. Each tree showcases a unique theme and imaginative decorations. The competition has become a beloved Baltimore holiday tradition.



**Holiday Trolley Tour**ROYAL SONESTA HARBOR COURT  
BALTIMORE

Now–December 28, 2025

Hop aboard a festive trolley for a 90-minute tour through Baltimore's brightest holiday lights. Enjoy cheerful music, sparkling displays, and fun facts about the city's history. It's a cozy, family-friendly way to experience the magic of the holidays.

**Olde Tyme Christmas**

FELLS POINT

December 6, 2025

Get into the festive spirit as Santa makes his iconic tugboat arrival—a unique Baltimore tradition! Spend the day exploring lively shops, enjoying hands-on crafts, and soaking in the glow of the tree lighting before the dazzling Lighted Boat Parade sets sail. The whole neighborhood bursts with energy and holiday cheer for all ages.

**Fells Point Lighted Boat Parade**

FELLS POINT

December 6, 2025

Watch brightly decorated boats sail along the waterfront in this beloved Baltimore tradition. Families line the piers to see vessels glowing with creative, festive themes. It's a magical sight and a perfect way to cap off a holiday outing.

**Winter Village Dining and Rooftop Skating**

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL BALTIMORE

Now–March 15, 2026

Whether you're dining or skating, enjoy a one-of-a-kind seasonal experience in the heart of the city. Savor a rotating delicious menu inside your own private cottage overlooking the Inner Harbor, then head up to the fifth-floor terrace for a unique rooftop skating session on an 1,800-square-foot synthetic rink. Cozy up by the fire with seasonal bites and beverages to complete this festive escape.

**Frosty Fest**

FEDERAL HILL

December 6–7, 2025

Celebrate the holidays in Federal Hill! Enjoy photos with Santa, festive shopping, and family fun. Kids and pets can take turns visiting Santa throughout the day. It's a warm and welcoming neighborhood event perfect for the season.

**54<sup>th</sup> Annual WASHINGTON MONUMENT LIGHTING**

WASHINGTON MONUMENT AND MOUNT VERNON PLACE

December 4, 2025 | 5PM–8PM

Celebrate the start of the season at Baltimore's 54th Monument Lighting. Enjoy festive caroling, delicious food, and lively performances before the monument lights up with thousands of sparkling bulbs. Stroll through the beautifully decorated grounds, take photos with holiday displays, and soak in the joyful atmosphere. Children and adults alike will be delighted by special surprises along the route, making memories that last a lifetime. The evening ends with a dazzling fireworks show that lights up the sky, capping off a magical night for the whole family.

**The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mayor's Christmas Parade**

HAMPDEN &amp; MEDFIELD

December 14, 2025

Join the fun as Baltimore comes alive with holiday cheer! This beloved holiday tradition draws thousands of smiling faces along a 1.5-mile route through Hampden and Medfield, filling the streets with joy, music, and merry holiday spirit.

**Miracle on 34th Street**34<sup>TH</sup> STREET IN HAMPDEN

Now–January 1, 2026

Stroll down Baltimore's most famous holiday street, where homes are decked out in extravagant light displays. This whimsical block-wide tradition attracts thousands each year. It's a must-see spectacle filled with creativity and holiday spirit.

**Holiday Magic in Bromo**

**CELEBRATE** the season in the Bromo Arts District, where creativity shines just as bright as the holidays. Explore vibrant galleries, shop gifts from local artists, or catch a festive performance or family-friendly show. With markets, exhibitions, and performances filling the neighborhood, there's something magical around every corner. Discover all the holiday happenings by visiting the Bromo Arts District's events page, [bromoartsdistrict.org/events](http://bromoartsdistrict.org/events)



**Winterfest 2025**

BALTIMORE CLAYWORKS

Now–December 23, 2025

Browse beautiful ceramic art and handmade gifts created by talented local artists. Winterfest showcases both established and emerging ceramicists in a festive gallery setting. All pieces are available for immediate purchase, perfect for holiday gifting.

**Harbor Point Ice Festival**

HARBOR POINT CENTRAL PLAZA

Saturday, January 24, 2026

Experience live ice carving, interactive sculptures, and plenty of winter fun at the waterfront. Families can wander among frozen art installations and savor seasonal treats while taking in the festive atmosphere. Capture memorable photos with sparkling ice creations, and watch artists transform blocks of ice into stunning works of art. This seasonal celebration is perfect for visitors of all ages to embrace the magic of winter.

**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Heap**

2640 ST. PAUL STREET

December 13, 2025

Discover handmade treasures from 40+ local artists and makers at the 19th annual Holiday Heap Craft Fair, presented by the Charm City Craft Mafia. Find unique gifts and festive creations for everyone on your list. This family-friendly celebration is the perfect place to shop local and support talented makers.

# Local Attractions

Festive fun awaits—explore the city's must-see spots dressed in their winter best.

**Breakfast With Santa  
—Maryland Zoo**

MARYLAND ZOO

December 6, 2025–  
December 21, 2025

Enjoy a festive breakfast or brunch with Santa at the Maryland Zoo. Kids can make holiday crafts, meet penguins, and take keepsake photos with Santa. What a magical way to start a December morning!

**Holly-Days at the Zoo**

MARYLAND ZOO

Now–January 4, 2026

Celebrate the season every weekend with festive crafts, special character appearances, and charming holiday photo moments. Families and young children will love the cheerful atmosphere and hands-on fun. It's a joyful way to make memories all season long.

**Holiday Toddler Time**

B&amp;O RAILROAD MUSEUM

December 4, 2025

Get ready for the most festive Toddler Time yet! Santa and Mrs. Claus make a magical stop at the B&O, as little ones welcome them with their own jingle bells. After a merry story time with Mrs. Claus, families can snap photos with the Clauses and create a special Christmas picture frame to remember the day.

**Holiday Celebrations  
at the Lewis Museum**

REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM

December 13, 2025

Experience Christmas and Kwanzaa come to life through soulful music and festive fun. Enjoy holiday-themed experiences that highlight cultural pride and joy including a sneak peek of *Santa Claus Is Comin' from Baltimore* Center Stage, Motown-style holiday classics from Motown & More, and spirited performances by the Dance Baltimore Repertory Ensemble. Families can also experience a lively retelling of *The Little Drummer Boy* and the Nativity Story, meet and snap photos with Black Santa, and get creative with hands-on crafts.

**Pancakes and Pajamas**

PENDRY BALTIMORE

December 21, 2025

Enjoy merry moments in the making at the annual holiday brunch at Rec Pier Chop House. Wear your coziest PJ attire and indulge in an All-American family-style brunch, complete with a hot cocoa bar for the little ones and bottomless brunch cocktails for the grown-ups. Festive music will fill the morning, creating a warm and cheerful atmosphere for all.

**Hanukkah Menorah Lighting**

PENDRY BALTIMORE

December 14– 22, 2025

Gather each evening at sundown for a traditional menorah lighting in the lobby of the Pendry. Families are invited to share in this peaceful moment to honor the Festival of Lights and reflect on the themes of Hanukkah.





## Live Performances

### Merry Christmas with José James

KEYSTONE KORNER BALTIMORE

December 20, 2025

Enjoy an intimate evening of soulful jazz holiday music with José James. The performance blends classic holiday tunes with James' unique style. It's a warm and cozy musical celebration.

### Santa Claus Is Comin' —Motown Musical

BALTIMORE CENTER STAGE

Now–January 4, 2026

Get into the groove with a lively Motown-inspired holiday musical. Enjoy classic seasonal favorites reimagined with the soulful sounds of Motown legends. It's a joyful, high-energy show for the whole family.

### Elf™ in Concert with the BSO

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

December 5–7, 2025

Join the BSO as Buddy the Elf™ brings his holiday cheer to the big screen! Experience the full film accompanied by John Debney's magical score performed live—a joyful adventure from the North Pole to New York City.

### Cirque Nutcracker

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

December 12–13, 2025

Enjoy a breathtaking twist on Tchaikovsky's classic as Troupe Vertigo joins the BSO for a Nutcracker filled with dazzling acrobatics and captivating choreography. Follow Clara's enchanting journey to the Land of Sweets, complete with iconic holiday music like the Sugar Plum Fairy and Russian Trepak.

### Holiday Pops with the BSO

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

December 20, 2025

Conductor Stuart Chafetz, the BSO, and the Baltimore Choral Arts Society return with a beloved holiday favorite—complete with the famous tap-dancing Santas! It's a cheerful, heartwarming celebration perfect for all ages.

### Celtic Woman Symphony Christmas Tour

LYRIC BALTIMORE

December 18, 2025

Experience the magic of the season with the Grammy-nominated, multi-platinum Irish sensation Celtic Woman. Their angelic harmonies, joined by the soaring sound of a full symphony orchestra, bring favorite holiday classics like "O Holy Night," "Carol of the Bells," and more to life. It's a warm, enchanting concert that blends Celtic charm with festive cheer.

### Sound the Bells

LYRIC BALTIMORE

December 6–7, 2025

"Sound the Bells" brings a burst of holiday cheer to Lyric Baltimore with a festive concert from the United States Army Field Band. Hosted by WBAL-TV's Jason Newton, this lively performance blends beloved classics and modern holiday favorites for an unforgettable musical celebration. Gather your family and friends for a night filled with warmth, joy, and true seasonal spirit.

### Christmas Classic

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

December 17, 2025

Step away from the holiday rush and enjoy an elegant musical escape with the Handel Choir of Baltimore. Featuring beautiful works by Bach and Mozart alongside treasured selections from Handel's *Messiah*, this performance offers a serene and joyful celebration of the season.





# *Holiday* on **Holiday**

**T**he Mayor's Holiday on Holliday 2025 series brings a full month of festive celebrations to Baltimore, with events popping up throughout December to spark joy all season long. From local shopping experiences to family fun nights and moments of community giving, each event showcases the heart and spirit of our city. Residents and visitors can explore unique traditions, support local makers, and access helpful resources that bring neighbors together. With something special for every age and interest, this month-long celebration highlights connection, creativity, and the magic of the holidays across Baltimore.

## Locally Yours Holiday Market

Celebrate the local way—discover gifts and creations from local makers, artisans, and more at the Locally Yours Holiday Market!

**Who:** Locals, families, visitors, tourists, holiday shoppers

**What:** The Locally Yours Holiday Market is a festive gathering place to celebrate small businesses, uplift local makers, and discover unique holiday treasures.

**When:** Saturday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> from 1p-5p

**Where:** War Memorial Plaza 101 N. Gay St. Baltimore, MD

**Why:** The Locally Yours Holiday Market invites residents and visitors to explore, support, and share the people, places and passions that make our city feel like home. When you shop local, you're investing in neighbors, nurturing dreams, and strengthening the heartbeat of our local economy.

## FutureThink Hub Annual Grocery & Toy Giveaway

Join Downtown Partnership of Baltimore in the spirit of giving with FutureThink Hub as we spread holiday cheer with a grocery and toy giveaway to support families in our community.

**Who:** Families of all ages

**What:** A joy-filled day in the spirit of giving—complete with hot cocoa, vendors, live music, community resources, crafts, and fun activities for all!

**When:** Saturday Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 11a-2p

**Where:** War Memorial Plaza 101 N. Gay St. Baltimore, MD

**Why:** To spread holiday cheer and make this season brighter - together!

## Family Night

Join us for a cozy evening of family fun featuring hot cocoa vendors, live music, hands-on crafts, delicious food, and activities for all ages. Bring the whole family and make unforgettable memories together!

**Who:** Families of all ages

**What:** A cozy evening filled with hot cocoa vendors, live music, crafts, food, and fun activities

**When:** Saturday Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> 6p-8p

**Where:** War Memorial Plaza 101 N. Gay St. Baltimore, MD

**Why:** To bring families together for a night of joy, creativity, and memorable moments



## —For the— Adults

Where winter magic  
meets grown-up  
cheer



### Merry Mixology

MARYLAND ZOO

December 19, 2025

Celebrate the season with a festive 21+ holiday party at the Zoo! Enjoy a lively evening of holiday activities, music, and a delicious dessert charcuterie board, plus the chance to mix your own seasonal cocktail with expert guidance. It's the perfect way to toast, laugh, and kick off the most wonderful time of the year with friends.

### 2nd Annual Santa BarFest

COWBOY ROW SALOON & CHOPHOUSE

December 13, 2025

Canton is turning up the holiday cheer with the 2nd Annual Santa BarFest, an all-day celebration filled with music, drinks, and merry mayhem. Enjoy DJ-fueled holiday beats, festive cocktails, drink specials, and surprise giveaways as you party your way through El Bufalo and Cowboy Row. Come dressed in your best Santa suit, elf ears, or ugliest Christmas sweater—this is one holiday bash you won't want to miss!

### Baltimore Santa Crawl

FELLS POINT

December 20, 2025

Get ready to sleigh the season at the Baltimore Santa Crawl! Join the jingle-powered crowd in Fells Point for festive drink deals, merry mayhem, and holiday cheer as you celebrate the season one bar at a time.

### Sounds of the Season: A Holiday Experience

HORSESHOE CASINO

December 20, 2025

Get ready for a holiday celebration where classic cheer meets soulful, modern rhythm! "Sounds of the Season" brings the stunning vocals of Gabby Samone and the powerhouse harmonies of R&B sister duo The Amours to one unforgettable night of music. Let their captivating performances fill your season with style, spirit, and plenty of festive magic.

### New Year's Eve in Baltimore

LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL

December 31, 2025

Countdown to midnight in unforgettable style at the 2nd Annual Lord Baltimore Gala, set inside the historic Calvert Ballroom. This luxurious New Year's Eve celebration promises an evening of elegance, music, magic, and celebration in one of Baltimore's most iconic venues. It's the perfect way to welcome 2026 with sophistication and sparkle.

### New Year's Eve in Baltimore

INNER HARBOR

December 31, 2025

Ring in the new year with Baltimore's spectacular Inner Harbor fireworks display. Families can enjoy celebrations happening across the city before the big countdown. Whether you're out on the town or keeping it cozy, Baltimore has a celebration for you.

## Special OFFERS

### HALF-PRICE FRIDAY NIGHTS

NATIONAL AQUARIUM

Now–December 26, 2025

Explore the National Aquarium for half the price every Friday after 5 p.m. Families can enjoy award-winning exhibits at a great value. It's a perfect evening outing during the holiday season and beyond.

### WINTER RESTAURANT WEEK

January 23, 2026

–February 1, 2026

Winter Restaurant Week returns for its 20th Anniversary, bringing flavorful experiences for every palate and every age. Enjoy everything from family-friendly deals to tempting lunch specials and elevated fine-dining menus across Downtown. Explore participating restaurants and plan your culinary adventure at [BaltimoreRestaurantWeek.com](http://BaltimoreRestaurantWeek.com).

### \$10 COMMUNITY DAYS

PORT DISCOVERY

December 15–

March 16, 2026

Enjoy a day of play, learning, and family fun at a special discounted rate during Port Discovery's Community Days. Explore three floors of hands-on play areas, from Galactic Builders to Wonders of Water, and join engaging drop-in activities led by Port Discovery's Learning & Visitor Experience Team.





## Locally Yours

Festive fun awaits—explore the city's must-see spots dressed in their winter best.

**OUR CITY** is home to an incredible mix of small, independent businesses—many nestled in beloved districts like Fells Point and Federal Hill, and others right in the heart of Charles Center. This season, we invite you to share the holiday spirit with the shops and makers that bring Charles Street to life. Discover creative, local solutions for everyone on your list and support the unique businesses that make our community shine.



## Shop With Our Harborplace Boosters

**DISCOVER** something special from these standout minority-owned businesses whose success helps advance equity and opportunity in Downtown Baltimore. Your support this season strengthens a more vibrant, inclusive, and connected Downtown for all.

### Enjoy...

#### VIVA BOOKS

326 N. CHARLES ST

#### STEM & VINE

326 N. CHARLES ST

#### THE DOLLHOUSE BOUTIQUE

403 N. CHARLES ST

#### FLEUR DE LIS FLORIST

39 W. LEXINGTON ST

### Visit...

#### CUPLES TEA

#### MILTONS DAUGHTERS

#### MORELIFE JUICES

#### MOTION ATHLETICS

#### PANDORA'S BOX

#### YELÉ STITCHES



**DOWNTOWN  
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### Stay Connected All Year Long!

Find us on your favorite social platforms to stay up to date on the latest events, local spotlights, seasonal highlights, and all the moments that make Downtown Baltimore shine throughout the year.