



News Release

November 11, 2009

New Partnership Creates Resources for Easy and Budget-Friendly Holiday Visits to Seattle

*"Holidays in the City" Aims to Promote Seasonal Success for Seattle
Businesses Located in Seattle's Center City*

Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Downtown Seattle Association/Metropolitan Improvement District and Seattle Center have collaborated in a unique first-time partnership to promote Seattle's center city as the premier holiday destination in the Pacific Northwest.

The "Holidays in the City" campaign emphasizes the wide variety of holiday events, arts and cultural attractions, family activities, hotel packages and deals that occur in Seattle's center city during the months of November and December. A special holiday website, www.downtownholidays.com, was developed to act as the Seattle holiday headquarters, keeping visitors up-to-date on events, travel resources and special deals such as the Weekend Holiday Giveaway. Every Wednesday, beginning Nov. 25 and running through Dec. 30, details will be posted on the website for the coming weekend's giveaway. Various prizes will be given away in six Seattle center city neighborhoods. Visitors to the website will also find special holiday hotel deals and packages through the Seattle Super Saver hotel booking program.

-more-

The holiday campaign also features radio promotions on select Seattle, Spokane and Bellingham, WA radio stations, as well as select stations in Portland, OR. Listeners can win packages that include overnight accommodations, dining arrangements and performing arts tickets.

A special holiday events brochure was created as a reference piece for travelers and can be downloaded from www.downtownholidays.com or picked up in person at Seattle Visitor Center and Concierge Services, located in the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in downtown Seattle or at the Market Information Center at the Pike Place Market on First Ave. and Pike St. It can also be mailed by request by contacting the Seattle Visitor Center and Concierge Service via email at visinfo@visitseattle.org or by phone at (866) 732-2695.

About the Holidays in the City campaign:

Holidays in the City, a marketing collaboration of the Downtown Seattle Association/ Metropolitan Improvement District, Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau and Seattle Center, highlights the unique and enriching holiday experience of Seattle's city center, from Seattle Center to Pioneer Square. The goal of the campaign is to enhance the economic impact of the 2009 holiday season by promoting the diversity and wealth of holiday attractions, events and promotions that make Seattle's center city the premier holiday destination in the Northwest. Campaign organizers hope to expand the campaign in future years to leverage greater seasonal growth in retail, restaurant, hotel, arts and entertainment and other Seattle business. For more information, including event calendars, hot deals and more, visit www.downtownholidays.com.

###

CONTACT: Heather Bryant
Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau
(206) 461-5805
hbryant@visitseattle.org

Kristin Mattison
Downtown Seattle Association
(206) 613-3208
kristinm@downtownseattle.org

Deborah Daoust
Seattle Center
(206) 386-1974
deborah.daoust@seattle.gov



News Release
November 11, 2009

Seattle Visitor Information and Travel Tips

Information, Travel Tips and Reservations

Seattle Visitor Center and Concierge Services

The Seattle Visitor Center and Concierge Services is a complimentary, state-of-the-art full-service concierge and visitor information facility, offering bookings and reservations for dining, tours and transportation, along with detailed information on sports, cultural and local events, personal services and more.

Call: (866) 732-2695 or (206) 461-5840
Location: Lobby of the Washington State Convention & Trade Center, at 7th Ave. and Pike St.
Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Web Site: visinfo@visitseattle.org

Market Information Center

Public Phone: (866) 732-2695 or (206) 461-5840
Location: Southwest corner of 1st Ave. and Pike St.
Hours: Open daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hotel Bookings

Seattle Super Saver Program

Operated by Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau, this program offers year-around hotel booking from more than 60 Seattle hotels. No booking or hidden fees, pre-payments or cancellation fees (up to 24 hours prior to check-in) apply.

-more-

Special packages and value-added offers are available at participating Seattle Super Saver hotels.

Call: (800) 535-7071 (from within the U.S. and Canada)
(206) 461-5882 (from outside the U.S. and Canada)

Web Site: www.seattlesupersaver.com

Getting Around

Holiday Express Monrail

The Seattle Center Monorail will take you from Westlake Center in the central retail district to the Seattle Center and Winterfest in 90 seconds.

Holiday Hours: Daily from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
(closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day).

Free Buses

Seattle's Metro bus system is free between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily in downtown Seattle. The ride free zone extends from Battery St. on the north to S. Jackson St. on the south, 6th Ave. on the east to the Seattle waterfront on the west. Metro routes 116, 118 and 119 and Link light rail are not included in the ride free area.

The underground transit tunnel is a good way to get across town quickly. Stations are located at the convention center, Westlake Center, financial district, Pioneer Square and the International District. Bus rides in the tunnel are free.

Call: Metro Rider Information at (206) 553-3000 for details, schedules and routes.

Link to the Holidays

Sharing the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel with buses, Sound Transit's new Link light rail trains now carry passengers beneath the busy downtown shopping and entertainment district. Stations are located at Westlake Center, financial district, Pioneer Square and the International District. Normal fares apply when riding Link light rail in the transit tunnel.

Visit: www.soundtransit.org for schedule and fare information.

Parking is Plentiful

There are more than 50,000 parking spaces in downtown Seattle. For a one-stop resource on parking garages, or to learn more about car-pooling and an array of public transportation services, visit CommuteSeattle.com.

Horse-drawn Carriages

Holiday carriage rides start November 27 and can be found at 4th Ave. between Pike and Pine Streets. Rides start at \$25.

Event Information

For a calendar of seasonal and holiday related events in Seattle's city center, visit www.downtownholidays.com.

About the Holidays in the City campaign:

Holidays in the City, a marketing collaboration of the Downtown Seattle Association/ Metropolitan Improvement District, Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau and Seattle Center, highlights the unique and enriching holiday experience of Seattle's city center, from Seattle Center to Pioneer Square. The goal of the campaign is to enhance the economic impact of the 2009 holiday season by promoting the diversity and wealth of holiday attractions, events and promotions that make Seattle's center city the premier holiday destination in the Northwest. Campaign organizers hope to expand the campaign in future years to leverage greater seasonal growth in retail, restaurant, hotel, arts and entertainment and other Seattle business. For more information, including event calendars, hot deals and more, visit www.downtownholidays.com.

#

CONTACT: Heather Bryant
Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau
(206) 461-5805
hbryant@visitseattle.org

Kristin Mattison
Downtown Seattle Association
(206) 613-3208
kristinm@downtownseattle.org

Deborah Daoust
Seattle Center
(206) 386-1974
deborah.daoust@seattle.gov



News Release

November 11, 2009

Arts and Entertainment in the City

*Broadway Shows, Seasonal Symphony, Nutcrackers, Pirouettes
and Eye-High Kicks Help Kick Off Seattle's Holiday Cultural Season*

Holiday Theater

Seattle's reputation as a thriving theater town is affirmed in November and December when touring and resident companies' productions of holiday classics hit stages all over the city.

Don't miss the world-famous Radio City Rockettes, making their first appearance in Seattle since 2003. *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular* plays at the Paramount Theatre, December 12-January 3. Visit www.stgpresents.org for tickets and more information.

Just blocks away, the Broadway musical *White Christmas*, based on the classic holiday film, returns to The 5th Avenue Theatre, November 28-December 30. Visit www.5thavenue.org for tickets and more information.

Also in the central retail/entertainment core, A Contemporary Theatre (ACT) presents Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, November 27-December 27, as well as *Sister's Christmas Catechism*, November 27-January 3. Visit www.acttheatre.org for tickets and more information.

On the Seattle Center campus, the award-winning Intiman Theatre presents *Black Nativity*, a holiday gospel celebration based on the works of Langston Hughes and accompanied by dance, December 1-27. Visit www.intiman.org for tickets and more information.

-more-

Next door, the Seattle Repertory Theatre presents *Equivocation*, an exciting new play direct from the Oregon Shakespearian Festival, November 18-December 13. Visit www.seattlerep.org for tickets and other information.

The Seattle Children's Theatre presents *Peter Pan*, November 12-January 10, based on the James M. Barrie play with music by Mark Charlap and lyrics by Carolyn Leigh. Visit www.sct.org for tickets and more information.

Through January 17, Teatro ZinZanni, located near the Seattle Center campus, presents *Beaumont & Caswell—Together Forever...Again!*, a combination of cirque, comedy and cabaret with a full-course dinner. Visit www.dreams.zinzanni.org for more information.

A Symphony of Concerts for all Tastes

Downtown Seattle's Benaroya Hall hosts holiday-themed performances that range from the renowned Seattle Symphony Orchestra to the Seattle Men's Chorus, the largest gay men's chorus in the world.

Join the Seattle Symphony Orchestra for a month of holiday celebration, including *Festive Holiday Encores*, December 3-6; *An Empire Brass Christmas*, December 8; *Holiday Sing-Along with Seattle Symphony Chorale*, December 9; *Holiday Pops and Cirque de la Symphonie*, December 10-13; *Kindermusik Holiday Spectacular*, December 12; *Handel's Messiah*, December 17-20; *A Festival of Lessons and Carols*, December 21-22; and *New Year's Eve Concert, Countdown and Celebration*, December 31. Visit www.seattlesymphony.org for a full schedule and ticket information.

Celebrate the season as well with the 30th anniversary season of the Seattle Men's Chorus performing *Santa Baby*, November 28-29, December 6, 13-14 and 20 at Benaroya Hall. The opening weekend performances will feature Tony Award-winning actress Betty Buckley and all performances resound with the heavenly accompaniment of Benaroya Hall's Watjen Concert Organ. Visit www.flyinghouse.org for a complete schedule.

Ballet for the Ages

Few holiday show traditions boast the generational appeal of *The Nutcracker*. Pacific Northwest Ballet's rendition dates to 1983 and the now-famous collaboration between the ballet's founding artistic director and choreographer Kent Stowell and renowned children's book author and illustrator Maurice Sendak.

The Nutcracker runs November 27-December 30 at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall on the Seattle Center campus. Visit www.pnb.org for ticket and schedule information.

Holiday Exhibits

The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) presents two noteworthy art exhibitions that run throughout the holiday season. Now through January 31, don't miss *Michelangelo Public and Private: Drawings for the Sistine Chapel and Other Treasures from the Casa Buonarroti*. Now through April 11, 2010, SAM features *Alexander Calder: A Balancing Act*. Visit www.seattleartmuseum.org for ticket and other information.

About the Holidays in the City campaign:

Holidays in the City, a marketing collaboration of the Downtown Seattle Association/ Metropolitan Improvement District, Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau and Seattle Center, highlights the unique and enriching holiday experience of Seattle's city center, from Seattle Center to Pioneer Square. The goal of the campaign is to enhance the economic impact of the 2009 holiday season by promoting the diversity and wealth of holiday attractions, events and promotions that make Seattle's center city the premier holiday destination in the Northwest. Campaign organizers hope to expand the campaign in future years to leverage greater seasonal growth in retail, restaurant, hotel, arts and entertainment and other Seattle business. For more information, including event calendars, hot deals and more, visit www.downtownholidays.com.

#

CONTACT: Heather Bryant
Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau
(206) 461-5805
hbryant@visitseattle.org

Kristin Mattison
Downtown Seattle Association
(206) 613-3208
kristinm@downtownseattle.org

Deborah Daoust
Seattle Center
(206) 386-1974
deborah.daoust@seattle.gov



Seattle Holiday Calendar of Events

Holidays in the City is a collaboration between Seattle’s Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Downtown Seattle Association/ Metropolitan Improvement District and Seattle Center, created with the purpose of providing information to travelers about the unique and enriching holiday experience of Seattle’s center city, from Seattle Center to Pioneer Square. For more information including city maps, hotel packages and deals, travel tips and more, visit www.downtownholidays.com.

KING 5 Wonderland featuring the Holiday Carousel

Nov. 27-Jan. 3

www.downtownholidays.com

Bring the entire family to Westlake Park for the fun of the illuminated KING 5 Wonderland featuring the Holiday Carousel—a holiday tradition for all ages. Net proceeds benefit the work of the Downtown Seattle Association and Treehouse, a local nonprofit organization offering kids in foster care what all children so desperately need—a safe place to dream.

Holiday Carousel Hours of Operation*

Monday-Thursday	11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Friday	11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sunday	10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Special Hours

Nov. 27**	10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Dec. 24	10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Dec. 25	CLOSED
Dec. 31	10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Jan. 1	CLOSED
Jan. 3	10 a.m.-2 p.m.

*Dates and times subject to change due to inclement weather or other unforeseen conditions.

**Carousel will open after the Macy’s Holiday Parade, close at dusk for the lighting of the Westlake Center Holiday Tree and Macy’s Star, and reopen after the event.

-more-

Toyland Village Lighted Holiday Display

Nov. 27-Jan. 3

www.downtownholidays.com

Stroll through more than 30 unique illuminated eight-foot-tall sculptures of your favorite toys including a teddy bear, swing set, wagon, rocking horse and wind-up toys that celebrate the spirit of holidays. The Toyland Village at Waterfront Park (Piers 57-59), 1201 Alaskan Way, is open daily from 6 a.m.-9 p.m.

Seattle Center Winterfest

Nov. 27-Dec. 31

www.seattlecenter.com

The 74-acre Seattle Center campus, illuminated in thousands of twinkling lights, sets the scene for five weeks of free, affordable, fun-filled activities and entertainment. Winter Train and Village, Winterfest Ice Rink and Classic Carousel return, along with the region's best music and comedy, jazz and dance, ice sculpting and fireside sing-alongs. Activities begin daily at 10 a.m. and continue into the evening.

SELECT WINTERFEST EVENTS

Winter Train and Village

Nov. 27-Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Center House

The Winter Train and Village, erected each year in the Center House, takes you back in time to a turn-of-the-century miniature town, complete with buildings, lights, snow and a towering train depot.

Winterfest Ice Rink

Nov. 27-Jan. 3

Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Friday-Saturday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Fisher Pavilion

The light-filled, 12,600-square-foot Fisher Pavilion is transformed into the Winterfest Ice Rink. The ice rink accommodates all levels of expertise. Skate fee: \$5 for adults; \$3 for children ages 6-12. Skate rental: \$2. Cash only.

Winter Worldfest

Nov. 27-29

Friday, 1-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Center House, FREE

Journey around the world through music, dance and storytelling.

Ice Sculpting

Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19 and 26, noon

Outside Fisher Pavillion

Fireside Singing

Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19 and 26, 5-7 p.m.

South Fountain Lawn

-more-

Holiday Festivals, Events and Other Happenings

Macy's Holiday Parade

Nov. 27, 8:45 a.m.

Begins at 7th Ave. and Pine St. and loops through downtown Seattle streets ending at 4th Ave. and Pine St.

www.downtownholidays.com

The annual parade features more than 25 floats, marching bands and drill teams and culminates with Santa's arrival.

Westlake Center Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

Nov. 27, 4:45 p.m.

4th Ave. and Pine St.

www.westlakecenter.com

Seattle's official holiday tree remains illuminated through Dec. 31.

Santa's Lane at Nordstrom Downtown

Nov. 27-Dec. 24

6th Ave. and Pine St.

Information-(206) 628-1000

Visit Santa and his friends at his magnificent castle.

Winter Wonderland at Pacific Place

Nov. 27-Dec. 31, 6 p.m. daily

6th Ave. and Pine St.

www.pacificplaceseattle.com

There's a 100 percent chance of snow inside the soaring atrium at Pacific Place.

Holiday Entertainment at Pacific Place

Nov. 27-Dec. 27, afternoons and evenings

6th Ave. and Pine St.

www.pacificplaceseattle.com

Holiday cheer ranges from traditional choirs to upbeat jazz and Hawaiian caroling. Some of Seattle's top talent will perform.

Teddy Bear Suite at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel

Nov. 22, 7-8:30 p.m.

Nov. 23-Dec. 26, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

University St. between 4th Ave. and 5th Ave.

www.fairmont.com/seattle

The Teddy Bear Suite features more than 130 stuffed bears, bear-themed children's books and photo opportunities. The hotel also features chestnut roasting Dec. 4, 11, and 18, and the 31st Annual Festival of Trees, Nov. 22-Dec. 3.

Gingerbread Village

Nov. 24-Jan. 3

Sheraton Seattle Hotel Lobby, 6th Ave. between Pike St. and Union St.

www.gingerbreadvillage.org

Seattle's top architectural firms partner with the Sheraton's culinary staff to design, bake and build gingerbread displays for the 17th annual Gingerbread Village.

Seattle's Traditional Santa Breakfasts

Dec. 13, 19, and 20, 9:30-11 a.m.

Sheraton Seattle Hotel

www.arthritis.org/chapters/pacific-northwest/santa-breakfasts.php

Featuring traditional entertainment including original strolling minstrels, Leo the Clown, Magic Bob, Olympic Ballet Dancers, and, of course, Santa.

Magic in the Market

Nov. 28, Noon-5 p.m.

Pike Place Market

www.pikeplacemarket.org

This annual holiday celebration features Dickens Carolers, Santa, a food drive and a holiday concert at 4 p.m. followed by the lighting of trees and market buildings at 5 p.m.

Children's Arts & Crafts Station at the Space Needle

Nov. 27-29 and Dec. 5-6, 12-13 and 19-24, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Space Needle

The Observation Deck will feature an arts and crafts station for children to create fun holiday gifts for friends and family, and Santa will meet and greet guests.

Great Figgy Pudding Street Corner Caroling Competition

Dec. 4, 6 p.m.

Westlake Center and Pine St. between 3rd Ave. and 7th Ave.

<http://pikemarketseniorcenter.org>

More than 40 caroling teams compete to raise funds for the Pike Place Market Senior Center and Downtown Food Bank.

Argosy Christmas Ship Festival

Nov. 28-Dec. 23

www.argosycruises.com

Decorated with thousands of white lights, the Spirit of Seattle, the Official Christmas Ship, leads a flotilla of brightly-lit boats during the Argosy Christmas Ship Festival.

Arts and Entertainment, Uptown to Downtown

THEATER

White Christmas

5th Avenue Theatre

Nov. 28-Dec. 30

www.5thavenue.org

-more-

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*

A Contemporary Theatre (ACT)

Nov. 27-Dec. 27

www.acttheatre.org

Sister's Christmas Catechism

A Contemporary Theatre (ACT)

Nov. 27-Jan. 3

www.acttheatre.org

Black Nativity

Intiman Theatre

Dec. 1-27

www.intiman.org

Radio City Christmas Spectacular

Paramount Theatre

Dec. 12-Jan. 3

www.stgpresents.org/www.radiocitychristmas.com

Peter Pan

Seattle Children's Theatre

Nov. 12-Jan. 10

www.sct.org

Equivocation

Seattle Repertory Theatre

Nov. 18-Dec. 13

www.seattlerep.org

Beaumont and Caswell—Together Forever...Again!

Teatro ZinZanni

Now through Jan. 17

<http://dreams.zinzanni.org/>

MUSIC

Santa Baby

Seattle Men's Chorus

Benaroya Hall

Nov. 28-29, Dec. 6, 13, 14 and 20

www.flyinghouse.org

Festive Holiday Encores

Seattle Symphony

Benaroya Hall

Dec. 3-6

www.seattlesymphony.org

-more-

An Empire Brass Christmas

Benaroya Hall

Dec. 8

www.seattlesymphony.org

Holiday Sing-Along with Seattle Symphony Chorale

Benaroya Hall

Dec. 9

www.seattlesymphony.org

Holiday Pops with Cirque de la Symphonie

Benaroya Hall

Dec. 10-13

www.seattlesymphony.org

Kindermusik Holiday Spectacular (Geared toward ages 0-5)

Benaroya Hall

Dec. 12

www.seattlesymphony.org

Handel's *Messiah*

Seattle Symphony

Benaroya Hall

Dec. 17-20

www.seattlesymphony.org

Tiny Tots Special: Holiday Hooray! (Geared toward ages 0-5)

Benaroya Hall

Dec. 18-19

www.seattlesymphony.org

A Festival of Lessons & Carols

Benaroya Hall

Dec. 21-22

www.seattlesymphony.org

New Year's Eve: Concert, Countdown & Celebration

Seattle Symphony

Benaroya Hall

Dec. 31

www.seattlesymphony.org

BALLET

Stowell & Sendak *Nutcracker*

Pacific Northwest Ballet
Marion Oliver McCaw Hall at Seattle Center
Nov. 27-Dec. 30
www.pnb.org

EXHIBITS

Michelangelo Public and Private: Drawings for the Sistine Chapel and Other Treasures from the Casa Buonarroti

Seattle Art Museum
Through Jan. 31
www.seattleartmuseum.org

Alexander Calder: A Balancing Act

Seattle Art Museum
Through April 11
www.seattleartmuseum.org

Best of the Northwest Fine Craft Show

Seattle Center Exhibition Hall
Nov. 13-15
<http://www.nwartalliance.com/events.php>

Holidays in the City, a marketing collaboration of the Downtown Seattle Association/ Metropolitan Improvement District, Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau and Seattle Center, highlights the unique and enriching holiday experience of Seattle's city center, from Seattle Center to Pioneer Square. The goal of the campaign is to enhance the economic impact of the 2009 holiday season by promoting the diversity and wealth of holiday attractions, events and promotions that make Seattle's center city the premier holiday destination in the Northwest. Campaign organizers hope to expand the campaign in future years to leverage greater seasonal growth in retail, restaurant, hotel, arts and entertainment and other Seattle business. For more information, including event calendars, hot deals and more, visit www.downtownholidays.com.

###

CONTACT: Heather Bryant
Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau
(206) 461-5805
hbryant@visitseattle.org

Kristin Mattison
Downtown Seattle Association
(206) 613-3208
kristinm@downtownseattle.org

Deborah Daoust
Seattle Center
(206) 386-1974
deborah.daoust@seattle.gov



News Release
November 11, 2009

Big City, Bright Lights
Festive Light Displays from Urban to the Urbane

SEATTLE – Seattle’s retail core, central business district and the Seattle Center will offer one of the region’s highest concentrations of holiday lights—from thousands of white lights adorning trees and light poles to an array of seasonal displays.

Westlake Center and Westlake Park

Don’t miss Westlake Center in the heart of the downtown shopping district, where you’ll find the city’s official Christmas tree, a 60-foot Turkish Fir adorned with 60,000 lights. The tree will be officially lit at 5 p.m. on Nov. 27. Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and a host of children's choirs will highlight the festivities.

Across the street in Westlake Park is the Qwest Carousel benefiting Treehouse, a local organization dedicated to improving the lives of children living in foster care systems and DSA’s non-profit partner for the carousel. The carousel is fun for the whole family, its bright colors and lights a cheerful sight during the long fall and winter months. The carousel takes its inaugural spin of the year at the close of Macy’s holiday parade the day after Thanksgiving and will close for the season on Jan. 3.

-more-

Westlake Park is also the perfect viewing spot for the Macy's star, now in its 52nd year atop the store's southeast corner; the 161-foot-high, 60-foot-wide glittering landmark is illuminated by 3,600 white light bulbs surrounding a 100-watt mercury vapor center.

Look Up!

Seattle's skyline shines with colorful lights during the holiday season. Iconic buildings, including Two Union Square, the Westin Seattle Hotel and Puget Sound Plaza, switch on festive façade lighting while thousands of twinkle lights on downtown trees give off a warm glow for downtown residents and visitors to enjoy.

Toyland Village Lights Up the Waterfront

New this year, Seattle's Waterfront Park serves as host to the Toyland Village Lighted Holiday Displays. Experience the holidays through a child's eyes with a stroll through more than 30 larger-than-life toy-themed holiday displays awash in brightly colored lights. The display is open daily, 6 a.m.-9 p.m., Nov. 27-Jan. 3.

Argosy Christmas Ship Festival

Cruise aboard or admire from the shore the Argosy Christmas Ship Festival, celebrating its 60th year in 2009. Decorated with hundreds of white lights, *The Spirit of Seattle* will once again serve as Seattle's official Christmas ship, leading a flotilla of festively-lit boats from the Seattle waterfront to serenade some 45 shoreline communities, Nov. 28-Dec. 23. Onboard choirs will conduct 20-minute performances via a state-of-the-art speaker system. To view the complete schedule or make a reservation on the Christmas ship, visit www.argosycruises.com or call (206) 622-8687.

About the Holidays in the City campaign:

Holidays in the City, a marketing collaboration of the Downtown Seattle Association/ Metropolitan Improvement District, Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau and Seattle Center, highlights the unique and enriching holiday experience of Seattle's city center, from Seattle Center to Pioneer Square. The goal of the campaign is to enhance the economic impact of the 2009 holiday season by promoting the diversity and wealth of holiday attractions, events and promotions that make Seattle's center city the premier holiday destination in the Northwest. Campaign organizers hope to expand the campaign in future years to leverage greater seasonal growth in retail, restaurant, hotel, arts and entertainment and other Seattle business. For more information, including event calendars, hot deals and more, visit www.downtownholidays.com.

CONTACT: Heather Bryant
Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau
(206) 461-5805
hbryant@visitseattle.org

Kristin Mattison
Downtown Seattle Association
(206) 613-3208
kristinm@downtownseattle.org

Deborah Daoust
Seattle Center
(206) 386-1974
deborah.daoust@seattle.gov



News Release

November 11, 2009

Seattle Holiday Trivia

Fun Facts About Seattle's Center City Holiday Happenings

- **The Westlake Plaza Holiday Tree** is approximately 30 years old, 60 feet tall and is lit with more than 25,000 energy-efficient LED reusable light bulbs.
- **The 22nd Annual Holiday Carousel in Westlake Park** has 30 horses (some weighing as much as 100 pounds), two sleds and has averaged 1,800 riders per day during the last three years.
- **The Argosy Christmas Ship Flotilla** uses more than 10,000 lights, 3,000 feet of garland and takes 2,000 hours to decorate.
- **The Fairmont Olympic Hotel Teddy Bear Suite** contains approximately 130 bears and is visited by more than 11,000 people each year.
- **The Sheraton Seattle Gingerbread Village** is created from 1,200 pounds of dough, 200 pounds of white chocolate, 200 pounds of milk chocolate, 100 pounds of candy for decorations, 800 pounds of icing, 600 pounds of dark chocolate and 250 pounds of almond paste.
- **The Pacific Place "Walk in a Winter Wonderland"** uses 4,100 pounds of "snow" for its nightly 10-minute snow showers to create an indoor winter wonderland between the day after Thanksgiving and Dec. 31.
- **The Seattle Center** uses 31,000 lights to decorate the trees on its 74-acre campus.
- **The Seattle Center** has produced its Winterfest festival for 22 years.
- **The Winterfest Ice Rink** rents 18,000 pairs of ice skates every year.

- Since 1979, **Seattle Men's Chorus** has featured 1,227 singing members who have performed more than 2,000 song titles in 1,310 concerts to more than two million people worldwide.
- **Pacific Northwest Ballet's** production of Stowell & Sendak *Nutcracker* uses approximately 500 pairs of pointe shoes during a season of the ballet.
- The 27-foot Mouse King in the *Nutcracker* is actually a puppet with 17 different moving pieces.
- The *Nutcracker's* majestic Christmas tree was constructed by Boeing engineers in a Boeing flight hangar and is made of materials used in airplane construction. The tree weighs 950 pounds and grows from 14 to 28 feet in height during the fight scene.

About the Holidays in the City campaign:

Holidays in the City, a marketing collaboration of the Downtown Seattle Association/ Metropolitan Improvement District, Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau and Seattle Center, highlights the unique and enriching holiday experience of Seattle's city center, from Seattle Center to Pioneer Square. The goal of the campaign is to enhance the economic impact of the 2009 holiday season by promoting the diversity and wealth of holiday attractions, events and promotions that make Seattle's center city the premier holiday destination in the Northwest. Campaign organizers hope to expand the campaign in future years to leverage greater seasonal growth in retail, restaurant, hotel, arts and entertainment and other Seattle business. For more information, including event calendars, hot deals and more, visit www.downtownholidays.com.

###

CONTACT: Heather Bryant
 Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau
 (206) 461-5805
hbryant@visitseattle.org

Kristin Mattison
 Downtown Seattle Association
 (206) 613-3208
kristinm@downtownseattle.org

Deborah Daoust
 Seattle Center
 (206) 386-1974
deborah.daoust@seattle.gov