

HOLIDAY EVENTS 2012

12 Bars of Christmas (TBOX)

For the seventeenth year, Festa partygoers will hop from bar to bar throughout thirty-six participating establishments in Wrigleyville. More than 16,000 people joined last year, decked out in holiday-inspired attire and crazy-themed costumes. The event starts at 8am and ends at closing time, but going "wire-to-wire" during the nineteen-hour drinking marathon is not required. Cubby Bear hosts the opening and closing ceremonies. Bring a box of cereal, throw on a festive hat—or one relating to the TBOXOPOLY theme—and grab your friends for a fun holiday celebration. Visit festaparties.com/events/tbox-twelve-bars-of-xmas-aka-12-bars-of-xmas-chicago-pub-crawl for tickets. Saturday, Dec. 8.

Bucktown Holiday Art Show

The works of 100 artists will be on display for holiday shoppers to enjoy. Art in all forms—photography, fashion, paintings and pottery—will be sold at the fourteenth annual event. The show will feature vintage and handmade creations and a silent auction. Holstein Park Fieldhouse, 2200 North Oakley. December 8-9, noon-5pm. \$2.

Caroling at Cloud Gate

Millennium Park will be buzzing with holiday cheer and festive tunes to hear. Choral groups from across the city will perform, and visitors are welcome to sing along. In its seventh season, caroling in the park has become a highly anticipated Chicago tradition. Join in the five-minute serenade and hop on the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink in the park afterward. Friday evenings, November 23-December 21, 6 pm. Free.

Caroling Tea

Singalong, snacks and sweets will be provided for a festive gathering at the Art Institute of Chicago. Reservations required. 111 South Michigan, (312)553-9675. December 15-16, 2pm-4 pm. \$20, \$15/Children 12 and under.

Chicago Trolley Co. Holiday Lights Tour

Hop on the caroling sleigh ride and see all the sights and lights of the city. View the Magnificent Mile, State Street and the holiday windows at Macy's, Navy Pier and Buckingham Fountain. Two highly anticipated stops include Lincoln Park's Zoo Lights and the Christkindlmarket at Daley Plaza. (773)648-5000. November 23-December 23. \$26/Adults, \$19/Children under 12.

Christkindlmarket Chicago

The traditional German-American holiday market is back for its fifteenth year in Chicago. The festival plants its Nuremberg roots and European heritage in the heart of the city at the Daley Plaza. Shop for authentic German gifts—like handcrafted ornaments, nutcrackers and beer steins—while experiencing German traditions and enjoying German delicacies. 50 West Washington, (312)494-2175. November 20-December 24, 11am-8pm, till 9pm Fridays and Saturdays. Free.

Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light

Gaze at the beautiful forty-five-foot Grand Tree in the rotunda and mosey around fifty more trees in the exhibit. The Grand Tree is adorned with more than 30,000 lights and 1,000 ornaments, but instead of counting for yourself take a look at the other trees that were decorated by volunteers from various ethnic communities to represent their heritage and traditions. Weekday performances revolve around school children's choirs and ethnic performers take the stage on the weekends for music and dancing shows. Museum of Science and Industry, 57th and Lake Shore Drive. November 15-January 6, 9:30am-4 pm. General admission for Chicago residents \$13/Adults,

\$12/Seniors, \$9/Children 3-11 years old.

City Hall Holiday Concerts

Chicago children's choirs sing classic holiday songs, leaving a feeling of excitement and joyous jubilee buzzing in the air. The series begins December 9 and ends December 21, with concerts noon-1pm on weekdays. City Hall lobby. Free.

Daley Plaza Santa's House

Pop into Santa's workshop and visit the red-suited man at his interactive house. November 20-December 24. Check out the website for times. Free.

Home for the Holidays with the Bourné Family

Watch the Bourné family take the stage as the harmonious nine sing carols and their own Christmas favorites. Auditorium Theatre, 50 East Congress, (312)341-2310. December 2, 8pm. \$25-\$35.

Jingle Jazzin'

The Shedd Aquarium hosts a seasonal sprinkle of songs, a spin on their summer concert series. Live holiday music will play, carolers will sing in the galleries and cocktails and food will be served for fun at the museum. Shedd Aquarium, 1200 South Lake Shore, (312)939-2438. December 16-23, 5pm-9pm. \$20. Admission includes admittance to the aquarium galleries, Wild Reef, Abbot Oceanarium, Polar Play Zone and the Jellies exhibit.

Julmarknad

Take part in the Swedish festival, browse handicrafts at the fair, and enjoy traditional Swedish dishes. Swedish American Museum, 5211 North Clark. December 1-2, Saturday 10am-5 pm, Sunday 10am-5 pm. \$2.

Lakeview Christmas Market

Christmas cheer is sure to be plentiful under the heated tent at this new event. Carolers from local schools will sing and bands will take the stage for live musical performances. Attendees can enjoy music, food, craft beers and warm drinks while perusing handmade arts and crafts. Keep the kids entertained with the art activities in Kids Korner or buy a Christmas tree (or wreath or garland) to spruce up your home. Proceeds benefit St. Luke Academy. St. Luke Academy, 1550 West Belmont. December 7-9. \$5.

Macy's Great Tree

Head up to the seventh floor's Walnut Room to see or dine around the tree. Don't forget to check out the window displays as you leave. 111 North State, (312)781-1000. November 18-March 11. Free.

McDonald's Thanksgiving Parade

Enormous helium balloons of characters we adore will dance in the sky and fantastic floats will crowd the streets. "American Idol"'s Haley Reinhart, a Wheeling native, will saunter down State in the parade this year. Parade route: State Street from Congress to Randolph. November 22, 8am-11am.

29th Annual Music Box Christmas Show

Santa opens the night by leading the audience in Christmas carols—the words are projected on a screen so everyone can belt their favorites. Then a Christmas movie or two—"It's a Wonderful Life" and "White Christmas"—will be shown for the remainder of the evening. Moviegoers are encouraged to sing along! Music Box Theatre, (773)871-6607. December 14-24. \$10-\$17.

One-Of-A-Kind Show

Join 600 merchants as they share their handmade creations in the twelfth annual sale. The Merchandise Mart, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, suite 470. (312)527-4141. December 6-9. \$12/Adults, \$9/Seniors, children under 12