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A Very Philly Christmas at the Historic Houses of Fairmount Park

A Very Philly Christmas, the holiday tradition at the Historic Houses of Fairmount Park (Cedar Grove, Laurel Hill Mansion, Lemon Hill Mansion, Historic Strawberry Mansion, and Woodford), will take place November 30 – December 31, 2017. ***A Very Philly Christmas*** is presented by Fairmount Park Conservancy, in partnership with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation. **Media are invited to a press preview to see the finishing touches being placed on the décor of the houses on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 11 am at Woodford Mansion**, 2300 North 33rd Street, Philadelphia.

Philadelphia's longtime tradition of celebrating the holidays in Fairmount Park will feature *A Very Philly Christmas* at five of the park's treasured historic houses. The Historic Houses of Fairmount Park are some of the best-preserved examples of 18th and early 19th century American architecture and were named one of "America's Top Holiday Home Tours in America" for 2015 by *Architectural Digest*.

Holiday lovers are invited to "drop in" at the historic houses in Fairmount Park throughout the month of December and enjoy the decorations inspired by *A Very Philly Christmas* and learn interesting facts about each historic house. In addition, the houses will host four special days of programming:

Saturday, December 2: Sounds of the Season

Come listen to Philadelphia's best seasonal music from Opera Philadelphia, Philadelphia Clef Club of Jazz & the Performing Arts, PlayOnPhilly!, Choral Arts Philadelphia, and a premiere piece by the Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra. Each of the five houses host one of these premier musical organizations as well as some of the most talented Philadelphia-area student musicians. **The Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra will premiere "Bricolage: Philadelphia 1756" a site-specific, historically inspired music installation at Woodford Mansion.**



This composition weaves together sounds from the cultures in and around Philadelphia in the mid-18th century, when the Woodford Mansion was first built, including European Americans, African-American slaves and free Blacks, and the Lenni Lenape peoples.

Sunday, December 3: Family Day

Bring young ones to Lemon Hill Mansion for a full day of entertainment and activities with Smith Memorial Playground and Mural Arts Philadelphia, live ice carving, and more for children ages 12 and

under, including a picture-perfect visit with Santa himself. Stop by the other houses to admire the decorations and sample hot cocoa and delicious treats. Children 12 and under admitted free.

Saturday, December 9: Neighbor's Day

Stroll through the houses to celebrate the many talents of our nearby neighbors. Enjoy wonderful local music and food from residents in the communities near and around Fairmount Park at each of the five participating houses.

Sunday, December 10: Flavors of the Season

Bring an appetite and culinary curiosities to the houses where visitors can sample free bites and observe food demonstrations from some of the best local food purveyors such as Garces Restaurants, Shane Confectionery, Giambri's Quality Sweets, Original XIII Ciderworks, Birchtree Catering, and Manatawny Still Works at each of the five participating historic houses.

Ticketing and Transportation

- Each day of programming runs from 10 am – 4 pm.
- Admission is \$8 per person per house. **Children 12 and under receive free admission.**
- \$35 discounted passes to see all 5 houses including house to house transportation via PHLASH's "Holiday Houses Loop" available for Sounds of the Season (12/2), Neighbor's Day (12/9), and Flavors of the Season (12/10).
- \$30 discounted passes to see all 5 houses are available for Family Day (12/3) and any December "Drop In" day (16 dates throughout December).
- Limited free parking is available at each historic house.
- The **Holiday Houses Loop powered by PHLASH** will offer convenient shuttle service between the Historic Houses in East Fairmount Park. Utilize the Holiday Houses Loop to stay warm while traveling from house-to-house, by driving to one of the Houses and hopping on the Loop to get to the next one; or by boarding at PHLASH Stop 11 (located at the Philadelphia Museum of Art West Entrance) to travel to Fairmount Park. A special service five-house shuttle from East Park to West Park will be offered on December 2, 9, and 10 as part of "A Very Philly Christmas" tickets purchased for these days. For more information on the "**Holiday Houses Loop**," discounted passes, and operating hours visit holidaysinthepark.com.

Lemon Hill Mansion will also host Christmas tree sales from November 24 – December 17, Fridays – Mondays. Douglas and Fraser firs from 4 - 10 feet are available for purchase. Hours are Friday, November 24: 12 – 6 pm, Fridays and Mondays: 3 – 6 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays: 9 am – 6 pm. Lemon Hill is located at Sedgely & Lemon Hill Drives, Philadelphia. More information is available at www.holidaysinthepark.com. Press room and photos are available at <http://bit.ly/ConservancyPressKit>.

Fairmount Park Conservancy exists to champion Philadelphia's parks. We lead capital projects and historic preservation efforts, foster neighborhood park stewardship, attract and leverage investments, and develop innovative programs throughout the 10,200 acres that include Fairmount Park and more than 100 neighborhood parks around the city. Philadelphia has one of the largest urban park systems in the world, providing residents with extensive health, environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits – including access to some of the region's most famous attractions. For more information, please visit myphillypark.org, join us at facebook.com/fairmountparkconservancy, and follow us on Instagram and Twitter @myphillypark.

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR) advances the prosperity of the city and the progress of her people through intentional and sustained stewardship of nearly 10,200 acres of public land and waterways as well as through hundreds of safe, stimulating recreation, environmental and cultural centers. PPR promotes the well-being and growth of the city's residents by connecting them to the natural world around them, to each other and to fun, physical and social opportunities. PPR is responsible for the upkeep of historically significant Philadelphia events and specialty venues, and works collaboratively with communities and organizations in leading capital projects and the introduction of inventive programming. To learn more about Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, visit www.phila.gov/parksandrec, and follow @philaparkandrec on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Tumblr.

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For a schedule of events as well as high-resolution images for media use, please visit the online press room at <http://bit.ly/ConservancyPressKit>.