



For Immediate Release
November 16, 2011

Contact: Gentry McKeown
405.235.3500 (office) or 405.306.3867 (cell)
gentry@downtownokc.com
Or contact: Allison Shumate 405.706.8620 (cell)

Downtown in December: See Downtown Oklahoma City in a Whole New Light

Oklahoma City – Join us in downtown Oklahoma City this holiday season for the tenth annual Downtown in December, presented by Devon Energy and made possible by generous sponsorships from various businesses and organizations in our community.

Downtown in December, presented by Devon, is a 50-day series of holiday events and attractions in the heart of Oklahoma City. It's a one-of-a-kind winter experience that features thrilling outdoor ice skating, snow tube rides down the Southwest's largest manmade slope, afternoon visits with Santa Claus, visits from Sonic's Segway Santa, a festive 5K and fun run, free water taxi excursions, enriching free museum Sundays and a creative LEGO exhibit, all surrounded by twinkling holiday lights.

Most events are free of charge and there is an open invitation for all to attend.

Below is a complete list of Downtown in December activities:

- * **SandRidge Christmas tree lighting ceremony.** Help us kick off Downtown in December, presented by Devon, with Mayor Mick Cornett and Santa Claus as they light the SandRidge Christmas tree at 5:15 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 25 on the Bricktown Canal, right off Mickey Mantle Drive. The lighting ceremony officially begins downtown Oklahoma City's month-long holiday celebration and provides live music by the Groove Merchants, family-friendly activities, hot chocolate from Coco Flow, cookies from Nonna's, free popcorn from Downtown OKC, Inc., pictures with Santa and more. Guests are also invited to bring an unwrapped toy for an on-site toy drive at the event.
- * **Devon Ice Rink at the Myriad Gardens.** The Devon Ice Rink is this year's signature event and is expected to attract more than 30,000 thrill-seeking skaters beginning Nov. 25 and will offer live entertainment and special guests on the weekends. On Friday nights, a live DJ heats up the ice with popular and holiday

musical favorites. Special guests and local radio personalities will join us on the ice as they broadcast live from the rink on Saturday nights.

- * **Devon's Saturdays with Santa.** Devon Energy has invited Santa to bring his sleigh to the Myriad Gardens especially for Downtown in December, presented by Devon. After visiting with Santa, there are plenty of other activities to enjoy. Kids of all ages can write letters to Santa, take pictures in Santa's sleigh, visit the arts and crafts table, enjoy free snacks, and play in the Myriad Gardens' new children's park. Saturdays with Santa will take place in the Myriad Gardens Pavilion (on the corner of Reno and Hudson) on Nov. 26, Dec. 3, Dec. 10, and Dec. 17 from noon - 3 p.m.
- * **Chesapeake Energy Snow Tubing at RedHawks Field.** Go extreme this winter by cruising down the nation's largest manmade snow tubing slope at thrilling speeds. Presented by Chesapeake Energy, snow tubing sessions run Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between Nov. 25 and Dec. 12 (hours vary). Between Dec. 17 and Jan. 1, tubing is open seven days a week (hours vary). Session size is limited; admission is \$10 for each one and a half-hour session. Private parties and groups sales are available by calling (405) 218-1000. For session times, dates and to buy tickets online, visit DowntownInDecember.com.
- * **Wimgo Holidays on the Canal** offers free adventure cruises on a Bricktown Water Taxi. All ages will enjoy a fun-filled float down the beautifully-adorned Bricktown canal. Ride free from 6 - 9:30 p.m. every Thursday through Sunday, Nov. 25 – Dec. 18. Participants can board the boats on Mickey Mantle Drive across from RedHawks Field.
- * **The Devon Energy Holiday River Parade** will light up the Oklahoma River on Friday, Nov. 25. Enjoy music, entertainment, a spectacular fireworks display and more than 20 boats as they parade the river decorated in holiday lights. Viewing areas are located at Regatta Park and Wiley Post Park. Gates open at 4 p.m. and the parade starts at 6 p.m.
- * Downtown in December invites holiday visitors and families to enjoy four Sundays of culture, art, history and music during the **Oklahoma City Community Foundation's Free Museum Sundays**. Beginning Nov. 27, two of four participating Downtown museums will be open with free admission from 1 – 6 p.m. each Sunday.
 - Nov. 27 - Oklahoma City Museum of Art (415 Couch Drive) & American Banjo Museum (9 E. Sheridan)
 - Dec. 4 - American Banjo Museum & Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum (620 N. Harvey)
 - Dec. 11 – OKC National Memorial and Museum & OKC Museum of Art
 - Dec. 18 - Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum (1400 Classen Drive - 13th & Shartel)
- * **OneMain Financial's Bricktown Canal Lights**, will brighten your stroll as you enjoy the sights and attractions of Bricktown. All ages are invited to join us at 5:15 p.m. on Nov. 19 as OneMain Financial flips the switch to light up the Bricktown Canal for the holiday season. Guests will enjoy live musical entertainment by an Oklahoma City Philharmonic Brass Quintet, complimentary hot cocoa and movie popcorn, and loyalty cup and movie ticket giveaways from Harkins Theatres.
- * See the twinkling, light-draped buildings of Automobile Alley from a new perspective at **Automobile Alley Lights on Broadway**. Take a beautifully-lit stroll or hop in the car and cruise past some of downtown's most historic buildings. Visit fine restaurants and shops as you take in the holiday cheer. Automobile Alley Lights on Broadway runs Nov. 25 – Jan. 1 between NW 4th and NW 10th Street along Broadway Avenue.

- * Whether running or walking, skipping or hopping, the entire family will enjoy some holiday fun at the **SandRidge Santa Run** on Saturday, Dec. 4. The SandRidge Santa Run includes a 5K run that begins at 9 a.m. at Leadership Square (211 N Robinson) followed by the Santa Claus Kid's Dash at 9:30 a.m. and the one-mile Fun Run at 10 a.m. Registration is open now through race day. Pre-register prior to Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. for \$25. After Nov. 30, register for \$30 at the packet pick up, on Friday, Dec. 3 from noon to 6 p.m. at Schlegel's Bicycles, 900 N Broadway Ave., or on race day at Leadership Square between 7 and 8:30 a.m. The one-mile Fun Run is \$5 for kids 12 and under and \$10 for adults. There is no charge for the Kid's Dash for children eight years old or younger. Participants can register online at DowntownInDecember.com. There will be cash prizes for competitors in the costume contest and a free youth health fair that includes information on nutrition, exercise and healthy living, plus healthy giveaways.
- * Say hello to Santa as he cruises around downtown! **Sonic Segway Santa** will visit downtown events on his Segway personal transport scooter. Santa will spread holiday cheer to all as he gives out special giveaways and treats. Watch for tweets from @DowntownOKCinc to find out where and when to get extra special prizes from Santa.
- * Nearly 2 million LEGO bricks and elements will make up the second annual **OK Cityscape**. OK Cityscape is presented at a kids' eye view, brought to life with lights, sounds effects and animatronics. The 2011 display brings a fun alien invasion to Oklahoma City, complete with spaceships, extraterrestrials, and a host of special effects. A Kids Construction Zone also allows kids to build their own creations. Proceeds from the exhibit go to Oklahoma City Educare, a flagship early childhood education center. Located in Automobile Alley at 1100 N Broadway, the exhibit will be open from Nov. 19 – Dec. 31; Monday - Saturday from noon - 8 p.m. and Sundays from noon - 6 p.m.
- * Visit the **OG&E Garden Lights and Free Crystal Bridge Sundays** and rediscover the heart of the city. Visitors of all ages are invited to take a stroll through the renovated and beautifully illuminated Myriad Gardens each night during Downtown in December and enjoy a free tour through the newly enhanced Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory each Sunday between Nov. 27 and Jan. 1 (including Christmas Day) from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- * Come to Downtown in December and keep your eyes peeled for Phil the Penguin. He'll be tweeting his location from @DowntownOKCinc and handing out free tickets to **Chesapeake Energy's "The Christmas Show" sponsored by the Oklahoma Gazette, an OKC Philharmonic production.**
- * Celebrate the holidays at downtown OKC's oldest hotel. The **Skirvin Holiday Celebration** will offer guests high tea, brunch and a gingerbread mansion display throughout the season. More details to come!

Downtown in December is organized by Downtown Oklahoma City, Inc. and sponsored by Devon Energy. For more information and a complete schedule of activities, visit DowntowninDecember.com.

###

Downtown OKC, Inc. is a non-profit organization that promotes and markets downtown Oklahoma City in conjunction with numerous downtown stakeholders. DOKC also manages the Business Improvement District and holds annual events such as Downtown in December and Downtown Dash. For more information, visit downtownokc.com.