



For Immediate Release

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Holiday Magic to Arrive in Bicentennial Park

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Join Mayor Michael B. Coleman and the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department to celebrate the holiday season with the *Grand Illumination* of the Scioto Mile on Friday, December 4 in Bicentennial Park. Activities begin at 5:00 p.m. with the lighting ceremony at 6:00 p.m.

Nothing captures the spirit of the season more than the sound of singing children. Traditional carols performed by the Columbus Children’s Choir will fill the air as you stroll through the park and take part in a variety of holiday activities. Look for juggling elves, barnyard friends, and Clara with her Nutcracker Prince from BalletMet’s annual holiday production. Stop by the North Pole Tinkershop to create holiday crafts with Columbus Children’s Theatre, Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, Girl Scout Cadette Troop 2150, McKnight Outdoor Education Center, OSU Urban Arts Space, POINT, and the Recreation & Parks Arts Committee.

In the spirit of giving, attendees can support the Empty Bowls project by purchasing a piece of handcrafted pottery and receiving a bowl of hearty chicken and dumpling soup compliments of Milestone 229. Cookies, compliments of Cheryl’s, and hot chocolate will also be available. All proceeds benefit the Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

Join Mayor Coleman, City Council President / Mayor-elect Andrew Ginther, Recreation and Parks Director Tony Collins, and ABC 6 / Fox 28 as they flip the switch and illuminate the Scioto Mile. Following the lighting ceremony, children are invited to visit with Santa and enjoy live holiday music from the SupaFun Band– a group of merry, musical elves that is sure to delight audiences of all ages.

In keeping with the city’s green initiatives, all seasonal decorations feature energy efficient LED lighting, including more than 250,000 LED lights on 150 trees. The Scioto Mile Fountain presented by the American Electric Power Foundation will come alive for the holiday season with festive video projections and illuminated spheres suspended from each of the five fountain halos. The lights will twinkle in Bicentennial Park and along the Scioto Mile until January 10, 2016.

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The event is free to the public. Complimentary parking is available at COSI by printing the voucher on www.SciotoMile.com; entry between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. until the lot is full.

Evening Schedule:

Activities | 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Lighting Ceremony | 6:00 p.m.

SupaFun Band | 6:15 p.m.

Location:

Bicentennial Park, 233 Civic Center Drive, Columbus, OH 43215

The Grand Illumination ceremony is produced by the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and made possible through the generous support of our sponsors: The Scioto Mile Endowment Fund: Columbus Downtown Development Corporation, ABC 6/FOX 28, Sunny 95 (94.7FM), Milestone 229 and Cheryl's.

Participating organizations include: BalletMet, Bring the Farm to You, Columbus Children's Theatre, Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, Girl Scout Cadette Troop 2150, HERO USA, Mad River Mountain, McKnight Outdoor Education Center, Mobile City Hall, OSU Urban Arts Space, POINT, and the Recreation & Parks Arts Committee.