

# 2024 Community Partner Fall Events

## Durham Museum

### **Beyond Combat: World War I Through the Lens of “Doc” Cook**

*Now – January 12, all day*

*Beyond Combat: World War I Through the Lens of "Doc" Cook* is a temporary exhibition developed by The Durham Museum. The exhibit also plans to feature loans from fellow institutions including the editor of Camp Dodger Lieutenant Laurence Fairall's uniform, copies of Camp Dodger and trench art (decorated artillery shells). The display will include a small theater area featuring additional images in which guests are invited to linger and immerse themselves in the 313th Engineers' experience. Included in admission.

### **What happened to the Caboose?**

*November 23, 10am-12pm*

For almost a century-and-a-half, the caboose was a staple of most trains. This railcar was prominently featured at the back of the train, and it served as the crew quarters for many railway workers, including the conductor. But by the 1980s, the caboose became obsolete thanks to new technologies like FRED, the Flashing Read End Device. Join one of The Durham Museum's docents, Bob McCoy, down at trackside as he highlights the museum's caboose and FRED, and tells their stories. Free for members; Regular admission for non-members.

### **Celebrate at the Platform**

*November 23 and December 14, 10am-12pm*

Stop by The Platform, the museum's interactive play space, and celebrate the holidays! Each date will have a special craft or activity and feature related photos from the Photo Archive for a bit of a history lesson while you celebrate. November 23: Thanksgiving; December 14: Las Posedes. Included in admission.

### **Coming Home for the Holidays**

*November 25, 10:30am-2pm*

Let's go to the movies! The Durham Museum is partnering with Film Streams to host a screening of the hit 2009 film *Julie & Julia* on October 10. Event will include a pre-screening chat with The Durham Museum staff about some of the important local figures in Omaha's culinary history, as featured in our local focus exhibition, *Cream of the Crop*, alongside *Julia Child: A Recipe for Life*. [Purchase tickets here.](#)

### **Museum Live!**

*November 25; December 2, 9, 10am, [Online](#)*

Nov. 18: **Thanksgiving** 🍂🍊 The museum will discuss train travel during the holidays, including what a good meal on the train would cost! Professor Durham introduces a great book about the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. Don't miss these topics and much more.

Nov. 25: **Traditions** 🎄 Get a sneak peek at this year's Great Hall Christmas Tree and learn about the long history of this tradition. They will cover a wide range of cultural traditions in this episode, too!

## Durham Museum cont..

### Visit Santa's Cabin

November 29 – December 22, [various days and times](#)

Are your kids ready to share their carefully curated list with Santa? During Christmas at Union Station presented by FNBO, they'll be able to have a magical visit with our jolly pal from the North Pole in his cozy cabin retreat. Plan a visit and see the big guy before it's too late to get on the nice list! Children can choose to sit with Santa or give him a call on our old-fashioned telephone (apt for a history museum, don't you think? 😊). If using the phone, Santa's elves will be at the switchboard to make sure you get connected to the big guy himself. 📞 Kids can drop off their letters to Santa, too.

### Christmas at Union Station Tree Lighting Ceremony

November 29, 4-8pm, Tree lighting will take place at about 7PM.

Enjoy loads of entertainment, including:

- Live music from [Camille Metoyer Moten](#)
- A performance by [Bellevue Little Theater](#)
- Cookie decorating
- Scavenger hunt and holiday crafts
- Plus, Santa himself will make for a fun evening! Visit him in his cabin
- Explore [The Lost World of Dragons](#), a family-friendly exhibition

*Due to limited capacity, advanced registration is highly encouraged. Reserve your free tickets by calling Sydney Holmes at 402.444.5071 x521*

### Holiday Concert Series

November 30 – December 21, [various day and times](#)

Enjoy some of the area's most beautiful holiday music under the glow of Omaha's official Christmas tree. Talented local entertainers perform as part of the holiday concert series. Christmas at Union Station events are free for museum members; regular admission rates apply for non-members.

### Log Cabin Christmas

November 30 – December 28

Visit our historic log cabin replica during Christmas at Union Station presented by FNBO for a special look at how pioneers on the Great Plains celebrated the holidays. A docent will be present, from 10AM-Noon, to show guests how the pioneers decorated, celebrated and gave gifts during their difficult winters on the prairie.

### Museum Store Sunday

December 1, 12-4pm

Shop with purpose and save 25% during Museum Store Sunday at The Durham Museum! Pop into the Gilbert M. and Martha H. Hitchcock Museum Shop to find a Christmas gift and maybe even a treat for yourself. By shopping with us you support the museum, and as a thank you, we are extending our employee/volunteer discount of 25% off to you during Museum Store Sunday. But wait, there's more! Take your museum shop receipt to our old-fashioned Soda Fountain and receive a "sweet" 25% off your order.

## Durham Museum cont..

### Family Nights with Santa

December 3, 10, 17, 5-8pm

Plan your family's visit now to enjoy all the evening has to offer:

- Enjoy Santa's Cabin Experience where Jolly Saint Nick himself awaits to hear your Christmas wish lists 🧑‍🎄
- Create a holiday craft at the Craft Corner 🎨
- Enjoy live performances by local choirs and ensembles 🎵
- Let it snow! Close the night out at 7:50PM with an indoor winter wonderland "snowfall" ❄️

### Holiday Cultural Festival

December 6, 4-9pm

Holiday greetings from around the world! Learn how the world celebrates this joyful time of year during the Holiday Cultural Festival. More than 40 local cultural organizations proudly display their crafts and traditional dress, while musicians and dancers perform throughout the evening. Delicious food and unique gifts from around the globe will be available for purchase. Admission is free to museum members; [regular admission rates apply for non-members.](#)

### Noon Year's Eve Celebration

December 31, 10am-2pm

Children of all ages will enjoy this fun-packed bash with live music from Dino O'Dell and the T-Rex All-Stars, special crafts and activities. Ring in the noon year in your handmade party hat while enjoying the celebratory bubble wrap stomp and a spectacular balloon drop at noon in the Suzanne and Walter Scott Great Hall. *Due to limited capacity, advanced registration is highly encouraged. Reserve your free ticket by calling Sydney Holmes on December 2, 9am at 402.444.5071 x521.*

## Fontenelle Forest

### Twilight Trekking

November 30, 4:30-6:30pm

Are you an adventurous night owl looking to explore new trails? Join us in this unique opportunity to see the Forest at night! Don't miss your chance to learn about the nocturnal creatures who call the Forest home while exploring new trails. This hike is geared toward intermediate to experienced hikers (ages 16+) and will traverse at least two miles of moderate to difficult terrain, so please come prepared with appropriate clothing and gear. Our educators recommend the following, as applicable: long pants, tall socks, water bottle, bug spray, winter coat, scarf, and/or gloves. Please check the weather as you are preparing for this event – safety of our guests is our top priority. \$10 for members; \$18 for non-members.

### Winter Season Celebration

December 8, 1-4pm

Don't let the cold keep you indoors—Fontenelle Forest's Winter Season Celebration is the perfect way to embrace the magic of winter in nature. From frosty walks to chilly outdoor adventures in Acorn Acres, we're encouraging the community to bundle up get outdoors this winter! *Free for members; daily admission for non-members.*

## Fontenelle Forest cont....

### Christmas Bird Count

*December 15, 8:30am-12:30pm*

Are you a beginning birder looking to improve your skills? Are you interested in citizen science? Join us at Fontenelle Forest and participate in the 125th Annual Christmas Bird Count! Join us on a naturalist-guided bird count on the trails or boardwalk near the Nature Center. We will be hiking snow or shine, so make sure you come dressed for the weather. We'll start with a brief history of the CBC, then hit the trails with a naturalist. Naturalists will lead hikes out to the Boardwalk or surrounding trails, but you can also opt to count birds inside by the bird feeders. We have binoculars available to borrow on a first-come, first-served basis, but we encourage you to bring your own. After the count is finished, there will be hot chocolate and coffee in the Forest Room. This is a family-friendly event that will have crafts and coloring pages for children. Free for members; daily admission for non-members

### Solstice + Equinox Celebrations

*December 21, 6:30-8:30pm*

Come celebrate the changing seasons of the Forest at our Solstice & Equinox events!

Each Solstice/Equinox Celebration will include a seasonal craft, a short hike, a bonfire with s'mores and an opportunity to learn more about the folklore that surrounds each of these astrological phenomena.

[Registration required](#). \$15 for members; \$25 for non-members.

## Lauritzen Gardens

### Christmas Spirits by Greg MacDonald and Mell Smith

*Now – January 2*

One-of-a-kind wood carved and hand-painted Santas and Christmas Spirits. Bark is gathered from fallen trees and all cracks, knots, etc. are incorporated into the design to give each piece its unique character. Included with gate admission or garden admission.

### Bright Nights

*November 23,24, 27, 29, 30; December 1, 6-23, 26-30, 5-8pm*

It's festive fun for everyone as foliage, flowers, and lights combine to make everything Merry & Bright!

See the indoor gardens glow. \$15+ tax for 13+, \$9 + tax for 3-12. Garden members receive 50% off discount tickets.

## Omaha Children's Museum

### Santa's Tinker Workshop

*December 13-15, all day*

Santa's elves need your help! It's close to Christmas, and there are so many toys still to make. Come join Santa's gang and explore all the tinkering that comes with making toys. Don't forget to take a cookie decorating break and read a story with Mrs. Claus. Santa will be here too for your own holiday requests. Included with admission.

### Bubbly New Year's Eve

*December 31, all day*

Don't let bed times burst your bubble! We are celebrating our New Year's Eve all day long. Put on some swag as you ring in the New Year with the Amazing Bubble Show, NYE crafts, characters, and bubble drops throughout the day. All activities included with admission, while supplies last. Included with admission.

## **Omaha Community Playhouse**

### **A Christmas Carol**

*November 24 & December 1, 6:30 pm*

The Omaha Community Playhouse is offering UNMC employees and students a discount to its upcoming show, "A Christmas Carol." The special rate is only offered for the November 24 and December 1 shows. Adult ticket, \$25; Student, \$20. To order tickets, call (402) 553- 0800 or visit the OCP box office. *This offer is not available online and seating is subject to availability, and not valid on previous purchases and may not be combined with other offers.*

## **The Rose Theater**

### **A Christmas Story: The Musical**

*December 6 -22, varying times*

Join Ralphie Parker on his quest for the Holy Grail of Christmas gifts – a Red Ryder air rifle. This musical adaptation of the beloved movie brings all the classic laughs of Flick getting his tongue stuck to a flagpole, Dad getting his special award, a disastrous visit to Santa and many more to life onstage. Bring your family together this winter to experience the universal triumphs of childhood as seen through the eyes of a very special nine-year old. Tickets start at \$32. Order online [here](#).