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**FACT SHEET**

**WHAT:** Gather 'round one of Chicago's most beloved holiday traditions 75 years in the making. The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago's *Christmas Around the World* and *Holidays of Light* exhibits open November 16, 2017 and run through January 7, 2018. More than 50 decorated trees and displays encircle a magnificent 45-foot-tall Grand Tree wrapped in 30,000 twinkling lights. Guests can also catch "snow" as it falls every 30 minutes inside the Museum's Rotunda.

Local volunteers from cultural organizations and Chicago's diverse communities beautifully decorate the surrounding trees and displays with hand-crafted ornaments and trinkets that honor holiday customs from around the world. New this year, guests will notice three additional trees in commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Christmas Around the World*: Assyria, Australia, and Nigeria.

*Holidays of Light*, now in its 23rd year, highlights the holidays that honor light or enlightenment with decorated vitrines containing symbolic objects that showcase these celebrations. *Holidays of Light* focuses on the traditions of the Chinese New Year, Diwali, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, Hanukkah, Visakha Puja Day, and St. Lucia Day. *Holidays of Light* is located among the trees throughout the Museum's Main Floor.

Guests can also enjoy lively performances from all corners of the globe during *Christmas Around the World* and *Holidays of Light*. Local cultural groups will perform native dances in the Museum's Main Auditorium inside the West Pavilion. Children can also meet Santa on select dates. A full schedule of performances and Santa meet-and-greets is available online at [msichicago.org/holiday](http://msichicago.org/holiday).

**WHEN:** Thursday, November 16, 2017 – Sunday, January 7, 2018

**WHERE:** 5700 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Ill., 60637

**COST:** *Christmas Around the World* and *Holidays of Light* are included in Museum Entry (\$18 for adults, \$11 for children ages 3-11), as are all performances.

Santa Claus will be at the Museum for photo opportunities with guests on November 18-19, 24-26, 30; December 1-3, 7-10, 14-17, and 21-23.

Cultural performances will take place November 18-19, 24-26; December 2-3, 9-10, and 16-17. Performances are included with Museum Entry.

**HOURS:** The Museum is open every day from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Museum will offer extended hours until 5:30 p.m. on the following days this holiday season: November 18-19, 24-26, December 2-3, 9-10, 16-23, and the 26-30. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

**WEBSITE:** Press information and photos located at [msichicago.org/press](http://msichicago.org/press).

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