



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2019

CONTACT:  
 Nicole Darling at 619-379-8377 or [ndarling@sandiego.gov](mailto:ndarling@sandiego.gov)

# **City of San Diego Kicks off Holiday Season with 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual December Nights**

**TWO-DAY FREE EVENT ATTRACTS MORE THAN 350,000 PEOPLE TO  
 PERFORMANCES, FOOD, MUSEUMS AND MORE IN BALBOA PARK**

SAN DIEGO – As the largest free community festival in San Diego, December Nights will again delight and impress visitors in Balboa Park this Friday, Dec. 6, from 3 - 11 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 7, from noon - 11 p.m. With a plethora of festive entertainment and twinkling light displays throughout the two-day event, attendees of all ages are welcome. On Friday, Mayor Kevin Faulconer will mark the 42<sup>nd</sup> year of this holiday celebration with a ceremonial lighting of the tree in the Spreckels Organ Pavilion at approximately 6 p.m.

**“For the past 42 years, San Diegans have welcomed in the holiday season by celebrating our city’s diversity during the December Nights festival in iconic Balboa Park,” said Mayor Kevin Faulconer. “I encourage all San Diegans to come out – rain or shine – to enjoy the lights, food, music and free museums on December 6 and 7.”**

During December Nights, five stages of entertainment will deliver musical acts and performances, including excerpts from San Diego Civic Youth Ballet’s Nutcracker and the high-stepping kickline of the City of San Diego’s Civic Dance Arts. The Spreckels Organ Pavilion stage comes to life with sounds of internationally renowned civic organist Raúl Prieto Ramírez playing traditional holiday music.

On both Friday and Saturday evenings, participating Balboa Park museums will open their doors free of charge to visitors from 5 - 9 p.m. Due to a seismic retrofit of the California Tower, the Museum of Man will not be open to the public.

Dazzling displays of lights will decorate Balboa Park landmarks including the Plaza de Panama and Botanical Building, courtesy of professional lighting designers and SDG&E, an event sponsor. Visitors can take a ride on the historic carousel, provided by The Friends of Balboa Park, and enjoy the many attractions at The Palisades Midway Carnival, with unlimited rides Saturday from noon - 5 p.m. for \$25.

Sample food from cultures around the world at the International Cottages' Christmas Festival. Featuring spirits from more than 20 countries, the International Spirits Garden has been expanded and relocated this year to the Federal Lawn next to the Comic-Con Museum. Locally crafted beer will also be available for purchase.

Because of the large crowds, visitors are encouraged to plan trips in advance and consider ridesharing. Both sides of Sixth Avenue near the Laurel Street Bridge are designated drop-off and pick-up locations. Paid parking spaces are available at the Inspiration Point lot on Park Boulevard. Limited free parking is available at City College and the San Diego Zoo lot. Shared mobility devices are not allowed inside the event, but parking areas for bicycles and scooters are available just outside Balboa Park.

Visitors may also consider using [public transit](#). Everyone is asked to be respectful of Balboa Park and its neighbors by disposing of trash and recyclables in designated containers. For maps, parking information, entertainment line-ups and more details, visit [www.DecemberNights.org](http://www.DecemberNights.org).

