TACOMA CITY THEATERS
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TACOMA CITY THEATERS INVITES COMMUNITY TO 81st ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING



Anticipated celebration features Sounds of the Season concert, A Magical Motown Christmas, and a new low-sensory Santa experience.

TACOMA, Wash., Tuesday, November 17, 2026 — Tacoma City Theaters and the City of Tacoma warmly invite residents and visitors to kick off the holiday season at the 81st annual Tacoma Holiday Tree Lighting. This free community celebration will take place on Saturday, Nov. 28, 2026, at Tacoma's historic Pantages Theater.

The free festivities begin at 4:30 p.m. with a new, low-sensory Santa Claus photo opportunity to provide a calm, accessible experience for children and families.

"It is an honor to be able to host this beloved celebration and bring the community together to kick off the season each year," said Erin Jepson, Tacoma City Theaters general manager. "I'm thrilled we're able to offer a low-sensory-friendly experience for our guests this year. We truly have something for everyone."

Also at 4:30 p.m., media partner and neighbor KNKX will open its studio doors at 930 Broadway for a free public tour featuring live music performed by the Kareem Kandi Orchestra.

At 5 p.m., the free community open house begins in the Pantages Theater lobby, featuring complimentary refreshments from Cafe Bostwick, continued free photos with Santa, and live entertainment from the JBLM Brass Quartet. Outside, the iconic Fisher Scones Truck will be selling delicious hot scones, and Seattle Men's Chorus will host a booth full of holiday fun.

The tree will be lit at 6 p.m. outside the Pantages Theater, followed by the annual community photo.

"We are honored to help bring one of Tacoma's most beloved holiday traditions to light up downtown once again," said Tacoma Venues & Events Director Adam Cook. "Supporting our community is at the core of TVE's work, and bringing joy to our neighbors through free events like these is one of the many ways we show it."

Surrounding the free tree lighting event are two ticketed events:

Tacoma Concert Band's Sounds of the Season holiday concert at 3 p.m. on Nov. 28, offering a joyous performance of timeless seasonal favorites and student collaborations as part of the Band's Side-by-Side community engagement initiative. Youth 18 and under are eligible for free admission by visiting or calling the Tacoma City Theaters Box Office.

After the tree lighting, tickets are available for purchase for guests to stay downtown for A Magical Motown Christmas at the Rialto Theater at 7:30 p.m.

Other festive Tacoma City Theaters offerings this holiday season include:

- Seattle Men's Chorus: Prance and Be Merry
- Symphony Tacoma: Holiday Favorites
- Puget Sound Revels: The Midwinter Revels
- Tacoma City Ballet: The Nutcracker.

A traditional Menorah lighting will also be held at the Pantages. More details will be available online in the coming days.

For information about these and other events, visit tacomacitytheaters.org.

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About Tacoma City Theaters
Tacoma City Theaters, owned by the City of Tacoma and managed by Legends Global, is home to the historic Pantages Theater, Rialto Theater, and Theatre on the Square. They host eight Resident Arts Organizations, enriching the community with presentations of a diverse schedule of performances, special events, and educational programs. The venues showcase live entertainment ranging from concerts and comedy to movie showings, original theater, spoken word, and performances by international touring artists and productions. (TacomaCityTheaters.org)

About Tacoma Venues & Events
The City of Tacoma enhances quality of life for the community and drives economic vitality through its premier venues, special events, and diverse entertainment opportunities. Tacoma Venues & Events oversees these renowned venues, which include the Tacoma Dome, one of the world's largest wood-domed structures with flexible seating configurations ranging from 5,000-21,000; the Greater Tacoma Convention Center, artful and modern with its trademark glass walls and 119,000 square feet of event space; Cheney Stadium, home of the Tacoma Rainiers; and the historic Pantages and Rialto Theaters and Theater on the Square.