

https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/the-city/sf-holiday-events-where-when-to-be-festive-in-the-city/article_1cb1175c-8990-11ee-a99a-1fe899de7358.html

CENTERPIECE

SPOTLIGHT

Your guide to keeping the holidays merry and bright in The City

By James Salazar | Examiner staff writer |
Nov 24, 2023



Holiday festivities in San Francisco include Macy's Great Tree at Union Square, as well as an ice rink that will remain open into the new year.

Craig Lee/The Examiner

City officials and local organizations have come up with plenty of ways to keep residents' days merry and bright well into the new year.

Here are five events happening The City that will keep you entertained throughout December.

Macy's Holiday Celebrations at Union Square, now through the New Year

Macy's Great Tree has already been lit up while skaters zip around the ice rink next door well into the new year.. Santa Claus will return to Macy's Union Square store on Friday, Nov. 24. Reservations are necessary and can be made online.

Additionally, the store's windows are filled with puppies and kittens who are ready for adoption from the San Francisco SPCA. They will be on display until Sunday, Dec.31.

Let's Glow SF, Dec. 1

Billed as the country's largest holiday projection arts festival, "Let's Glow SF" will transform downtown San Francisco into a winter wonderland through Dec. 10.

High-tech projects and lasers will display art designs on the outside walls of five buildings: the Ferry Building, the LED panel at the top of Salesforce Tower, Hobart Building, One Bush, the Pacific Coast Stock Exchange and the Landing at Leidesdorff.

Stilt-walking performers will entertain crowds in between the projections. Additionally, holiday-themed food and drinks, such as ube hot cocoa and smores, will be served on the first night to kick off the celebration.

Entwined: Elder Mother, Dec. 7

The San Francisco Parks Alliance and the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department are partnering with Bay Area artist Charles Gadeken for "Entwined: Elder Mother," a public art installation that will take over Golden Gate Park's John. F. Kennedy Promenade and Peacock Meadow.

The piece is a 30-foot metal sculpted tree with a 25-foot canopy. Six QR codes spread across the installation will allow attendees to control the lighting patterns of various sculptures. Additionally, monthly live programming will be hosted in conjunction with the installation, beginning with the holiday tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 7 at McLaren Lodge.

Winter Walk in Union Square, Dec. 15-24

One of Union Square's most festive traditions is returning to Stockton Street to spread 10 days worth of holiday cheer.

For this year's event, green fake grass has been swapped for decorative glaciers, penguins and polar bears. Visitors will be able to walk down the "Ornament Trail," which is made up of large ornaments designed by local artists.

An indoor holiday marketplace curated by Sunset Mercantile will feature a rotating selection of more than 60 local vendors daily from The City and the Bay Area, as well as arts and crafts along with additional activities.

Organizers will also be partnering with Off the Grid, which will supply the event with a plethora of food trucks, as well as bars for specialty cocktails and beverages. The event will also have a visit from Santa Claus, as well as opportunities to interact with, donate to and adopt pets from the San Francisco SPCA.

Santa's Skivvies Run, Dec. 16

The annual holiday underwear fun run/walk and fundraiser benefiting the San Francisco AIDS Foundation returns for another spin through the Castro neighborhood.

Participants are encouraged to dress in their skivvies, festive holiday attire or whatever makes them comfortable as they traverse through the one-mile course. The event will also include Santa's Village, an award ceremony, a runway and a drag show.

James Salazar
