

**Amanda Hof, Executive Director, Visit Howard County**  
(410) 313-1904, [Amanda@howardcountytourism.com](mailto:Amanda@howardcountytourism.com)

**Phillip Dodge, Executive Director, Downtown Columbia Partnership**  
(443) 539-8468, [Phillip@dtcpartnership.com](mailto:Phillip@dtcpartnership.com)

## **Visit Howard County**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Visit Howard County and Downtown Columbia Partnership Launch 'December in Downtown Columbia'**

**Highlights:**

- Symphony of Lights returns for its 26th year in Columbia
- Midnight at 7: Fireworks and & Fun New Years' Eve celebration
- December 1 Kick-Off at Symphony of Lights Festive Families walk-thru event

**[DecemberDowntownColumbia.com](http://DecemberDowntownColumbia.com)**

**Join in the festivities and family fun in Downtown Columbia during December!**

*Ellicott City, MD (November 2019)* - Visit Howard County in partnership with Downtown Columbia Partnership is thrilled to announce a month-long celebration of the season with December in Downtown Columbia. Events are scheduled throughout the month of December in Downtown Columbia from holiday craft festivals, a Winter Wonderland, theatrical and musical performances, New Year's Eve celebrations, to the 26th Annual Symphony of Lights. Howard County Executive Calvin Ball will kick-off December in Downtown Columbia at the \*Symphony of Lights Festive Families walk-thru event on Dec. 1 at 5:30 PM.

*\*Symphony of Lights Festive Families walk-thru event requires paid registration - \$12 online advance, \$15 at the gate, ages 3 and under are free,*  
<https://www.merriweatherlights.com/specialty-nights>

For more information on upcoming events during December in Downtown Columbia, go to [VisitHowardCounty.com](http://VisitHowardCounty.com) or call at (410) 313-1900.

"From the kick-off of the Symphony of Lights to New Year's Eve Fireworks, Downtown Columbia is the place to be for families, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to gather and celebrate the season with craft festivals, artist performances and our very own Winter Wonderland," said Howard County Executive Calvin Ball. "Please join us in Downtown Columbia this December and light up your holidays with joy and fun."

"Visit Howard County is promoting Holiday events across Howard County," said Barbara Nicklas, Visit Howard County Board Chair. "December in Downtown Columbia will make it easy for visitors and residents alike to know all that is happening in Downtown Columbia this year."

"We are thrilled to be working in partnership with Downtown Columbia Partnership this year to promote Downtown Columbia as a Holiday hotspot," said Amanda Hof, Executive Director for Visit Howard County.

"Downtown Columbia is quickly growing into a bold and vibrant downtown and there are more events and activities than ever before, said Phillip Dodge, Executive Director for the Downtown Columbia Partnership. "We're thrilled to partner with the County Executive and Visit Howard County to present a unified marketing campaign for all of the exciting things to do in December in Downtown Columbia."

## **Participating Businesses and Organizations include:**

Candlelight Concert Society  
Columbia Art Center  
Columbia Association  
Columbia Festival of the Arts  
The Columbia Orchestra  
Columbia Pro Cantare  
Cured/18th & 21st  
Downtown Columbia Partnership  
Historic Oakland Manor  
Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center  
Howard County Arts Council  
Howard County Library System  
Inner Arbor Trust  
The Mall in Columbia  
Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods  
Rep Stage in residence at Howard Community College  
The Sundry  
Toby's Dinner Theatre

View events and most up to date list of participating businesses and organizations at [DecemberDowntownColumbia.com](http://DecemberDowntownColumbia.com)

### **Hashtag**

#DecemberDTC

### **Tweets**

Join in the festivities and family fun in Downtown Columbia during December at [DecemberDowntownColumbia.com](http://DecemberDowntownColumbia.com)

### **About Visit Howard County**

Visit Howard County (501c6 not-for-profit) is recognized by Howard County Government and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development as the official Destination Marketing Organization for Howard County, Maryland and funded by a legislated 2% of the county hotel tax, allocated through Howard County Government. Visit Howard County's mission is to be the lead organization to market and develop the County as a premier leisure and business travel destination. [www.VisitHowardCounty.com](http://www.VisitHowardCounty.com)

### **About Downtown Columbia Partnership**

Downtown Columbia Partnership proudly serves a new urban district that embraces its future as an exceptional business, residential, retail, and cultural destination. We promote the growth and vitality of this community and its businesses, implement beautification projects, support transportation initiatives, and host events that bring people together. <http://www.dtcpartnership.com/>

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