

# The Wanamaker Light Show & Dickens Village



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## Philadelphia Visitor Center Announces 2025 Schedule for Wanamaker Light Show and Dickens Village, Presented by PECO

*Thanks to the support of thousands, holiday traditions return with daily performances of the historic Wanamaker Organ and expanded partnerships activating the Wanamaker Building*

**PHILADELPHIA (November 3, 2025)** – The [Philadelphia Visitor Center](#) (Visitor Center) today announced the official schedule for the 2025 season of the Wanamaker Light Show and Dickens Village—now presented by PECO—marking the triumphant return of two of Philadelphia’s most beloved holiday traditions. After months of planning and fundraising, the lights will shine once again beginning Friday, November 28, 2025, in the historic Wanamaker Building at 13th and Market Streets.

Thousands of Philadelphians shared their memories of the Wanamaker Light Show and Dickens Village, inspiring a growing coalition of partners to bring them back. Following Macy’s closure of its Center City Philadelphia location earlier this year, the Visitor Center, in close partnership with Wanamaker Building owner TF Cornerstone and a network of civic partners, came together to steward the future of the cherished experiences, which have drawn hundreds of thousands of visitors each holiday season and defined Philadelphia’s holiday spirit since the 1950s.

PECO’s leadership as Presenting Sponsor made the return of the Light Show and Dickens Village possible, reaffirming the company’s century-long commitment to the people and traditions of Philadelphia. Also joining as a Major Supporting Sponsor is PowerPay, a Wayne-based, AI-driven platform providing point-of-sale consumer financing that is passionate about giving back to the communities and families it serves. Additional supporters making the 2025 Wanamaker Light Show and Dickens Village possible include the William Penn Foundation, Connelly Foundation, Visit PA, IBEW Local 98, Macy’s Studios, Visit Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia Parking Authority, the Wyncote Foundation, Commodore Creative (Creative Producer), Signature 57, Roberts Events Group, Reading Terminal Market, and The Friends of the Wanamaker Organ.



“This holiday season will be a homecoming for the Light Show, thanks to the more than a thousand Philadelphians who came together and decided these traditions were important for our city,” said **Kathryn Ott Lovell, President & CEO, Philadelphia Visitor Center**. “Thanks to the generosity of our partners, sponsors, and neighbors, Philadelphians will once again be able to gather inside the Grand Court, hear the Wanamaker Organ, and watch the lights dance to life. We’re proud to open the amazing Wanamaker Building to all to create the next generation of holiday memories.”

“PECO is proud to power the moments that matter most to our communities,” said **David Vahos, PECO President & CEO**. “By helping bring back the Wanamaker Light Show and Dickens Village, we will help ensure these iconic holiday experiences will be free and accessible to everyone. This is our gift to the city we call home.”

“As someone born and raised in Philadelphia, I grew up taking the L into the city just to see the Wanamaker Light Show and Dickens Village. It’s always been part of what makes Philadelphia so special,” said **Mike Petrakis, CEO and Founder of PowerPay**. “Now, bringing my own kids here has become a family tradition, and I want the next generation to experience that same joy. PowerPay is proud to help keep these memories alive and the city’s holiday spirit shining bright for years to come.”

“The Wanamaker Light Show and Dickens Village aren’t just holiday displays—they’re icons of Pennsylvania tourism and the heart of Philadelphia’s Christmas season,” said **Anne Ryan, Deputy Secretary of Tourism, Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development**. “For generations, families have come from across the Commonwealth and beyond to see the lights dance and the story come alive. They’ve drawn millions of visitors, filled our hotels and restaurants, and become a tradition passed down like an heirloom—one that reminds us every year why Philadelphia shines brightest at Christmas.”

“The Wanamaker Holiday Light Show has brought magic to Philadelphia for nearly 70 years, and it means a lot for us to help keep this tradition alive. Every year, our members at IBEW Local 98 pour their hearts into setting up this display—not just as electricians, but as Philadelphians who grew up watching those lights shine. It’s an honor to give back to the city we love and to help make the holidays brighter for everyone,” said **Mark Lynch Jr., Business Manager, IBEW Local #98**.

## **Schedule & Ticketing**

### The Wanamaker Light Show

The Wanamaker Light Show, presented in the Grand Court of the Wanamaker Building, will be offered free of charge and open to the public throughout the season. The Light Show features thousands of LED lights synchronized to holiday music and narration, accompanied during select shows by the Wanamaker Organ, performed live by Grand Court Organist Peter Richard Conte and his highly talented assistant organists.

November 28 - December 23, 2025

- Open Daily: 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.
  - Closed Monday, December 1 - Tuesday, December 2
  - Closed Monday, December 8 - Tuesday, December 9
- The Light Show runs every hour on the half hour: 12:30 p.m.; 1:30 p.m.; 2:30 p.m.; 3:30 p.m.; 4:30 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.; and last show at 6:30 p.m.
- Hear the historic Wanamaker Organ LIVE:
  - Wanamaker Organ “live finale” will be included in the Light Show at 12:30 p.m.; 1:30 p.m.; 4:30 p.m.; and 5:30 p.m., (except Sundays).
  - Wanamaker Organ concerts will follow the Light Show twice per day, approximately 12:45 p.m. and 4:45 p.m., (except Sundays).

December 24, 2025

- 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- The Light Show runs every hour on the half hour: 12:30 p.m.; 1:30 p.m.; 2:30 p.m.; and last show at 3:30 p.m.
- Hear the historic Wanamaker Organ LIVE:
  - Wanamaker Organ “live finale” will be included in the Light Show at 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.
  - Wanamaker Organ concert will follow the Light Show at approximately 12:45 p.m.

### Dickens Village

Dickens Village, the immersive walk-through experience inspired by Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol,” will reopen on the 3rd floor of the Wanamaker Building. The Dickens Village experience will once again conclude with the opportunity to share Christmas wishes and take photos with Santa Claus.

November 28 - December 23, 2025

- Open Daily: 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. (Last entry 5:30 p.m.)
  - Closed Monday, December 1 - Tuesday, December 2
  - Closed Monday, December 8 - Tuesday, December 9

December 24, 2025

- 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. (Last entry 1:30 p.m.)

To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors, FREE, TIMED-ENTRY TICKETS will be REQUIRED for admission to Dickens Village. Tickets will be released five days ahead of each date.

Tickets will be available for reservation beginning at 12:01 a.m. Monday, November 24, 2025 at [phlvisitorcenter.com/savethelightshow](http://phlvisitorcenter.com/savethelightshow).

## Expanded Partnerships and Holiday Activations at the Wanamaker Building

In addition to the return of the Wanamaker Light Show and Dickens Village, the Visitor Center announced a series of new partnerships that will activate the Wanamaker Building and elevate the visitor experience throughout the holiday season.

### Shops at The Wanamaker Light Show, by the makers of Christmas Village in Philadelphia

In partnership with Philadelphia's beloved Christmas Village, this new indoor holiday market will debut inside the Wanamaker Building Grand Court from Black Friday, November 28, through Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025. The curated market complements The Wanamaker Light Show and Dickens Village, featuring artisan gifts, handmade goods, and festive finds in a warm, holiday setting.

"When we heard about the Philadelphia Visitor Center's initiative to bring the Light Show back, we didn't think twice—we were happy to be part of this effort. Artists, designers, and crafters will fill the space with life beyond Light Show hours and offer unique gifts and art in a heated space of traditional Philadelphia Holiday enjoyment," said **Dr. Thomas Bauer, Organizer of Christmas Village in Philadelphia.**

**Operating hours:** Open every day 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Special holiday hours for Christmas Eve (December 24), 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Dec 1-2 and 8-9.

### Holly and Humbug! by FCM Hospitality

FCM Hospitality will debut a new festive pop-up experience titled "Holly and Humbug!" offering guests a counter-service holiday food and beverage destination inside the Wanamaker Building. The activation will include craft beers, seasonal cocktails, warm winter fare, and a cozy indoor setting for families and friends to gather while waiting to see the Light Show.

Avram Hornik, owner of FCM Hospitality, said: "We are honored to be a part of continuing this tradition for all members of the Philadelphia community, and are grateful for the partnership of the PVC. We hope everyone will come see this special attraction and enjoy the experience. My team has worked hard to provide food and beverage that will complement the magic of the show."

**Operating hours:** Open every day 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Special holiday hours for Christmas Eve (December 24), 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Dec 1-2 and 8-9.

**Full menu included below.**

These new offerings are designed to complement the traditional experiences while creating a full-building holiday destination in the heart of Center City—a revival made possible through PECO's leadership and the community's collective spirit.

## **Continuing the Campaign to “Save the Light Show”**

As the Wanamaker Light Show and Dickens Village return in 2025, the Philadelphia Visitor Center encourages guests to be part of sustaining these cherished holiday traditions by supporting them directly during their visit. Donation stations will be located throughout the Wanamaker Building, making it easy for guests to contribute on-site. Every donation helps ensure the continued presentation of the Light Show, Dickens Village, and the ongoing care of the historic Wanamaker Organ. Visitors can also contribute online at [SaveTheLightShow.org](https://www.savethelightshow.org).

The Philadelphia Visitor Center thanks its generous supporters and sponsors for helping to make the 2025 presentation of the Wanamaker Light Show and Dickens Village possible.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor PECO and Major Supporting Sponsor PowerPay, whose leadership and generosity helped bring back one of Philadelphia’s most beloved traditions in response to the outpouring of public support. Additional thanks to the William Penn Foundation, the Connelly Foundation, Visit PA, IBEW Local 98, Macy’s Studios, Visit Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia Parking Authority, the Wyncote Foundation, Commodore Creative (Creative Producer), Signature 57, Roberts Events Group, Reading Terminal Market, The Friends of the Wanamaker Organ, and the 1,000+ Philadelphians who donated at SaveTheLightShow.org. Their commitment to preserving and activating these iconic Philadelphia holiday traditions is truly admirable.

## **The Wanamaker Light Show & Dickens Village in 2026 and Beyond**

Over the last several months of planning to bring the Light Show and Dickens Village back, it became clear to the Visitor Center organizers that the cost to provide these attractions for free to the public was much greater than originally anticipated. The total budget to install and prepare the Light Show and Dickens Village, and to have the attractions accessible to the public on a daily basis, is approximately \$600,000.

The success of the Save the Light Show fundraising campaign has enabled the presentation of both of these attractions during the 2025 season.

Due to planned construction within the Wanamaker Building, the Light Show and Dickens Village will be paused during the 2026 and 2027 holiday seasons. However, the Philadelphia Visitor Center remains deeply committed to preserving these iconic attractions and is in conversation with building owner TF Cornerstone to continue these holiday traditions at the Wanamaker Building in future years.

Fundraising efforts will continue, with the goal of ensuring the long-term viability of the Light Show and Dickens Village. The continued enthusiasm and support from the community are vital to sustaining these beloved Philadelphia traditions.

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**About the Philadelphia Visitor Center**

The Philadelphia Visitor Center connects visitors to memorable, authentic, and fun Philly experiences at our four visitor center locations: 6th and Market, City Hall, Love Park, and the Parkway. It facilitates the operation of the Independence Visitor Center, the primary point of orientation for Independence National Historical Park and the official visitor center of the Philadelphia region, including Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties. PVCC also operates the Philly PHLASH seasonal public transit service, and The Liberty View, a private event space at The Independence Visitor Center overlooking the Liberty Bell and Independence Mall. For more information, please visit [www.phlvisitorcenter.com](http://www.phlvisitorcenter.com).

## Holly and Humbug! By FCM Hospitality | Full Menu

### FOOD MENU

Kettle Corn \$9  
(vg-gf)

Bavarian Pretzel \$12  
Sea Salt, Maple and Cinnamon Sugar  
(vg)

Lattice-Cut Potato Chips \$9  
Roasted Garlic and Truffle French Onion Dip

Mini Snack Board \$16  
English Cheddar, Pretzel Bites, Apple Slices, Charcuterie, Cornichons, Grapes, Whole Grain Mustard

Baby Kale Salad \$13  
Pomegranate, Goat Cheese, Spiced Pecan, Apple Cider Vinaigrette  
(vg-gf)

White Cheddar Mac & Cheese \$11  
In a Bowl Or Cone with Garlic Breadcrumbs, Chives  
(vg)  
Add: Bacon \$2, Pulled Pork \$5, Turkey \$6, Holiday Ham \$4, Mushroom \$3

Mashed Potatoes \$11  
In a Bowl Or Cone with Gravy  
Gravy  
(vg)  
Add: Bacon \$2, Pulled Pork \$5, Turkey \$6, Holiday Ham \$4, Mushroom \$3

Smoked Turkey Leg \$16  
Maple Chipotle Glaze  
(gf)

Dessert Cup \$12  
Fresh Strawberries, Pound Cake, Warm Nutella  
(vg)

Milk & Cookies \$16  
Chocolate Chip Cookies, Chocolate Mug, Vanilla Creme  
(vg)

Peppermint Bark Swirl Brownie \$8  
Whipped Cream  
(vg)

### BEVERAGES

Spiced Sangria \$13  
Red Wine, Brandy, Apple Cider, Cinnamon, Lemon

Santa's Little Helper \$13  
Bourbon, Maple, Fresh Lemon

Cran-Pearry Sauce \$13  
Pear Vodka, Lemon, Cinnamon, Honey, Cranberry

Mistletoe Margarita \$13  
Tequila, Orange Liqueur, Cranberry, Lime, Rosemary

Banana Bread \$13  
Banana Vodka, Frangelico, Maple, Cream

S'mores \$13  
Vanilla Vodka, Hot Cocoa; Topped with Marshmallow and Graham Cracker

Canned Cocktails \$13  
Stateside Seltzer Orange, Surfside Iced Tea Original, Surfside Lemonade Strawberry

Draft Beer \$9  
Mainstay Bowline IPA  
Mainstay Helles Helles Lager  
Mainstay Christmas Bock Spiced Bock

Canned Beer \$8  
Michelob Ultra-Light Lager  
2sp Up & Out Hazy IPA  
Downeast Cider Hard Cider

Wine \$11  
Pinot Grigio  
Cabernet

Non-Alcoholic  
Hot Cocoa \$6  
Bottled Water \$2  
Soda Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite \$3