CULTURE BRIGHT:

A WINTER ESSAY SERIES

Reflections on art, culture, and the future *of the Quad Cities from* ***Linda Bowers,*** *Board Chair of The Cultural Trust.*

From Culture Bright Summer to Culture Bright Winter



"Summer gave us reasons to come together. Winter gives us reasons to return."

Summer brought bluegrass to the gardens. Winter will bring 400,000 lights.

Between those seasons are people who have kept working together.

The Culture Bright Summer Series gave audiences new reasons to visit cultural organizations. People arrived for a concert and found a garden they wanted to explore again. Partners shared space and expertise and worked through the details that turned an idea into an evening worth remembering.

Those experiences helped shape what comes next.

Through the Culture Bright Winter Story Series, Jen Lewis-Snyder and I will introduce you to the people, partnerships, and ideas behind the season's celebrations.

Together with our six Legacy Partners, The Cultural Trust is carrying that collaboration into the Culture Bright Winter Series.

The series kicks off on November 20 at the Quad City Botanical Center, celebrating ten years of Winter Lights.

What began with approximately 30,000 lights has grown to more than 400,000. Bare branches, garden paths, and prairie grasses give visitors another way to appreciate a place they may associate with summer blooms.

The Culture Bright Neon Forest and igloos offer reasons to linger. Opening night brings a silent disco, cocoa, cocktails, and craft beer.

A garden that welcomed summer concertgoers is ready to welcome them back in their winter coats.

On November 21, the Quad City Symphony Orchestra presents Elf in Concert at the Adler Theatre at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Buddy's search for family unfolds onscreen while the Symphony performs John Debney's score live. A favorite gains another dimension when you can see the musicians creating its sound.

On November 22, Common Chord and The Cultural Trust bring Hard Candy Christmas to the Redstone Room.

Rhonda Vincent, Dolly Parton's friend and musical collaborator, headlines an evening celebrating Dolly's songs and generosity.

Local artists join her, and proceeds support cancer research and treatment at the University of Iowa's Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Expect pink and a room ready to sing along. Doors open at 5 p.m.; the show begins at 6.

On December 11 and 12, Santa visits the Botanical Center beneath the lights. The Culture Bright Express train makes its first Winter Series appearance.

The series concludes December 18 through 20 at the Putnam Museum and Science Center, celebrating twenty years of its Polar Express Pajama Party.

Wear your comfiest pajamas. Watch the film on the Giant Screen. Climb aboard the Culture Bright Express.

Some families have made this outing part of their December for years. Others will begin this winter.

The Cultural Trust's annual unrestricted funding helps sustain these organizations.

Culture Bright builds on that commitment through shared planning, investment, promotion, and creative work.

Enjoy one event. Make plans for several. Bring someone who has never been.

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Find tickets and the season's lineup at CultureBright.org.

Culture Matters Here.
And it always will.

Come see why Culture Matters Here. And why it always will.

To learn more about the Culture Bright Winter Series go to CultureBright.org.

The Cultural Trust

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