

**THE
FRICK
PITTSBURGH**
MUSEUMS & GARDENS

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

October 2, 2025

Media Contacts:

Stephanie Mirah, Marketing and Communications Manager

media@thefrickpittsburgh.org; 412-342-4025

Kristin Garbarino, Director of Marketing and Communications

media@thefrickpittsburgh.org; 412-342-4075

**Popular Clayton Holiday Tours Return
Along With Other Holiday & Winter Events**

PITTSBURGH – The Frick Pittsburgh is getting into the festive spirit with the return of its Home for the Holidays at Clayton tours along with a handful of other winter events, including a handbell concert, an ornament workshop, a lecture on the evolution of Santa Claus and more.

Also, for the first time ever, the Frick is hosting professional holiday photoshoots on the interior porch of Clayton, the historic house of Henry Clay Frick's family. Visitors have the choice of posing with or without Santa and Mrs. Claus in front of a decorated Christmas tree, making for the perfect backdrop to any holiday card.

Images: [dropbox.com/](https://www.dropbox.com/)

PROGRAM DETAILS

Home for the Holidays at Clayton

Nov. 22, 2025 - Jan. 4, 2026

Tours run Tuesdays through Sundays, 10:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand, visitors are invited to take in the cheerful atmosphere of a home decked for the holidays on a specialty tour of Clayton. Visitors will learn how the holidays were celebrated by different groups in Pittsburgh during the Gilded Age, including the Frick family and their staff, and enjoy festive conversations about the origins of seasonal traditions. Free for

members; \$25 for non-members; \$15 for youth 17 and under. Tickets are available at thefrickpittsburgh.org/Event-Home-for-the-Holidays-at-Clayton.

Members of the Frick will get exclusive early access to the tours before the house opens to the general public. These tours will run from Nov. 18 through Nov. 21. Members can find more details at

thefrickpittsburgh.org/Event-Member-Preview-Tours-Home-for-the-Holidays-at-Clayton.

Note: The Frick Pittsburgh is closed on Nov. 27; Dec. 24; Dec. 25; and Jan. 1.

Holiday Photo Sessions at Clayton

Nov. 15 & Nov. 16

22 session timeslots available per day, starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 5:15 p.m.

For the first time ever, the Frick is inviting visitors and their loved ones to take holiday photos inside of Clayton with professional photographer, [Steve Groves](#). Guests will each get a 15-minute photography session on the historic house's enclosed porch with a Christmas tree as the backdrop. Families interested in being photographed with Santa and Mrs. Claus can do so for an added cost.

Each group will receive a full gallery of images. Visitors will get to choose two favorites for professional touch-ups with the option to enhance more for an additional fee. The first floor of Clayton is wheelchair accessible. Service animals are welcome. Pets are not allowed.

Ticket cost *without* Santa: \$225 general; \$210 members

Ticket cost *with* Santa & Mrs. Claus: \$275 general; \$260 members

Session spots are available at thefrickpittsburgh.org.

An Evening in Clayton: Behind-the-Scenes at the Holidays

Nov. 19, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Visitors are invited to join a unique tour experience that spotlights select rooms in the house and offers a behind-the-scenes look at how the Frick curatorial staff brings the Home for the Holidays at Clayton to life. Attendees will also enjoy a sneak peek at this year's holiday installation before the house opens to the public. Only the first floor of Clayton is wheelchair accessible. \$40 members; \$50 non-members; \$20 students. Tickets are available at thefrickpittsburgh.org/Event-An-Evening-in-Clayton-Behind-the-Scenes-at-the-Holidays.

Nordic Noel: A Handbell Concert at the Frick

Dec. 6, 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

This festive handbell holiday concert gives a special nod to the Frick's current exhibition, *The Scandinavian Home: Landscape and Lore*. This season, [Ring Pittsburgh](#), a local handbell

ensemble, blends sacred, secular, and popular holiday favorites with two special selections inspired by the music and traditions of Nordic countries. \$10 members; \$15 non-members; \$5 students. Admission to *The Scandinavian Home* is not included. Tickets are available at thefrickpittsburgh.org/Event-Nordic-Noel-A-Handbell-Concert-at-the-Frick.

A Lecture by Dr. Kahren Jones Arbitman—Saint Nicholas to Father Christmas to Santa Claus: The Artistic Evolution of a Christmas Icon

Dec. 7, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Kahren Jones Arbitman will give a lecture on the illustrated history of Santa Claus from his European visage as a gaunt, dour Father Christmas to his American manifestation as a “Jolly Old Elf.”

St. Nicholas, the Byzantine Bishop of Myra, is thought to have died in 343. Seventeen hundred years later, his avatar Santa Claus is among the world’s most recognizable figures. How did an early Christian miracle-worker morph into a beloved, but wholly imaginary, Christmas Eve visitor? And once established as the premier gift-giver, how did his image find its way into every medium from Christmas cards, to seasonal advertisements, to charitable appeals including war bonds and, somewhat incongruously, Easter Seals?

Dr. Arbitman received both a master's and doctorate in art history from the University of Pittsburgh with a specialization in seventeenth-century Dutch art.

\$15 members; \$20 non-members; \$10 students. Tickets are available at thefrickpittsburgh.org/Event-Saint-Nicholas-to-Father-Christmas-to-Santa-Claus-The-Artistic-Evolution-of-a-Christmas-Icon.

Woven Ornament Workshop

Dec. 13, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Visitors are invited to join local basket weaver and folk artist Traycee Bosle to create intricate woven holiday ornaments out of hand-dyed reed. All participants will make two colorful works of art using foundational basketweaving techniques: a Scandinavian star and snowflake. Combining the festive holiday spirit of the season with the heritage and tradition of the Frick’s *The Scandinavian Home* exhibition, this workshop is the perfect opportunity to get creative this holiday season.

In addition to being an instructor, Traycee Bosle is a professional basket weaver at Craftisinal Creative Works. She is a staff member of the Handweavers Guild of America and communications team member of the Fiber Arts Guild of Pittsburgh.

\$45 members; \$55 non-members. Tickets are available at thefrickpittsburgh.org/Event-Woven-Ornament-Workshop.

Holiday Teas

Nov. 25, Nov. 26, Dec. 4, Dec. 11, Dec. 18 & Dec. 23

Each date has reserved seatings at 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Visitors are invited to get in the holiday spirit with a cozy tea at The Café at The Frick. Enjoy holiday favorites and tastes of the season as we welcome the winter weather. Registration is open to the public through advance phone calls to the visitor center. Registration for members will go on sale on Nov. 3 and registration for the general public will go on sale on Nov. 5. \$65 per person + tax and 20% gratuity.

###

About The Frick Pittsburgh

Since 1990, The Frick Pittsburgh has welcomed visitors to its 10-acre cultural campus in the heart of Pittsburgh's East End. Gifted to the people of Pittsburgh by Helen Clay Frick, daughter of noted industrialist and art collector Henry Clay Frick, the campus is home to Clayton, the family's Gilded Age mansion, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The *Gilded, Not Golden* tour of Clayton was honored with a 2024 Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History.

The campus also includes The Frick Art Museum, the Car and Carriage Museum, a greenhouse, gardens, and welcoming café. Through its permanent collections, traveling exhibitions, historic tours, and public programs, the Frick invites all visitors to experience history and art, reframed for today. Discover more about The Frick Pittsburgh at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

For additional information or images, please contact Stephanie Mirah, Marketing and Communications Manager, or Kristin Garbarino, Director of Marketing and Communications, at Media@TheFrickPittsburgh.org.