

## For Immediate Release

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### HENRY B. PLANT MUSEUM PRESENTS *37th ANNUAL VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS STROLL*

Tampa, FL (September 28, 2018) – Experience the extravagance and grandeur of a Victorian Christmas at the Henry B. Plant Museum’s 37<sup>th</sup> Annual *Victorian Christmas Stroll*. Allowing visitors a glimpse into the magic of Christmas past, the event begins December 1 and occurs every day through December 23, from 10 am – 8 pm.

With a different theme in every exhibit room, there is sure to be something for everyone. We are proud to offer an interactive sensory tree activity for visitors with sensory disabilities. Look closely in exhibit cases and you will find snow babies and tiny antique trees. Travel back to the 1890s with a Christmas display worthy of the 1890s Tampa Bay Hotel. Gaze in wonder at exotic handmade Temari balls, a timeless Japanese craft. Other decorations include a replica Plant System train, vintage fashions, antique toys, locally sourced items, and fanciful ornaments.

The *Victorian Christmas Stroll* celebrates the warmth and spirit of an old fashioned holiday, while encouraging a sense of community. Complimentary cider and cookies will be served on the veranda each day while holiday music floats through the air. Guests can enjoy live music each evening from 6 pm – 8 pm.

The Museum will host a number of special performances during the *Victorian Christmas Stroll*. Included are:

- December 1: Member Appreciation Day, Stroll Grand Opening
  - Featuring: Classical Guitar with John Barr (10 am – noon), Classical Harp with Damara Chaudhuri (1 – 3 pm).
  - Free admission for Museum Members
  - 10% off all purchases in the Museum Store
  - Local vendors on the Veranda
- December 1-16: Drop off your Letters to Santa!
- December 2, 9, 16, 23: Upstairs/Downstairs Live Theater, 2 pm
- December 9: Special Lecture *History and Myths of Christmas Trees*, Mary Miley Theobald, 3 pm
- December 16: Children’s Day at the Stroll, 10 am – 5 pm
  - Featuring: Bits ‘N Pieces Puppet Theatre, The Paper Seahorse, The Tampa Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, paper crafting, story-time, and horse and carriage rides in Plant Park.
- December 20: Music in the Museum, 11 am

The Museum Store is a treasure trove of unique gifts, including elegant jewelry, artwork and beautiful holiday accessories. Enjoy shopping in a unique Victorian atmosphere: the Museum Store is open from 10 am to 8 pm daily.

Proceeds from the *Victorian Christmas Stroll* fund museum restoration and preservation projects, as well as educational programming.

The Victorian Christmas Stroll is graciously underwritten by The New York Yankees Foundation, Columbia Restaurant Group, Specialized Property Services, Yacht Starship and Pirate Water Taxi, and The Tampa Bay Times.

High-resolution digital images of the **Victorian Christmas Stroll** are available to the media upon request.

*The Henry Plant Museum interprets the turn-of-the-century Tampa Bay Hotel and the lifestyles of America's Gilded Age. Critical to the success of this mission is the restoration and preservation of this National Historic Landmark, an opulent 1891 railroad resort, and the artifacts significant to its history, and the life and work of Henry Bradley Plant. The Museum is open every day, December 1 – 23, 10 am to 8 pm. Admission during the Victorian Christmas Stroll is \$15 Adults, \$13 Seniors, \$9 Youth (4-18). Discount and family days are December 3, 4, 10, and 11. Discount days admission is \$11 Adults, \$10 Seniors, \$7 Youth (4-18).*