



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 17, 2020

CHEEKWOOD'S *HOLIDAY LIGHTS* TO OPEN NOVEMBER 20

Annual Lights Display Returns with New Nutcracker Exhibition

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Cheekwood's *Holiday Lights* festival is set to return November 20 and will run through January 10, 2021. Featuring more than a million lights throughout Cheekwood's gardens, the carefully planned course offers holiday experiences designed to appeal to all ages. Now in its sixth year, the popular wintertime program was voted Best Local Event/Festival by *Nashville Scene* in 2019.

New this year, Cheekwood will partner with the Nashville Ballet to present a collection of traditional and non-traditional nutcrackers and costumes from *Nashville's Nutcracker* throughout its Historic Mansion and Museum. The exhibit will tell the traditional holiday story through vignettes across Cheekwood's period rooms.

Also new this year, *Holiday Lights* will be presented alongside the works of artist Dale Chihuly with *Chihuly at Cheekwood*, offering a new and unique experience to this year's display. Voted Best Art Happening by *Nashville Scene* in 2020, visitors can experience the highly acclaimed art exhibition and the holiday festival simultaneously across the estate and gardens through January 10.

Cheekwood will activate its new Bracken Foundation Children's Garden as *Children's Wonderland*, featuring an outdoor display of custom-made LED trees with programmed lights. The estate and gardens will also bring back community favorites like real reindeer, a seasonal trains display, a poinsettia tree, smores stations, and more.

"With a new design of more than a million lights, this year's display is sure to dazzle our guests," said Peter Grimaldi, vice president of gardens and facilities for Cheekwood. "Our team has worked tirelessly to prepare a lights experience designed specifically to complement Cheekwood's sprawling landscapes and new elements, and we can't wait to welcome new and returning visitors to enjoy it."

Holiday Lights will be open seven nights a week and will require timed tickets that must be purchased online prior to visiting. Due to COVID-19 guidelines, capacity will be limited. *Holiday*

Lights is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. To view Cheekwood's visitor guidelines, visit https://cheekwood.org/knowbeforeyougo_covid19/.

To thank medical professionals, first responders, and military personnel, Cheekwood will offer special *Military and Medical Mondays*. Eligible patrons with a valid form of identification will receive 50% off "Garden Only" admission for up to 4 immediate family members on Monday nights.

Cheekwood is continuing its annual *Late Night Lights* offer, where guests arriving at 8:30 or 9:00 p.m. receive a discounted rate on Monday – Thursday nights.

Holiday Lights is presented by the Marlene and Spencer Hays Foundation, with special thanks for the installation to Outdoor Lighting Perspectives. *Medical and Military Mondays* is sponsored by Synovus Bank.

For more information about *Holiday Lights*, and to purchase tickets, visit <https://cheekwood.org/calendar/cheekwood-holiday-lights-event-nashville/>.

About Cheekwood

Cheekwood is considered one of the finest American Country Place Era estates in the nation. Formerly the family home of Mabel and Leslie Cheek, the extraordinary 1930s estate, with its Georgian mansion and 55 acres of cultivated gardens and expansive vistas, today serves the public as a botanical garden, arboretum, and museum with historic rooms and art galleries, showcasing works from its 7,000 permanent collection as well as traveling exhibitions. The property includes 12 distinct gardens and a mile-long woodland trail featuring modern and contemporary outdoor sculpture.

Cheekwood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, and is a USA Today Top 10 Botanical Garden. Cheekwood is located just 8 miles southwest of downtown Nashville at 1200 Forrest Park Drive. Daily hours of operation: Tuesday through Sunday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. For further information, call 615-356-8000 or visit cheekwood.org.

For more information about Cheekwood, visit www.cheekwood.org.

###

Contact Through October 23:

Caroline Jeronimus (will be on maternity leave)
615.353.6982 (o)
cjeronimus@cheekwood.org

Contact After October 23:

Liz Beck
615.517.4208
liz@parthenonpr.com
or Francie Corcoran
francie@parthenonpr.com