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**Kansas City Attractions and Members Offer Fall and Holiday Deals and New Experiences
for Residents and Visitors**

(Kansas City, Missouri) – The fall and holiday season is a great time for local Kansas City residents and out of town guests to visit its many attractions and take advantage of special offers. Several members of the Greater Kansas City Attractions Association (GKCAA), a not-for-profit organization that provides benefits and services to more than 70 attraction and tourism-related businesses in both Kansas and Missouri, are opening special exhibits, scheduling season festivals, celebrations and performances for visitors and locals during the summer season.

“As the weather cools off and the holidays approach, visitors should know that the next several months are a great time to visit Kansas City and experience everything it has to offer,” said Mike Vietti, Director of Marketing, Communications and Guest Services for the National World War I Museum and Memorial who serves as the 2017 President of the association’s volunteer-led board of directors. “Our attractions offer a variety of opportunities that visitors and locals alike will enjoy during this special time of year.”

October

National World War I Museum and Memorial

The World Remembers (open until November 11, 2017)

More than 9 million combatants from the belligerent nations died in World War I, the largest number of any conflict in world history to that time. The World Remembers is an international education project whose purpose is to remember and honor these combatants during each year of the war by displaying their names in more than 60 locations throughout Europe and North America for a period of six weeks ending with the Western Front Armistice Day of Nov. 11. For 1917, more than 700,000 names of soldiers from 14 nations will appear. Accompanying the names are images of soldiers and civilians caught up in a global conflict. The Museum is serving as the only U.S. location for this moving display.

Information: www.theworldwar.org

Kansas City Ballet

Romeo & Juliet (October 13-22, 2017)

The Kansas City Ballet opens their 60th Anniversary Season October 13-22 with *Romeo & Juliet*. William Shakespeare's romantic tragedy ranks among the world's most enduring stories. Artistic Director Devon Carney brings us his interpretation of this classic masterpiece with soaring choreography and sweeping characters. Don't miss one of the most popular ballets in the world, the fateful embrace of star-crossed lovers. Enjoy the music of Sergei Prokofiev performed live by Kansas City Symphony at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Tickets: www.kcballet.org

National Museum of Toys and Miniatures

Vintage Board Game Night for Grownups (Friday, October 13, 2017)

Don't have a *Clue* what to do for your next *Mystery Date* night? *Scrabble* over to the museum where we have a *Monopoly* on classic board games. At \$5 per person for all-you-can-play games, cider, and Halloween goodies, there's little *Risk* involved. Please bring friends that are 18+ for

this grown-ups only night. \$5 General Admission | Free for Members

Information: www.toyandminiaturemuseum.org

Kansas City Zoo

Hoots & Howls (October 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22, 2017)

Join us for some spooky, not scary, activities and entertainment. Hoots and Howls is packed with fun for all ages! From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. visitors can cruise around on a pedal tractor, navigate a hay bale maze, sing along with interactive DJ and take a ride on the Scare-o-cel. Enjoy a hayride around the Zoo and create a wild craft in the lobby. The animals will join in the fun by smashing pumpkins at scheduled times throughout the day. Enjoy these special features on select dates:

- October 7 - 8: The Paul Mesner Puppet Theater will present Old McDonald's Rhyming Ranch at 10:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.
- October 14 - 15: Minions will take over the Kansas City Zoo. Get your picture taken with them from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- October 21 - 22: May the Force be with you! *Star Wars* characters travel from a galaxy far, far away to the Kansas City Zoo to take pictures with guests from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Boo at the Zoo (Saturday and Sunday, October 28 - 29, 2017)

Trick-or-Treat on the wild side. Join us for Boo at the Zoo with treats to go along with tricks. Children will trick-or-treat the Zoo while enjoying Halloween-themed activities and entertainment from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Great Pumpkin Smash (Saturday and Sunday, November 4 - 5, 2017)

Post Halloween enrichment for the animals! Watch them crush, kick, bounce and play with big orange pumpkins at scheduled events throughout the weekend.

For information and tickets: www.kansascityzoo.org

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

An Evening with Rupi Kaur (Monday October 16, 2017)

Celebrate the launch of the sun and her flowers, the long awaited second collection of poetry from Rupi Kaur, the No. 1 New York Times bestselling author of milk and honey.

Rupi Kaur's new softcover the sun and her flowers and one admission ticket is included with each Admission Package Purchase. Admission packages are \$28.50 plus applicable fees by visiting The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts website.

Hallmark Visitors Center

Norman Rockwell's Christmas: Original Art for Hallmark Cards (October 7, 2017 – January 27, 2018)

Hallmark Cards has a remarkable legacy of collaboration with some of the world's most renowned artists and designers. Perhaps none of these is more beloved than the American illustrator Norman Rockwell, whom Hallmark founder J.C. Hall commissioned to produce 32 paintings for the company's greeting cards between 1948 to 1957.

The exhibition presents 45 paintings and drawings for the artist's popular Christmas cards. Seen here together for the first time, this exhibition of works from the Hallmark Art Collection provides a rare opportunity to view the meticulous craftsmanship that set Rockwell apart from his peers.

Included are small "thumbnail" sketches and photographic studies that document Rockwell's intensive creative process. Also on view are Rockwell's iconic painting *The Kansas City Spirit* and his rarely exhibited portrait of *Grandma Moses*, another artist whom J.C. Hall enlisted for Christmas cards. Together with his Christmas paintings, they reveal the remarkable relationship between Rockwell and Hallmark Cards, a story further elaborated by vintage Hallmark products, archival photographs, and original correspondence between Norman Rockwell and J.C. Hall.

Information: visitorscenter@hallmark.com

Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art

"The Outwin: American Portraiture Today" (October 5, 2017 - Sunday, January 7, 2018)

Every three years, the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery invites artists across America to investigate the art of portraiture through the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition. Established in 2006, it is the premier national competition celebrating excellence and innovation in portraiture. For the resulting exhibition, *The Outwin: American Portraiture Today*, jurors selected 43 winning works from more than 2,500 entries. The artists tackle some of the most pressing topics in the cultural and political realms, including investigations of race and gender, the fragility of childhood in our increasingly complicated world, and the psychological impact of migration. With the current presentation, the Portrait Gallery is

launching the first national tour in which the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art is the only Midwest venue.

Information: www.kemperart.org

November

November College Basketball Experience and Hall of Fame

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony (Sunday, November 19, 2017)

Open to the public, the Hall of Fame for men's college basketball will induct eight people this year. This formal event is recorded by ESPN for nationwide broadcast.

Hall of Fame Classic (Monday and Tuesday, November 20 and 21, 2017)

Creighton, UCLA, Wisconsin and Baylor will compete in a two-day, four-team tournament.

Information and tickets: www.halloffameweekend.com

Admission offer: Second Sundays - Discounted admission for groups of four or more on November 12 and December 11, 2017.

Tickets and information: www.collegebasketballexperience.com

MTH Theater – Crown Center

Into the Woods (November 2-19, 2017)

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, *Into the Woods* is widely considered one of the greatest musicals ever written. This Stephen Sondheim masterpiece takes everyone's favorite storybook characters and takes them to "happily ever after" and beyond.

“Musical Monday and Tuesday – Show Tunes to Pop Tunes” (November 20 – 21, 2017) Hosted by MTH founder George Harter, this show explores the evolution of show tunes to the top of the charts. During the Golden Age of Broadway the top 40 tunes were born on Broadway. From Cole Porter to Johnny Mercer to Lin Manuel Miranda, this show will feature decades of show tunes that crossed over to the pop charts!

Tickets: www.musicaltheaterheritage.com

Lyric Opera of Kansas City

Everest (November 11, 15, 17 and 19)

This contemporary tragedy brings to life the devastating true story of three climbers caught in a blizzard on Mt. Everest in 1996. As just the second staged performance since the Dallas world premiere, Everest promises to take you on an operatic journey unlike anything you've experienced before! These performances take place at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Tickets: www.kcopera.org

National World War I Museum and Memorial

Veterans Day Weekend (Friday-Sunday, November 10-12, 2017)

Enjoy free admission for active duty military/veterans and half-price admission for the general public all weekend! Honor veterans on Saturday, November 11 as the Museum hosts a free public ceremony at 10 a.m. featuring dignitaries, inspiring musical performances and a keynote address from Major General Maria R. Gervais, Deputy Commanding General, Combined Arms Center. Additionally, nearly 100 new bricks will be dedicated as part of the free Walk of Honor Ceremony at 2 p.m.

Admission offer: Veterans Day Weekend (Friday - Sunday, November 10 – 12, 2017) = free admission for veterans/active duty military and half-price for the general public.

National Museum of Toys and Miniatures

Playing for Keeps: The VFW Marble Tournaments, 1947-1962

November 11, 2017 – January 6, 2019

Marble playing ruled playgrounds for much of the twentieth century. Requiring only a handful of marbles and a patch of dirt, the game crossed all economic and social barriers. In 1947, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) created a national marble tournament to positively influence young boys and re-engage WWII and Korean War veterans in civilian life. The tournament, an annual event for 14 years, was a life-changing experience for the thousands of kids who participated. *Playing for Keeps* tells the firsthand stories of the players alongside their souvenirs, trophies, and marble memorabilia. Learn their stories and then knuckle down to experience the thrill of the game in a regulation-size marble ring.

Two special events are being held in conjunction with the exhibit

□ Meet the Experts: The VFW Marble Tournaments (Sunday, November 12, 2017)

□ Get to know the experts at The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures through this monthly exploration of special topics. On November 12 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., author Scott McBride will discuss the game of marbles and the stories of tournament participants featured in T/m's new temporary exhibit. The program includes a lecture and gallery visit. Included with museum admission.

□ **Day After Thanksgiving Program: Magic Marbles (Friday, November 24)**

It's a day of marble magic with fun for the entire family. Explore the museum's special exhibit from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and try your hand at "knuckling down" during a marble lesson. Then, pick out your own marble and turn it into a piece of wearable art to take home with you.

Information: www.toysandminiaturesmuseum.org

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Vienna Boys Choir (Sunday, November 11, 2017)

Celebrated worldwide, the Vienna Boys Choir has delighted music-lovers across the globe with their purity of tone, distinctive charm, and a diverse repertoire encompassing Austrian folk songs and waltzes, classical masterpieces, medieval chant and popular music.

This evening's program, titled *Bella Italia*, features popular and classical compositions from Italy, to include classical pieces by Vivaldi, Rossini, Verdi, Mascagni and other Italian composers, along with such popular favorites as *Santa Lucia*, *O sole mio*, *Volare*, and more.

Visit the [Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts](#) website to purchase tickets

Bassem Youssef: The Joke Is Mightier Than The Sword (Sunday, November 26, 2017)

Dubbed "the Jon Stewart of the Arab World," Bassem Youssef was the creator and host of the wildly popular TV show *Al-Bernameg* – the first political satire show in the Middle East and the most watched program in the region from 2011 to 2014 with 30 million viewers every week. In *The Joke Is Mightier than the Sword*, Youssef shares his personal story and his thoughts on the political climate that led to the Arab Spring, and its parallels to the current state of American politics.

Visit the [Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts website](#) to purchase tickets.

December

MTH Theater – Crown Center "A Spectacular Christmas Show" (December 7-23, 2017)

Fun for the entire family, MTH's annual Christmas show features holiday music taken from Musical Theater, as well as innovative arrangements of holiday classics. There's nothing better than Crown Center during the holidays.

“A Crooner Christmas, Sinatra Style” (December 14-16, 2017)

The award winning crooner, Les Lankhorst, brings his hit Christmas show to MTH this December. Lankhorst has made a career of personifying Frank Sinatra on stages all over the world. Now, he brings his voice and swagger to MTH, along with his Swingin' Band, for three nights of classic holiday favorites and swinging standards. Lankhorst and his band will perform classics as “Have Yourself a Merry Lil Christmas”, “White Christmas”, “Jingle Bell Rock”, and many more. Sinatra fans won't want to miss this intimate, swinging toast to the season! Tickets: www.musicaltheaterheritage.com

Kansas City Zoo

Holiday Wild (Saturday and Sunday, December 2-3, 2017)

Santa, his elves and Mrs. Claus will be at the Zoo for Holiday Wild on Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3. This is your chance to tell him what's on your wish list. Join us from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for polar-riffic activities. Visitors are invited to bring personal cameras and have pictures taken with Santa!

Santa Dives (December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17, 2017)

What's red and white and swimming with the penguins at Helzberg Penguin Plaza? Santa! Get a one-of-a-kind photo of Santa as penguins torpedo around him. Watch the penguin bubbles trail the man in the red suit and hear the children giggle. Dives are at 2 p.m. each day.

King & Gentoo Penguin March (Weekends Thanksgiving through February 2018)

Stop by the Helzberg Penguin Plaza each weekend from Thanksgiving through February to see the Penguin March. The Kansas City Zoo's cold weather birds will march from the back of the exhibit, outside for its guests to see and then back inside the building, weather permitting. See king and gentoo penguins up close at the Penguin March weekends at 11 a.m. Tickets: www.kansascityzoo.org

Kansas City Ballet

The Nutcracker (December 7-24, 2017)

The Kansas City Ballet celebrates the holidays Dec. 7-24 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Following its Kennedy Center premiere in Washington, D.C., the acclaimed holiday production returns to Kansas City for its 45th year. The classic, Victorian-era story by E.T.A. Hoffman featuring Clara, the Prince, and Dr. Drosselmeier is wrapped with exquisite costumes by Holly Hynes, grand sets by Alain Vaës and captivating choreography by Artistic

Director Devon Carney. See your children's wonder ignite and feel the glimmer once more as your childhood dreams return and inspire you to imagine. (Run time is approximately two hours and 15 minutes with one 20-minute intermission.)

Tickets: www.kcballet.org

National Toys and Miniatures Museum

The following special programs are included with regular museum admission in December.

Coleman Dollhouse Opening (Saturday, December 2, 2017)

The annual tradition returns! See T/m's nine-foot-tall dollhouse decked out for the holiday season. Get up close as T/m opens the doors for a day of in-depth talks about this giant dollhouse. Talks at 10:30am, 1pm, and 2:30pm, or come anytime between 10am and 4pm to view the house.

Meet the Experts: Christmas Crèches at T/m (Sunday, December 10, 2017)

Get to know the experts at The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures through this monthly exploration of special topics. On December 10 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., enjoy special displays of Christmas crèches from the Bud and Jan Koupal Collection. Hear a talk about the history and tradition of holiday crèches, and stay afterward for cider and cookies. The program includes a lecture and museum visit..

Christmas Stories at T/m (Saturday, December 16, 2017)

We've decked the halls and trimmed the trees! From 1:00 p.m – 3:00 p.m. Hear stories about holidays past in T/m's Tureman Education Center, formerly a 1911 residential mansion. Enjoy festive decorations and admire special displays of antique Christmas crèches from the Bud and Jan Koupal Collection.

Father Christmas Comes to T/m (Sunday, December 17, 2017)

Father Christmas is stopping by T/m from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. to share stories of holiday traditions. Professional storyteller Jim "Two Crows" Wallen will engage the entire family with interactive tales of Old Saint Nick in the museum's Tureman Education Center. Be sure to bring your camera so you can snap a keepsake photo of your family with the man in red!

Christmas Stories at T/m (Saturday, December 23, 2017)

We've decked the halls and trimmed the trees! Hear stories about the holidays past in T/m's Tureman Education Center from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., formerly a 1911 residential mansion. Enjoy festive decorations and admire special displays of antique Christmas crèches from the Bud and Jan Koupal Collection.

Music in the Museum (Saturday, December 30, 2017)

Take a break from the hectic season to enjoy traditional holiday music on stringed instruments in the museum's Tureman Education Center from 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m..

Information: www.toysandminiaturesmuseum.org

Special Holiday Accommodations Offer:

Adam's Mark Hotel and CoCo Key Water Resort Special Fall and Holiday offers

October 14-15, 2017: Stay 2 nights for Chiefs/Steelers game save 30% off your reservation. Show your ticket stub and get 2 free tickets to CoCo Key, per reservation.

October 20-21, 2017: Stay 2 nights for NASCAR save 20% off your reservation. Show your ticket stub and get 2 free tickets to CoCo Key, per reservation.

October 29-31, 2017: Stay 2 nights for Chiefs/Broncos Monday Night Football game save 25% off your reservation. Show your ticket stub and get 2 free tickets to CoCo Key, per reservation.

November 25-26, 2017: Stay 2 nights for Chiefs/Bills game save 25% off your reservation. Show your ticket stub and get 2 free tickets to CoCo Key, per reservation.

December 9-10, 2017: Stay 2 nights for Chiefs/Raiders game save 25% off your reservation. Show your ticket stub and get 2 free tickets to CoCo Key, per reservation.

December 12-16, 2017: Stay 2 nights for Chiefs/Chargers game save 25% off your reservation. Show your ticket stub and get 2 free tickets to CoCo Key, per reservation.

December 22-24, 2017: Stay 2 nights for Chiefs/Dolphins game save 25% off your reservation. Show your ticket stub and get 2 free tickets to CoCo Key, per reservation.

Reservations: Call 816-737-4776 or book online at www.adamsmarkkc.com

The Greater Kansas City Attractions Association, founded more than 20 years ago, includes members from many of the region's top attractions, ranging from sports teams including the Kansas City Royals and Sporting KC, museums like The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, and National Museum of Toys and Miniatures to arts organizations including Starlight Theatre, Kansas City Ballet, and Theater League, theme parks

like Worlds of Fun/Oceans of Fun, plus historic sites, major retail centers, hotels, and outdoor experiences.

About the Greater Kansas City Attractions Association

The GKCAA is a not-for-profit member organization dedicated to enhancing the success of member attractions through the strategic initiatives of collective marketing, membership services, networking and educational programs, advocacy as a collective voice, and providing opportunities to connect with local businesses interested in supporting the Greater Kansas City area's tourism industry. For a complete list of members and to learn more, visit attractionskc.org or facebook.com/AttractionsKC.