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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



The Portland Winter Light Festival transforms, illuminates and animates Portland's nighttime landscape. The fifth annual event returns Thursday, Feb. 6 through Saturday, Feb. 8 on the grounds near OMSI, Tom McCall Waterfront Park and other downtown locations. Photo by Sean Gentry shows 'The Cosmic Messenger,' a prior light festival creation by local artist Miki Masuhara-page.

Winter Light Festival Encore

Free event
to showcase
dazzling art
installations

Transforming, illuminating and animating Portland's nighttime landscape, the Portland Winter Light Festival, presented by Portland General Electric kicks off Thursday with its most dynamic and artistic festival season to date

with a full roster of over 100 individual artists.

The fifth annual event by the nonprofit Willamette Light Brigade will take place over three nights, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., Feb. 6-8, on the grounds near OMSI, Tom McCall Waterfront Park and other downtown locations. Admission is free.

Special highlights include fire dancing, lighted hoop performances, circus acts, illuminated bike ride and a lantern parade. Up to 200,000 visitors are expected

over the course of events.

"We hope that people come out to enjoy extensive hands-on free activities that center around multimedia art and interactive technologies, STEM-based educational programming for all ages, and a gathering of community in the dead of winter when we need it most," said festival organizer Alisha Sullivan.

Full details, including performance schedules and artist bios are available by visiting the Winter Light Festival website, pdxwlf.com.

Digital Book Checkouts Top 3 Million Michelle Obama's memoir tops the list



Former First Lady Michelle Obama's memoir, "Becoming," was the Multnomah County Library's most popular digital book last year.

Michelle Obama's memoir, "Becoming," has topped the list of both e-books and audiobook checkouts from the Multnomah County Library in a record-breaking year.

The library saw a 210 percent increase in e-book checkouts last year with total checkouts topping 3 million through Rakuten OverDrive, the leading reading platform.

"E-books are vitally important to our community," said Kady Ferris, electronic content librarian. "Even though major publishers are trying to restrict library access to digital content, we work hard to meet our community's needs across formats."

"Becoming" sold more copies

than any other book published in the United States in 2018, breaking the record in just 15 days. The

book sold 1.4 million copies in its first week and 10 million copies by March of last year.

Following is one quote from "Becoming" on the subject of racism:

"I'd never related to the story of John Quincy Adams the way I did to that of Sojourner Truth, or been moved by Woodrow Wilson the way I was by Harriet Tubman. The struggles of Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King were more familiar to me than those of Eleanor Roosevelt or Mamie Eisenhower. I carried their histories, along with those of my mother and grandmothers. None of these women could ever have imagined a life like the one I now had, but they'd trusted that their perseverance would yield something better, eventually, for someone like me. I wanted to show up in the world in a way that honored who they were."