



KEEPING UP WITH THE BEACONS

YOUR GUIDE TO (UMASS) BOSTON'S
CULTURAL SCENE
REMINDERS, & UPDATES FROM THE
OFFICE OF GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Hey Beacons! You made it to the final stretch of the Fall 2023 semester, congratulations!!

I know with finals coming up, you are probably busy studying and finishing final essays and projects. Just make sure to take some time to decompress and avoid burnout, perhaps with some of these events! With the colder weather and the upcoming holidays comes some awesome events around the city and on campus, so be sure to check some of them out between study sessions and in celebration when you're done with finals!

Contents

The Holiday Market at Snowport..... 3

Boston’s First Night Festivities..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Improv Asylum 3

Snowflake Crossing Ice Festival 4

Harvard Art Museums..... 4

Boston Prudential Tower 5

Zoo Lights at Stone Zoo..... 5

Middlesex Fells Reservation..... 6

Ice-Skating at the Frog Pond, Boston Common 6

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum 7

First Night Boston 2024 7

The Nutcracker ballet..... 8

Holiday Light Displays in Boston 8

Brighton Bazaar 9

The Holiday Market at Snowport



The Holiday Market will feature more than 120 small businesses. 60% are local to Boston and the New England area, and 71% are minority and/or female owned. Shoppers will find a variety of unique giftable items of all mediums including art, accessories, apparel, jewelry, home décor, gourmet treats, handcrafted trinkets, and more from new and returning vendors.

Where: 100 Seaport Blvd, Boston, MA 02210

When: Nov. 10 at 11 AM through Dec. 31 at 9 PM

Direction: Take the Red Line inbound from JFK/UMass station to South Station. Transfer to the Silver Line and get off at Courthouse. Walk for about 3 minutes.

Tickets: Free! <https://www.bostonseaport.xyz/holidaymarket/>

Improv Asylum



If you are looking for a good laugh and if you love comedy, you should pay Improv Asylum a visit. Improv Asylum has been voted as Boston's Best Comedy for the past 20 years. They have groups of casts that interact with the audience, take their suggestions and turn them into hilarious scenes. They have different shows on different days and the ticket price varies. They are open from Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 5:00pm – 10:00pm and Friday, Saturday from 5:00pm – 11:00pm.

Where: 216 Hanover Street Boston, MA 02113

When: The time and date vary.

Directions: If you are taking the orange or green line, get off at Haymarket and walk for about 4 minutes. If you are taking the red line, you can get off at the downtown crossing and take the orange line to Oak grove and get off at Haymarket.

Tickets: The price ranges from \$5-\$35

Website: <https://improvasylum.com/>

Snowflake Crossing Ice Festival



The Snowflake Crossing Ice Festival will take place in Downtown Crossing on December 17th, 11:00am – 5:00pm and on December 18th 11:00am – 4:00pm. They will have lots of holiday decorations, carolers and dancers, DJ and they will have special performances by Urban Nutcracker, Black Nativity, and Lion Dancers. They also have plenty of surprises and free gifts available to the attendees.

Where: Downtown crossing

When: December 17, 11:00am – 5:00pm; December 18, 11:00am – 4:00pm

Directions: Get off at downtown and walk for one minute

Tickets: Free of cost!

More information: <https://www.bostoncentral.com/events/holiday/p71514.php>

Harvard Art Museums



If you love going to museums, you should definitely check out the Harvard Art Museums. It is part of Harvard university. They also have Harvard Art Museums at Night for those who can't visit during the daytime, every last Thursday of the month from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. You can explore their galleries and purchase drinks and food from the local vendors.

Where: 32 Quincy St, Cambridge, MA 02138

When: Open Tuesday – Sunday 10:00am to 5:00pm (closed on major holidays)

Directions: Take a red line at Downtown crossing that goes to Alewife and get off and Harvard station. Walk for about 7 mins.

Tickets: Free!

Website: [Homepage](#) | [Harvard Art Museums](#)

Boston Prudential Tower



Enjoy the 360-degree view of Boston from the iconic Prudential Tower. You can enjoy both indoor and outdoor views from inside of the tallest observation deck in New England at any time of the year. They have a couple of restaurants that you can pick from. They don't allow any food or drinks, or pets (assistance dogs are allowed).

Where: 800 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02199

When: From 10:00am – 10:00pm

Directions: From Downtown crossing, take an orange line that goes to Forest hill and get off at Back Bay. Then walk for about 12 mins

Tickets: The ticket price varies. For Standard, it's \$29.99; Combination is \$39.99, All-inclusive is \$49.99 and they come with their own benefits.

Website: [Best Views of Boston: Attractions, Observatory, Dining & Events \(viewboston.com\)](#)

Zoo Lights at Stone Zoo



Visit the Stone Zoo to view the beautiful sparkling lights that are holiday themed! The whole entire zoo that covers 26 acres of land is filled with lights. Take a stroll through the zoo and enjoy the view of beautiful lights. You can also reserve Santa Experience and meet Mrs. Santa. (This is a private event, and the tickets are \$50 per person)

When: 4pm – 9:30pm (last entry is one hour before closing)

Where: 149 Pond Street, Stoneham, MA 02180

Directions: Take the Orange line to Oak Grove and get off at Malden Center. Take 132 Redstone bus and after taking 20 stops, get off at Pond St and walk for about 3 mins.

Tickets: Price varies but they are usually within the range of \$13 - \$19.

Website: [Tickets](#) | [Stone Zoo \(zoonewengland.org\)](#)

Middlesex Fells Reservation



If you are someone that loves adventure, that loves activities such as hiking, walking, mountain biking, fishing etc. Middlesex Fells Reservation is a great place for you. It is also a great area for picnics during summer. They have several outdoor activities to do. You can also rent a canoe or kayak and explore the Spot Pond.

Where: 4 Woodland Rd, Stoneham, MA 02180

When: They're open from Sunrise to sunset

Directions: Take the Orange line to Oak Grove and get off at Malden Center. Take the 132 Redstone bus and after taking 19 stops, get off at Fellsway E and walk for about 2 mins.

Tickets: Free! (Unless you are renting a boat. If you are the price ranges from \$20 - \$35 and they offer discount on Thursdays)

Website: [Middlesex Fells Reservation | Mass.gov](#)

Ice-Skating at the Frog Pond, Boston Common



Do you love ice skating, or have you never been but want to experience this New England-favorite activity? Frog Pond in Boston Commons is turned into an ice-skating rink from November to March each year, but it is a good idea to go before it gets too cold! Take advantage of this beautiful winter wonderland rink.

Where: Boston Commons Frog Pond: 38 Beacon Street, Boston, MA

When: Begins mid-November, repeats daily. Closed for Christmas and New Years.

Directions: From UMass/JFK station, take the Red Line inbound to Alewife. Get off at Park Street and walk five minutes there.

Tickets: \$8 admission plus \$15 to rent skates. <https://bostonfrogpond.com/ice-skating/>

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum



Do you enjoy seeing beautiful artwork accompanied by incredible plants? Not only is the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum a wonderful place to be, but they host **free evening admission (3-9 pm) on the first Thursday of each month**. These evenings are accompanied by the addition of spectacular lights and musicians in the courtyard so viewers can appreciate the museum through a different lens.

Where: 25 Evans Way, Boston, MA

When: December 7

Directions: From UMass/JFK station, take the Red Line inbound to Alewife. Get off at Park Street and transfer to the Green Line E, outbound to Heath Street. Get off at the Museum of Fine Arts stop and walk five minutes there.

Tickets: Thursday night tickets are free but advanced registration for timed-entry passes is encouraged. Available two weeks in advance. <https://tnew.gardnermuseum.org/31844/32156>

First Night Boston 2024



A New Year's Eve celebration of artistic performances wonders of the season, and the beginning of a New Year. The First Night celebration will open 2024 with the First Night Parade that will take groups from City Hall Plaza to Boston Common at 6:00 PM. Once the performers pass by, the public is invited to walk along to the Boston Common, where fireworks will begin at 7:00 PM. There will also be Ice Sculptures in City Hall Plaza, at Boston Common, and along the waterfront. They will be available for public viewing from 12:00 noon to 12:30 AM.

Where: City Hall Plaza, Boston Common

When: December 31

Directions: Green Line/Red Line for Park Street Station to Boston Common or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing Station and walk to the Boston Common. Green Line/Blue Line to Government Center Station for City Hall Plaza or Orange Line to Haymarket Station and walk to City Hall Plaza (It is strongly recommended to use the MBTA that day due to high volume of visitors)

More info: <https://www.boston-discovery-guide.com/first-night-boston.html>

The Nutcracker ballet



Mikko Nissinen's *The Nutcracker* returns to the stage with beloved characters, glittering sets, and dancing that will lift your spirits. Enjoy Tchaikovsky's timeless score performed by the Boston Ballet Orchestra and a celebration of true classical ballet performed by Boston Ballet's globally acclaimed company dancers.

Where: Citizens Bank Opera House, 539 Washington Street Boston, MA 02111

When: November 24th – December 31st

Directions: Green Line to Boylston Street Station, Orange Line to Chinatown Station or Orange Line/Red Line to Downtown Crossing Station

Tickets: Prices range from \$25.00 - \$300.00

Website: [The Nutcracker - Boston Ballet](#)

Holiday Light Displays in Boston



The month of December is rolling into the excitement of the holidays. There are many areas around Boston that have trees decorated in festive lights!

Where: Located inside the Boston Common and Boston Public Garden, along Commonwealth Ave Mall, Faneuil Hall, Columbus Park located near the North End and The Seaport! These are the best spots for Instagram worthy photos!

When: Always open

Directions: Various ways to get around! Take any Green Line train to the Common and Commonwealth Ave., or Red Line to Park Street Station to the Common, or Orange line to Haymarket Station then walk to Columbus Park, Silver Line to Courthouse Station for Seaport.

Tickets: Not needed

Brighton Bazaar



Over 130 thoroughly unconventional vendors selling art, vinyl, vintage, & more! If you need something unique, it's probably going to be there! So, whether gifting for yourself or others, it is a great place to be! This event will happen on 2 different days so if you miss one you can stop by for the other. Both venues are free admission!

Where & When: December 9th 11am-6pm @ Roadrunner, 89 Guest St. Boston MA 02135. December 21st 5pm-10pm @Charles River Speedway, 525 Western Ave, Brighton, MA 02135

When: December 9th and 21st

Directions: For Roadrunner Location, accessible by 57,86 and 64 bus line, Green Line B branch Harvard Ave Station or Allston Street Station are 15-minute walk away. Boston Landing stop on the Framingham/Worcester commuter rail. For Charles River Speedway Location, accessible by 70 & 86 Bus

Tickets: Free!

Website: [thebrightonbazaar](https://thebrightonbazaar.com) | [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [TikTok](#) | [Linktree](#)