

## ***Celebration* Holiday Display Opens Today at The Leaf**

**For immediate release:** Winnipeg, November 25, 2023 – The biomes at The Leaf will re-open today after a scheduled closure during which the Babs Asper Display House was transformed for the holiday season. The new ***Celebration*** display, which runs from November 25 – January 7, honours Manitoba’s multi-cultural heritage and the festivities, customs, and traditions that bring people together over the holiday season.

“Our new *Celebration* display takes inspiration from the beauty of winter at Assiniboine Park and some of the diverse ways people mark this special time of year here in Manitoba and around the world,” said Gerald Dieleman, Senior Director of Horticulture, Assiniboine Park Conservancy.

With each new display, the Assiniboine Park Conservancy’s horticulture team aims to incorporate plant material or design pieces that allow Leaf visitors to see themselves represented in this space. For the *Celebration* display, the team incorporated traditional colour palettes and design elements specific to Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year’s, Kwanzaa, and the Winter Solstice.

Planning for the new display began in April and continued over the spring, summer, and fall. Installation was an enormous undertaking involving 13 members of the horticulture team working for five days straight. The transformation included dismantling of the fall Abundance display, reconfiguring the display layout, installation of trees and new décor pieces, stringing over 15,000 lights, and lots and lots of planting. The plant material for this display includes – but is not limited to – 675 poinsettias, 170 cyclamen, and 50 bromeliads!

Highlights of the *Celebration* display:

- The winter forest zone features the beauty and fresh scents of poplars, dogwoods, lush ferns, and fresh cut black hills spruce trees adorned with iridescent shimmering ornaments.
- The holidays at the Park zone features themed trees adorned with horticultural ornaments that celebrate nature’s beauty and pay homage to a range of holidays, including Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year’s, Kwanzaa, and the Winter Solstice.
- The whimsical woods zone features celestial-themed topiaries and a miniature village.
- The Hartley and Heather Richardson Tropical Biome will display a beautiful holiday tree overflowing with bromeliads and ferns.
- The Mediterranean Biome will feature a tree made entirely of succulents.

The *Celebration* display is included with regular Leaf admission. Tickets are time and date specific, with capacity limited in each time slot. Visitors are encouraged to plan ahead and purchase their tickets in advance. Hours of operation and other helpful information can be found at [assiniboinepark.ca](https://www.assiniboinepark.ca).

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