

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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B&O Railroad Museum is HQ for Stuff the Train Toy Drive

Baltimore, MD – December 2, 2020 – The B&O Railroad Museum is proud to announce its partnership and to be the headquarters of the "Stuff the Train" Toy Drive, a virtual dance party and hybrid in-person/virtual toy drive with a goal of donating 20,000 toys to children across Maryland. From now until December 5, individuals and corporate groups may drop off new, unopened toys at the Museum located at 900 West Pratt Street in Baltimore. Donors may also purchase toys from an Amazon wish list or the Museum gift shop.



On December 5, Baltimore-based Chris "DJ" Kopec will be live-streaming a holiday-themed dance party at the B&O Railroad Museum to cap off the drive. DJ Kopec will be bringing the holiday fun as the Museum's "Reindeer Railway" train is loaded with toys. Santa Claus will be on-hand to drive it off into the night to prepare for deliveries.

Gifts collected through Stuff the Train will be distributed to children across the state of Maryland through the Greater Chesapeake Charitable Foundation and other partner organizations, including United Way of Central Maryland, Elite Production Services, DJ Kopec and Johns Hopkins Children's Center. Gifts will be donated to children in hospitals, schools and nonprofits that provide critical services to children in the community.

"We couldn't be more proud to be the host venue for this impactful event during the holiday season," said Kris Hoellen, Executive Director of the B&O Railroad Museum. "This year, more than ever, toys are needed, so come Stuff the Train!"

Streaming for the Stuff the Train dance party will take place on Kopec's online platform, **DJKopecQuarantineDanceParty.com**, on December 5 from 7-8:30 p.m. There is no cost to watch the online event. In lieu of or in addition to donating toys, individuals may donate directly to a United Way-managed fund, which will be used to purchase toys at www.uwcm.org/traintoys. Donations can also be made by texting "DJKOPEC" to 41-444.

Members of the media are invited to shoot pre-event video and conduct interviews at the B&O Railroad Museum on December 4 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

About the B&O Railroad Museum

The B&O Railroad Museum, a full affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of American railroading and its impact on American society, culture and economy. The Museum is home to the oldest, most comprehensive collection of railroad artifacts in the Western Hemisphere including an unparalleled roster of 19th and 20th century railroad equipment. The 40-acre historic site is regarded as the birthplace of American Railroading and includes the 1851 Mt. Clare Station, the 1884 Baldwin Roundhouse and first mile of commercial railroad track in America. In 2019, the Museum welcomed guests from all 50 states and 40 countries. For further information on the B&O Railroad Museum, please call 410-752-2490 or visit www.BORail.org.

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