

# PRESS RELEASE

## Experience Wonder and Delight This Holiday Season

*Historic Folsom's new Museum of Wonder & Delight offers the perfect holiday excursion for the whole family.*

If you're looking for something fun and festive to do over the holidays that the whole family will enjoy, and that's refreshingly different and affordable, you'll find it at the new Museum of Wonder & Delight in Historic Folsom.

In the *Christmas Dreams* gallery at the museum, you'll be able to peer into a world of holiday wonderment like nothing you've ever seen before. Dozens of exquisite holiday vignettes, filled with mesmerizing displays of antique Christmas decorations, toys, figures, and artifacts, are arranged in the story telling, awe-inspiring, signature style of museum creative director and curator Dolph Gotelli. "I design my Christmas vignettes to transport both adults and children to an imagined world that evokes the fantasy dreams of childhood", says Gotelli.

Each vignette is more amazing than the last, and the longer you gaze into each fantastical display, the more details you notice – some curious, some humorous, and some just unbelievable. The *Christmas Dreams* gallery also showcases rare, beautifully crafted holiday goods from long ago, and many more surprises. Expect to hear a lot of "ooh's and aaah's" and giggles of delight – the museum definitely lives up to its name.

Other galleries in this one-of-a-kind museum feature rare 19th and 20th century toys, global folk art, ephemera, games, dolls, books, and more from all around the world - all of which are also displayed in Gotelli's creative and imaginative style. The gift shop offers unique items, including specially selected vintage Christmas items from Gotelli's own collection.

So how did such a unique museum end up in Folsom? Because the remarkable collections showcased in the museum are those of UC Davis Professor Emeritus of Design, Dolph Gotelli. He is so well known for his vast knowledge and collection of Christmas ephemera, memorabilia, and artifacts, that he is referred to as "Father Christmas" by fans the world over. Gotelli's exhibition, *The Santa Show*, at the Crocker Art Museum in 1977-1978 was a catalyst that energized Santa collecting throughout the United States.

With the museum being adjacent to the outdoor ice skating rink and the quaint shops and restaurants of Historic Folsom, you can easily plan a complete day of family fun. A visit to the Museum of Wonder & Delight may even become your new holiday tradition! The museum is located at 905 Leidesdorff St., Folsom, in the same brick structure as the parking garage. Free parking in the garage or on the street. Hours are Tues. - Wed. 11am - 4pm, Thurs. - Sun. 11am - 8pm, closed Mon. Admission: adults \$5, children \$2 (under 5 free), seniors \$4. [museumofwonderanddelight.org](http://museumofwonderanddelight.org), 916-985-4871

The Museum of Wonder & Delight is part of the Folsom Historical Society family of museums.