

## Making Elizabeth City: "The Hot Cocoa Capital of the World" The 2nd Annual Hot Cocoa Crawl: Businesses Invited to Participate

**Elizabeth City, N.C. (August 25, 2022)** — There's nothing like the holidays to transform the Harbor of Hospitality<sup>®</sup> into "The Hot Cocoa Capitol of the World!" And this winter, travelers can escape to the delightful Elizabeth City, North Carolina for a whimsical hot chocolate experience.

"Hot Cocoa Crawl 2022" will run from Nov. 25 - Jan. 15 when Elizabeth City coffee shops, craft breweries and restaurants will feature unique hot cocoa beverages, dishes and desserts while boutiques, bed and breakfasts and attractions will offer hot chocolate-themed events and decorations transforming this coastal destination into a scene from a story-book Christmas!

"After a successful inaugural 2021 season, we're thrilled to have an ever-growing list of local businesses and organizations eager to make our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Hot Cocoa Crawl even better!" said Corrina Ruffieux, Executive Director of Visit Elizabeth City. "In our quest to make Elizabeth City the 'Hot Cocoa Capital of the World', we're in our final push of gathering commitments from local businesses to join in the celebration. Last year we saw strong media interest in the Hot Cocoa Crawl and in Christmas in Elizabeth City overall, so this is a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness of your local business."

ECPC Parks and Recreation has chosen 'Christmas Around the World' as this year's theme for the holiday parade on Saturday, December 3. "We're encouraging businesses to marry the Christmas Around the World theme into their hot cocoa offerings, shop decorations, and gift selections," said Deborah Malenfant, Executive Director of Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc. "We'll kick off the season with the 'Grand Illumination' lighting ceremony at the Pasquotank County Courthouse and continue down Main Street toward the waterfront, followed by caroling and first official cups of hot cocoa."

Businesses and local organizations who would like to add their beverage, food, gift items and special events to the "Hot Cocoa Crawl" are encouraged to contact Visit Elizabeth City as soon as possible.

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