30 Day Countdown to New Year's Eve in Times Square Begins with Unveiling of the 2016 Wishing Wall

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Write Your Wishes for 2016 on Confetti to be Released in Times Square on New Year's Eve Countdown on Toshiba Vision Screen atop One Times Square and New Year's Eve Associated Press Poll Begin Today

TIMES SQUARE, NY - (December 1, 2015) – Times Square Alliance and Countdown Entertainment, co-organizers of Times Square New Year's Eve, along with this year's presenting sponsor, Planet Fitness, today unveiled the New Year's Eve Wishing Wall, enabling people from around the world to be a part of the celebration by writing their wishes on the actual confetti that will be released at midnight on December 31.

The Wishing Wall will be on Times Square's Broadway plazas, between 42nd Street and 47th Street, every day until December 29 from 11:30 AM – 8:30 PM (not available on Christmas Day – December 25). For those who can't make it to Times Square, wishes will be collected online at the Times Square New Year's Eve <u>Virtual Wishing Wall</u> (TimesSquareNYC.org), and as the presenting sponsor of this year's celebration, <u>Planet Fitness</u> will also collect wishes at <u>PlanetFitness.com/confettiwishes</u>.

Every wish submitted – via the Wishing Wall in Times Square or online - will be printed on a piece of confetti and included in the 3,000 pounds of confetti released at midnight over the one million revelers in Times Square on New Year's Eve.

"Writing down a wish is a great opportunity to look back and reflect on the past year while looking forward to a brighter future," said **Tim Tompkins, President, Times Square Alliance**. "We anticipate tens of thousands of people from across the world will submit wishes as we countdown the final 30 days of 2015."

"Having the Wishing Wall in Times Square and online creates an opportunity for everyone to participate in our global celebration, added **Jeff Straus, President, Countdown Entertainment**. "It's magical having wishes from around the world floating down on the million revelers in Times Square as we greet the New Year."

"We are thrilled to be part of this worldwide celebration and encourage everyone to join in on the fun and submit their wish for 2016," said **Chris Rondeau**, **Chief Executive Officer at Planet Fitness**. "There's no better way to jumpstart the New Year than with a wish or a goal for the year ahead."

One of the first wishes received was from **Bill Nye**, "**The Science Guy**," who submitted: "I wish that 80% or more of our cars, trucks, ships, and trains are electric by 2031."

Furthermore, the event organizers today announced the beginning of the third annual AP-Times Square New Year's Eve Poll. The poll, results of which will be released on December 26, will capture the public's opinion about global events and milestones in news, sports, entertainment and pop culture. The nationally representative poll will meet The Associated Press' strong methodological standards, producing a scientifically sound look at how Americans viewed 2015.

Today also marked the start of the 30-day countdown to New Year's Eve on the Toshiba Vision screen atop One Times Square. The screen is located directly beneath the New Year's Eve Ball and will countdown each day, every six minutes, as the New Year approaches. Toshiba America Inc. is the exclusive sponsor for the Official Countdown of the Times Square New Year's Eve Celebration for 2016.

About Times Square New Year's Eve

The Times Square Alliance and Countdown Entertainment are the organizers of Times Square New Year's Eve. The Times Square Alliance works to improve and promote Times Square so that it retains the energy, edge and distinctiveness that have made it an icon of entertainment, culture and urban life. Countdown Entertainment represents the owners of One Times Square and the New Year's Eve Ball.

For more information about Times Square New Year's Eve, visit www.TimesSquareNYC.org. To join the Times Square New Year's Eve conversation on Twitter, follow #BallDrop.

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