INTRODUCTION

The Festival of the Light Tree of Humanity

Boston Common · Thursday, December 3, 2026

Boston · Tokyo · Hà Nội · Rome – Vatican · Washington DC · San Francisco · Osaka – Kyoto · Nha Trang

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1

One Night, Two Trees

On the evening of Thursday, December 3, 2026, the City of Boston lights the tree on Boston Common, the oldest public park in America. The tree is a gift Nova Scotia sends every year in gratitude to Boston: in December 1917, after a ship exploded in Halifax Harbour and killed nearly two thousand people, Boston received a telegram asking for help and sent a train of doctors, nurses and medicine that same night, through a blizzard, until it arrived. For more than a century, that light has traveled back and forth between the two cities.

On the same night, the Boston Global Forum lights a second tree: **the Light Tree of Humanity**. It stands nowhere, because it stands everywhere. Every light on it is a **Seed of Light**: one person's pledge to do one concrete good thing in the year ahead, for whom, and by when.

When the Boston tree comes alight, the Light Tree of Humanity is lit.

BGF does not step into the City's ceremony, does not share its name, and does not ask for a minute on its stage. BGF waits for the second the lights come on, then declares its own Festival open. From that second, the light leaves a park in Boston to travel through the eight Founding Cities of AIWS Civilization.

The Halifax story poses the Festival's question: **in 1917, to save lives, Boston needed a telegram, a train and a sleepless night; today, the same call for help circles the earth in less than a second. We have made help infinitely faster. Have we made it more compassionate?** Speed belongs to the machine; compassion belongs to the human being. That is Human–AI Co-Creation, told through a true story.

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Program

DATE	PROGRAM
November 24, 2026	The Nova Scotia tree arrives on Boston Common. BGF sends the Invitation of Light to the world in English, Japanese, Vietnamese and Italian, and opens the Seed of Light counter and map
November 24 – December 2	Three waves: Boston's universities; the eight Founding Cities of AIWS Civilization; the AI Pioneers, who contribute the first Seeds of Light, publicly and signed. Thanksgiving, November 26: the family wave
December 3, 6:00 p.m.	The City of Boston's tree lighting. BGF stands in the crowd, like everyone else
The second the tree comes alight	Declaration: the Light Tree of Humanity is lit. The 250 lights of the America 250 Lights shine together in the crowd
Immediately after	The AIWS Lumina Ceremony on Beacon Hill: the Halifax story; the winter Hồn Trà Ceremony; **the Lighting Message by Professor Cynthia Dwork**, Harvard University, World Leader in AIWS 2026; the Rite of the Two Hands; the AIWS Trust Observatory lights **the Lamp of Transparency**; greetings from the eight Founding Cities; announcement of the Eight Founding Cities of AIWS Civilization; Boston proclaimed Founding Beacon City; the Crossing Flame sets out for Nha Trang
Evening of December 3, local time	The four Cornerstone Cities officially screen **Shinzo Abe — A Seed of Light for the AI Age**, a film by AIWS Film and Culture Park for the Shinzo Abe Initiative for Peace and Security: Tokyo and Hà Nội first, then Rome, closing in Boston after the tree lighting. The light circles the globe in a single day
December 2026 – February 2027	A nine-week Season of Light through the eight Founding Cities: Washington DC, San Francisco, Tokyo, Osaka – Kyoto, Rome, Hà Nội, and then Nha Trang
February 6, 2027, dawn	The first morning of Tết at the Po Nagar Cham Towers, Nha Trang: the flame from Boston lights the four lights of AIWS Lumina; the season's total of Seeds of Light is announced

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An Event That Puts AIWS Civilization into Practice

2026 is the year of frameworks, doctrines and ideas; 2027 is the year Human–AI Co-Creation becomes real in everyday life. The Festival of the Light Tree of Humanity is the passage between those two years: it is measured not by how many people come, but by how many promises are kept.

- **A Seed of Light is a deed, not a wish.** Every Seed of Light carries the name of the one who pledges, the deed, the one it is for, and the date of completion; the identity of the person helped is made public only with their consent. A Seed of Light need not involve AI; where it does, the

contributor records what AI helped with and what the human being decided. The four values, Love, Creativity, Nobility and Wisdom, move from slogan into action.

- **The Ledger of Light keeps the promises.** Every Seed of Light is entered in the Ledger of Light. On the night of the next tree lighting, twelve pledges that were kept are read aloud before the crowd, chosen by the weight of what was done, not by the fame of the one who did it.
- **Connected to the institutions of AIWS Civilization.** Those who contribute a Seed of Light are invited to join the AIWS Human–AI Co-Creation Movement and to record what they have done in The Human–AI Co-Creation Atlas, opening in January 2027. From 2027, the AIWS Pioneering Ideas Honors of the AIWS Human–AI Co-Creation Summit are presented on this night, and each honored idea receives a light on the tree.
- **A scientist delivers the message.** The one who gives the tree its words is Professor Cynthia Dwork, who laid the foundations of differential privacy, the method that lets machines learn from human data while placing a mathematical bound on the additional privacy risk each person incurs by contributing their data. Her science is the answer to the question of Halifax: technology can be both powerful and compassionate.

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Light That Reveals: The AIWS Trust Observatory in the Festival

Light is not only for warmth. Light is also for seeing. In the AI Age, what humanity most needs to see is the power of AI: what AI can do, what authority it has been given, and whether those who build it keep their promises. That is the work of **the AIWS Trust Observatory**, and from this year it has a place on the Light Tree of Humanity.

- **The Lamp of Transparency.** In the ceremony on December 3, the AIWS Trust Observatory lights its own lamp on the tree: the lamp of the right to see. It shines beside the Seeds of Light to say that a civilization of Human–AI Co-Creation cannot live in the dark about AI power.
- **Two ledgers, two kinds of promise.** The Ledger of Light records the promises of human beings. The Commitment Register of the AIWS Trust Observatory records the promises of AI companies on safety, transparency and responsibility, and sets them beside what those companies actually do. The Light Tree lights the promises of people; the Observatory illuminates the promises of those who hold AI power.
- **A Night of Answers for both.** From December 2027, alongside the twelve human pledges read aloud, the AIWS Trust Observatory announces before the Light Tree which commitments AI companies kept, which they did not, and which cannot yet be verified in the past year, based on the Commitment Register and the Quarterly State of Frontier AI report. Before publication, each company has the right to respond and to request review.
- **An invitation to add light.** The Festival invites scientists, engineers, lawyers and journalists around the world to join the AIWS Fellows and observe and warn alongside the Observatory. Each who accepts is a revealing light on the tree.

A Seed of Light is a promise to do good. The Lamp of Transparency is a promise that AI power shall not operate in the dark.

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Global Reach

The Festival takes place in Boston, but in the same season its light travels through the eight Founding Cities of AIWS Civilization and the Vatican: the four Cornerstone Cities, Boston, Tokyo, Hà Nội and Rome, together with Washington DC, San Francisco, Osaka – Kyoto and Nha Trang. The night of December 3, 2026 comes near the close of America's 250th anniversary year.

Boston. Where AIWS was born in 2017, and where the AIWS Human–AI Co-Creation Movement was launched at the Massachusetts State House on September 23, 2026. On the night of the Festival, Boston receives the permanent title of **Founding Beacon City**.

Washington DC. Where AIWS Civilization meets public policy and international institutions. During the Season of Light, Washington will carry the Constitution for Humanity, the AIWS Trust Standards and the Commitment Register of the AIWS Trust Observatory to policymakers. America's 250th year closes with light traveling from Boston, where the Revolution began, to the nation's capital.

San Francisco. Home to the world's leading AI companies, and so the place where the Lamp of Transparency means the most. The AIWS Trust Observatory in Silicon Valley, introduced at the BGF Conference on November 10, 2026, sets the promises of AI companies beside what they actually do. Silicon Valley engineers and founders are invited to contribute a Seed of Light from their own craft: an AI product that leaves people better protected, better informed and more compassionate.

Rome and the Vatican. In the same week, **the 20th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates** meets in Rome, December 2–4, 2026. On the occasion of the Summit, BGF issues the interfaith statement **"Peace by Co-Creation,"** inviting each faith tradition to send **a Light for Peace** to the Light Tree of Humanity on Boston Common. Nguyen Anh Tuan will lecture to the young leaders attending the Summit, continuing the call "One Team, One Act of Peace" he made on October 31, 2026. The connection with the Vatican runs through two pontifical universities: **the Pontifical Gregorian University**, where BGF co-organized the Boston–Rome Co-Creation Meeting on November 3, 2026 with the Center for Interreligious Studies; and **the Pontifical Lateran University**, where Professor Martin Nkafu Nkemnkia, BGF's Special Representative to the Vatican, teaches. In the days of the tree lighting in St. Peter's Square, also a gifted tree, BGF invites the Focolare Movement to read in Rome the Seeds of Light from Boston together with Seeds of Light from people of many faiths. Two gifted trees, two cities, one Light Tree of Humanity.

Tokyo. Where the Tokyo Compact was proclaimed on June 12, 2026. Mr. Yasuhide Nakayama carries the Invitation of Light to Japan; Tokyo, together with Osaka – Kyoto, opens the Season of Light in Asia in Japanese. On the evening of December 3, Tokyo officially screens **Shinzo Abe — A Seed of Light for the AI Age**: the legacy of the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe handed on as a Seed of Light for the AI Age.

Osaka – Kyoto. Mr. Yasuhide Nakayama, born in Osaka, leads the Festival in Osaka – Kyoto. Osaka carries the light into business and young creators, where Human–AI Co-Creation enters production and entrepreneurship. Kyoto, Japan's capital for more than a thousand years, brings cultural depth to the Season of Light: the light of AI received in the stillness of ancient temples.

Hà Nội. The Temple of Literature, BGF's partner and the Asian home of the AIWS Lumina Laureates, whose doctoral steles, erected from 1484, bear the names of laureates of the examinations held from

1442, is invited to welcome the flame during the Season of Light. Ambassador Vu Quang Minh, BGF's Representative in Vietnam, accompanies the Festival in Hà Nội.

Nha Trang. The destination of the Crossing Flame. For the seven days of the year-end apricot blossom market, the lamp from Boston stands beside the statue of the Golden Apricot Blossom Angel. At dawn on the first day of Tết, February 6, 2027, at the Po Nagar Cham Towers, the flame lights the four lights of AIWS Lumina in the AIWS Lumina Golden Apricot Blossom Angel Festival, on the same morning the Founding World AI Pioneers of the Ten Years of AIWS program are announced.

One flame. Two hemispheres. Nine weeks. From a Boston sunset to a Nha Trang sunrise.

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Invitation

BGF invites every person, every family, every school, every faith community and every city to contribute a Seed of Light: one concrete good thing, for one particular person, by one particular date. On the evening of December 3, 2026, when the Boston tree comes alight, those lights shine together on the Light Tree of Humanity.

How to take part. Send your Seed of Light through the Festival page or to **Lumina@BostonGlobalForum.org**: one sentence saying what, for whom, and by when, with your name and city. When the deed is done, report it to the same address, and your Seed of Light is marked as fulfilled in the Ledger of Light.

AI advances. Humanity must advance further.

Love · Creativity · Nobility · Wisdom

Boston Global Forum – AIWS · Rome, November 5, 2026