Chicago Architecture Biennial enlists the Chicago Architecture Foundation as Signature Partner
CAF’s renowned programs, exhibitions and events will engage visitors of all ages

Chicago — The Chicago Architecture Biennial (CAB) is pleased to announce that the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) has been named a Signature Partner of the Chicago Architecture Biennial. In this role, CAF will spearhead education opportunities for students from Chicago Public Schools and offer special tours, exhibitions and lectures throughout the Biennial. With this suite of programs, CAF will introduce Chicago youth to both current architectural trends and the city’s rich architectural history through a variety of channels that appeal to visitors of all ages and levels of interest.

CAF will be tasked to create education opportunities for students from Chicago Public Schools and community-based science, technology, engineering, arts and math organizations and spark the interests of the next generation of architects and designers. Through a suite of educator guides, teen design competitions, hands-on field trips and family programs, CAF will work to ensure students who might otherwise not be exposed to architecture and design have access to the Chicago Architecture Biennial’s exhibitions and installations. CAF will play a crucial role in helping the Chicago Architecture Biennial fulfill its mission of exploring the ambitions, challenges and possibilities that are fueling the architectural imagination today.

“The Chicago Architecture Foundation is world renowned for its commitment to advancing the study of design, while inspiring people from all walks of life to appreciate architecture in its many forms,” said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. “As the world’s leaders in architecture convene in our great city for the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial, there’s no better organization than the Chicago Architecture Foundation to foster the development of the next generation of designers and architects through its educational programming partnership with the Biennial.”

CAF’s education programs will reach thousands of Chicago-area youth and include the following:

- Field trips of the Biennial’s primary exhibit at the Chicago Cultural Center. Specially trained CAF education facilitators will give guided tours to groups of students and teachers.
● A bilingual educator guide in English and Spanish for educators that offers a unique curriculum and interpretation of the Biennial.

● BP Student Design Challenge:
  o The challenge of this unique competition will be to design a "pocket park" that embodies the Chicago Architecture Biennial’s theme of “The State of the Art of Architecture.” Jurors will include representatives from the Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Schools and BP, the Presenting Sponsor of the CAB, as well as architects and designers involved with the Biennial. To be eligible, applicants must live within the city’s limits and be enrolled in a Chicago-area high school.
  o Awards will be given to the top 10 designers, with the first prize winner receiving $500 in cash and an overnight stay at a Marriott Hotel (the official hotel partner of the Chicago Architecture Biennial), dinner at a downtown restaurant and a one-year subscription to Black Spectacles which provides CAD, Sketchup, Photoshop and other software that benefits aspiring architects and designers.

● Teen Ambassador Program:
  o Chicago Public Schools high school students will serve as highly-trained, deeply-integrated ambassadors to the Chicago Architecture Biennial. Ambassadors will participate in an intensive training session and work with experts in the field to become fluent in Biennial content. Their assistance interpreting the exhibit to international audiences and young people will earn them service-learning hours towards high school graduation requirements. ArcelorMittal is the sponsor of the Teen Ambassador Program.

● CAF Saturday Studios:
  o Saturday Studios, or “master class” workshops, will provide hands-on engagement with architects and designers participating in the Biennial. These studios will take place at the Chicago Cultural Center and engage grades 7-12.

The inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial will be North America’s largest international survey of contemporary architecture. The exhibitions, symposiums, publications and other programs that educate the public and address the major urban concerns of our time will illustrate the Biennial’s concept of “The State of the Art of Architecture.” As the Signature Partner of the Biennial, CAF’s learning programs will bring a valuable element to the programs and exhibitions of the many cultural institutions, artists, designers and urban planners participating around the city.

“The Chicago Architecture Biennial is a groundbreaking initiative and we are thrilled that CAF is a Signature Partner selected to lead the execution of youth, family and educator outreach and programming,” said Lynn Osmond, President and CEO of Chicago Architecture Foundation. “Each of our programs, tours and exhibitions are designed to inspire people to discover why design matters, and we are uniquely positioned to be the platform for youth education. The Biennial will engage local residents and attract thousands of visitors from around the globe, and we are honored to have the opportunity to interact with our young aspiring designers, both locally and nationally.”

“This substantial collaboration opens the Biennial to new generations and audiences,” said Chicago Architecture Biennial Executive Director Ty Tabing, “No local organization is better equipped to lead the Biennial’s education program and assist with tours than the Chicago Architecture Foundation.”

Broad, diverse, city-wide access to CAF’s existing tours, exhibitions and programs will be available October 2015 through January 2016, including:
Tours:
- The Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise aboard Chicago’s First Lady Cruises: CAF’s famous boat tour has daily departures through November 22.
- Walking and bus tours to iconic locations in and around Chicago, including a number of Frank Lloyd Wright sites and Mies van der Rohe’s Farnsworth House.

Programs:
- Design Dialogues: a monthly lecture series featuring panel discussions and Q&A with local design and architecture experts on current civic issues related to the state of Chicago’s built environment.
- Architecture is Art: a series of dialogues featuring cutting-edge designers in the field who are blurring the lines between art and architecture; produced jointly by CAF and the Museum of Contemporary Art and moderated by Reed Kroloff.

Exhibitions:
- The Chicago Model: the world’s largest to-scale model of downtown Chicago.
- CHI Design: an exhibit featuring a shortlist of submissions and winners of CAF’s first speculative design competition for a Center for Architecture, Design and Education (CADE).
- Currencies of Architecture: CAF will host an exhibition of images selected from submissions to the Chicago Architectural Club’s Burnham Prize Competition

Special Events:
- Open House Chicago: a free public festival that offers thousands of locals and visitors behind-the-scenes access to 200 buildings across Chicago. The 5th annual Open House Chicago takes place October 17-18, 2015.

About Chicago Architecture Foundation
Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. As an education leader in design, architecture and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), CAF offers tours, programs, exhibitions, field trips, curricula and online tools that are part of a dynamic learning journey for all ages. Proceeds from CAF’s tours and gift shop, as well as contributions, gifts and government grants, support this educational mission. For more information, visit www.architecture.org.

About the 2015 Chicago Architecture Biennial
The inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial takes its title, “The State of the Art of Architecture,” from a 1977 conference organized by architect Stanley Tigerman, which invited leading American designers to Chicago to discuss the current state of the field. The Chicago Architecture Biennial will expand the spirit and scope of this event. It will invite both emerging and established practices from across the world to Chicago to demonstrate how groundbreaking advances in architectural design are tackling the most pressing issues of today. In this way it will enrich Chicago’s unique role in history as a crucible of architectural innovation. The setting for a succession of pivotal episodes in modern architecture and urbanism, and a context in which architects such as Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Mies van der Rohe developed revolutionary projects, Chicago will operate as a nexus for the ideas and practices that are driving global architectural culture in the 21st century.

Key dates:
Press and Professional Previews: October 1 - October 2, 2015
Opening Weekend: October 3 - October 4, 2015

Information regarding the entire Chicago Architecture Biennial program can be found at www.chicagoarchitecturebiennial.org

About BP
BP is the presenting sponsor of the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial. Over the past 10 years, BP has invested more than $90 billion in the United States—more than any other energy company. BP is a leading producer of oil and gas and produces enough energy annually to light nearly the entire country for a year. Employing about 18,000 people in all 50 states, BP supports nearly 200,000 additional jobs through all of its business activities. For more information, visit bp.com/us.

About ArcelorMittal
ArcelorMittal is the world’s leading steel and mining company, with a presence in 60 countries and an industrial footprint in 19 countries. Guided by a philosophy to produce safe, sustainable steel, ArcelorMittal is the leading supplier of quality steel in the major global steel markets including automotive, construction, household appliances and packaging, with world-class research and development and outstanding distribution networks. For more information about ArcelorMittal please visit: corporate.arcelormittal.com or usa.arcelormittal.com.