

CONTACT:

Nikki Snodgrass

Media Relations Manager, Chicago Architecture Foundation

312.561.2162

[nsnodgrass@architecture.org](mailto:nsnodgrass@architecture.org)

## Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady Cruises Opens 2016 Season on Saturday, April 2

*The award winning architectural cruise embarks on another highly anticipated season showcasing the city's world-renowned design*

**Chicago, IL** – Chicago's First Lady Cruises and the Chicago Architecture Foundation launch their 24th season of the **Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady Cruises** on Saturday, April 2, sailing with an elite fleet of five luxurious cruise vessels showcasing world-famous architecture in the birthplace of the American skyscraper.

Named one of the "[Top 10 Tours in the United States](#)" by [TripAdvisor](#) in 2015, the official Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady Cruises provides an unparalleled introduction to Chicago's history by exploring its world-renowned architecture. All cruises feature panoramic city views and highlight more than 50 historic and architecturally significant buildings, as well as a number of bridges, the engineering style of which originated in Chicago.

As the only Chicago river cruise featuring CAF-trained volunteer-docents, guests will learn stories of the magnificent riverfront Chicago skyline with fascinating detail and historical overview. Approximately 100 CAF-certified docents volunteer their time and share their passion for architecture featuring the world-famous Chicago skyline including the 108-story Willis Tower, Wrigley Building, Tribune Tower, Marina City, Merchandise Mart, Civic Opera Building and Aqua Tower. After hundreds of hours of training, the CAF-certified volunteer docents lead more than 2,000 cruises per season. The vessels feature open-air upper deck comfortable armchair seating, photo opportunities and a temperature controlled interior salon and full-service bar.

The CAF River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady currently has a five-star rating on TripAdvisor, and 4.5 on Yelp.

The cruising season begins Saturday, April 2 and runs through Sunday, November 20, 2016 with hourly departures starting at 10am with additional departures on weekends. For a complete schedule, visit [www.cruisechicago.com](http://www.cruisechicago.com). Tickets are \$44.00 per person for daytime tours and \$46.00 per person for the 7:30pm Twilight Tour. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.ticketmaster.com/rivercruise](http://www.ticketmaster.com/rivercruise); by phone at 800-982-2787 (for calls within the U.S.) or 001-949-333-4001 (international calls); at the Chicago's First Lady dockside ticket office (on the Riverwalk at Michigan Ave. & Wacker Dr., look for our blue awnings!); or at the CAF Shop & Tour Center (224 S. Michigan Ave.). For groups of 10 or more, please contact the Group Tour Sales Department at 312-322-1131 or via email: [group tours@architecture.org](mailto:group tours@architecture.org). For more information, visit [www.cruisechicago.com](http://www.cruisechicago.com) or [www.architecture.org](http://www.architecture.org).

### **About Chicago's First Lady Cruises**

Chicago's First Lady Cruises is the first name in Chicago cruises and is a fourth generation family owned and operated Cruiseline leading a fleet of 6- custom built passenger vessels, designed and constructed in the United States. Chicago's First Lady Cruises and its parent company, Mercury Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline, are celebrating their 81<sup>st</sup> season on the banks of the Chicago River and with the Chicago Architecture Foundation. Inspected annually by the US Coast Guard, Chicago's First Lady's fleet proudly sails on the Chicago River and Lake Michigan harbor front. As longtime stewards of Chicago's waterways, Chicago's First Lady Cruises has committed to green initiatives that make all of its vessels carbon neutral and energy and environmentally friendly, utilizing only clean resources including B-11 biodiesel fuel. All vessels are available for private charter cruising and special events complete with food and beverage for groups of 2 – 250. For more information, visit [www.cruisechicago.com](http://www.cruisechicago.com) or call 1-847-358-1330.

Connect with us on [Facebook.com/CruiseChicago](https://www.facebook.com/CruiseChicago), [Twitter.com/CFLcruises](https://twitter.com/CFLcruises), [Pinterest.com/CFLcruises](https://www.pinterest.com/CFLcruises) and [Instagram.com/CFLcruises](https://www.instagram.com/CFLcruises).

### **About Chicago Architecture Foundation**

The Chicago Architecture Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspire people to discover why design matters. The CAF pursues this mission through architecture tours, exhibitions, panel discussions and youth and adult education programs. A permanent exhibition, *Chicago Model City*, includes a highly detailed scale model of Chicago. CAF is located at 224 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60604. For further information, visit <http://www.architecture.org> or call 1-312-922-3432 or become a Facebook fan: <http://www.facebook.com/chiarchitecture> or follow on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/chiarchitecture> or follow on Pinterest: <http://www.pinterest.com/chiarchitecture> or LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/chicago-architecture-foundation>.