

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

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Open House Chicago soars to 100,000 participants, breaking attendance records

*Chicago Architecture Foundation's citywide architecture festival generates
highest turn-out to-date*

CHICAGO – The Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) continues to break attendance records as an estimated 100,000 locals and tourists attended this year's Open House Chicago (OHC) on October 15-16, 2016. This represents an 18% increase from OHC 2015 and more than four times the attendance of the inaugural event in 2011. Attendees registered a record 380,000 site visits to 213 participating locations, solidifying the annual, free festival's standing as one of the world's largest architecture events.

The growing attendance is attributable, in part, to CAF's efforts to expand the geographic footprint of OHC to more neighborhoods. This year, OHC expanded to highlight 20 neighborhoods in the city and the adjacent suburbs of Evanston and Oak Park. In 2016, four new neighborhoods were added: Englewood, Oak Park, West Town and Jefferson Park/Portage Park. Every year, OHC opens the doors of the city's magnificent architecture—giving people behind-the-scenes access to buildings all over the city. The event leads to increased appreciation for Chicago's neighborhood architecture and culture.

"Chicago is extremely rich in architectural design and culture. Since the inception of Open House Chicago, we continue to cultivate the experience to provide people with a glimpse into remarkable structures that have influenced architecture and design globally," said Lynn Osmond, President and CEO of CAF. "It says much to the accomplishment of our goals to see that participation continues to grow each year. Reaching 100,000 attendees this year is a great milestone and a true testament that people are interested in knowing more about the architectural history and culture of Chicago."

Open House Chicago is completely free to all participants and buildings thanks to the support of presenting sponsor the James S. Kemper Foundation. Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, ComEd and CAF's network of sponsors and community partner organizations. Additional information about OHC attendance and economic impact will be available in January.

The next OHC is scheduled for October 14-15, 2017. The 2017 event is expected to draw additional domestic and overseas visitors, as well as local attendees. As always, Open House Chicago will remain free and open to everyone.

About the Chicago Architecture Foundation

The Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. As an education leader in architecture and design, 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 store, as well as grants, sponsorships and donations, support this educational mission.

For more information, please visit architecture.org or call 312.922.3432.

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