

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

MEDIA CONTACT:

Dan O'Connell

Director of Communications and Public Affairs

312.322.1134

doconnell@architecture.org

Wintrust named Presenting Sponsor of Open House Chicago 2018, 2019 and 2020

Nation's largest citywide architecture festival teams with Chicago's Bank

CHICAGO (July 9, 2018) — Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) today announced that Wintrust, a financial services company comprised of more than 150 Chicago-area community bank locations, has been named Presenting Sponsor of Open House Chicago 2018, 2019 and 2020. CAF's [Open House Chicago \(OHC\)](#) has grown to become the largest citywide architecture festival in North America and the second largest in the world, behind Open House London.

On Saturday October 13 and Sunday, October 14, 2018, Open House Chicago will open the doors to more than 250 sites, many rarely seen by the public. The free two-day public event offers behind-the-scenes access to repurposed mansions, stunning skyscrapers, opulent theaters, exclusive private clubs, industrial facilities, cutting-edge offices and breathtaking sacred spaces.

"We're thrilled that Wintrust, Chicago's Bank, has signed on as Presenting Sponsor for OHC's 2018, 2019 and 2020 festivals," said Lynn Osmond, President and CEO of CAF. "Last year, nearly 100,000 Chicagoans from every neighborhood discovered hidden gems in our architecturally rich and culturally diverse communities. With Wintrust's help, we can continue to help more Chicagoans discover our great neighborhoods."

OHC is an authentic celebration of Chicago – the city of neighborhoods – that gives Chicagoans the opportunity to discover new neighborhoods with their own distinct architectural and cultural styles. In 2017, 91,000 attendees made 347,000 site visits. Of the attendees, 9,100 were tourist and 81,900 were Chicagoans. An astounding 54,600 people visited new neighborhoods over those two days in 2017 and 92% of locals said OHC made them proud to be a Chicagoan.

"Wintrust is proud to partner with CAF and its unique, community-focused festival that helps Chicagoans discover great architecture in every corner of their city," said Wintrust President and CEO Edward J. Wehmer. "As a neighborhood bank that started in a Chicago suburb storefront more than 25 years ago, we're committed to supporting organizations that build up our area. By celebrating the city's vibrant architectural heritage and influential design, OHC provides Chicagoans an opportunity to learn about the neighborhoods they experience every day. Wintrust is dedicated to the people, places, and spaces that make up our diverse community, and we look forward to sharing in this experience with our neighbors."

This year, OHC attendees will also be invited to the Chicago Architecture Center (CAC), the city's newest must-see cultural destination and home to everything architecture in Chicago. The 20,000-square-foot

Center, located at 111 East Wacker above the dock for the CAF River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady Cruises, will provide a unique and extraordinary Chicago experience. As the new home and new name for CAF, visitors will discover world-famous tours, programs and exciting, new interactive exhibits that reveal the stories behind both the city's architectural marvels and breathtaking skyscrapers around the world.

Each year, a new neighborhood joins the OHC family. In 2017, Logan Square/Avondale was the newest of the over 20 participating communities. New and returning OHC neighborhoods for 2018, along with a complete list of more than 250 sites, will be announced on openhousechicago.org in early September, just after Labor Day.

Access to OHC sites is free and does not require a reservation, but participants are encouraged to sign up to receive event newsletters and last-minute announcements at openhousechicago.org. Sites will accept visitors on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition to free access, OHC offers activities in various sites throughout the weekend, including CAF's famous family festivals, cultural performances and more.

Become a CAF member at architecture.org to receive a "Priority Access Pass" which grants preferred access to OHC sites, as well as to a small number of Members-Only Sites.

In addition to Wintrust, National Endowment for the Arts, ComEd and Tawani Foundation provide support. OHC partners include Choose Chicago, the Chicago Transit Authority, Divvy and over 30 community organizations. Media sponsors include the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Magazine.

Open House Chicago is part of the Open House Worldwide movement, including popular programs in 40 cities, including New York, London, Vienna, Oslo and Tel Aviv.

###

About CAF

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 gift store, as well as grants, sponsorships and donations, support this educational mission. For more information, visit www.architecture.org.

About Wintrust

Wintrust is a financial holding company with assets of approximately \$28 billion whose common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. Built on the "HAVE IT ALL" model, Wintrust offers sophisticated technology and resources of a large bank while focusing on providing service-based community banking to each and every customer. Wintrust operates fifteen community bank subsidiaries, with over 150 banking locations located in the greater Chicago and southern Wisconsin market areas. Additionally, Wintrust operates various non-bank business units including business units which provide commercial and life insurance premium financing in the United States, a premium finance company operating in Canada, a company providing short-term accounts receivable financing and value-added out-sourced administrative services to the temporary staffing services industry, a business unit engaging primarily in the origination and purchase of residential mortgages for sale into the secondary market throughout the United States, and companies providing wealth management services.