

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

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Chicago Architecture Foundation presents 50th birthday bash, Saturday, April 16

CAF opens the Railway Exchange Building to offer daylong free activities for people of all ages in celebration of its 50th anniversary

Media interested in attending this event for photographs, interviews or b-roll should contact Nikki Snodgrass, Media Relations Manager

Chicago, Ill – On Saturday, April 16, 2016, the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) will host a birthday bash at the historic Railway Exchange Building to celebrate the organization's 50 year anniversary. This building-wide anniversary blowout will feature a brand new exhibition, talks, film screenings, family activities, special downtown walking tours and birthday cake. Guests will also get the chance to visit the offices of several working architectural firms on the building's upper floors.

"We're excited to open our doors to visitors and celebrate this very special milestone for CAF," said Lynn Osmond, President and CEO of Chicago Architecture Foundation. "In 50 years year, we have engaged with 10 million people of all ages from around the globe. The success of our tours, programs, education initiatives, exhibitions and large-scale events like Open House Chicago has established CAF as the largest public architecture organization in the world. We're proud of how much we've grown and look forward to a very bright future."

The day's activities will include:

- Family Activities: Create a mural, build an iconic Chicago building with LEGO® and more! Children under 13 will receive mini cupcakes and have the opportunity to craft birthday hats.
- \$1 Walking Tours: We're rolling back prices to 1971, when CAF began giving tours! *Note: Several walking tours will be offered. Space is limited. Tickets must be purchased on April 16 at the CAF Shop and Tour Center. \$1 offer available to Illinois residents only.*
- All-Day Programs: Drop in throughout the day for short lectures, films and other learning experiences: Explore a treasure trove of rare and iconic photos captured over the years by architectural photography firm Hedrich Blessing.
- See the latest buildings that have been added to the Chicago Model and find out how we built this remarkable 3D-printed scale model of more than 1,000 buildings.
- Hear from top architects about Chicago's past, present and future.
- Visit Architecture Firms: Tours will be offered throughout the day of the offices above CAF's space in the Railway Exchange Building. Visit Goettsch Partners, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) and VOA Associates. This is a rare chance to see sketches, films and other artifacts of landmark Chicago buildings designed by these acclaimed firms.

WHAT: Chicago Architecture Foundation 50th Birthday Bash

WHEN: Saturday, April 16, 10am – 4pm

WHERE: 224 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago 60604

COST: FREE

Please visit <https://www.architecture.org/cafs-50th-birthday-bash/> for more information.

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The Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. As an education organization, 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 shop and tours—as well as grants, sponsorships and donations—support this educational mission. For more information, please visit architecture.org or call 312.922.3432.