

# CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Chicago Bridges to Headline Annual Engineering Festival

*CAF Joins a National Coalition of Organizations to Promote Positive Pathways to Careers in Engineering*

Chicago, IL (**01.30.2017**) — What does it take to build a bridge? What structures make bridges strong? How many different kinds of bridges do we have in Chicago? Can bridges move? The Chicago Architecture Foundation will explore the evolution and mechanics of Chicago's bridges during the organization's 2017 Engineering Festival on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of National Engineers Week. The free two-day festival entitled, Bridges, will be held at CAF's ArcelorMittal Design Studio located at 224 S. Michigan Avenue in downtown Chicago. The festival will provide youth and families an opportunity to meet local engineers, explore Chicago's iconic bridges and build – and test – model bridges. This year's program is extremely hands-on and will enlighten participants on bridges and their role in the architectural landscape of Chicago.

“Chicago provides a wonderful snapshot of the evolution of bridge design – from draw bridges, to floating bridges, to swing bridges, to raised bridges,” said CAF Vice-President of Education and Experience, Gabrielle Lyon. “Each year Engineering Fest has a special theme. This year E-fest is giving us a terrific excuse to dissect the architecture of bridges, what kinds of problems bridges can solve for us, what structures bridges have in common – and what sets each design apart from the others. Best of all we let people design their own bridges and get input and feedback from engineers during the process.”

CAF is joining many organizations, corporations and individuals who are dedicated to raising public awareness of engineers' positive contribution to quality of life. Engineer Week (E-Week) promotes the importance of higher education in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). It is designed to motivate youth to pursue careers in engineering and technology in efforts to provide a diverse and vigorous engineering workforce.

Chicago Architecture Foundation has been hosting E-Fest since 2012. The event draws nearly 1,500 visitors each weekend. CAF's E-fest is presented in partnership with Presenting Sponsor, Arcelor Mittal and Lead Sponsor, EXP.

### Event highlights include:

**Bridge Builder Lab** – Attendees can explore the bridge builder lab inside of CAF's ArcelorMittal Design Studio to build a bridge and test its strength.

**Strong Shapes** –Bridges need strong shapes to be structurally sound. Explore what shapes make for the strongest (and most flexible) bridges.

**It's My Job** – Meet professional civil engineers; learn about ongoing projects and the career pathway opportunities these kinds of professions provide.

**Imagination Photo Station** – Learn about Chicago bridges and get into action for a great photo Op!

**Field Trip** – Take guided field trip around the block to observe the architecture- and engineering – all around us that keep skyscrapers (and bridges) strong and tall.

### **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.

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