

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

EXHIBITS • CRUISES • TOURS • PROGRAMS

MEDIA CONTACT:

Dan O'Connell, Director of Communications and Public Affairs
312.322.1134; doconnell@architecture.org

Chicago Architecture Center announces neighborhoods and sites for Open House Chicago 2018 *Beverly, Morgan Park and Austin join one of world's largest architecture festivals*

CHICAGO (Sept. 10, 2018) — The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) announced today the [neighborhoods and sites participating in OHC 2018](#)—now in its eighth year and one of the largest architecture festivals in the world. Beverly and Morgan Park, neighbors on the far southwest side, and Austin, on the far west side, join the nearly 30 neighborhoods and two suburbs hosting more than 250 sites, many rarely open to the public. This free two-day public event, on October 13 and 14, offers behind-the-scenes access to repurposed mansions, stunning skyscrapers, opulent theaters, exclusive private clubs, industrial facilities, cutting-edge offices and breathtaking sacred spaces.

"OHC gives Chicagoans the rare opportunity to discover hidden gems in architecturally significant buildings all across the city," said Lynn Osmond, President and CEO of the CAC. "But OHC attendees are discovering not only what is near their homes, they are exploring new neighborhoods across town and in the process changing preconceived notions about their neighbors. Last year, 60% of OHC attendees visited new neighborhoods. This year, we're predicting record breaking turnouts and expect Chicagoans to flock to OHC 2018's new neighborhoods, just as they visited Logan Square and Avondale in 2017 and Englewood in 2016."

Morgan Park's OHC 2018 sites include [Ingersoll-Blackwelder House](#), a lavish Victorian residence now used for private events as well as [Morgan Park Academy's Alumni Hall](#). **Beverly's OHC 2018 sites** include [Optimo](#), a classic hat maker working out of a 100-year-old decommissioned firehouse re-designed SOM; and [Wild Blossom Meadery & Winery](#), a craft brewer specializing in mead from its own bees' honey, with a tasting room designed by moss Design. **Austin's OHC 2018 sites** include [Catholic Charities Father Augustus Tolton Peace Center](#), an elegant former bank building recently repurposed as a community resource center; and Third Unitarian Church, a strikingly unique house of worship designed by noted Modernist Paul Schweikher in 1936. A complete list of new sites in Morgan Park, Beverly, and Austin is in the [OHC 2018 Site Summary](#).

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

EXHIBITS • CRUISES • TOURS • PROGRAMS

“Wintrust is thrilled to work with CAC for its city-wide Open House Chicago festival,” said Wintrust President, CEO and Founder Edward J. Wehmer. “As a company that proudly calls this area home, we know the hidden treasures this city holds. OHC brings them to light, and it’s especially exciting that CAC continues to find more and more locations to highlight, with three new neighborhoods added to the site list this year. We look forward to exploring different places and spaces of our city together because Chicago’s Bank® loves Chicago’s architecture.”

In addition to the new sites in Beverly, Morgan Park and Austin, our returning neighborhoods also have more than 50 new sites. For example, three new downtown sites are worth noting: the Chicago Architecture Center at 111 East Wacker (our new home!) will be an official site with both an RSVP offering and a family festival. 151 N. Franklin is a striking new office building with a dramatic roof deck as a building amenity. Wintrust’s monumental Grand Banking Hall at 231 S. LaSalle has recently been restored and is a must-see. Two neighborhoods are back after a short one-year hiatus: Rogers Park and West Ridge both feature a mix of returning favorite sites and exciting new ones. Finding new sites on our website is simple, with the OHC filtering tool.

For a complete list of participating sites, visit openhousechicago.org. Access to most OHC sites is free and does not require a reservation, but participants are encouraged to [sign up](#) to receive event e-newsletters and last-minute announcements. Get the latest news and fun facts about OHC by following the Chicago Architecture Center on Twitter (@chiarchitecture) and Facebook (facebook.com/chiarchitecture). In addition to free access, OHC offers activities in various sites all weekend long, including cultural performances, family festivals and more. Information about these programs will be added to the website later in September.

Select OHC sites require advance registration (usually due to security or capacity constraints) and will not accept drop-in visitors. This year the CAC is partnering with TodayTix to conduct lotteries for these RSVP-only sites. TodayTix will charge an RSVP processing fee for those lucky enough to receive an RSVP for these sought-after sites. Full information will be available on the OHC website beginning September 10.

Become a CAC member at openhousechicago.org/membership to receive a Priority Access pass, which gives exclusive access to Members Only sites and the ability to skip the lines at busier OHC sites.



GET TO THE
CENTER OF
ARCHITECTURE

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

EXHIBITS • CRUISES • TOURS • PROGRAMS

OHC is a celebration of Chicago's neighborhoods and communities. OHC community partners help make OHC a success, every year. The OHC Community Partners for Beverly and Morgan Park are the [Beverly Area Planning Association](#) and [19th Ward Alderman O'Shea's Office](#). The OHC Community Partner for Austin is [Austin Coming Together](#). A full list of OHC Community Partners can be found in the [OHC 2018 Site Summary](#).

This year, Wintrust was named Presenting Sponsor for OHC 2018, 2019 and 2020. Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, ComEd, Tawani Foundation, and Lifeway Foods. OHC partners include Choose Chicago, the Chicago Transit Authority and Open House Worldwide. Media sponsors include the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Magazine.

OHC is part of a worldwide movement of free open house events that began in London in 1992. Today more than 40 cities worldwide hold similar weekend festivals. OHC is the second largest event of its kind globally.

See our [OHC 2018 Digital Media Kit](#) for images and other background information.

###

About CAC

The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC), formerly 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, The CAC is a hub for everything architecture in Chicago offering tours, programs, exhibitions, field trips, curricula and online tools that are part of a dynamic learning journey for all ages. Proceeds from CAC's tours and store, as well as grants, sponsorships and donations, support this educational mission. For more information, visit www.architecture.org.

