

## **What is Art Design Chicago?**

Art Design Chicago is an initiative to explore the city's rich art and design legacy from the Great Chicago Fire to the turn of the 21st century. Initiated by the Terra Foundation for American Art, Art Design Chicago will uncover new perspectives on the many diverse people, places, and events that make up Chicago's vibrant art and design story, through an innovative series of exhibitions, public programs, publications, and a multi-part television series, taking place throughout 2018.

## **What are the primary goals for Art Design Chicago?**

Chicago has a long and illustrious history as a generator of new ideas in the arts and design, and Art Design Chicago will increase awareness of this history, while tying it to larger national and global movements. At the same time, each of the projects being funded produces new research or scholarship into a chosen topic, enhancing our understanding and adding to the knowledge base of ideas in the arts. Lastly, we want Chicagoans to get engaged in this content—to have fun with it, to learn from it, and to appreciate and celebrate this amazing city.

## **When will Art Design Chicago programs take place?**

There will be exhibitions and public programs taking place throughout 2018, with high points of activity in April-May and again September-October. The growing list of public programs and exhibitions is available on the Art Design Chicago website, [artdesignchicago.org](http://artdesignchicago.org).

## **Are all of the Art Design Chicago events open to the public?**

Most of Art Design Chicago's offerings are open to the public: from exhibitions, to programs, to public talks and tours, there will be many opportunities for the public to experience Art Design Chicago.

## **Will there be any programs for people who are not in Chicago?**

Some exhibitions will be presented in other cities nationally, including New York and Los Angeles, and a few are expected to travel to museums outside of the United States. WTTW is developing a television series that will be broadcast regionally and offered to other PBS markets around the country—and among the ADC-supported publications is a major multi-author compendium on Chicago's art history from the late-1800s to the present.

## **How do you define “art” and “design” for Art Design Chicago?**

Our approach has been to define “art” and “design” broadly, recognizing that part of what distinguishes Chicago are the ways in which traditional art forms intersect with more commercial ones. Everything from painting and sculpture, photography, decorative arts, crafts, textiles, and video art, to graphic design, commercial art, product design, and interior design will be included.

## **What impact has Chicago had in the world of art and design?**

Chicago's history in art and design has had an impact on the city and the world in a number of ways. Chicago is home to outstanding art and design schools, which trained hundreds of artists and designers who went on to distinguish themselves in creative fields locally, nationally, and internationally. Many of these artists then also became teachers, passing along their skills to the next generation.

Chicago has been a pioneering city in photography and video art, and has had many exceptionally strong champions for avant-garde and modern art and design. The city is also notable for its mutual collaboration between artists/designers and industry. As one of the most important centers for commissioning, designing, making, distributing, and promoting everyday consumer goods, Chicago was an exceptional generator/producer of modern design in the form of consumer products and advertisements. And Chicago has a long tradition of social justice activism by artists, in the vanguard of what has come to be known as “social practice.”

## **What organizations are supporting Art Design Chicago?**

Art Design Chicago is spearheaded and supported by The Terra Foundation for American Art. Additional funding for the initiative is provided by Presenting Partner, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, Leslie Hindman Auctioneers, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the Joyce Foundation. The Chicago Community Trust, Leo Burnett, Polk Bros. Foundation, and EXPO CHICAGO are providing in-kind support.

## **Who is curating Art Design Chicago’s projects?**

The subjects of the exhibitions and programs for Art Design Chicago are determined by the participating institutions: these are the stories they want to tell. Many are exploring lesser-known aspects of Chicago’s art and design history, while others are applying fresh perspective and original research to better-known subjects.

## **How were the exhibitions and programs for Art Design Chicago selected?**

The Terra Foundation has a grant application process to fund exhibitions, academic programs, publications and public programs. Those proposals are reviewed by Terra staff and also by external peer reviewers. The Terra’s goal with Art Design Chicago was to identify and support a wide range of programs that best represent the diverse history of the city’s culture and its cultural influences. More information about the application process is online at [terraamericanart.org](http://terraamericanart.org).

## **Why is the Terra Foundation creating Art Design Chicago?**

The Terra Foundation is committed to fostering engagement with American art among audiences across the globe. The Terra’s roots—and headquarters—are in Chicago, and Art Design Chicago is an opportunity to examine the art and design movements that were born and nurtured here, and the relationships of these movements to cultural developments throughout the world.

## **Why is the Terra Foundation doing this now?**

Simply put, Chicago’s history warrants a large-scale, multi-institutional exploration of the subject of its arts and design impact. The Terra Foundation has supported numerous Chicago-related projects in the past, and its grantees expressed interest in telling the stories of Chicago’s unique role and legacy in these areas more deeply and broadly. As we approach the Foundation’s 40th anniversary (in 2018), Terra wants to underscore our commitment to the city where we were founded by supporting this crucial exploration of its history and present-day impact through Art Design Chicago. At the same time, Art Design Chicago is an opportunity to re-examine dynamic narratives of innovation and perseverance, which are particularly relevant components of our civic history.

**How much money is being spent on Art Design Chicago programs?**

Approximately \$8 million is being invested for Art Design Chicago, \$6.5 million of which comes from the Terra Foundation. Thus far, Terra has given 72 grants to 51 organizations, with more to be announced.

**What is the Terra Foundation for American Art?**

Since it was established in 1978, the Terra Foundation for American Art has been one of the leading foundations focused on the historical art of the United States. Headquartered in Chicago, it is committed to fostering exploration, understanding, and enjoyment of American art among national and international audiences. To further cross-cultural dialogue on American art, the foundation supports and collaborates on innovative exhibitions, research, and educational programs. Implicit in such activities is the belief that art has the potential both to distinguish cultures and to unite them. Additional information can be found at: [terraamericanart.org](http://terraamericanart.org).