

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

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Open House Chicago offers a look inside Chicago's most iconic and little-known spaces during a FREE two-day event

*Chicago Architecture Foundation's sixth annual architecture festival opens
20 neighborhoods and more than 200 sites, October 15 & 16*

Digital press kit: <https://caf.box.com/s/is2j3hdv830f4n1hu576uzvb4zwsyog9>

CHICAGO— One of the largest architectural festivals in the world will take place in Chicago, October 15-16. Open House Chicago is part of the worldwide Open House movement and modeled after popular programs in 32 cities, including New York, London, Vienna, Oslo and Tel Aviv. Each year, Open House Chicago draws tens of thousands of people to the city from around the globe to visit more than 200 of Chicago's greatest spaces in 20 different neighborhoods. This free public event offers participants behind-the-scenes access to many areas that are rarely, if ever, open to the public. Architecture buffs, history enthusiasts, design appreciators and people looking for a unique festival all participate in this weekend event, ideal for every kind of adventurer.

Showcasing the diversity of Chicago's architecture, sites include uncommonly seen and "restricted access" areas of theaters, historic mansions, private clubs, sacred spaces, skyscrapers, roof top gardens, professional offices and cultural institutions, among others.

"Open House Chicago is such a special event in the way that it showcases the city's communities and encourages locals and visitors to explore new neighborhoods; this year, we're excited that Englewood, Oak Park, West Town, Jefferson Park and Portage Park are participating for the first time," said Lynn Osmond, President and CEO of CAF. "OHC does more than open the public's eyes to Chicago's world-renowned architecture. It's an event that raises awareness to the wider community of the role design plays in creating a vibrant and livable city."

In 2015, the fifth OHC event attracted more than 85,000 guests from all 50 states and 90 countries around the world. The economic impact of that event weekend was \$7.9 million. Using a printed event guide or openhousechicago.org, OHC guests can select the sites and neighborhoods they want to explore and create their own self-guided experiences.

Program Manager of Open House Chicago, Garrett Karp, and his team spend the better part of the year identifying and partnering with new sites and communities for OHC. "One of the best things about managing this event is the constant exploration and discovery process while we work year-round to locate, research and reach out to Chicago's most unique architecture and behind-the-scenes interior spaces," he explained. "It's year six of OHC and we're still bringing new and fascinating locations into the event for the very first time. This year I'm particularly thrilled about featuring Colvin House in Edgewater, and Yale Building in Englewood. The Colvin House is an ornate, Prairie-Style mansion with décor that is reminiscent of the 1920s movie palaces. It will be open to the public for the first time ever and we know that area residents have been waiting a long time for an opportunity to see inside. The Yale Building is a historic apartment building from 1892 which now serves as affordable senior

housing. It has an incredible sky-lit atrium with hanging vines, walkways and balconies; it almost resembles the New Orleans French Quarter. The most amazing part is that almost nobody in Chicago even knows about it--even neighbors in Englewood are surprised to learn about this architectural gem in their own community."

OHC 2016 features more than 200 sites; below are a handful of spaces (each is linked to their descriptions for more information):

- [The Yale Building](#)
- [Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio](#)
- [Chicago Board of Trade Building](#)
- [300 E. Randolph](#) (Blue Cross Blue Shield Tower)
- [1807 W. Sunnyside](#) (Airstream Trailer)
- [Colvin House](#)
- [Elks National Memorial](#)
- [Columbia Yacht Club](#)
- [The Rookery](#)
- [The New Regal Theater](#)
- [Aon Center](#)

This year, visitors can take self-guided tours throughout the following Chicago neighborhoods:

[Bridgeport / Back of the Yards](#)

[Bronzeville](#)

[Downtown](#)

[Edgewater](#)

[Englewood](#)

[Evanston](#)

[Garfield Park / North Lawndale](#)

[Gold Coast/Near North Side](#)

[Hyde Park](#)

[Jefferson Park / Portage Park](#)

[Lakeview](#)

[Lincoln Park](#)

[Near West Side](#)

[Oak Park](#)

[South Loop / Prairie Avenue](#)

[Rogers Park](#)

[South Shore](#)

[Ukrainian Village](#)

[West Town](#)

[Uptown/Ravenswood](#)

For a complete list of participating sites, visit www.openhousechicago.org. Get the latest news and fun facts about OHC too by following Chicago Architecture Foundation on Facebook (facebook.com/chiarchitecture) and Twitter ([@chiarchitecture](https://twitter.com/chiarchitecture)). You can also sign up to receive the OHC newsletter for updates on venues and the latest information on special programming.

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. Sites will accept visitors on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition to free access, OHC offers activities in various sites all weekend long, including cultural performances, lectures, workshops and more.

Become a CAF member at architecture.org to receive a "CAF Member Priority Access Pass" which grants you preferred access to OHC sites. Similar to last year's event, there are a select handful of Members-Only Sites. Consider volunteering over the weekend. It's fun, easy and provides special benefits including priority access to all OHC sites!

OHC is a celebration of Chicago's neighborhoods and communities. The community partners helping make OHC 2015 happen are: 47th Ward Alderman Ameya Pawar's Office, 48th Ward Alderman Harry Osterman's Office, Archdiocese of Chicago, Bronzeville Area Residents and Commerce Council, Building Owners and Managers Association, Chicago Loop Alliance, Chicago Park District, Chicago's North Shore Convention & Visitors Bureau, City of Evanston, Design Evanston, Downtown Evanston, Edgewater, Chamber of Commerce, Edgewater Historical Society, Evanston Chamber of Commerce, Evanston Community Foundation, Evanston History Center, Foundation for Homan Square, Glessner House Museum, Greater Englewood Community Development Corporation, Jefferson Park Chamber of

Commerce, Lakeview Chamber of Commerce, Magnificent Mile Association, Northwest Chicago Historical Society, Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation, Pleasant Home Foundation, Public Media Institute, Quad Communities Development Corporation, Rogers Park Business Alliance, Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society, Six Corners Association, South East Chicago Commission, South Shore Chamber, Inc., Theater Historical Society of America, Ukrainian Village Neighborhood Association Uptown United, Visit Oak Park, West Loop Community Organization

OHC is presented by the James S. Kemper Foundation. Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and ComEd. OHC partners include Choose Chicago, the Chicago Transit Authority, Divvy and Open House Worldwide. Media sponsors include the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Magazine and WBEZ. Oak Park's participation in Open House Chicago is sponsored by Vantage Oak Park.

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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 leader in design, architecture and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), 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 shop support this educational mission.

For more information, visit architecture.org or call 312.922.3432.