

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

EXHIBITS • CRUISES • TOURS • PROGRAMS

Chicago Architecture Center opens August 31, 2018

Chicago's newest cultural destination welcomes public at 111 East Wacker Drive with special opening weekend events extending through Labor Day

CHICAGO (August 29, 2018) —The [Chicago Architecture Center](http://www.architecture.org) (CAC), the city's newest must-see cultural destination and home to everything architecture in Chicago, opens to the public on Friday, August 31 at 111 East Wacker Drive steps from Michigan Avenue. The CAC, previously known as the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF), offers a launching pad for discovering the "first city of modern architecture" and a cultural

The 20,000-square-foot Center, located above the dock for the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady Cruises, provides a unique Chicago experience. Visitors discover world-famous tours, programs and exciting, new interactive exhibits that reveal the stories behind the city's architectural marvels and breathtaking skyscrapers around the world.

"With the opening of the CAC, design moves to the center of Chicago's cultural conversation. CAC's new exhibitions share stories that illuminate and inspire," said Lynn Osmond, CAC's president and CEO. "Our new home enables us to offer a whole new experience. Visitors can explore huge scale models of skyscrapers and learn how and why they were designed and built. They can dive into the new, expanded Chicago Model and learn the story, told through film and projections on the model, of Chicago's architectural legacy. The new Center is a true Chicago experience."

The CAC's grand opening weekend runs through Monday, September 3, and kicks off today, with Chicago Architecture Day, proclaimed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel as a day to celebrate the opening and acknowledge Chicago architecture's significant impact around the world.

"Chicago is the vanguard of architectural, art and design innovation on the national and international stage," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "The new Chicago Architecture Center provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the city's history and share the iconic architecture and design Chicago is famous for with visitors from across the country and around the world."

The CAC was designed by the world-renowned Chicago-based architecture firm Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture (AS+GG). AS+GG's imaginative design creates the

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

EXHIBITS • CRUISES • TOURS • PROGRAMS

perfect environment for architectural discovery in an architecturally significant space designed by the Office of Mies van der Rohe, a pioneer of Mid-Century Modernism.

The CAC features custom-designed spaces for tour orientation, design education, public programs, an award-winning store and innovative exhibits developed by the CAC education and public programming staff in partnership with the museum planning and design firm, Gallagher & Associates.

One of the CAC's premier exhibits is located in the **Drake Family Skyscraper Gallery** on the second floor, in a dramatic space with 40-foot tall windows overlooking the Chicago River and the Michigan Avenue Bridge. The exhibit, **Building Tall**, is filled with supersized scale models of famous skyscrapers from Chicago and around the world including a 36-foot tall model of Saudi Arabia's Jeddah Tower, designed by Chicago's AS+GG, which will be the world's tallest building when completed.

The Chicago Gallery, located on the first floor, tells the story of how Chicago became the epicenter of modern architecture. The centerpiece of the gallery is the popular **Chicago Model**, now bigger and better than ever—expanded from 1,300 to 4,250 buildings. A film and interactive light show illuminates the model to show Chicago's early growth, rebirth after the Great Chicago Fire, first-ever skyscrapers, and today's modernist masterpieces of steel and glass. The gallery also highlights the city's most notable architects, diverse neighborhoods, unique home design and innovative current projects.

"With the opening of the CAC we are reinforcing Chicago's architectural legacy by creating a custom designed space at a perfect location," said Gordon Gill, co-founder of Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture. "The location, overlooking the Michigan Avenue Bridge, is at the crossroads of Chicago. The design doubles down on the remarkable visibility to create an open, accessible space that invites the city to step inside and provides a perch from which visitors can watch the city at work and play. The CAC will create a new dialogue with the public and I am excited to see where the conversation will take us."

The opening of the Chicago Architecture Center represents a new beginning for CAF, which has grown to become one of the largest cultural organizations in Chicago since its founding in 1966. In 2017, CAF reached nearly 690,000 people through its 85 docent-led tours, as well as exhibitions, lectures, education programs and online tools, and the

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

EXHIBITS • CRUISES • TOURS • PROGRAMS

annual, two-day city-wide architecture festival Open House Chicago. With the opening of the new center, CAF becomes the Chicago Architecture Center.

"The Chicago Architecture Center, while a decade-long vision, has been planned and executed in a remarkably short period of time," said John Pintozi, chairman of CAC's board of trustees and senior vice president of Allstate Investments. "The success of the project stems from the vision of Lynn Osmond and leadership of our board of trustees, the dedication of the CAC team and the overwhelming support of our generous donors. After recently celebrating our first 50 years, we are proud to provide a new destination that will inspire people to discover why design matters for many years to come."

See our [Digital Media Kit](#) for images and other background information about the Chicago Architecture Center. The CAC's opening celebration includes member-only events, invitation-only sneak peeks, contests, store discounts and more. For more on the opening weekend events go to architecture.org.

###

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.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Dan O'Connell
Director of Communications and Public Affairs
312.322.1134 (O); 617.480.6585 (C)
doconnell@architecture.org

Kimberly Brown
PR Representative, Edelman
O: (312) 240-3069; C: (312) 358-5654
Kimberly.Brown2@edelman.com