

# CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

## Media Release

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### **Open House Chicago Offers Look Inside Chicago's Best-Known and Little-Known Spaces During a FREE Two-Day Event**

*Chicago Architecture Foundation's third annual event opens  
15 neighborhoods and over 150 sites, Oct. 19 & 20*

**CHICAGO**—For one weekend only on October 19 & 20, the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) will host the third annual Open House Chicago (OHC), a free public event that offers participants behind-the-scenes access to over 150 of the city's greatest spaces and places and illuminates areas that are normally open "by invitation only." Whether you are an architecture buff, history enthusiast or looking for a unique weekend festival, OHC is a must-see event and is fun for every kind of adventurer: locals and visitors to suburbanites and city dwellers.

Showcasing the diversity of Chicago's architecture, sites include uncommonly seen and "restricted access" areas of public buildings, factories, historic mansions, a boat, private clubs, , sacred spaces, schools, professional offices and cultural institutions, among others.

In 2012, the second OHC event attracted more than 40,000 guests who made 142,000 visits to over 150 sites throughout Chicago. This year, new neighborhoods such as Bridgeport, Back of the Yards, Lincoln Park, and Pullman have been added offering more than 150 sites in 15 neighborhoods including an expanded program in downtown Chicago.

Modeled after popular programs in New York, London and Tel Aviv, OHC invites visitors to take self-guided visits throughout the following Chicago neighborhoods:

- Bridgeport/Back of the Yards (New for 2013)
- Downtown
- Garfield Park/ North Lawndale
- Gold Coast
- Hyde Park
- Pilsen
- Lincoln Park (New for 2013)
- Prairie District
- Rogers Park/ West Ridge
- South Shore
- Uptown
- Pullman (New for 2013)

"The Chicago Architecture Foundation inspires people to discover why design matters, and there's no better way to do that than to connect people with the great places and spaces of this city," said Lynn Osmond, President and CEO of CAF. "OHC is continuing on the work we're doing by partnering with our local communities to showcase those often hidden architecture gems in their neighborhoods."

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-

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come, first-served basis. In addition to free access, OHC offers activities all weekend long, including cultural performances, lectures, workshops and more.

Using a printed event guide or [openhousechicago.org](http://openhousechicago.org), OHC guests can select the sites and neighborhoods they want to explore and create their own explorations, like a scavenger hunt.

“We are building off the great success of last year’s Open House Chicago by making our event in 2013 that much better,” said Caroline Stevens, Manager of OHC. “We are excited to open the doors of Chicago’s world famous architecture and neighborhoods for visitors and locals alike, all for free.”

OHC features over 150 sites, including:

• Elks National Memorial in Lincoln Park	• Prairie Materials just west of Downtown
• Robie House in Hyde Park	• Kemper Building in downtown Chicago
• Testa Produce in Back of the Yards	• Columbia Yacht Club in downtown Chicago

For a complete list of participating sites, visit [www.openhousechicago.org](http://www.openhousechicago.org). Get the latest news and fun facts about OHC too by following Chicago Architecture Foundation on Facebook ([facebook.com/chiarchitecture](https://facebook.com/chiarchitecture)) and Twitter ([@chiarchitecture](https://twitter.com/chiarchitecture)). Consider volunteering over the weekend. It’s fun, easy and provides special benefits including priority access to all OHC sites.

Become a CAF member at [architecture.org](http://architecture.org) to receive a “CAF Member Priority Access Pass,” which grants you preferred access to OHC sites. New this year for Members are a small handful of Member’s Only Sites. You can also sign up to receive the OHC newsletter for updates on venues and the latest information on special programming.

The community partners helping make OHC 2013 happen are: Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council, Building Owners and Managers Association, Chicago Loop Alliance, Foundation for Homan Square, Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, Greater North Michigan Avenue Association, Historic Pullman Foundation, Prairie District Neighborhood Alliance, Public Media Institute, Pullman State Historic Site, Resurrection Project, Rogers Park Business Alliance, Rogers Park / West Ridge Historical Society, South East Chicago Commission, South Shore Chamber, Inc., Uptown United

OHC is made possible through the generous support of Presenting Sponsor Kemper Corporation; Sponsors, Art Works, ComEd, CTA and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity; and Media Sponsors *Chicago Tribune* and *Chicago Magazine*.

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The Chicago Architecture Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspire people to discover why design matters. The CAF pursues this mission through architecture tours, exhibitions, panel discussions and youth and adult education programs. A permanent exhibition, *Chicago Model City*, includes a highly detailed scale model of Chicago. The Chicago Architecture Foundation is located at 224 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60604. For further information visit [www.architecture.org](http://www.architecture.org) or call 312.922.3432 or become a Facebook fan: [www.facebook.com/chiarchitecture](https://www.facebook.com/chiarchitecture) or follow on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/chiarchitecture](https://www.twitter.com/chiarchitecture).