

ACRL Artsguide: Chicago 2009

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Introduction

Welcome to the ACRL Arts Section's **ArtsGuide Chicago**, created for attendees of the 2009 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. This is a selective guide to arts activities taking place during the conference. Some of the venues and hosting organizations are well-known, while others are more off-the-beaten path. Some of Chicago's most interesting arts venues are a short walk or train ride from the convention center and conference hotels, so we have tried to highlight some of these.

Map of sites listed in this guide

See what's close to you or plot your course using the Google map version of this guide:

<http://tinyurl.com/09artsguide>

Where to search for arts and entertainment

Chicago arts and entertainment publications the authors frequent include:

Centerstage Chicago: <http://www.centerstagechicago.com/>

Chicago Reader: <http://www.chireader.com/>

Chicagoist: <http://www.chicagoist.com>

Metromix Chicago: <http://chicago.metromix.com/>

TimeOut Chicago: <http://chicago.timeout.com/>

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1. Visual arts and museums

The Art Institute of Chicago

The Art Institute of Chicago is an acclaimed, encyclopedic fine art museum. The collection contains more than 260,000 works of art from cultures across the world, and features one of the world's most notable collections of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art in its permanent collection. May 2009 saw the opening of the highly lauded Modern Wing designed by Renzo Piano which increased the Art Institute's gallery space by 264,000 square feet, making the museum the second largest in the United States. Visitors can walk across the new Nichols Bridgeway which connects the Modern Wing to Millennium Park across Monroe Ave. The [Ryerson and Burnham Libraries](#) constitute a major art and architecture research collection serving the museum and scholars in the fields of art and architectural history. Approximately 10,000 volumes are added annually.

Location: [111 S. Michigan Ave.](#)

Transportation: There are many bus options from McCormick Place as well as train options throughout the city. See the [museum website](#).

Hours: Mon–Wed 10:30–5:00; Thu–Fri 10:30–9:00; Sat–Sun 10:00–5:00

Admission: Adults \$18 (free admission Thu–Fri 5:00–9:00pm); Children 14+/Students/Seniors 65+ \$12; Children under 14 free; Members free

Special exhibits during ALA dates: "Cy Twombly: The Natural World, Selected Works 2000-2007", "Modern and Contemporary Works on Paper", "The Coming of a New Age: Meiji- and Taisho-Period Decorative Arts," among [many others](#).

Phone: (312) 443-3600

<http://www.artic.edu/aic/>

Field Museum of Natural History

The Field Museum was founded to house the biological and anthropological collections assembled for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. These objects form the core of the Museum's collections which have grown through world-wide expeditions, exchange, purchase, and gifts to more than twenty million specimens. The collections form the foundation of the Museum's exhibition, research and education programs, which are further informed by a world-class natural history library of more than 250,000 volumes.

Location: [1400 S Lake Shore Dr.](#)

Transportation: Located in Grant Park on the Museum Campus, there are many [options for transportation](#).

Hours: Daily 9-5 (last admission at 4pm)

Admission (excludes special exhibits): Adults \$15; Children age 3-11 \$10; Students/Seniors 65+ \$12

Special exhibits during ALA dates: "Real Pirates: The Untold Story of the *Whydah* from Slave Ship to Pirate Ship", "Water"

Phone: (312) 922-9410

<http://www.fieldmuseum.org/>

Museum of Science and Industry

The Museum of Science and Industry, one of the largest science museums in the world, is home to more than 35,000 artifacts and nearly 14 acres of hands-on exhibits. Housed in the former Palace of Fine Arts from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, the Museum features a working coal mine, a German submarine (U-505) captured during World War II, a 3,500-square-foot (330 m²) model railroad, the first diesel-powered streamlined stainless-steel passenger train (*Pioneer Zephyr*), and a NASA spacecraft used on the Apollo 8 mission.

Location: [5700 S Lake Shore Dr](#)

Transportation: Located in the south side of the city, there are [many ways](#) to get to the MSI.

Hours: Mon-Sat 9:30-5:30; Sun 11:00-5:30

Admission (excluding special exhibitions): Adults \$13; Children age 3-11 \$9; Students/Seniors 65+ \$12

Special exhibits during ALA dates: "Harry Potter: The Exhibition" and "Smart Home: Green + Wired"

<http://www.msichicago.org/>

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA)

The MCA exhibits contemporary visual culture from 1945 to the present including painting, sculpture, photography, video and film, and performance.

Location: North of the Chicago River at 220 E. Chicago Avenue and 1 block east of Michigan Ave. (312) 280-2660. [Map](#)

Transportation: Located 4 blocks east of the Chicago Avenue rail stop on the CTA Red Line, easily accessible by the #10 Museum and #66 Chicago Avenue buses, as well as several Michigan Avenue bus routes. Within walking distance from many of the downtown hotels.

Hours: Mon closed; Tues 10am-8pm; Wed-Sun 10am-5pm.

Admission: Suggested general \$12; Students with ID and Seniors \$7; Tues free.

Special exhibits during ALA dates: "Buckminster Fuller: Starting With the Universe," March 14-August 9; "Selected Works from the MCA Collection," May 12-September 20; "Elements of Photography," June 13-October 4; "Here/Not There," June 30-August 2

Time Commitment: Approximately 1 hour

Phone: (773) 684-1414

<http://www.mcachicago.org/index.php>

National Museum of Mexican Art

The National Museum of Mexican Art's Permanent Collection contains over 6,000 objects, and is one of the largest collections of Mexican art in the nation. The NMMA is the only Latino museum accredited by the American Association of Museums and one of only a handful of museums of color in the country to receive accreditation. It has become the premier repository for Mexican art in the nation. In 2001, the Museum tripled in size to accommodate state-of-the-art storage vaults and additional galleries to showcase its collection.

Location: [1852 W 19th St](#); (312) 738-1503

Transportation: From McCormick Place, take **21 Cermak Bus** heading west to Wolcott, walk 4 blocks north; from downtown take the **Pink Line to 18th Street**, walk three blocks south west.

Hours: Tue-Sun 10-5

Admission: Free; Performing Art events are subject to ticketing; Donations are accepted
Special exhibits during ALA dates: "Miradas: Mexican Art from the Bank of America Collection"
and "Chicago Figurativo: Prints selected from the NMMA Permanent Collection"
<http://www.nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org/>

Chicago Cultural Center

Designed in the beaux-arts style by the Boston firm Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, the Chicago Cultural Center was completed in 1897 and dedicated as the city's *original Chicago Public Library*. Completed at a cost of nearly \$2 million, this remarkable monument was inspired by the neo-classical style of the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. The building's most notable features are its spectacular stained-glass domes, including the world's largest Tiffany stained-glass dome, valued at an estimated \$35 million (the 38-foot dome in the Preston Bradley Hall in the south end of the building). In the north end of the building, the stained-glass dome in the G.A.R. Rotunda was executed in an intricate Renaissance pattern.

Location: [78 E. Washington Street, Chicago 60602](#)

Hours: Mon–Thu 8am–7pm; Fri 8am–6pm; Sat 9am–6pm; Sun 10am–6pm

Admission: Free

<http://tinyurl.com/mdh5jx>

Chicago History Museum

The Chicago History Museum is a privately endowed, independent institution devoted to collecting, interpreting, and presenting the rich multicultural history of Chicago and Illinois, as well as selected areas of American history, to the public through exhibitions, programs, research collections, and publications.

Location: [1601 North Clark Street](#); 312 (642-4600)

Transportation: CTA buses 11, 22, 36, 72, 73, 151, and 156 stop nearby. The Brown Line Sedgwick station and Red Line Clark/Division station are also located approximately one half-mile from the Museum. See [museum's site](#) for more details.

Hours: Mon–Sat 9:30–4:30; Sun 12:00–5:00

Admission with audio tours: Adults \$14; Seniors (65+) \$12; Students 13–22 with ID \$12; children 12 and younger free

Special exhibits during ALA dates: "Chic Chicago: Couture Treasures from the Chicago History Museum," "Bertha Honoré Palmer," "Lincoln Treasures"

<http://chicagohistory.org/>

Hyde Park Museums

Location: On the south side of Chicago, includes the University of Chicago campus. [Map](#)

Transportation: Easily accessible by bus from downtown via #6 or from McCormick Place West via [Metra Electric](#). See <http://maps.uchicago.edu/directions/>

Time Commitment: Allow 35-45 minutes for one-way travel to/from downtown

More information: <http://hydeparkartsculture.uchicago.edu/organizations.shtml>

DuSable Museum of African American History

The DuSable Museum of African American History, the first and oldest institution of its kind in the country, has been dedicated to the collection, preservation, interpretation and dissemination of the history and culture of Africans and Americans of African descent for more than 46 years.

Location: [740 East 56th Place](#); (773) 947-0600

Hours: Tue-Sat: 10am-5pm; Sun: Noon-5pm

Admission: \$3 adults, \$2 students and seniors, \$1 children (6-13), children under 6 free; Free on Sundays

<http://www.dusablemuseum.org/>

Don't miss the **DuSable 35th Annual Arts & Crafts Festival**. Saturday and Sunday, July 11 & 12, 2009, noon to dusk. This first-class festival attracts a large audience of people interested in art, culture and history.

Oriental Institute

The Oriental Institute is a research organization and museum devoted to the study of the ancient Near East.

Location: [1155 East 58th Street](#); (773) 702-9514

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10am-6pm; Wednesday 10am-8pm; Sunday 12-6pm

Admission: Free; suggested donation: \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children under 12.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/>

Smart Museum of Art

Located on the University of Chicago's Hyde Park campus, the David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art houses a permanent collection of over 10,000 objects, spanning five millennia of both Western and Eastern civilizations.

Location: [5550 S. Greenwood](#); (773) 702-0200

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 10am-4pm; Thursday 10am-8pm; Saturday and Sunday 11am-5pm

Admission: Free

<http://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/exhibitions/>

Going to Hyde Park? Also see Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House in our architecture section below.

The Renaissance Society and Museum of Contemporary Photography were omitted because they will be between exhibitions.

2. Gallery Districts

Art galleries are spread across the city but if you're in a time crunch, you might want to visit those closest to ALA events and hotels.

River North

The greatest concentration of galleries in Chicago can be found in River North—most are within a block or two of the intersection of Superior and Franklin Streets.

Transportation: Chicago rail stop on the CTA Brown Line, 66 Chicago Avenue bus (exit at Franklin and Chicago Ave.)

Location: The district's boundaries are generally: Chicago Avenue on the north; Superior on the south; west to Orleans Street and east to Dearborn. [Map](#)

Hours: Hours vary but generally galleries are open 11-5 Tuesday-Saturday; some galleries may be closed for installation.

Admission: Free

Time Commitment: Approximately 1 hour + 10 to 15 minute transportation from the Michigan Avenue hotels.

<http://chicagogallerynews.com/galleryguide.asp>

West Loop

The West Loop grew up as an alternative to the more established River North gallery district and is worth a visit if you have time to explore.

Transportation: A short cab ride from downtown hotels or the convention center. Also accessible by the 8 Halsted bus or by walking a few blocks from the Clinton stop on the CTA Green Line.

Location: The district's boundaries are generally: Fulton on the north; Washington on the south; west to Racine and east to Halsted [Map](#)

Hours: Hours vary but generally galleries are open 11-5 Tuesday-Saturday; some galleries may be closed for installation.

Admission: Free

Time Commitment: Approximately 1 hour + 10 to 15 minutes transportation from the hotels and/or ALA events.

<http://chicagogallerynews.com/galleryguide.asp>

East Pilsen Chicago Arts District

Transportation: A short cab ride from downtown hotels or the convention center. Also accessible by the 8 Halsted bus.

Location: Near the intersection of Halsted & 18th St.

Hours: Varies by gallery. See website below.

Admission: Free

Time Commitment: Approximately 1 hour + 10 to 15 minutes transportation from the hotels and/or ALA events.

<http://chicagoartsdistrict.org/>

Michigan Avenue/River East/South Loop

This isn't a gallery district per se, but there are many individual galleries spread throughout the areas where most of the conference hotels are.

Transportation: A short walk from downtown hotels.

Location: Along or nearby Michigan Avenue between Oak St. and Congress Pkwy.

Hours: Varies by gallery. See website below.

Admission: Free

Time Commitment: Approximately 1 hour + 10 to 15 minutes transportation from the hotels and/or ALA events.

<http://chicagogallerynews.com/district.asp?d=5>

3. Architecture and design

Chicago Architecture Foundation Tours

CAF offers architecture tours throughout the city, many of which depart from the CAF Shop & Tour Center at 224 S. Michigan Ave.

Transportation: A short walk or cab ride from downtown hotels.

Location: Tour departure locations vary. See website below.

Hours: Varies by tour.

Admission: Varies.

Time Commitment: Varies

<http://www.architecture.org/>

312.922.3432 x241

Editor's recommendation for best tour: [Architecture River Cruise](#)

Chicago Architecture Foundation Exhibition

The *Chicago Model City* exhibition is on display at CAF from June 11-November 20. It asks "how does a city as vast and complex as Chicago take shape? What are the consequences—intended and unintended—of urban planning? What challenges do planners face?"

Transportation: A short walk or cab ride from downtown hotels.

Location: 224 South Michigan Avenue

Admission: Free

Time Commitment: 30 minutes.

312.922.3432 x241

<http://www.architecture.org/>

Millennium Park

Contains the Frank-Gehry-designed Pritzker Pavilion, plus Anish Kapoor's *Cloudgate* and a number of other public sculptures.

Transportation: Brown, Green, Orange, or Pink line trains to Washington.

Location: Millennium Park, east of Michigan Avenue between Monroe and Randolph.

Hours: 6am-11pm daily

Time commitment: 30-60 minutes

Admission: free

<http://www.millenniumpark.org/parkevents/gpmf.aspx>

Auditorium Theatre Tour

A tour of the 1889 Auditorium Theatre building by Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan is a must for fans of architecture and Chicago history.

Transportation: El to Library/State/Van Buren or Harrison

Location: 50 E. Congress Parkway, Chicago

Hours: Mon 10:30am or 12 noon; Thu 10:30 am; or by appointment for groups of 20 or more.

Admission: \$10. Can be purchased beginning 30 minutes prior to the tour at the Auditorium Theatre Box Office and in advance at [Ticketmaster](#)

Neighborhood: Loop

Time Commitment: about an hour

Phone: (312) 922-2110

<http://www.auditoriumtheatre.org/wb/pages/home/education/historic-theatre-tours.php>

Prairie Avenue Historic District—Clarke and Glessner House Tours

Within walking distance of McCormick Place, Prairie Avenue between 18th Street and Cullerton Street is worth a trip for anyone interested in Chicago history. Once referred to as "Millionaire's Row" in the latter part of the 19th century, this neighborhood once contained over fifty mansions belonging to Chicago elites such as George Pullman, Marshall Field, John J. Glessner, Philip Armour, and Potter & Bertha Palmer. Once train lines and industry moved to the area near the turn of the century, the elite began moving north and south to the Gold Coast and Kenwood areas respectively and most of the mansions were torn later down. Today, the area has been preserved as a historic district and where buildings no longer stand, placards with historic information and photographs hang. Available for tours in the area are the [Clarke House](#) and the [Glessner House](#), behind which is the charming Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Park and Garden.

Transportation: Walk north 3 blocks on Prairie Ave. from the convention center. Or take a bus from the downtown hotels #1 Indiana-Hyde Park, #3 King Drive, or #4 Cottage Grove.

Location: All tours begin at Glessner House Museum Coach House on 18th street, just east of Indiana.

Hours: Hour long guided tours of Clarke House Museum are offered Wednesday through Sunday at noon and 2 pm. Hour long guided tours of Glessner House Museum are offered Wednesday through Sunday at 3 pm.

Admission: Adult \$10 (one tour) or \$15 (both); students \$9 (one tour) or \$12 (both); children ages 5-12 \$6 (one tour) or \$8 (both)

Time Commitment: 1 hour for each tour + 10 minute walk from the convention center.

<http://www.cityofchicago.org/Landmarks/P/PrairieAveDistrict.html>

Chicago Cultural Center

See entry under Visual Arts and Museums, above.

Chicago Landmarks

Take the City's [Online Tour](#) and then visit the buildings in person.

Frank Lloyd Wright in Chicago

In Hyde Park, the Robie House, designed for his client Frederick C. Robie, is considered one of the most important buildings in the history of American architecture. In Oak Park, the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio (1889/1898) served as Wright's private residence and workplace from 1889 to 1909 - the first 20 years of his career. The surrounding neighborhood has been

named the Prairie School of Architecture National Historic District.

Oak Park Location: 951 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park

Hyde Park Location: 5757 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago

Hours: Hours vary; [Advance tickets](#) are highly recommended.

Admission: \$15 adult, \$12 youth (4-17) and senior (65+). Free tickets for children 3 and under.

Time Commitment: varies; allow 30-45 minutes to get to Hyde Park or Oak Park from downtown Chicago

<http://www.gowright.org>

Mies van der Rohe's IIT Campus

Architectural tour of Illinois Institute of Technology, designed by the architect

Location: [3201 S. State St.](#)

Admission: \$5, self-guided audio or docent-led tour

Time Commitment: 10 minutes by bus from McCormick Place, tour length varies

<http://www.iit.edu/giving/mies/tours/>

Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth House

The Farnsworth House is one of the most significant of Mies van der Rohe's works, equal in importance to such canonical monuments as the Barcelona Pavilion, built for the 1929 International Exposition and the 1954-58 Seagram Building in New York.

Location: [14520 River Road, Plano, IL](#)

Time Commitment: Allow 2 hrs travel time each way, tour lasts 90 minutes. (It's worth the trip!)

http://www.farnsworthhouse.org/visitor_information.htm

4. Music

Outdoor Venues

Millennium Park Free Concerts

Millennium Park's spectacular Frank-Gehry-designed Pritzker Pavilion (see listing in Architecture & Design above) hosts free outdoor concerts by the Grant Park Orchestra and others throughout the summer. Here's the schedule during the conference:

July 8th, 6:30-8pm: *Mozart: Overture to The Magic Flute* and *Bruckner: Symphony No. 4 (1878/80 version)* performed by the Grant Park Orchestra.

July 9th, 6:30pm: [Lura and Chiwoniso](#)

July 10th, 6:30-8pm: *Pirates of Penzance* and the *Mikado* performed by the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus.

July 11th, 7:30-9pm: *Pirates of Penzance* and the *Mikado* performed by the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus. A Coffee Talk from 6:15-7pm precedes this performance

July 15th, 6:30-7:30pm: Grant Park Orchestra performs *Offenbach: Orpheus in the Underworld: Overture; Franck: Le Chasseur Maudit; Ravel: Mother Goose Suite; Roussel: Bacchus et Ariane Suite No. 2*

Millennium Park's Chase Promenade North will also host *Great Performers of Illinois 2009*, featuring musicians and other performers from around the state. Schedule:

July 10, 6:30pm - 11:00pm

July 11, 7:00am - 10:00pm

July 12, 10:00am - 10:00pm

July 13, 12:00am - 8:00pm

<http://www.millenniumpark.org/parkevents/gpmf.aspx>

Ravinia

Pack a picnic, take a train, and enjoy Chicagoland's premier outdoor summer music festival. A wonderful way to spend an evening with friends on a lawn beneath the stars. Higher priced seating under a covered bandshell are also available. Conference dates schedule:

July 9, Cellist Gary Hoffman

July 10, Chicago Symphony Orchestra performs *Mahler's Song of the Earth*

July 11, Tom Jones

July 12, Chicago Symphony Orchestra performs *All Tchaikovsky with Cannons*

July 13, Susan Graham

July 14, The Beach Boys

July 15, Chicago Symphony Orchestra performs *Ohlsson plays Schumann*

Location: in a northern suburb. Even if you have a car, we suggest taking the train due to traffic and parking.

Transportation: Catch the Metra Union Pacific North Line at Ogilvie Station (in the West Loop on the corner of Madison and Canal) right to Ravinia's main gate at the Ravinia Park stop. A 45 minute train ride. See <http://metrarail.com/> for schedules.

Time commitment: Plan on a full evening. Takes an hour of travel time each way.

Admission: varies by concert.

<http://www.ravinia.org/>

Everything else...

The original version of this artsguide was 12,403 pages and that still only included rock, jazz, and blues. So we decided to refer you to our favorite music search engines instead:

<http://www.chicagoreader.com/music/>

<http://www.centerstagechicago.com/music/>

Symphony Center—Chicago Symphony Orchestra

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra's only performances in July are at Ravinia (see above).

Lyric Opera

Sorry, no performances until Sept 2009.

5. Film

Gene Siskel Film Center

The Film Center of the School of the Art Institute. In the Loop,

Location: 164 North State Street (between Randolph and Lake)

Transportation: Walking distance from most conference hotels. Or take the Red, Green, Orange, Brown, Purple or Pink line trains to State & Lake.

Admission: \$9 general; \$7 student

Phone: 312-846-2600

<http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/>

Facets Cinematheque

Location: 1517 W. Fullerton Ave. (Park West neighborhood, near DePaul University)

Transportation: Red, Brown or Purple line trains to Fullerton, then #74 bus or walk 5 blocks west.

Admission: \$9

http://www.facets.org/pages/cinematheque_july2009.php

Music Box Theatre

A beautiful theater in Wrigleyville with live organ music before shows. Plus midnight showings on weekends. If you go, also plan time for an exceptional Viennese dessert or coffee at Julius Meini Cafe 1 block south.

Location: 3733 N. Southport

Transportation: Brown line to Southport stop, then walk three blocks north.

Admission: \$9.25

Phone: 773-871-6604

<http://www.musicboxtheatre.com/>

6. Theatre

Chicago has an incredibly diverse and lively theatre scene (including an adaptation of Cory Doctorow's *Little Brother* at Griffin Theatre), however, many companies are on hiatus in July. In spite of that, there are still more shows and performances that can be listed in this guide. These directory sites provide comprehensive coverage and information on ticket discounts:

Theatre in Chicago

Extremely comprehensive listings, news and reviews for the Chicago area. In partnership with Goldstar, offers links to selected shows for at least half-off the ticket price.

<http://www.theatreinchicago.com/>

The League of Chicago Theatres

Alliance of more than 190 Chicagoland theaters. Website provides access to listings, news, reviews and day of show half price tickets through Hottix.

<http://www.chicagoplays.com/>

HotTix

Day of show, half-price tickets to selected shows.

<http://www.hottix.org/>

Loop and Navy Pier Theatres

Broadway in Chicago Group

Includes the Auditorium Theatre, Bank of America Theatre, Cadillac Palace Theatre, the Ford Center for the Performing Arts/Oriental Theatre (all located in the Loop, walking distance from conference hotels), plus the Drury Lane Theatre at Water Tower Place.

<http://www.broadwayinchicago.com/>

Ford Center for the Performing Arts/Oriental Theatre

Now playing: Theatre will be dark weekend of ALA, but theatre tours are running and include Cadillac Palace Theatre. This is a walking tour and does not include stage areas. Tickets available for Saturday, July 11th via the Broadway in Chicago website. For accessibility or other questions, call 312.977.1701 and ask for Nancy. More information is listed below under "Theatre Tours"

Description: "As one of the first motion picture palaces whose décor was inspired by the Far East, Chicago's Oriental Theatre opened to much fanfare on May 8, 1926. Also, designed by George L. and Cornelius W. Rapp for theater managers Balaban and Katz, the theatre, a virtual museum of Asian art, presented popular first-run motion pictures, complemented by lavish stage shows."

Location: 24 W. Randolph (near State)

Transportation: Walking distance from most conference hotels. Or take the Red, Green, Orange, Brown, Purple or Pink line trains to State & Lake and walk one block south to Randolph, then west ½ block.

Phone: (312) 902-1400

Cadillac Palace Theatre

Now playing: Mary Poppins, Closes July 12, 2009

Description: "The original Broadway stars Ashley Brown and Gavin Lee have come to Chicago to launch the national tour! The world's most famous nanny has arrived at the Cadillac Palace Theatre." Also see Theatre Tours section below

Phone: (312) 902-1400

Tickets: via <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com/> or Ticketmaster.

Address: 151 W Randolph Street

Neighborhood: Loop

Bank of America Theatre

Now playing: Jersey Boys

Description: “‘JERSEY BOYS ROCKS CHICAGO!’ raves the *Chicago Tribune* of the 2006 Tony® Award-winning best musical that takes you up the charts, across the country and behind the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Discover the secret of a 40-year friendship: four blue-collar kids working their way from the streets of Newark to the heights of stardom becoming one of the greatest successes in pop music history.”

Phone: (312) 902-1400

Tickets: via <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com/> or Ticketmaster.

Address: 18 W Monroe St

Neighborhood: Loop

The Chicago Theatre

Now playing: Event schedule for July was unavailable at the time this guide was created, but tours are available.

Description: “The tour encompasses historical and architectural highlights of the building, including the grand lobby areas, majestic auditorium and backstage space (when possible) where performers through the years, including Julie Andrews, David Copperfield, Sammy Davis, Jr., John Denver, Joel Grey, cast of *The Family Guy*, Dustin Hoffman, Tom Jones, Diana Krall, Annie Lennox, Dean Martin, Liza Minnelli, Bob Newhart, Olivia Newton-John, Conan O'Brien, Frank Sinatra, Neil Young, Widespread Panic have left their autographs on the walls of dressing rooms and corridors. Our guides will share with you the stories of the visionaries who opened The Chicago Theatre, whose influence on popular entertainment in Chicago is still recognized today. Tours also include the photo exhibit in The Chicago Theatre's lower lobby, "Chicago: Three Centuries of Theatres.””

Hours: Tours are scheduled Mondays through Thursdays at 12pm and Saturdays at 11am & 12pm.

Address: 175 N State St

Neighborhood: Loop

Tickets: at the Chicago Theatre Box Office or visit www.ticketmaster.com

Phone: (312) 462-6300

<http://www.thechicagotheatre.com/tour/>

The Goodman Theatre

Now playing: Boleros for the Disenchanted

Description: “In this moving new play by José Rivera, Oscar-nominated screenwriter of *The Motorcycle Diaries*, Flora vows never to fall for an unfaithful man again after her fiancé breaks her heart. Then she meets Eusebio, who sweeps her off her feet and off to America—away from her family and her familiar life in Puerto Rico. Thirty-nine years later, an angel visits Eusebio with a mysterious message that stirs up old secrets. *Boleros for the Disenchanted* is a bittersweet and ultimately uplifting story about what it takes for two people to make a life together far from home, and the struggle to hold on to love in the face of life’s unexpected challenges.”

Tickets: available via phone or online

Phone: 312.443.3800

Address: 170 N. Dearborn Street

Neighborhood: Loop

<http://www.goodmantheatre.org/>

Chicago Shakespeare Theater

Now playing: Aladdin

Description: "Take your family to a magical, faraway land and join Aladdin, Jasmine and the lovable Genie in this exciting musical adventure based on the Academy Award-winning Disney film. Filled with unforgettable songs like "A Whole New World" and "Friend Like Me," Disney's Aladdin will enchant audiences of all ages."

Phone: 312.595.5600, tickets available via Chicago Shakespeare website

Address: 800 E Grand Avenue (at Navy Pier)

Neighborhood: Near North/Navy Pier

<http://www.chicagoshakes.com/>

Pepsi Skyline Stage

Now Playing: Cirque Shanghai

Description: "After three smash seasons at Navy Pier, Cirque Shanghai returns with an all-new full-scale theatrical production, "Cirque Shanghai: Bright Spirit." Embraced by Chicagoans and tourists alike as "Chicago's Summer Circus" this dazzling showcase of strength, agility and grace is meticulously choreographed to a specially produced musical score and performed with ingenious stagecraft, offering audiences a full-scale theatrical experience."

Phone: 800-745-3000 (Ticketmaster)

Address: Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave.

Neighborhood: Near North/Navy Pier

<http://www.navy Pier.com/cirqueshanghai/index.html>

Storefront Theatre

Now Playing: Strauss at Midnight

Phone: 312-742-8497

Address: 66 E. Randolph

Neighborhood: Loop

Description: "Recognizing "The Odd Couple" as a magical place to explore the relationship between liberty and tyranny, Theater Oobleck returns to Oscar Madison's apartment. When a time-traveling tourist on a prehistoric safari accidentally kills a butterfly, the Odd Couple's poker table becomes the battleground for human civilization. The new play by Jeff Dorchon takes Neil Simon's most famous play into Tom Stoppard territory in this examination of free will in a society where the super-privileged can redesign the fabric of time and space." Presented by Theatre Oobleck, <http://www.theateroobleck.com/>

<http://www.dcatheater.org/>

Selected Off- Loop Theatres

Steppenwolf

Now playing: Up and 500 Clown Elephant Deal

Description of Up: “On the best day of his life, Walter Griffin built a flying machine that reached the clouds. Ever since, he’s tried to recapture that authentic moment of feeling completely free. His son Mikey dreams of a different path to freedom: getting rich. And his wife Helen just dreams of a husband who will keep his feet on the ground. *Up* is a quirky, bittersweet tale about an American family trying to escape the boundaries of the everyday by harnessing the power of the imagination.”

Description of 500 Clown and Elephant Deal: (Closes 7/11): “An original theater production for adults, co-created with Chicago composer and lyricist John Fournier. A rocking band, an alluring Mistress of Ceremonies, and a daring stage crew have everything they need for a night of theatre...except a story to tell. A sudden altered identity thrusts the players on a collision course riddled with spontaneous characters, dangerous stunts, and a fierce runaway tale. Inspired by a range of sources including Brecht and the Fratellini clowns, 500 Clown packs a wallop of an original play with musical score by Chicago's own John Fournier.”

Address: 1650 N. Halsted Street Chicago

Neighborhood: Lincoln Park

Transportation: Red line to North/Clybourn, then walk 1 block north on Halsted St.

Phone: 312-335-1650

<http://www.steppenwolf.org/>

Lookingglass Theatre

Now playing: The Arabian Nights, closes 7/12/2009

Description: “Tony Award-winning Ensemble Member Mary Zimmerman returns to the Water Tower Water Works, following the successful run and three city tour of *Argonautika*, with her Lookingglass Original adaptation of one of the world's most enduring works of literature. When he discovers his wife in the arms of another man, King Sharayar vows to ruthlessly murder every virgin in the kingdom. His brutality is interrupted only when he encounters the clever maiden Scheherazade, whose captivating stories may just save her life. This boldly re-imagined visual feast celebrates the redemptive power of story telling.”

Phone: 312-337-0665, tickets available via box office and Lookingglass website.

Address: 821 N Michigan Ave, Chicago

Neighborhood: Near North

<http://lookingglasstheatre.org>

Annoyance Theatre

Now Playing: Co-Ed Prison Sluts

Description: “Return of company's flagship show. Inane residents of a prison live in fear of the arrival of The Clown...and the big fight never disappoints. Ellen Stoneking reprises the role of Dame Toulouse, joined by a cast of some of the brightest performers on the Chicago comedy scene.”

Address: 4830 N. Broadway Chicago

Neighborhood: Uptown

Phone: 773-561-4665

www.annoyanceproductions.com

Apollo Theatre

Now Playing: Million Dollar Quartet & Baby wants Candy

Description: "On December 4, 1956, an auspicious twist of fate brought together Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley. The place was Sun Records' storefront studio in Memphis. The man who made it happen was the "Father of Rock-n-Roll," Sam Phillips, who discovered them all. The four legends-to-be united for the only time in their careers for an impromptu recording session that embodied the birth of rock 'n' roll and has come to be known as one of the greatest rock jam sessions of all time."

"Baby Wants Candy, is the worlds premiere musical improvisation theater company. BWC asks the audience for a suggestion of a musical that has never been performed before. The first title they hear then becomes the basis and title for that 60 minute one act musical. Using this format BWC has performed over 2,000 different musicals. Founded in Chicago, BWC has performed completely improvised musicals to sold-out crowds from Singapore to Edinburgh."

Tickets: at box office or may be purchased via Ticketmaster.com for an additional fee

Address: 2540 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago

Neighborhood: Lincoln Park

Phone: (773) 935-6100

<http://www.apollochicago.com/>

Briar Street Theatre

Now Playing: Blue Man Group

Description: "Blue Man Group is best known for its award-winning theatrical productions which critics have described as "ground-breaking," "hilarious," "visually stunning" and "musically powerful." These performances feature three enigmatic bald and blue characters who take the audience through a multi-sensory experience that combines theatre, percussive music, art, science and vaudeville into a form of entertainment that is like nothing else."

Tickets: 773-348-4000 or online via Ticketmaster

Address: 3133 North Halsted Chicago

Neighborhood: Lakeview

<http://www.blueman.com/tickets/chicago>

Chicago Center for the Performing Arts

Now Playing: I Still Love H.E.R. (A Tribute to HipHop)

Description: "This sociological musical centers on Love 1, a revered Chicago on-air personality who is about to begin his final broadcast. In the midst of his farewell show, HipHop arrives to tell her story the way it really is. Through the dialogue that follows, Love 1 and his listeners are told the story of Hip-Hop through her own words. Social issues such as feminism, parenting, racism, capitalist media domination and violence in the HipHop community are examined throughout the show, with relevant HipHop classics as the backdrop. By the end of his broadcast Love 1 reconciles his love affair with his culture and realizes that he must "always take time to listen to the soundtrack of his life"."

Phone: 312-733-6000

Address: 777 North Green Street

Neighborhood: River West

<http://www.theaterland.com>

Chopin Theatre

Now playing: Poseidon! An Upside Down Musical

Description: "A musical parody and homage to the classic 1972 cult film, The Poseidon Adventure, the granddaddy of all disaster films. The play celebrates and lampoons the beloved cult classic and explores films impact on our collective consciousness."

Phone: 1-800-838-3006

Address: 1543 W. Division, Chicago

Neighborhood: Wicker Park

www.handbagproductions.org

Greenhouse Theatre

The Greenhouse Theater Center at 2257 N Lincoln Ave is home to some of Chicago's hottest Off-Loop theater companies - a diverse mix of nationally acclaimed, award winning ensembles. Recipient of the Regional Theater Tony Award.

Now Playing: Earth, TTFN?, Buried Child, Bent & A Song for Corretta

Phone: 773-404-7763

Neighborhood: Lincoln Park

Descriptions:

Earth, TTFN: "Earth is an experiment that has failed in this sci-fi, Mel Brooks style, current events inspired comedy. Including outrageous intergalactic battles in a provocatively stylized universe, every performance is unique as each audience suggests their own story line elements and determines Earth's fate in a final, climactic vote. Will it be "TTFN" (Ta Ta For Now) or "TTFE" (Ta Ta Forever)?"

Buried Child: "Buried Child is the macabre and perversely humorous tale of a Midwestern American family with a dark, terrible secret. After more than a decade as Off-Broadway's most successful counter-culture playwright, Sam Shepard achieved national fame and attention with this 1979 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama. The story is as puzzling as it is deeply insightful. At ground level, the play resembles the realism and grotesquerie of many mid-century American playwrights. But underneath, its roots in ritual and its particular approach to monumental, timeless themes of human suffering, incest, murder, and rebirth, suggest something entirely different. With each new generation comes the hope of awakening from the disintegrating American Dream."

Bent: "In 1934 Berlin on the eve of the Nazi incursion, Max, a grifter and his lover Rudy are recovering from a night of debauchery with a SA trooper. Two soldiers burst into the apartment and slit their guest's throat, beginning a nightmare odyssey through Nazi Germany. Ranked lower on the human scale than Jews, the men, as avowed homosexuals, flee. Desperate and on the run, Max asks his own "discreetly" homosexual Uncle Freddie for help as the older man offers little more than suggestions on how to live, as he does, practicing homosexuality on the side. Attempting their escape, Rudy is beaten to death as Horst, another homosexual prisoner, warns Max to deny his lover. Taken to a death camp at Dachau, Max and Horst branded with

the "pink triangle", hope to survive with each other for comfort and courage but it is not to be." *A Song for Coretta*: Produced by Eclipse Theatre Company at Greenhouse Theater Center. (www.eclipsetheatre.com) "Inspired by the mourners at Coretta Scott King's funeral, *A Song for Coretta* introduces five fictional African American women, aged 17 to 57, waiting to pay their respects. Pearl Cleage shows Mrs. King's impact on the lives of these women, and the connections they build with one another through her legacy." <http://www.greenhousetheater.org/>

Griffin Theatre Company

Now Playing: Little Brother

Description: "Cory Doctorow gives us a vision of the future as seen through the eyes of Marcus, aka "wln5t0n," a seventeen year old hacker who decides to fight back against a government out of control. Smart, fast, and wise to the ways of the networked world, he has no trouble outwitting his high school's intrusive but clumsy surveillance systems. But his whole world changes when he and his friends find themselves caught in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco."

Phone: 800-982-2787 or ticketmater

Address: Griffin Theatre Company at Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport, Chicago

Neighborhood: Lincoln Park

<http://www.griffintheatre.com/>

Mary's Attic

Now Playing: Bomb's Away (Closes 7/11)

Description: "In BOMBS AWAY! Mishkin and his troupe of actors dare to present his collection against the wishes of the writers of the classic musicals and despite a stop order directive from a judge. Selections to be performed are "Krakatoa" which was the original island setting for South Pacific, "I Own A Nail Salon" from the rarely seen flash-forward ending of Miss Saigon, "Too Fat To Dance" trimmed from A Chorus Line, "I Shake Me Green Shillelagh" which at one point anchored Finian's Rainbow, and the catchy "See Ya In Ikea" from Mamma Mia."

Phone: 773-883-1090

Address: Bailiwick Repertory at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark Street

Neighborhood: Andersonville

www.bailiwick.org

Neo-Futurarium

Now Playing: Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind, currently the longest running play in Chicago.

Description: "[Too Much Light...](#), with its ever-changing "menu," is an attempt to perform 30 plays in 60 minutes. The show runs Fridays and Saturdays at 11:30 p.m. and Sundays at 7:00 p.m. Seating is first-come, first-served, cash only at the door"

Phone: 773-275-5255, tickets are cash only at the door: "\$9 + the roll of a single six-sided die (\$10 - \$15, depending on your luck!"

Address: 5153 N. Ashland Ave. 2nd Fl. Chicago

Neighborhood: Andersonville

<http://www.neofuturists.org/>

Theatre Building Chicago

Now Playing: La Cage Aux Folles (Closes 7/11)

Description: “Jerry Herman's music and Harvey Fierstein's book bring into glittering light the story of Georges and Albin, two men spending their lives together in St. Tropez. Georges and Albin’s twenty years of domestication are thrown into a whirl when Jean-Michel, the son, fathered by Georges during a one-night fling, comes home with news that he is engaged.”

Address: Bohemian Theatre Ensemble at Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont, Chicago

Phone: 773-327-5252

Neighborhood: Lakeview

<http://www.theatrebuildingchicago.org/>

Theatre on the Lake

The Chicago Park District’s Theater on the Lake is located at Fullerton Avenue and Lake Shore Drive in a historic building that offers breathtaking views of Lake Michigan.

Now Playing: Jacques Brel's Lonesome Loser of the Night (Closes 7/12) and These Shining Lives (Opens 7/15)

Description: “Theo Ubique Theatre Company presented the world premiere of this music revue to popular acclaim and played to sold out audiences for five months. Through the magical lyricism of Jacques Brel, this story of love, loss, and hope follows the trials of two sailors at port in a bar in Amsterdam and reveals how relationships bloom and wilt. The Chicago Sun-Times called it “sensational ... a genuine hit.””

Address: Theater on the Lake, 2401 N. Lakeshore, Chicago

Phone: 312-742-7994

Admission: \$17.50

Neighborhood: Lincoln Park

<http://tinyurl.com/5jcpyk>

Timeline Theatre Company

Now Playing: The History Boys

Description: “The recipient of more than 30 major awards, including Tony and Olivier awards for Best New Play, *The History Boys* follows a rambunctious group of clever young men as they pursue higher learning, games, sexual identity and a place at university under the guidance of three wildly different teachers and a headmaster obsessed with results. Set during the 1980s in northern England, it is a hilarious and provocative play about the anarchy of adolescence and the purpose of education — specifically, how history should be taught.”

Phone: 773-281-TIME (8463) x24

Address: 615 W. Wellington Ave, Chicago

Neighborhood: Lakeview

<http://www.timelinetheatre.com/>

Victory Gardens Biograph Theatre

Theatre is “scheduled” to appear in the recently released film “Public Enemies,” starring Johnny Depp.

Now Playing: Blackbird

Description: “William L. Petersen, star of CBS-TV’s CSI, returns to the theater where he first earned his Equity card to star in *Blackbird*. This searing two-person drama about the destructive cycle of desire and illicit love brings to mind Petersen’s earliest work on Chicago’s stages, playing morally questionable characters in *In the Belly of the Beast*, *The Night of the Iguana*, and *Flyovers*. “The most powerful drama of the season...masterly, mesmerizing...extraordinary...a miracle” (New York Times), and winner of the 2007 Laurence Olivier Award, Britain’s equivalent to the Tony’s, *Blackbird* will leave you stunned into silence.”

Phone: 773-871-3000

Address: 2433 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago

Neighborhood: Lincoln Park

<http://victorygardens.org/>

Improv Comedy

Second City

Now Playing: *America: All Better!* & *Brother, can you spare some change?*

Description: “The theatre has two resident stages: The Second City Mainstage, which seats 290 and The Second City e.t.c., which seats 180. Each theatre has a resident troupe that writes and performs an original comedy revue. The shows are smart, funny, and highly original. The Second City Training Center operates a third theatre in the Piper’s Alley complex on Wells Street called Donny’s Skybox Studio Theatre. Donny’s Skybox features an eclectic mix of student productions as well as other alternative shows.”

Phone: 312-337-3992

Address: 1616 N. Wells St., Chicago, IL 60614. The Second City e.t.c. and Donny’s Skybox Studio Theatre are located at 1608 N. Wells St. (Piper’s Alley)

Neighborhood: Old Town

<http://www.seconcity.com/>

IO

Now playing: Scheduled productions include *Improvised Shakespeare*, *Improvised Fairy Tales*, and performances by various in-house improve teams

Description: “Performers from the iO Theater have gone on to work for shows like *Saturday Night Live*, *The Daily Show*, *The Colbert Report*, *Late Night with Conan O’Brien*, *MADtv*, *30 Rock* and many many more! Whether it’s on the big screen or at the writer’s table, iO’s influence spans the entertainment industry from coast to coast.”

Phone: 773.880.0199. Also purchase Online at Ticketweb.com

Address: [3541 N. Clark St](#) (Addison Stop via Red Line)

Neighborhood: Lakeview

<http://chicago.ioimprov.com>

Comedy Sportz Theatre

Now playing: Improv Teams perform Thursdays at 8pm, Fridays at 8pm and 10pm & Saturdays at 6pm, 8pm, and 10pm

Description: “Two teams battle for laughs and points as they make up scenes, games and songs on the spot. The audience votes for the winners, a referee calls the fouls and we even play the national anthem before each match.”

Phone: 773.549.8080

Address: 929 W Belmont

Neighborhood: Lakeview

<http://www.comedysportzchicago.com/>

Theatre Tours

Broadway in Chicago Theatre Tours of Ford Center for the Performing Art / Oriental Theatre, and the Cadillac Palace

Phone: (312) 902-1400

Tickets: via <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com/> or Ticketmaster.

Description: “Broadway In Chicago offers a public tour of our theatres every Saturday at 11 am. Each tour visits two of our three theatres: the FCPA Oriental Theatre, the Cadillac Palace and the Bank of America Theatre. The tour showcases the glittering vintage décor inspired by the foremost theatre designers of our time, who created through their designs in the French Renaissance styling. You will also learn about the cutting edge technology that makes each theatre the home to today’s most complex theatrical productions and the recent restorations that brought beauty and elegance back to these century-old theatres. FCPA/Oriental Theatre and Cadillac Palace Theatre will be toured. This is a walking tour and does not include stage areas. No food or drink in theatres, no pictures of the stage.”

Auditorium Theatre

See listing under Architecture and Design above.

7. Dance

Harris Theatre

Chicago's state-of-the-art performance venue, opened in 2003.

Now playing: The Beginning—Muntu Dance

Description: “Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago celebrates the human spirit through traditional and social African and African American dance. Muntu’s exuberant performances pulsate with the rhythms of the African world from Mali to New Orleans. The Company has received enthusiastic and critical acclaim locally, nationally and internationally for the high artistic quality of its work. Muntu strives to increase the level of awareness of, and appreciation for African culture in the context of a professional performing art form, while creating an atmosphere of communal participation encouraging and inspiring our audiences to join in the celebration.”

Date and Time: July 11, 7:00pm

Admission: \$15-\$50

Phone: (312) 334-7777

Address: 205 E. Randolph (North end of Millennium Park)

Neighborhood: Loop

<http://www.harristheaterchicago.org>

Chicago Reader Dance Home Page

Dance page from Chicago's premier arts & entertainment news source

<http://www.chicagoreader.com/dance/>

The Dance Center of Columbia College

33,000-sq-ft, four-story art deco facility that hosts performances from national and international dance troupes.

http://www.colum.edu/dance_center/

8. Arts centers

Hyde Park Art Center

The Hyde Park Art Center's mission is to stimulate and sustain the visual arts in Chicago. It is the oldest alternative exhibition space in the City and boasts a long record of education outreach in the community.

Location: [5020 S. Cornell Avenue](#)

Neighborhood: Hyde Park

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-8pm; Fri-Sat: 9am-5pm; Sun: 12pm-5pm

Phone: 773-324-5520

<http://www.hydeparkart.org/exhibitions>

Experimental Station

The Experimental Station is a not-for-profit (501-c-3) incubator of innovative cultural, educational, and environmental projects and small-scale enterprises. The Experimental Station was established in 2002 upon a long history of socially, artistically, and environmentally significant projects that had operated quietly but successfully at its location.

Location: [6100 S. Blackstone Avenue](#).

Neighborhood: Hyde Park

<http://www.experimentalstation.org/>

Southside Community Art Center

The Southside Community Art Center was founded in 1940. As the oldest African American Art Center in existence it takes pride in its past and present contributions to the development and showcasing of emerging and established artists.

Location: [3831 S. Michigan](#)

Transportation: #1 bus south down Michigan Avenue from downtown or McCormick Place

Hours: Wed-Fri: 12-5pm; Sat: 9am-5pm; Sun 1-5pm

Phone: 773-373-1026

<http://www.southsidecommunityartcenter.com/>