

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

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Chicago Architecture Center reopens July 3, 2020 with new Skyscraper Gallery models and Chicago Gallery enhancements

The CAC also offers three ways to safely enjoy nearly 50 small-group walking tours through Chicago's downtown, neighborhoods and suburbs

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[High-resolution images with captions and credits downloadable here](#)

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CHICAGO – The **[Chicago Architecture Center](#)** (CAC), located at [111 East Wacker Drive in Chicago](#), is pleased to announce it reopens beginning five days per week on Friday, July 3 at 10am Central Time.

The Center's spacious **[Drake Family Skyscraper Gallery](#)** reopens with seven new models on display, on loan from acclaimed design firms worldwide: 1000M (JAHN, est. completion 2022), Tianjin CTF Finance Centre (SOM, 2019), King Power MahaNakhon (Büro Ole Scheeren, 2016), NEMA Chicago (Rafael Viñoly Architects, 2019), Sendero Verde (Handel Architects, est. completion 2022), Solstice on the Park (Studio Gang, 2019) and Taipei 101 (C.Y. Lee & Partners Architects / Planners, 2004, on loan from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago).

In the **[Chicago Gallery](#)**, the Center's popular and interactive **[Chicago City Model Experience](#)** reopens with more than 30 updates to its more than 4,250 detailed, miniature buildings fabricated by [Columbian Model & Exhibit Works, Ltd.](#) including the Ace Hotel (GREC Architects, 2017) and Catalog in the new podium at Willis Tower (Gensler, 2020).

In addition, the CAC has reinstated nearly 50 options for CAC walking tours for members and the general public, each limited to a maximum of six attendees and available in three types: Public **[CAC walking tours](#)**, free to CAC members, \$26 per person for non-members; **[My Social Circle](#)** private tours for "friends and family," \$135 per group for CAC members, \$180 for non-members; and **[Architecture Conversations](#)** custom tours, created based on preferred locations and areas of interest and starting at \$375 for two hours.

Select CAC walking tours began June 20 focused on city neighborhoods, near suburbs and downtown areas including [Beverly](#), [Chinatown](#), [Evanston](#), [Hyde Park](#), [Kenwood](#) and more.

These tour offerings include [Art Deco Skyscrapers: The Loop](#); [Historic Skyscrapers](#); [Evanston Along the Lake](#); [Fort Sheridan](#); [Fulton-Randolph Market: From Gritty to Gourmet](#); [Lake Bluff](#); [Navy Pier](#); [Vice to Nice: Transformation of the South Loop](#); and [White City Revisited](#).

Additional tours are available beginning Friday, July 3, departing from the reopened Center at 10:30am, 1pm and 3pm Thursdays through Mondays. These downtown tour offerings include [Chicago Architecture: A Walk Through Time](#); [Mid-Century Modern](#); and [Must-See Chicago](#).

[Unlimited public CAC walking tours and Center admission remain free to all current CAC members](#); [CAC Live](#) events online—featuring authors, historians, industry leaders and representatives from the CAC’s corps of more than 600 docents—continue through summer 2020, are listed below, and remain free with processing fees to CAC members.

All Chicago Architecture Center galleries and the CAC Design Store will be open Thursdays through Mondays from 10am to 4pm. [Center admission](#) is free to CAC members and children ages five and younger, \$12 for adults and \$8 for students with a valid ID. The ArcelorMittal Design Studio and the Joan and Gary Gand Lecture Hall remain closed until further notice.

All Center visitors and CAC walking tour attendees are prompted to acknowledge and accept the CAC’s [COVID-19 safety policies](#) supporting recommendations from public health officials and developed in accordance with the [Protecting Chicago](#) and [Restoring Illinois](#) frameworks. All visitors are asked to enter the Center from East Wacker Drive and exit the Center through the CAC Design Store into Illinois Center and the Chicago Pedway. Alternatives to cash for transactions are preferred but not required. Those arriving without an appropriate face covering may purchase one for \$14 including tax. [CAC safety policies](#) are subject to change.

Tickets for all public CAC walking tours must be purchased in advance, online at [architecture.org/tours](#). Those seeking reservations for My Social Circle private tours along existing routes, and for Architecture Conversations custom tours, are encouraged to email [groupsales@architecture.org](#). Until further notice, walk-ups without reservations cannot be accommodated for tours not departing from the Center at 111 East Wacker Drive.

Details regarding the reinstatement of Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruises aboard Chicago’s First Lady will be announced via separate release.

CAC Live: Summer 2020 Calendar

Upcoming CAC Live events are as follows; all start times listed are Central Time and all events are hosted online via [Zoom](#) unless otherwise noted. New events are added on an ongoing basis; visit [architecture.org/caclive](#) for current listings.

CAC Live: Murals of Chicago

Wednesday, June 24 at 7pm

Saturday, August 1 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Talented muralists continually expand Chicago's citywide collection of public artworks, enlivening its architecture, reflecting social issues, and honoring both ordinary people and famous figures. This overview from CAC docent Maurice Champagne includes murals from the Progressive Era, the Works Progress Administration and Federal Art Project, commercial murals of the 1930s, community artworks of the late 20th century on Chicago's West and South Sides, and current trends displayed by the city's newest murals.

Host Maurice Champagne has been a CAC docent for 17 years and helped create numerous CAC tours. The author of multiple articles for the docent community as well as an e-book on the Field Museum, Champagne has also taught classes on Chicago architecture and history for the Newberry Library. Prior to his retirement, he taught English and computer science for 18 years and was a technology consultant for two decades. Champagne holds degrees from DePaul University, Loyola University and Northwestern University.

CAC Live: Women in Architecture Tour

Tuesday, June 30 at 5:30pm

Sunday, July 5 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

This virtual tour highlights famous and lesser-known buildings in downtown Chicago designed by women architects including Studio Gang's Aqua Tower and Vista Tower, and the International Style landmark 401 North Michigan, completed in 1965 as the Equitable Building and designed in part by Natalie Griffin de Blois of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. While women in architecture and design professions were historically limited by glass ceilings—and kept out of partnership at firms both large and small—they've secured bigger and more visible roles in the 21st century, opening and running their own offices and designing buildings that change cities and skylines the world over.

Host Mary Jo Hoag has been a CAC docent since 2007 and is certified to lead ten tours, including the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady. Hoag's interest in elevating the accomplishments of women and other underrepresented groups inspired her to create original CAC tours including "Women in Architecture" and "Women of Influence."

CAC Live: Retail Revolution on State Street

Wednesday, July 1 at 7pm

Saturday, August 8 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

The emergence of department stores disrupted retail in the 19th and 20th centuries. Innovative collaborations between Chicago merchants and architects enabled that revolution. CAC docent Brian Kelly leads this event's attendees on a virtual trip up Chicago's State Street to investigate the rise of consumer capitalism, exemplified by the massively influential, architecturally significant stores of Marshall Field and others.

Host Brian Kelly is a CAC docent and South Shore native. A branding consultant and retail maven with a degree in architectural history, Kelly's unique perspective and fondness for both buildings and brands informs his views on intersections between them.

CAC Live: Women of Influence Graceland Cemetery Tour

Tuesday, July 7 at 1pm

Sunday, July 12 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Discover women who made lasting impacts on Chicago with a visit to their final resting places. CAC docent Mary Jo Hoag leads this 45-minute live, virtual tour in the beautiful Graceland Cemetery on Chicago's North Side. Hoag's tour highlights several women who changed the city—some even before they were allowed to vote, hold public office, work outside the home or attend college.

Host Mary Jo Hoag has been a CAC docent since 2007 and is certified to lead ten tours, including the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady. Hoag's interest in elevating the accomplishments of women and other underrepresented groups inspired her to create original CAC tours including "Women in Architecture" and "Women of Influence." Hoag believes great stories can be told—and beautiful art and architecture can be experienced—in cemeteries, and she enjoys taking guests on explorations of Chicago's most famous examples.

CAC Live: Building Tall on Broad Shoulders

Wednesday, July 8 at 7pm

Saturday, August 15 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Chicago is where innovations were developed and applied to the design and construction of the world's very first skyscrapers. Looking at engineering breakthroughs throughout the history of high-rises, this presentation showcases five specific structural types—each utilizing a unique technology that allowed and supported building taller and taller.

Host Bill Lipsman is a retired in-house counsel and has been a CAC docent since 2009. During his 35-year legal career, he advised management of two international food and consumer products companies, including during a two-year assignment in the Netherlands. At age 11, his

interest in architecture was sparked by the completion near his home of John Deere World Headquarters, designed by Eero Saarinen and completed by Kevin Roche. In addition to leading Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruises aboard Chicago's First Lady and other CAC tours, Lipsman is active in Northwestern University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and helps care for his three grandsons.

CAC Live: Old Buildings, New Hotels

Saturday, July 11 at 1pm

Wednesday, August 19 at 7pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Driven by tourism, multiple historic Chicago skyscrapers have recently been reimagined as chic hotels. CAC docent Monica Rodriguez leads this online version of the CAC's popular walking tour, Hotel Boom: Making Old New Again, which looks at the exciting new lives of a former athletic club, silver manufacturer and motor club.

Host Monica Rodriguez is a Chicago native with a BA in Communications and Fine Arts and an MA in Tourism and Hospitality Management. Rodriguez spent seven years working for a nonprofit organization committed to leadership development in university students, has traveled extensively, and has frequently led student study-abroad trips with The Experiment in International Living. She has been a CAC docent since 2015 and is Co-Tour Director for Hotel Boom: Making Old New Again.

CAC Live: Chicago Women Activists

Wednesday, July 15 at 7pm

Wednesday, September 2 at 7pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Chicago's 19th century history typically focuses on—and has been told by—middle- and upper-class white men credited with building businesses that fueled the city's rapid growth. Less well-known and recognized are the women who helped build Chicago, whether alongside these men or, more often, independently. Some strived to advance civic and social reforms, others advocated for more livable housing, and many worked to secure the right to vote. Hear these activists' stories and learn about reforms they led in this online tour highlighting sites on Chicago's Near South Side.

Host Ellen Shubart has been a CAC docent since 2006, leading many tours on land, on the Chicago River and from the top of an open-air bus. Prior to becoming a docent, Shubart worked in journalism for 20 years, followed by land planning and public policy advocacy.

CAC Live: Buildings and Beer

Saturday, July 18 at 1pm

Wednesday, August 26 at 7pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

A longtime hub for entertainment, Chicago's River North neighborhood also features some of the city's greatest and oldest existing structures. Explore its architecture—from warehouses to pubs to Gilded Age mansions—paired with stories from the history of brewing in Chicago. CAC docent Jeff Marcella, an expert in both buildings and beer, leads this online version of one of the CAC's popular Pub Tours and shares his advice and recommendations on sampling local brews.

Host Jeff Marcella arrived in Chicago in 1994, fell in love with the city and became a CAC docent in 2001. Immediately impressed by how deeply architecture and design infuse the city's culture, Marcella enjoys leading multiple downtown walking tours including Art Deco and helped craft the CAC's Pub Tours. When not volunteering for the CAC, Marcella is a consultant to nonprofits and governments with a focus on job training and social service initiatives. He lives with his wife and son in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood.

CAC Live: Wrigleyville Tour

Sunday, July 19 at 1pm

Tuesday, July 21 at 5:30pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

This virtual walk around Wrigley Field includes fascinating facts about the architecture surrounding Chicago's beloved "friendly confines." Wrigleyville, the neighborhood named for the stadium, has seen significant changes in recent years. CAC Docent Council President Kent Foutty begins this tour in front of the home of the Chicago Cubs, discussing its famous marquee, the field's storied past and its recent renovations. Foutty also highlights new developments to the south and west of Wrigley Field and shares the stories of some of its older neighbors, including a firehouse just beyond left field.

Host Kent Foutty has been a CAC docent since 2009 and leads eight different tours, including the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady. In addition to leading tours, he is currently president of the CAC's Docent Council, the governing body for the CAC's hundreds of docent volunteers. Foutty is a professor of accounting at Loyola University Chicago and lives on the North Side of Chicago.

CAC Live: Gothic Chicago

Wednesday, July 22 at 7pm

Saturday, August 22 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Gothic architecture, stalwart symbol of the Middle Ages, was revived in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, primarily in North America and the United Kingdom. While most commonly utilized in designing churches, the remarkable intricacy and verticality of the Gothic style can also be seen in many academic, commercial, municipal and residential buildings throughout the Chicago area. This presentation explores those various manifestations as well as subgenres of Gothic architecture and decoration.

Host Dr. Thomas R. Stelmack retired following a 42-year career in optometry, having received prestigious awards for his teaching and clinical service. He immediately began training to become a CAC docent, allowing Dr. Stelmack to pursue a lifelong avocational interest in architecture. In addition to leading CAC walking tours and Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruises aboard Chicago's First Lady, he helped create several new tours and coordinates for Open House Chicago. During his tours, Dr. Stelmack "keeps an eye on design" to explain why it matters and enjoys pointing out visual illusions in architecture.

CAC Live: Daniel Burnham: Realist or Idealist?

Saturday, July 25 at 1pm

Saturday, September 5 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

A prolific architect, trailblazing city planner, and civic and cultural leader, Daniel Burnham has been described by contemporaries and biographers as both a pragmatic realist and a visionary idealist. CAC docent Marcia Matavulj dives into this apparent contradiction by exploring Burnham's architectural practice during Chicago's fast-moving progression from short buildings with load-bearing walls to steel-framed skyscrapers never seen before. This presentation also explores the impact of the World's Columbian Exposition on Burnham's career and life—how it affected his approach to architecture and set him on a path toward urban planning.

Host Marcia Matavulj is a native Chicagoan with a longtime interest in the city's architecture and history. This led her to become a CAC member, exploring the city through its many downtown and neighborhood tours. After retiring from a career in information technology, Matavulj fulfilled her goal to become a CAC docent in 2008 and now leads both walking and bus tours.

CAC Live: Alta Vista Terrace Tour

Sunday, July 26 at 1pm

Tuesday, July 28 at 5:30pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Hear the secrets and stories behind a stretch of row houses situated between Chicago's Wrigley Field and Graceland Cemetery on this live, 45-minute virtual tour of Alta Vista Terrace. A full city block of 40 row houses—rather uncommon in Chicago—built all at once at the

beginning of the 20th century, Alta Vista took its inspiration in part from London's residential vernacular and remains one of the most unique and holistically designed streets in Chicago.

Host Kent Foutty has been a CAC docent since 2009 and leads eight different tours, including the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady. In addition to leading tours, he is currently president of the CAC's Docent Council, the governing body for the CAC's hundreds of docent volunteers. Foutty is a professor of accounting at Loyola University Chicago and lives on the North Side of Chicago.

CAC Live: Churches by Bus Anniversary Program

Wednesday, July 29 at 7pm

Saturday, August 29 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

The CAC's popular, annual Churches by Bus tour celebrates 25 years in 2020. For this silver anniversary online program, Co-Tour Directors and CAC docents Joanne Linzer and David Utech review the evolution of church architecture, from Roman basilicas to Gothic cathedrals, and highlight three local examples: Old St. Patrick's Catholic Church, built in 1856 and a survivor of the Great Chicago Fire; St. James Cathedral, also originally from 1856 but destroyed in the fire and rebuilt; and Saint James Chapel, built in 1920 and modeled after the 13th century masterpiece Sainte-Chappelle in Paris.

Presenter Joanne Linzer has been a CAC docent since 2000 and is certified for multiple CAC building, bus and walking tours in addition to Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruises aboard Chicago's First Lady. Her professional work in immunology and her interest in architecture came together in a master's thesis on the architecture of the immune response. Linzer enjoys educating people about the vital importance of architecture.

Presenter David Utech became a CAC docent "on a whim" in 2003 following his retirement from a career in school psychology. His longtime interest in architecture is a family matter, as Utech is the nephew of a Bay Area architect who trained under Mies van der Rohe, and the grandson of both a Chicago cut stone company's draftsman and the chauffeur to the president of the American Terra Cotta Company in Crystal Lake, Illinois. He is Tour Director of Sacred Spaces in Downtown Chicago, Churches by Bus and the Merchandise Mart, and is certified to lead six additional CAC tours.

CAC Live: "This Used to Be Chicago" Book Talk

Wednesday, July 29 at noon

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Every building has a past. Ellen Shubart talks with author and fellow CAC docent Joni Hirsch Blackman about Blackman's book, "This Used to be Chicago," and the stories it reveals about

nearly 90 local buildings including a liquor store that was a speakeasy during Prohibition, condominiums in a former piano factory and school for circus arts that used to be a church.

Author Joni Hirsch Blackman, in addition to being a CAC docent since 2013, has been a copy editor, columnist, newspaper reporter and writer for magazines and wire services. She is the author of four books including “This Used to be Chicago,” published in 2017 by Reedy Press.

Host Ellen Shubart has been a CAC docent since 2006, leading many tours on land, on the Chicago River and from the top of an open-air bus. Prior to becoming a docent, Shubart worked in journalism for 20 years, followed by land planning and public policy advocacy.

CAC Live: Chicago’s Riverwalk

Wednesday, August 5 at 7pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

The Chicago Riverwalk is a 1.25-mile trail along the south bank of the Main Stem of the Chicago River, between Lake Michigan and the confluence of branches at Wolf Point. This presentation covers the history of the Chicago Riverwalk project and highlights some features of this unique park—at the bottom of a “canyon” of world-famous architecture.

Host Michelle Woods has more than 25 years of experience in municipal government working for the City of Chicago. She is currently a Project Manager for the Department of Assets, Information and Services where she oversees the maintenance, operations and concession program for the Chicago Riverwalk. Woods previously worked for the Department of Transportation’s Division of Engineering on the design and construction of \$450 million in infrastructure projects. She is a graduate of DePaul University, where she received a degree in Urban Studies and French, and became a CAC docent in 2019.

CAC Live: “American Warsaw” Book Talk

Wednesday, August 26 at noon

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Chicago author and historian Dominic A. Pacyga leads this presentation on his 2019 book “American Warsaw: The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of Polish Chicago,” which explores the impact made on the city’s culture and politics by members of its Polish community—famously the largest on Earth outside of Poland. Pacyga documents more than a century of immigration and emigration and chronicles how Polish people, families and traditions have defined and redefined what it means to be Polish in Chicago.

Author Dominic A. Pacyga received his PhD in history from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1981. He is a retired professor of history at Columbia College Chicago and has authored, co-authored or edited eight books on Chicago history including “American Warsaw: The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of Polish Chicago.” Pacyga has earned media recognition both locally and

nationally as a writer and lecturer on a broad range of topics including race and ethnicity, residential architecture, immigration, labor and urban development.

CAC Live: If the Walls of Farnsworth House Could Talk

RESCHEDULED for Wednesday, September 9 at 7pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

A brief encounter at a dinner party led to one of the most intriguing and beautiful design collaborations of the 20th century—and sparked a firestorm of society gossip. When Modernist architect Mies van der Rohe met accomplished physician and polymath Dr. Edith Farnsworth, the resulting house he designed for her was a structure so simple, so elegant, and in such defiance of conventional wisdom, that it revolutionized domestic architecture forever.

Host Bobbi Pinkert, a self-described “archiholic,” has been a CAC docent since 1999. She is currently Tour Director for five tours and leads many others, including the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard Chicago’s First Lady. A former President of the CAC Docent Council, Pinkert was named “Outstanding Docent” by her peers in 2010.

While the CAC Call Center operates at limited capacity to support employee safety, voicemails at 312-922-3432 are monitored daily. The CAC responds within 24 hours to all inquiries sent via email to tickets@architecture.org, boxoffice@architecture.org and info@architecture.org. Visit architecture.org/safety for the latest information regarding adjustments to CAC activities and programs to best support efforts to limit the transmission of COVID-19.

Subscriptions via email to *CAC@Home*, the organization’s digital mini magazine, are free; visit architecture.org to sign up today. Visit architecture.org/join to become a member today starting at just \$80 per year and architecture.org/donate to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Chicago Architecture Center—where the stories of the city begin.

About the Chicago Architecture Center

The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1966, dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. A national leader in architecture and design education, the CAC offers field-leading tours, programs, exhibitions and more that are part of a dynamic journey of lifelong learning.

Opened to the public in 2018, its riverfront location is in the heart of the city, where Michigan Avenue meets the Chicago River, featuring nearly 10,000 square feet of exhibition space filled with super-sized models—and views—of iconic skyscrapers built over the course of more than a century. Exhibitions focus on Chicago’s diverse neighborhoods, housing types, leading architects and future projects, and include the largest scale model of the city, with more than 4,250 miniature buildings, interactive touchscreens, and a cinematic backdrop animating key moments in its history. Highly knowledgeable, enthusiastic CAC docents guide visitors and

residents through more than 75 walking tours with more than 7,000 annual departures, plus the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady.

Through partnerships with schools and youth-serving organizations, the CAC reaches approximately 30,000 K–12 students annually, while teacher workshops provide educators with tools and resources they need to advance STEM curricula in their classrooms. Committed to increasing access for populations historically under-represented in ACED (architecture, construction, engineering, and design) professions, the CAC offers many of its education programs—and all of its programs for teens—at no cost to participants. CAC programs for adults and members include talks with acclaimed authors and practicing architects, in-depth presentations on issues and trends in urbanism, and classes unlocking a wide range of subjects with connections to the built environment.

Proceeds from programs, tours and the CAC Design Store, as well as from grants, sponsorships and donations, support its educational mission. Visit architecture.org to learn more and follow @chiarchitecture and #chiarchitecture on social media.

