

# CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

EXHIBITS • CRUISES • TOURS • PROGRAMS

## Chicago Architecture Center Opens with New Exhibits and Tours in Time for Memorial Day Weekend Summer Kick-off

*New tours downtown, in neighborhoods and more departures on the Chicago River; New exhibits spotlight changing Chicago neighborhoods and cutting-edge home designs that are affordable, accessible, and flexible for every stage of our lives*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contact: Dan O'Connell; dan@danconnellmedia.com, 617-480-6585

[CAC Digital Media Kit](#)

CHICAGO – With the Memorial Day Weekend summer kick-off just days away, the [Chicago Architecture Center](#) (CAC) has re-opened with all-new and updated exhibits in its 10,000 square feet of galleries full of scale models of new building designs from Chicago and around the world. The Chicago Gallery, home to the Chicago City Model Experience, is completely overhauled and all-new exhibits on Current Chicago Projects, Chicago Chicago's neighborhoods and the new home design exhibit, Housing for a Changing Nation.

These new exhibits cap CAC's spring 2021 reopening that began with the April launch of new CAC Walking Tours and the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center (CAFC) River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady. Both walking tours and the cruise have been popular options for Chicagoans and visitors eager to rediscover the beauty and inspiration of Chicago architecture.

"All CAC exhibits have been updated with new scale models of exciting architectural designs and we've created an all-new exhibit on cutting-edge, affordable, flexible home designs," said Lynn Osmond, President and CEO of the CAC. "The new exhibit in the Chicago Gallery, Housing for a Changing Nation, highlights innovative architects who are creating homes for a diverse range of needs from live/work spaces to multigenerational families to cohousing."

### CAC EXHIBIT GALLERIES open May 22; Hours: 10m to 5pm, Thursday through Monday

THE CHICAGO GALLERY returns with new exhibits throughout.

- **BRAND NEW FOR MAY 2021: Housing for a Changing Nation Exhibit** is an entirely new installation, sponsored by AARP Illinois and the AARP Foundation, that explores how architects are replacing outdated 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century housing with homes designed for fast-changing, diverse, multi-generational communities that need flexible, accessible and affordable housing:
  - **100 YEAR LOT - a multi-generational home in Mexican and European influenced Pilsen by Canopy** neighborhood splicing together a Chicago two-flat with a new two-story structure;
  - **MAKERS SPACE - a five-lot, live/work, micro-housing complex with shared community kitchen by Landon Bone Baker** and retail marketplace and cottage-industry scaled workspace for South Chicago's "maker" community;



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- **FLIP THE STRIP - strip malls and vacant storefronts transformed into flexible live/workspaces by UrbanLab**—a contemporary update on the old concept of “living above the store”—for a new generation of small business entrepreneurs
- **A NEW COURTYARD – a compact, pedestrian-orientated, affordable apartment building in Los Angeles that updates a familiar, sprawl-fighting California style by Brooks + Scarpa**—a design that shares elements familiar to Chicagoans whose Chicago courtyard apartment buildings provided affordable housing to residents in the early 20th century.
- **BRAND NEW FOR MAY 2021: The City in Change: Chicago Neighborhoods Exhibit** introduces visitors to Chicagoans from some of the city’s 77 diverse, architecturally distinct and constantly changing communities.
- **Chicago City Model Experience**, featuring more than 4,250 buildings, returns with **thirty new models of buildings under construction in 2020 and 2021—including St. Regis (Vista) Tower and Bank of America Building (110 North Wacker)**. Features a newly updated seven-minute video summarizing the city’s dynamic history, fascinating present and promising future.
- **Current Chicago Projects Exhibit** opens with **new, cutting-edge Chicago projects and all new scale models**. Projects include
  - **75<sup>th</sup> Street Boardwalk, The Nest, PopCourts!** by ARC Community Design Initiative;
  - **Cabrini-Green Redevelopment** by Gensler, JGMA and Studio Dwell;
  - **Steppenwolf Theatre Expansion** by Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture;
  - **Auburn Gresham Healthy Lifestyle Hub** by MKB Architects;
  - **The Obama Presidential Center** by Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects Partners, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Interactive Design Architects;
  - **Chicago Park District Headquarters and Park 596** by John Ronan Architects and site design group;
  - **Fulton East** by Lamar Johnson Collaborative and Clayco;
  - **Tribune Tower Residences** by Solomon Cordwell Buenz (renovation architect) and John Mead Howells and Raymond Hood (original architects);
  - **SURGE Esports Stadium & VR Arenas** by KOO;
  - **KLEO Art Residences** by JGMA;
  - **800 Fulton** by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM).

**THE DRAKE FAMILY SKYSCRAPER GALLERY** featuring “Building Tall” reopens with **seven new scale models of towers from Bangkok, Chicago, New York, Taipei and Tianjin** and other skyscrapers from around the world and “Race to the Top” featuring oversized scale models of skyscrapers that were each tallest in the world when built.

New scale models in the Skyscraper Gallery include:

- **1000M**, Chicago, JAHN, est. 2022
- **CTF Finance Centre**, Tianjin, SOM, 2019
- **King Power MahaNakhon**, Bangkok, Büro Ole Scheeren, 2016
- **NEMA Chicago**, Rafael Viñoly Architects, 2019
- **Sendero Verde**, New York, Handel Architects, est. 2022



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- [Solstice on the Park](#), Chicago, Studio Gang, 2019
- [Taipei 101](#), C.Y. Lee & Partners Architects / Planners, 2004

In April, the CAC rolled out its downtown and neighborhood CAC Walking Tours for Chicagoans eager to rediscover their city's classic architecture and diverse neighborhoods. The popular, always changing walking tours and CAFC River Cruise are led by a corps of 400 expert CAC docents, who in June 2021 celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1971 first CAC docent class.

## **CAFC RIVER CRUISES departures Thursday through Monday starting May 22**

On April 17, the #1 boat tour in Chicago based on [TripAdvisor user reviews](#) and the only Chicago finalist for [Best Boat Tour](#) for USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Award, [Chicago Architecture Foundation Center \(CAFC\) River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady \(CFL\) launched its 2021 cruise season](#) along Chicago River's canyon of architecture. Led by CAC docents, guests will hear stories of the visionaries who have designed more than 50 architecturally significant buildings along the Chicago River as well as the Chicago Riverwalk and the 13 bascule bridges on the cruise route.

The 90-minute CAFC River Cruise is the most in-depth, authentic architecture river cruise available and is lauded as a "must-do" activity when visiting Chicago. [Exciting new buildings with cutting edge design elements continue to rise along the river including the recently completed St. Regis \(Vista\) Tower, the city's third tallest structure, and the refurbished riverfront Old Post Office.](#) Tour guests will leave the cruise inspired by the city's wide variety of architectural styles—which glide by as you travel up and down all three branches of the Chicago River—including art deco, neoclassicism, mid-century modernism, and postmodernism.

Chicago's First Lady's luxury fleet is the finest on the Chicago River and now includes [the new, brass and mahogany trimmed Chicago's Emerald Lady](#). Full-service bars on board each vessel. Cruises will initially limit capacities following the guidelines from federal public health officials. As passenger vessels under federal jurisdiction, cruises follow the current federal face covering mandate. Reservations are recommended and tickets are available at [cruisechicago.com](#).

## **CAC WALKING TOURS departing from the CAC, Thursday through Monday starting May 22**

### **Favorite Downtown CAC Walking Tours returned April 17 include:**

[Art Deco Skyscrapers: The Loop](#) Art Deco masterpieces built in Chicago's financial district during the Roaring '20s

[Chicago Architecture: A Walk Through Time](#) Chicago's early skyscrapers to supertall high rises

[Must See Chicago](#) Chicago's most famous buildings and more: Wrigley Building, Tribune Tower, Art Institute, Willis Tower

[Historic Treasures of Chicago's Golden Age](#) architectural landmarks of Michigan Avenue and State Street 1890 to 1930

[Chicago Icons: Connecting Past and Present](#) see how architectural styles from the 1890s connect to today's skyline

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[Mid-Century Modern Skyscrapers](#) Chicago's modernist masters, Mies, Goldberg and Graham, set the stage for the modern city center

[Lights, Camera, Architecture!](#) see architecture that starred in Ferris Bueller, Batman, the Blues Brothers and other films

## Neighborhood CAC Walking Tours returned April 17 include:

[Fulton-Randolph Market](#) 150-year evolution from food wholesaling and meatpacking to gourmet restaurants, technology hubs and boutique hotels

[Northwestern University Campus](#) a stunning, wooded campus on Lake Michigan with 19th Century Collegiate Gothic to cutting-edge designs

[Kenwood](#) the stately neighborhood, home to early industrialists, modern-day innovators and President Barack Obama

[Hyde Park](#) home to the 1893 World's Fair, the University of Chicago and Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece, Robie House, pre-Chicago Fire houses and the famous Midway.

[Evanston Along the Lake](#) one of Chicago's most desirable suburbs, with many homes and churches with notable designs, where Daniel Burnham established his "country retreat"

## Summer Celebrations Walking Tours bookable in late spring/early summer include:

[A Juneteenth Celebration walking tour](#), [Civil War to Civil Rights at Oak Woods Cemetery](#), marks the celebration of the emancipation of enslaved people in Texas on June 19, 1865. The Oak Woods Cemetery walking tour acknowledges the Civil War death toll and honors Civil Rights leaders laid to rest at Oak Woods including Ida B. Wells and Mayor Harold Washington among other African American legends like Olympian Jesse Owens.

[CAC Docent 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer Celebration Tours](#), limited run tours initially available to members only, mark the June 2021 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first graduating docent class of 1971. CAC docents have created new and revived favorite walking tours from the past five decades to celebrate the city they love. New walking tours include [Historic Austin](#) that begins with historic homes around West Midway Park from its early days as an upper middle class suburban community, its annexation by Chicago and then first home for newly arriving American immigrants and African Americans moving north as part of The Great Migration. [Chicago Gothic](#) is another new walking tour focusing on neo-gothic inspired buildings near North Michigan Avenue. Favorite tours from the past being offered this summer include [Kenilworth](#), [Millennium Park: Beyond the Bean](#); [Humboldt Park](#), and [Churches of Evanston](#).

All walking tours—including custom and private bookings—are limited to small groups only, with face coverings and advance reservations required. Masking policy below.

## CAC BOX OFFICE & DESIGN STORE Thursday through Monday 10am to 5pm starting May 22

On April 17, the [CAC Box Office](#) and [CAC Design Store](#) reopened for guests wishing to book in-person walking tours and the CAFC River Cruise and shop one of Chicago's favorite design venues. Both spaces limit capacities and require face coverings. Masking policy below.















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## CAC COVID-19 MITIGATION POLICIES

The CAC is committed to supporting a safe experience for its visitors and guests, members, staff and volunteers. Below is a summary of what the CAC and guests are doing to keep us all safe.

WHAT YOU ARE DOING	WHAT WE ARE DOING
 Wearing a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times.	 Wearing face coverings over our nose and mouth at all times.
 Maintaining at least six feet of distance from other visitors and from CAC staff.	 Maintaining at least six feet of distance from visitors and fellow CAC staff members.
 Washing our hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water.	 Washing our hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water.
 Sharing restrooms with no more than one other visitor at a time.	 Limiting admission to all CAC tours and galleries to allow for appropriate distancing.
 Riding the elevator alone or with one other person with whom you have isolated.	 Disinfecting all regularly used and shared surfaces frequently.
 Using alternatives to cash for transactions whenever possible.	 Cleaning the CAC daily.

As we reopen our in-person walking tours and exhibits, the CAC will continue to follow City of Chicago recommendations to limit the transmission of COVID-19 (coronavirus). In accordance with the City of Chicago's optional masking requirement for businesses, the CAC will continue to require masks for all staff, volunteers, and guests at this time.

We encourage the public to subscribe to our free biweekly mini magazine, *CAC@Home*. Archived at [architecture.org/athome](http://architecture.org/athome), *CAC@Home* issues feature upcoming events and reading material, neighborhood activities, fun for the family and more. CAC members enjoy additional benefits and exclusive offerings in addition to *CAC@Home: Members' Edition*.

By visiting the Chicago Architecture Center or participating in any CAC activities or programs in person, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19. If you feel ill or suspect you may be experiencing symptoms of a COVID-19 infection, please do not enter the Center or attend any CAC tours. We will be happy to refund your reservation or welcome you to join us again at a later date.

Accommodations may be made on a case-by-case basis for persons with disabilities, health concerns, religious restrictions or other circumstances that, at the CAC's discretion, warrant variance from face covering requirements. Visitors and tour attendees arriving without face coverings will be able to purchase them from the CAC. Safety policies will continue to be modified as necessary.

For updates on offerings visit [architecture.org](http://architecture.org) or call 312-922-8687.

### 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 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 with views of a century of iconic skyscrapers. 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



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curricula in their classrooms. Committed to serving under-represented communities in 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 subjects related 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](http://architecture.org) to learn more and follow @chiarchitecture and #chiarchitecture on social media.

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