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<http://openhousechicago.org>

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CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER'S 15th OPEN HOUSE FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
THE MORE THAN 200 LOCATIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ACROSS 25 CHICAGO
NEIGHBORHOODS ON OCTOBER 18 AND 19

*The Annual Public Festival, One of the Largest of its Kind in the World, Provides Free
Access to Culturally, Architecturally and Historically Significant Sites Across Diverse
Chicago Neighborhoods, Including 30 Sites That Are New to the Festival in 2025*

CHICAGO—The [Chicago Architecture Center](#) (CAC) announces the sites for the 15th Open House Chicago festival, taking place October 18-19, 2025. Open House Chicago (OHC), one of the largest architecture and urban exploration festivals in the world, is a free annual festival that provides behind-the-scenes access to places of architectural, historical and cultural significance.

Every October, Open House Chicago attracts more than 35,000 visitors from across the region and around the U.S., for special free access to lofty skyscraper rooftops and penthouses, historic landmarks, breweries and distilleries, houses of worship, innovative workspaces, schools and greenspaces, many that are seldom open to the public, while highlighting businesses, organizations and creative leaders making a positive impact. This year, OHC will feature approximately 210 locations across 25 Chicago neighborhoods, including more than 30 new sites. The complete list of new sites is below.

"By making architecture accessible to all, Open House Chicago is a key part of the Chicago Architecture Center's mission to inspire people to discover why design matters. Open House is based on a similar festival founded in the United Kingdom in 1992 to allow people to explore buildings in London, and is part of a worldwide network of more than 40 similar festivals," said Eleanor Gorski, CEO & President, Chicago Architecture Center. "It's a natural fit for Chicago, the city of architecture, and we look forward to welcoming guests from outside the city. Whether you're learning more about your own neighborhood or discovering a part of Chicago you've never visited before, Open House is the ultimate way to get to know Chicago."

New Sites

Thirty new sites for 2025 include: Bertrand Goldberg's Hilliard Tower Apartments in Chinatown; Morris Architects Planners-designed The Magic Lounge in Andersonville; state of the art indoor cultivation facility Four Star Mushrooms, growing gourmet mushrooms in the Near West Side; the late Steve Albini's recording studio Electrical Audio in Avondale; and the state-of-the-art Aspire Center for Workforce Innovation in the Austin neighborhood, converted from a shuttered elementary school. New sites, alphabetically:

- o Aspire Center (Austin)
- o Auditorium Building, Roosevelt University (Downtown)
- o Center on Halsted (Lakeview)
- o The Checkout (Uptown)
- o Chicago Magic Lounge (Andersonville)
- o Chicago Sukkah Design Festival at James Stone Freedom Square (N. Lawndale)
- o Chicago Theological Seminary (Hyde Park)
- o David Rubenstein Forum, UChicago (Hyde Park)
- o Electrical Audio (Avondale)
- o First Unitarian Church of Chicago (Hyde Park)
- o Four Star Mushrooms (Near West Side)
- o Gerber/Hart LGBTQ+ Library & Archive (Rogers Park)
- o Hawksmoor Chicago (Near North Side)
- o Hilliard Tower Apartments (Chinatown)
- o Home of Harmony, Vivekananda Vedanta Society of Chicago (Irving Park)
- o Intuit Art Museum (West Town)
- o Japanese American Service Committee (West Ridge)
- o Judson & Moore Distillery (Avondale)
- o Lathrop Apartments (Lakeview)
- o Lucy Gonzalez Parsons Apartments (Logan Square)
- o Marquette Building (Downtown)
- o National Public Housing Museum (Near West Side)
- o Sheridan Trust & Savings Building (Uptown)
- o Smart Museum of Art, UChicago (Hyde Park)
- o South Side Sanctuary (Bronzeville)
- o Starling by Duo (North Lawndale)
- o Swift Hall, UChicago Divinity School (Hyde Park)
- o The Weaving Mill (Logan Square)
- o Westtown Center (Logan Square)

Returning OHC sites in 2025 number more than 170 and include The Forum in Bronzeville, the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Money Museum in the Loop, the Walt Disney House & Birthplace in Hermosa, Stone Temple Baptist Church in Lawndale, Palette & Chisel Academy of

Fine Arts in the Gold Coast, The Grand Ballroom in Hyde Park, Wheeler Mansion on the Near South Side and the iconic pink Edgewater Beach Apartments in Edgewater. For a complete list of Open House Chicago 2025 sites, visit <http://openhousechicago.org>

In addition to the open sites, OHC sites will host more than 40 programs and activations during the weekend, including a family day and guided site tours at Hyde Park's **Smart Museum of Art** on Saturday, "Cosmic Comedy" at the **South Asia Institute** on the Near South Side on Saturday afternoon and musical performances at **The Checkout**, a former 7-Eleven transformed into a thriving chamber music venue in Uptown on Saturday and Sunday.

Neighborhood Headquarters

For its fifteenth edition, Open House Chicago is piloting a program of Neighborhood Headquarters conceived as gathering places in different regions of Chicago. Three OHC Neighborhood Headquarters – [Ramova Theatre](#) in Bridgeport (South); [KOVAL Distillery](#) in Ravenswood (North); and [Starling by Duo/](#) in North Lawndale (West) – have been activated as natural starting points, in addition to the CAC's downtown center, for guests to gather, pick up materials, get their bearings and plan their day. Neighborhood Headquarters will provide OHC guests access to restrooms, free wi-fi and CAC representatives who can answer questions and help curate the neighborhood visit.

KOVAL, a longtime OHC visitor favorite, was founded in 2008 as the first distillery to open in the Chicago city limits since the mid-19th century and offers self-guided tours and optional special tastings; the distillery will be donating a portion of a limited edition OHC whisky to support the CAC's design education programs. Ramova Theatre – which opened as a movie theater in 1929 and shut its doors in 1985, sitting vacant before being redeveloped and reopened in 2024 as a restaurant, brewery and concert and events venue – debuted as an OHC tour site last year. Starling – a contemporary café, event space and communal neighborhood amenity by Multicontextual Design studio/lab Duo – makes its Open House Chicago debut this year.

Pretty Cool Ice Cream, with stores in Lincoln Park and Logan Square, will be offering a limited-edition Open House Chicago Bar throughout the month of October, with a portion of proceeds benefiting the CAC. The dessert packaging features official OHC 2025 artwork by local screen print artist Ethan D'Ercole, also printed on merchandise available throughout the festival.

CTA Transit Plan

OHC encourages festivalgoers to utilize public transportation to access the 200+ OHC sites. The Chicago Transit Authority, which operates the City's train and bus system, is partnering with OHC to simplify connection between festival sites and will soon share OHC transit maps on the CAC website and [app](#).

Hotel Partnerships

While spending a weekend exploring the city of architecture visitors can take advantage of discounted rates at OHC partner hotels for the weekend of October 17-19. Five downtown Chicago hotels are offering discounted rooms and special benefits for guests who book as Open House Chicago visitors. Guests who book Loews Chicago Hotel, The Peninsula Chicago, The St. Regis Chicago, The LaSalle Chicago and Radisson Blu Aqua using OHC discount codes receive a Priority Pass to skip the line at OHC sites, and other perks throughout the weekend. Hotels' individual offers and booking instructions can be found [here](#).

Photography Competition

Returning for its second year in 2025 is the OHC photo competition. Festival attendees can showcase their photography skills by submitting photos taken at OHC sites in one of five categories: interior; exterior; black & white; people & buildings; and detail. Submissions can be made through the competition webpage at architecture.org. Selected entrants will have their photography printed and displayed at the CAC over the holiday season as part of the Center's "Framed Views: Photographs from Open House Chicago" exhibition to go on display November 22, 2025. Winners in each category of the competition, to be judged from the exhibited selections by a jury of local photographers in January 2026, will receive complimentary memberships to the CAC. Last year's photo competition selections will be on view at the Chicago Architecture Center during this year's Open House.

Visitors interested in attending the event can learn more details on the Chicago Architecture Center's [website](#) or download the CAC app to plan their OHC weekend. The app allows users to sort by neighborhood and building type and build routes to enjoy all that OHC offers.

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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 5,000 K-12 students annually, while teacher workshops provide educators with tools and resources they need to advance STEM curricula in their classrooms. Committed to serving under-represented communities in construction, engineering and design professions, the CAC offers many of its education programs—and all 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 to learn more and follow @chiarchitecture and #chiarchitecture on social media.