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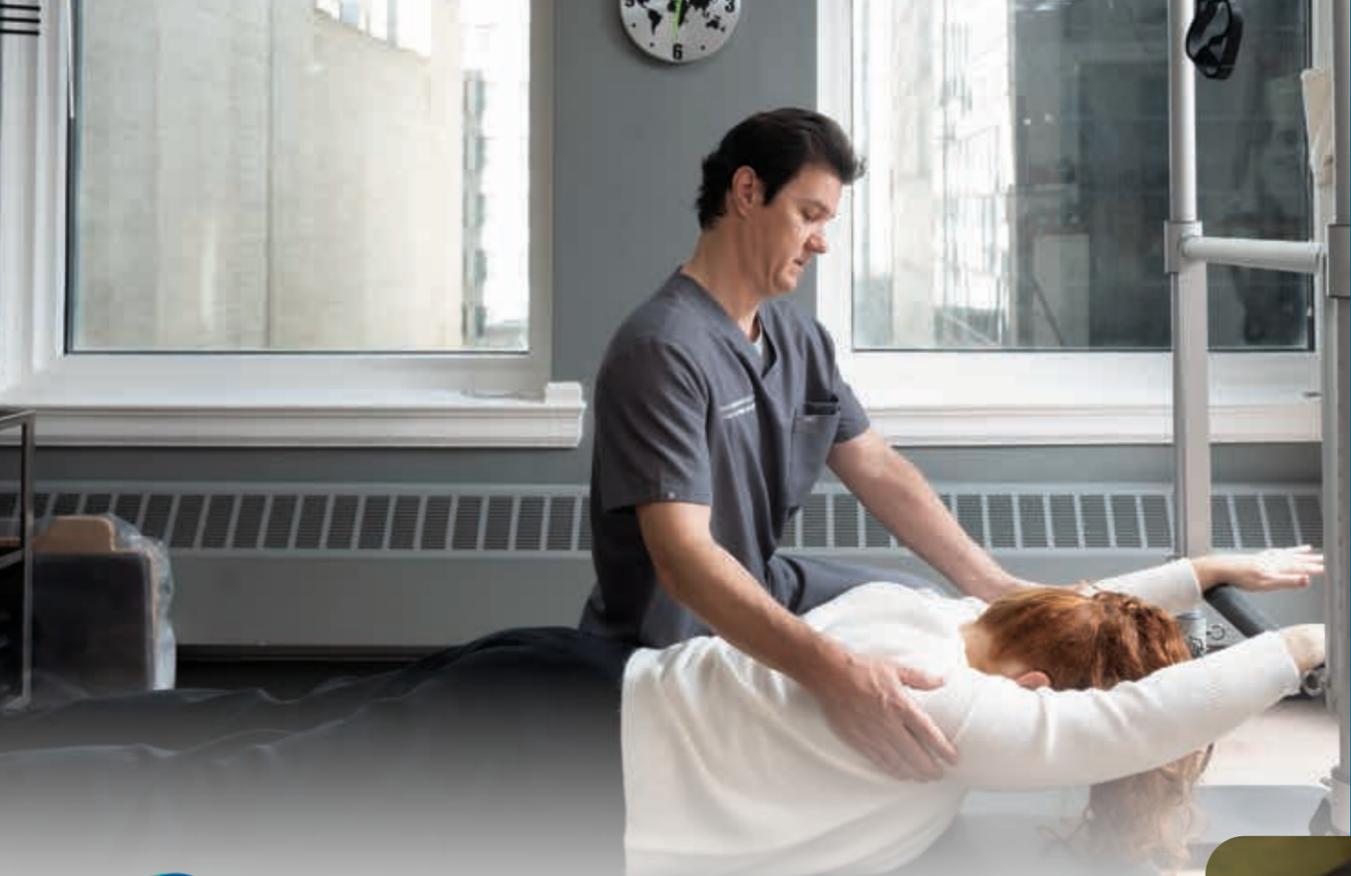
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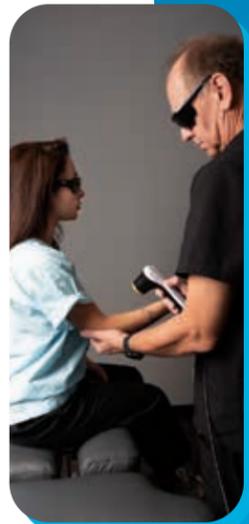
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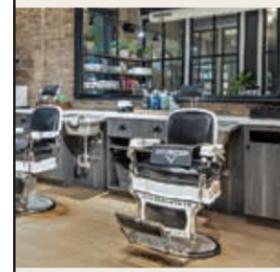
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about the COVER

A City Built on Strength and Unity.

The Chicago flag is more than a city symbol. Its two blue stripes represent Lake Michigan and the Chicago River, the waterways that shaped how the city grew. The four red stars mark pivotal moments in Chicago's history, from the Great Chicago Fire to the World's Fair, each one representing resilience and reinvention.

Simple by design and rich in meaning, the flag is woven into daily life across the city. You'll find it flying from porches, painted on murals, and stitched into neighborhood pride. This cover celebrates a symbol that quietly tells Chicago's story to anyone willing to look a little closer.

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CHICAGO LOOP

- 06 Contributors
- 07 Publisher's Note
- 08 Essentials
- 09 History
- 10 Home Tips
- 12 Dining
- 16 Hidden Gem: Gin Alley
- 19 Libations
- 20 Arts & Culture
- 24 Family Activities
- 28 Parks & Recreation
- 32 Pets
- 35 Coffee & Tea
- 36 Fitness & Wellness
- 39 Desserts
- 40 Events
- 44 Preferred Partners

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CONTENTS

12

DINING

Check out this list of local favorites. Both long-standing establishments and new to the area, you'll be sure to find something you'll love!



16

HIDDEN GEM: GIN ALLEY

Gin Alley is an eclectic living, dining, and shopping experience in the West Loop's Fulton Market District.



40

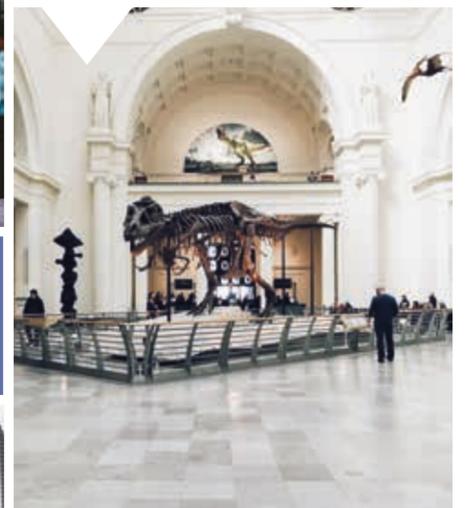
EVENTS

The Chicago Loop boasts some of the largest events of the year that people from all around the world visit, now they are right in your backyard!

20

ARTS & CULTURE

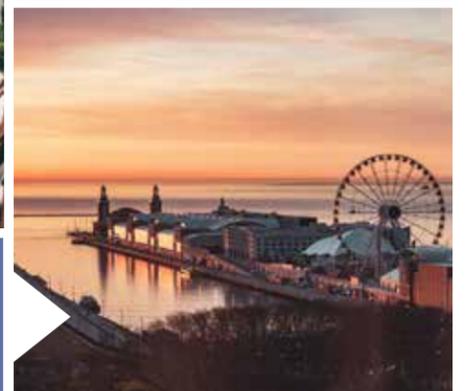
The Chicago Loop is home to some of the world's best museums and art institutes. Have fun finding your favorite one!



28

PARKS & RECREATION

These parks have so much to offer for both families and pets. Grab a blanket and a picnic and enjoy the outdoors!



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History of the West Loop
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Photo captured by Sonya Martin Photography
www.sonyamartin.com



WELCOME TO THE CHICAGO LOOP



Welcome home to the Chicago Loop! We're thrilled to have you join this amazing community. Whether you've moved from the next neighborhood over or another state, settling into a new area can be both exciting and overwhelming.

When our family uprooted from California and moved to Chicago over a decade ago, my wife Emily and I faced a similar challenge. Those first few months were a whirlwind as we tried to establish new routines with our small children in an unfamiliar place. We wanted the transition to be as smooth as possible but found it exhausting at times.

We visited the park daily and struck up conversations with as many people as we could to get to know our neighbors, local hotspots, trusted businesses, pediatricians, schools, and more. While Yelp helped us uncover "highly recommended" places, we often felt those recommendations didn't quite fit our needs. Juggling everything while adjusting to new surroundings was daunting.

That's why we created *BeLocal Chicago Loop*—your personal guide to local eateries, libations, events, museums, parks, tips from locals, and so much more. This publication is packed with resident-recommended favorites and everything our community has to offer, designed to help you feel like a local in no time.

Our goal is to make your transition smoother while highlighting the countless opportunities that come with living in the Chicago Loop. We're passionate about supporting this neighborhood and connecting you to trusted local businesses to strengthen the community and make a positive impact. Every recommendation in this guide comes directly from residents who know and love this area.

Keep this guide handy—it's a one-time resource provided to welcome you to your new home. (Don't worry, we've got you covered with a digital version too! Visit BeLocalchicagoloop.com or scan the QR code in the magazine.) Follow *BeLocal Chicago Loop* on Instagram and Facebook for weekly updates, local tips, and more from our partners.

We hope this guide makes your move easier and serves as a trusted resource as you settle into your new routines. Welcome home—we're excited to be part of your journey!

ANDY BURTON ▶ Publisher ▶ andy.burton@n2co.com ▶ [@belocalchicagoloop](https://www.instagram.com/belocalchicagoloop)

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Parks and Recreation ▶ 541 N. Fairbanks
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(trains and buses) ▶ 888-YOUR-CTA
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Streets and Sanitation ▶ 121 North LaSalle St.,
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chicago.gov/city/en/depts/streets.html

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HISTORY OF THE WEST LOOP

By Connie Fairbanks

On every corner of this historic Chicago neighborhood, history lives on. Within its schools, museums, churches, fire stations, parks, restaurants, seven-story brick buildings, landmark buildings, and more, stories abound, and there's a story for everyone.

Did you know that the West Loop was once a large garment manufacturing and mail-order storage area? The area around Jackson, Van Buren, and Peoria Streets was home to house dresses, lingerie for women, and suits made for US Presidents among other things. Tailor Lofts, a UIC dorm today, is still home to the Benjamin Franklin figurines holding a needle and thread that are perched above the entrance of the former garment factory, the J. L Taylor Company, a subsidiary of the International Tailoring Company.

The West Loop was also home to some printing and binding companies—three-color printing was perfected on Racine Street—and manufacturing outfits. Important aircraft products for WWII were made in factories on Carpenter and Aberdeen Streets. Women worked in these West Loop factories while men were away serving in World War II. Republic Tools

even housed a beauty salon onsite and encouraged their female employees to wear red nail polish so their hands could be better seen while doing the, often tedious, machine work.

The famous Uneeda crackers were made by the Nabisco Company on Washington Street. The former J.W. Allen Company on Peoria Street perfected the powdered sugar donut. Northwestern Cutlery sharpened knives on Lake Street for nearby meatpackers for almost fifty years.

Mayor Carter Harrison, Chicago's five-term mayor (1879-1893), lived in a mansion on Ashland Avenue, and his son, Carter Henry Harrison II, went to the nearby Union Park Lagoon to feed Bob, the bear, peanuts in the late 1800s. Mr. Florenz Ziegfeld Jr., creator of the Ziegfeld Follies, lived across the street from today's Whitney Young High School. Theodore Dreiser, the author of *Sister Carrie* and many other books, resided near Throop and Madison Streets. Dr. George Shipman and his wife, Fannie, founded one of the first orphanages in the US, outside of New York City, The Foundlings Home, at the corner of Green and Monroe. He always left an empty

champagne basket in his medical office where children who could not be cared for by their parents or families could be left, without question or judgment.



Photo by: Connie Fairbanks. Benjamin Franklin figurines holding a needle and thread that are perched above the entrance of the former garment factory, the J. L Taylor Company.

The Congregational Baptist Church on Ashland Avenue which was built in 1865, served as Chicago's temporary City Hall after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. It houses one of the largest Kimball organs ever made. Two landmark companies are still in business today. Since 1890, the finest harps in the world have been made at Lyon and Healy, located at Ogden and Lake Streets. Genieco, the largest incense factory in the US, was established in 1923. The company moved to Laflin Sreet in 1971 and is still in operation.

To learn more about the history of the West Loop, check out *Chicago's West Loop, Then and Now: People, Businesses, Buildings* by Connie Fairbanks, and visit her website www.conniefairbanks.com.



Republic Drill and Tool wartime workers (1942)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Connie Fairbanks began her love affair with reading and history as a child in rural Kansas where she used to browse books on the traveling bookmobile. Connie credits her lifelong love of history to her fascination with the history of Chicago's West Loop. Connie is known to be an engaging storyteller and always wanted to chronicle the stories all around her. Connie and her husband have lived in The West Loop since the mid-1990s so she has plenty of stories to share.

15 THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU MOVE

MOVING TO A NEW PLACE CAN BE BOTH EXCITING AND DAUNTING.

Whether you are a long-time Chicagoan moving from a different neighborhood or completely new to the state, it's essential to have a checklist to ensure that your move goes smoothly. Here are several things you should consider doing when you first move in.

Update your address: The first thing you need to do when you move is to update your address. This includes your driver's license and your vehicle registration. Motorists must update their address with the Illinois Secretary of State within ten days of moving so all renewals and important information is received. You must also update your address with the postal service and you can register to vote while you change your address.

DRIVERS LICENSE AND IDENTIFICATION: apps.ilsos.gov/addrchange
MAILING: moversguide.usps.com

Register to vote: It's important to register to vote in your new area. The Chicago Loop has many polling places, and you can register to vote online or in person.

Get city vehicle sticker: If you are not from Chicago or out of state, all Chicago residents owning a vehicle in the City of Chicago must purchase a vehicle sticker. This also applies to Chicago residents that have their registration outside of the City of Chicago, but use the vehicle in the City. The ticket for not having a city sticker is hefty so to avoid late fees and fines, be sure to purchase a sticker within 30 days of moving to the City or getting a new vehicle. Visit the county clerk's website for more information: chicityclerk.com

Set up utilities: Make sure you set up your electricity, gas, water, and internet before you move in. You don't want to be without power or the internet when you first move in.

Explore public transportation: The Chicago Loop has a robust public transportation system, including buses and trains. Familiarize yourself with the routes and schedules to make getting around the city easier. For maps, schedules, fares, and more visit: transitchicago.com

Get a professional deep clean including carpet cleaning: Some homes look clean at first glance, but it is a good idea to call a professional cleaning service to do a deep cleaning service before you start moving all the big stuff in. This includes getting carpets cleaned.

Pest control: When a home sits vacant it can be a recipe for attracting pests. It's a good idea to get your home inspected and if needed, treated for any pests that may have been left behind or openings that could attract other pests. It's much easier to see these things when the house is empty.

Window treatments: More than likely your home did not come equipped with window treatments. We suggest contacting an interior designer or window treatment company to help you cover your windows in style.

Change the locks and reprogram garage door: Unless you are buying a brand-new home from a builder, you need to have the locks changed. You don't know who has a key to your home. Get your garage door reprogrammed so they only work with the remotes you have. It's possible someone out there got their hands on an extra garage remote.

Set up home security: Most homes these days come with a security system installed. However, it will not be active when you move it. You'll need to contact a home security company to come out and help get you set up.

Find childcare services: If you are a working parent or just need extra help around the house and with your children, there are so many options available.

Unpacking and organizing: Unpacking can be an overwhelming task but you don't have to do it alone. Consider reaching out to professional organizers to help get this done in the most efficient way. Check out neatmethod.com

Meet your neighbors: Meeting your neighbors is a great way to feel more at home in your new neighborhood. Introduce yourself and get to know the people who live around you. Your neighbors can recommend great local services and get you connected to local groups.

Find a healthcare/dental provider: Finding a healthcare provider is important for your physical and mental well-being. The Chicago Loop has many healthcare providers to choose from. For a great dentist check out: SloopDental.com

Find a school: The Loop offers many public and private school options. Check out cps.edu for selecting local public schools or contact gemschicago.org for a great private school option.

FUN FACT

The Buckingham Fountain is surrounded by four pairs of bronze sea horses that represent the four states that border Lake Michigan: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

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LOCAL TIP



"Mister J's is a fast food place with a good burger. Its been around since I was a kid." -Marlon F.

grab a bite



AMERICAN

- 3 Arts Club Cafe:** 1300 N Dearborn St.
- Atwood:** 1 W Washington St.
- Au Cheval:** 800 W Randolph St.
- Cafe Michelle:** 200 N Lakefront Trl.
- Cindy's Rooftop:** 12 S Michigan Ave.
- The Dearborn:** 145 N Dearborn St.
- District Brew Yards:** 417 N Ashland Ave.
- Goose Island Brewhouse:** 1800 N Clybourn Ave.
- Jim Graziano:** 901 W Randolph St.
- The Loyalist:** 177 N Ada St.
- Mister J's:** 822 N State St.
- Saint Lou's Assembly:** 664 W Lake St.
- Sociale:** 800 S Clark St.
- Soho House Chicago:** 113-125 N Green St.
- State and Lake Chicago Tavern:** 201 N State St.
- Whispers at Oak Street Beach:** 1001 N Lake Shore Dr.

ASIAN

- High Five Ramen:** 112 N Green St.
- Kai Sushi:** 600 N Kingsbury St. and other locations
- Momotaro:** 820 W Lake St.
- Roka Akor Chicago:** 456 N Clark St.
- Sunda New Asian:** 110 W Illinois St.
- Omakase Yume:** 651 W Washington Blvd.
- Sushi Dokku:** 823 W Randolph St.

BBQ

- Bub City Chicago:** 435 N Clark St.
- Chicago Q:** 1160 N Dearborn St.
- Green Street Meats:** 112 N Green St.
- Smoque BBQ- Revival:** 125 S Clark St.

LATIN & MEXICAN

- Barrio:** 353 N Clark St.
- Bar Takito:** 201 N Morgan St.
- Blue Agave Tequila Bar & Restaurant:** 579 W Kinzie St.
- Carnivale:** 702 W Fulton St.
- Flacos Tacos:** 725 S Dearborn St.
- La Cantina:** 1911 S Michigan Ave.
- Mercadito:** 108 W Kinzie St.



MEDITERRANEAN

- Nisos Mediterranean:** 802 W Randolph St.
- Aba Chicago:** 302 N Green St.

PIZZA

- Bar Cargo:** 605 N Wells St.
- Bonci Pizzeria:** 161 N Sangamon St.
- Exchequer Restaurant & Pub:** 226 S Wabash Ave.
- Lou Malnati's South Loop:** 805 S State St.
- Gino's East Mag Mile:** 162 E Superior St.
- Giordano's Loop:** 223 W Jackson Blvd.
- Parlor Chicago:** 405 N Dearborn St.
- Pizzeria Portofino:** 317 N Clark St.
- Roberts Pizza and Dough Company:** 465 N McClurg Ct.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

- Chicago Cut:** 300 N La Salle St.
- Gibsons Italia:** 233 N Canal St.
- Maple & Ash:** 8 W Maple St.
- Prime & Provisions:** 222 N La Salle St.
- RPM Seafood:** 317 N Clark St.
- Tortoise Supper Club:** 350 N State St.
- Trivoli Tavern:** 114 N Green St.

FRENCH

- Francois Frankie:** 222 W Randolph St.
- Le Colonial Chicago:** 57 E Oak St.
- Pierrot Gourmet:** 108 E Superior St.
- Venteux:** 224 N Michigan Ave.

GREEK

- LÝRA:** 905 W Fulton Market

ITALIAN

- Adalina:** 912 N State St.
- Etta River North:** 700 N Clark St.
- Labriola Chicago:** 535 N Michigan Ave.
- Monteverde:** 1020 W Madison St.
- Petterino's:** 150 N Dearborn St.
- The Village:** 71 W Monroe St.
- Victory Tap:** 1416 S Michigan Ave.



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LOCAL TIP



"In the summer, make sure to go to Merchandise Mart and watch the beautiful light show. Enjoy the best view of the summer fireworks by going to the cascade building rooftop, it's amazing!" - Maya S.

PHOTO CREDIT: IC360 IMAGES



gin alley

Photos and Article by Ashley Rose

GIN ALLEY IS AN ECLECTIC LIVING, DINING, AND SHOPPING EXPERIENCE IN THE WEST LOOP'S FULTON MARKET DISTRICT.

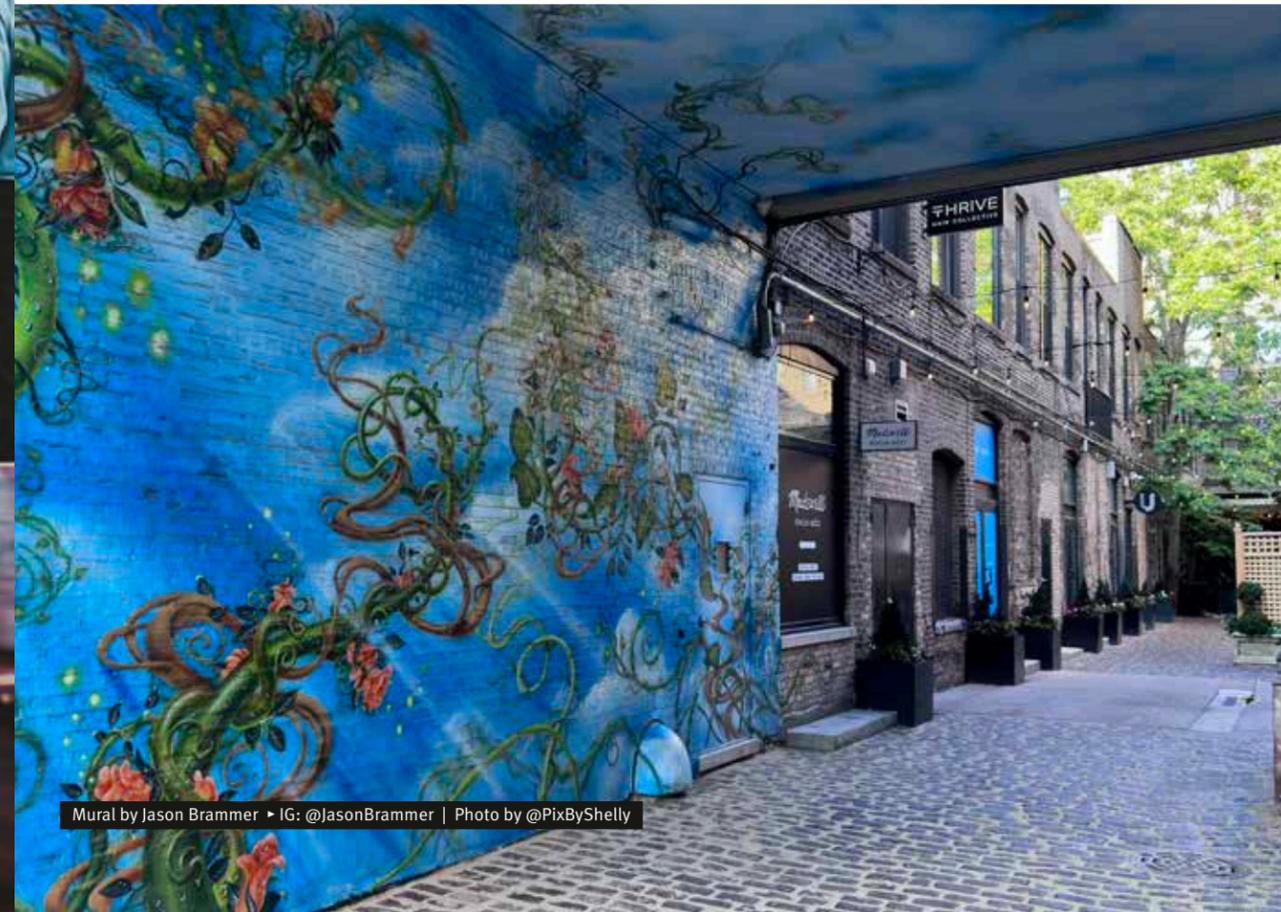
Spanning a city block from Peoria to Green Street between Randolph Street and Washington Boulevard, Gin Alley has something for everyone. And nestled in the center of it all is a European courtyard full of vibrant murals, outdoor dining, and trendy shops. The alley is also a lively hub for local artists and small business pop-ups, a Makers Market can be found most summer weekends under the massive vine mural by artist, Jason Brammer, encircling the Peoria entrance.

Named for its previous owner and pioneering female Chicago entrepreneur, Sue Gin, Gin Alley is a mixed-used development made up of six historic brick and timber loft buildings. It includes sixty-six upscale modern apartments known as the Lofts at Gin Alley and 67,000 square

feet of retail space occupied by neighborhood staples such as Green Street Smoked Meats, Sawada Coffee, Trivoli Tavern, Uncommon James, and Scratch Goods.

Local real estate investment firm Newcastle Limited redeveloped the properties in 2019 with the vision of a one-stop dining, shopping, and residential destination. This vision, highlighted by exciting retail tenants, twinkling lights, alfresco dining, and featured murals from local artists, aligns with Fulton Market's emergence as one of Chicago's hottest neighborhoods.

Whether you are stopping by for a coffee at Sawada or staying for a day of self-care at Scratch Goods, there's something for everyone at Gin Alley!



Mural by Jason Brammer • IG: @JasonBrammer | Photo by @PixByShelly

RETAILERS IN
GIN ALLEY

- ▶ **Allbirds** ▶ 833 W. Randolph St. ▶ Making comfortable running shoes, flats, and clothing out of natural sustainable materials.
- ▶ **Bandit** ▶ 841 W. Randolph St. ▶ DineAmic Hospitality hotspot. This bar/restaurant combines a chef-driven menu with nostalgic neighborhood bar vibes.
- ▶ **Billy Reid** ▶ 845 W. Randolph St. ▶ Urban boutique featuring a collection of live-in luxury apparel and accessories.
- ▶ **Grace Loves Lace Bridal** ▶ 853 W. Randolph St. (second floor) Bridal showroom with an award-winning wedding gown collection.
- ▶ **Green Street Smoked Meats** ▶ 112 N. Green St. ▶ Texas-style barbecue with an elevated cocktail menu.
- ▶ **High Five Ramen** ▶ 112 N. Green St. ▶ From Hogsalt's restaurant lineup. With just sixteen seats, this intimate ramen house serves tonkatsu-style ramen, Japanese beer, and boozy slushies.
- ▶ **Mack Weldon** ▶ 833 W. Randolph St. ▶ Modern menswear brand that powers radically efficient wardrobing.
- ▶ **Madewell** ▶ 855 W. Randolph St. ▶ National retailer of mix-and-match essential clothing, footwear, and handbags.
- ▶ **Parlor Pizza Bar** ▶ 108 N. Green St. ▶ Neapolitan-style pizzas with a focus on local ingredients. Original cocktails and a rooftop patio
- ▶ **Sawada Coffee** ▶ 112 N. Green St. (inside Green Street Smoked Meats) ▶ Serving Tokyo-style lattes and Doughnut Vault pastries comes from the world-renowned barista and latte art expert Hiroshi Sawada.
- ▶ **Scratch Goods** ▶ 847 W. Randolph St. (second floor) ▶ Small-batch skincare and created Chicago's first mask bar.
- ▶ **Thrive Hair Collective** ▶ 851 W. Randolph St. (second floor) Approachable luxury salon
- ▶ **Trivoli Tavern** ▶ 114 N. Green St. ▶ Seafood, steak, and classic cocktails in an American tavern setting.
- ▶ **Uncommon James** ▶ 849 W. Randolph St. ▶ Elevated jewelry, home goods, and skincare products.
- ▶ **Vintage Refined** ▶ 855 W. Randolph St. ▶ Specializes in furniture refinishing, giving vintage pieces of furniture new life.
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LOCAL TIP



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RAISE a GLASS!

- Arbella:** 112 W Grand Ave.
- After:** 1338 W Fulton St.
- Bandit Liquors:** 841 W Randolph St.
- Brandos Speakeasy:** 343 S. Dearborn St.
- Bunker:** 1515 W Monroe St.
- Centennial Crafted Beer & Eatery:** 733 N La Salle Dr.
- Chicago Winery:** 739 Clark St.
- Clark Street Ale House:** 742 N Clark St.
- Clover Sports and Leisure:** 722 W Grand Ave.
- Electric Garden:** 324 S Racine Ave.
- Esquire by Cooper's Hawk:** 58 E Oak St.
- Goose Island Beer Company:** 1800 W. Fulton St.
- Lizzie McNeill's:** 400 N McClurg Ct.
- LondonHouse Chicago:** 85 E. Wacker Dr.
- LUXBAR:** 18 E. Bellevue
- Money Gun Chicago:** 660 W Lake St.
- Mom's Place:** 650 N Dearborn St.
- Murasaki Sake Lounge:** 211 E Ontario St.
- Raised, An Urban Rooftop Bar:** 1 W Wacker Dr.
- Rebel and Rye:** 726 W Grand Ave.
- Recess:** 838 W Kinzie St.
- Sparrow:** 12 W Elm St.
- Storyville Chicago:** 712 n. Clark St.
- The Basement:** 353 W Hubbard St.
- The Berkshire Room:** 15 E. Ohio
- The Northman Beer & Cider Garden:** 233 E Riverwalk
- Three Dots and a Dash:** 435 Clark St.



museums

FIELD MUSEUM › 1400 S DuSable Lake Shore Dr. › 312-922-9410 › www.fieldmuseum.org

Free Days: Admission is free for Illinois residents on multiple days throughout the year. The Field Museum is a natural history museum that features a collection of over 30 million specimens and artifacts. Exhibits explore topics like ancient civilizations, biodiversity, and evolution. The museum is also home to “Sue,” the world’s largest and most complete T. Rex skeleton.

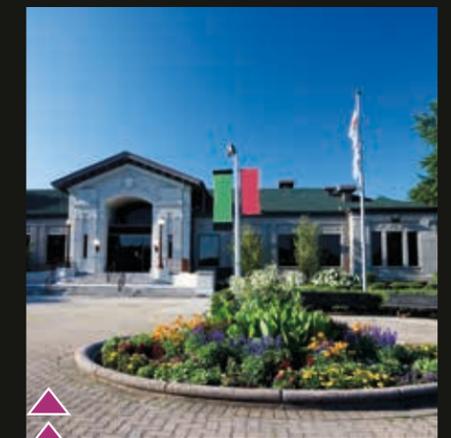


ADLER PLANETARIUM › 1300 S DuSable Lake Shore Dr. › 312-922-7827

www.adlerplanetarium.org › **Free Days:** Illinois residents (with proof of residency) every Wednesday evening from 4-10 pm. The Adler Planetarium is a museum and planetarium that explores the universe and our place within it. Exhibits include the Doane Observatory, which features one of the largest publicly accessible telescopes in the country, and the Grainger Sky Theater, which features immersive planetarium shows.

CHICAGO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM › Navy Pier, 700 E Grand Ave. › 312-527-1000

www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org › **Free Days:** Last Thursdays from January through May + September & October. The Chicago Children’s Museum is a hands-on museum that encourages kids to play, explore, and learn. Exhibits include the Tinkering Lab, where kids can experiment with tools and materials, and the WaterWays exhibit, which explores the science of water. The museum also hosts a variety of special events and programs throughout the year.



DUSABLE BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER › 740 E 56th Pl.

773-947-0600 › www.dusablemuseum.org

Free Days: Free admission for all every Wednesday. The DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center is a museum that explores the history and culture of African Americans. Exhibits include the Freedom, Resistance, and the Journey Toward Equality exhibit, which explores the fight for civil rights in America, and the Harold Washington Wing, which features artifacts and exhibits related to Chicago’s first African American mayor.

FUN FACT

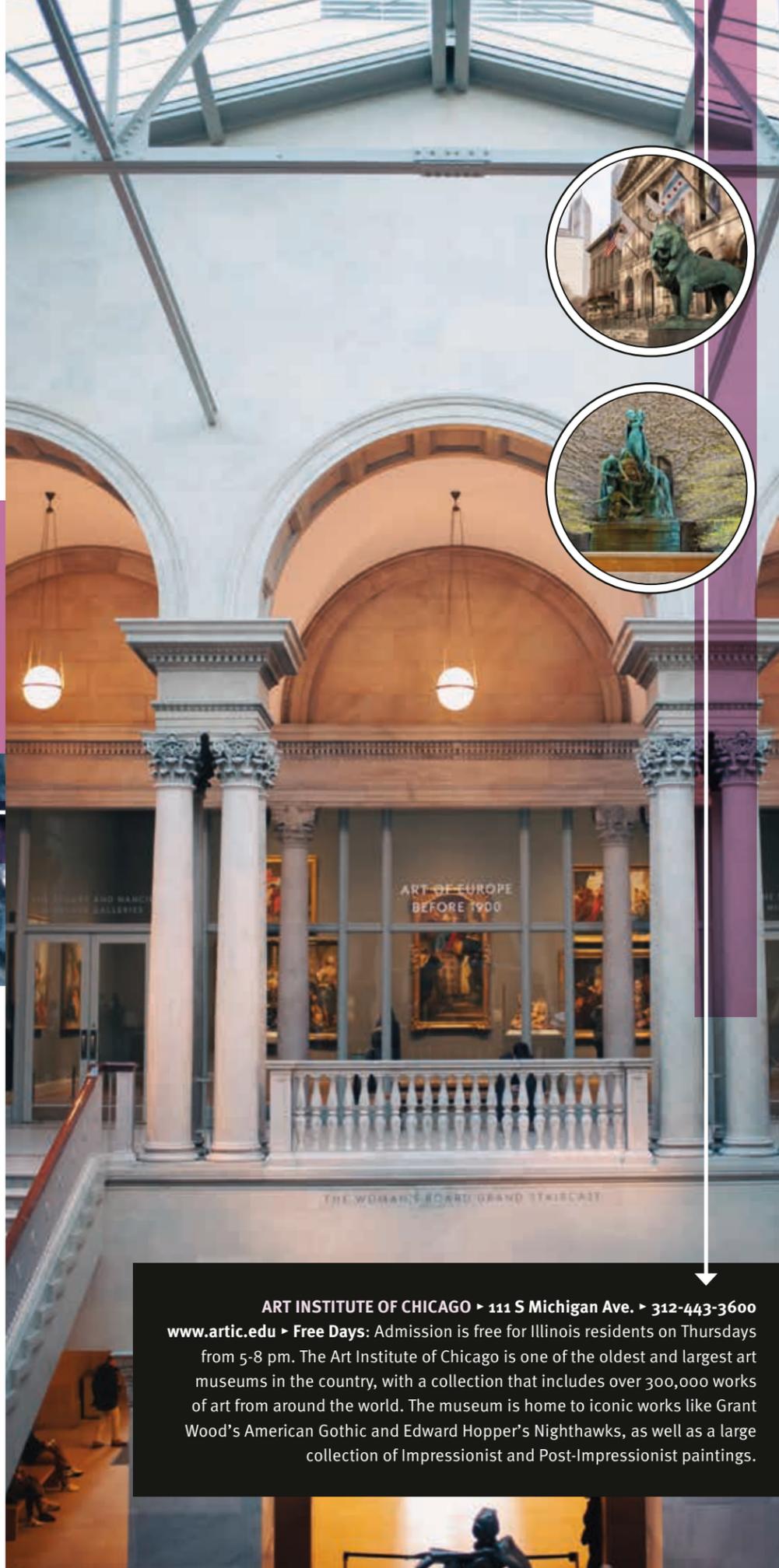
Chicago is home to the largest collection of Tiffany glass in the world. The collection is housed at the Chicago Cultural Center and features over 250 stained-glass pieces by Louis Comfort Tiffany.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY ▶ 5700 S DuSable Lake Shore Dr. 773-684-1414 ▶ www.msichicago.org ▶ **Free Days:** Admission is free for Illinois residents on multiple days throughout the year.



CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM ▶ 1601 N. Clark St. 312-642-4600 ▶ chicagohistory.org ▶ **Free Days:** Admission is free for Illinois residents multiple days throughout the year. The Chicago History Museum is a museum that explores the history and culture of Chicago through a variety of exhibits and programs. The museum features artifacts and exhibits related to Chicago's history, including its architecture, sports teams, and political figures. It also hosts a variety of special events and programs throughout the year.

SHEDD AQUARIUM ▶ 1200 S DuSable Lake Shore Dr. ▶ 312-939-2438 www.sheddaquarium.org ▶ **Free Days:** Admission is free for Illinois residents on multiple days throughout the year. The Shedd Aquarium features over 32,000 animals from around the world. Exhibits include the Amazon Rising exhibit, which explores the habitats of the Amazon rainforest, and the Polar Play Zone, which features interactive exhibits and live animal encounters.



MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART 220 E. Chicago Ave ▶ 312-280-2660 mcacheicago.org ▶ **Free Days:** Illinois residents receive free admission every Tuesday. The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) in Chicago is a non-collecting contemporary art museum that showcases an ever-changing selection of innovative and thought-provoking works by living artists. The museum's collection includes over 2,500 works of art in all mediums, from painting and sculpture to video and performance art.

LOCAL TIP



"I love walking through the Art Institute. They always have great collections. I especially like the miniatures room. It is fascinating how detailed the scenes are."
- Danielle B.

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO ▶ 111 S Michigan Ave. ▶ 312-443-3600 www.artic.edu ▶ **Free Days:** Admission is free for Illinois residents on Thursdays from 5-8 pm. The Art Institute of Chicago is one of the oldest and largest art museums in the country, with a collection that includes over 300,000 works of art from around the world. The museum is home to iconic works like Grant Wood's American Gothic and Edward Hopper's Nighthawks, as well as a large collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings.

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FAMILY FRIENDLY
ADVENTURES



Architecture Boat Tour: Learn about Chicago's architecture on a boat tour along the Chicago River and onto the lake. architecture.org/tours



Buckingham Fountain: Located in Grant Park. It was built in 1927 and features a central jet that shoots water up to 150 feet into the air. The fountain is known for its light and music shows, which take place every evening during the summer months.



Chicago River on a kayak tour: Get a unique perspective of the city by kayaking along the Chicago River, which offers stunning views of the city skyline. kayakchicago.com



Huntington Bank Pavilion at Northerly Island: Catch a concert at this outdoor music venue on the man-made peninsula of Northerly Island offering stunning views of Lake Michigan and the city skyline. pavilionnortherlyisland.com



Lincoln Park Zoo: This free zoo is home to a wide variety of animals and offers plenty of outdoor space for kids to run around and explore. lpzoo.org

LOCAL TIP



"Exploring the South Loop? Make sure to check out the patio at Spoke & Bird on a sunny day, grab a beverage to-go on your way out, and walk through Women's Park & Garden and down Prairie Ave to see all of the historic mansions!" - **Robert Y.**



Maggie Daley Park: A favorite among families, offering a range of activities like a climbing wall, mini-golf, and a skating ribbon. maggiedaley.com



Music Box Theatre: See a movie in a historic movie theater that screens a range of classic and independent films throughout the year. musicboxtheatre.org

Chicago Riverwalk: This scenic pedestrian path along the Chicago River is a great spot for a family stroll, and offers plenty of dining options along the way.

Willis Tower Skydeck: Kids will love the thrill of standing on the glass ledge and looking out over the city from the 103rd floor of this iconic skyscraper. theskydeck.com

Your **BELOCAL** Favorites



ON THE GO

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EXPLORE

THE OUTDOORS



GRANT PARK (LOOP)

337 E. Randolph St

One of the largest parks in the city and has plenty of activities for kids, including playgrounds, a skate park, and the famous Buckingham Fountain.

Chicago is known for its beautiful parks and green spaces and the Loop area is no different. The parks in the Loop and surrounding areas offer a wide range of activities for children of all ages, including playgrounds, splash pads, and sports facilities. From the climbing wall and mini-golf course at Maggie Daley Park to the large playground and swimming pool at Skinner Park there's something for every child to enjoy. So, grab your sunscreen, pack a picnic, and head to one of these local favorites.

MARY BARTELME PARK (WEST LOOP)

115 S. Sangamon St

Large playground area, a splash pad, and a dog park.

LAKE SHORE PARK (STREETERVILLE)

808 N. Lake Shore Dr.

The park features tennis and basketball courts, a running track, a playground, and a field for various sports. The park also hosts various community events throughout the year, including outdoor concerts and movie screenings.

PRINTERS ROW PARK (SOUTH LOOP)

632 S. Dearborn St.

A small green space with seating, a community garden, and an ornamental fountain sculpture.



FUN FACT

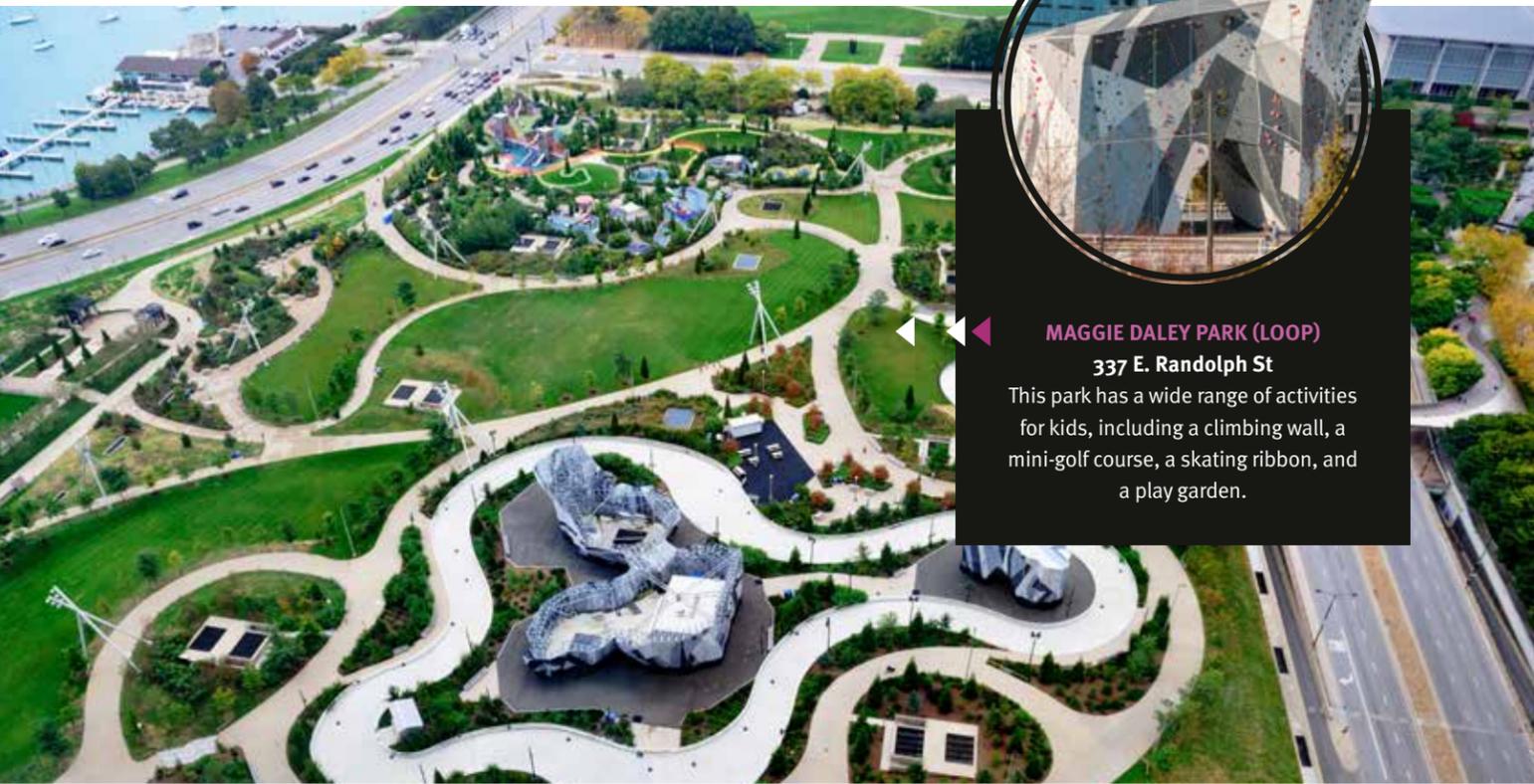
The South Loop's historic Printer's Row neighborhood got its name from the printing industry that used to dominate the area. Today, the neighborhood is known for its bookstores and literary events.

LOCAL TIP



"Bring your own ice/roller skates to Maggie Daley skating ribbon it's free and there are no lines."

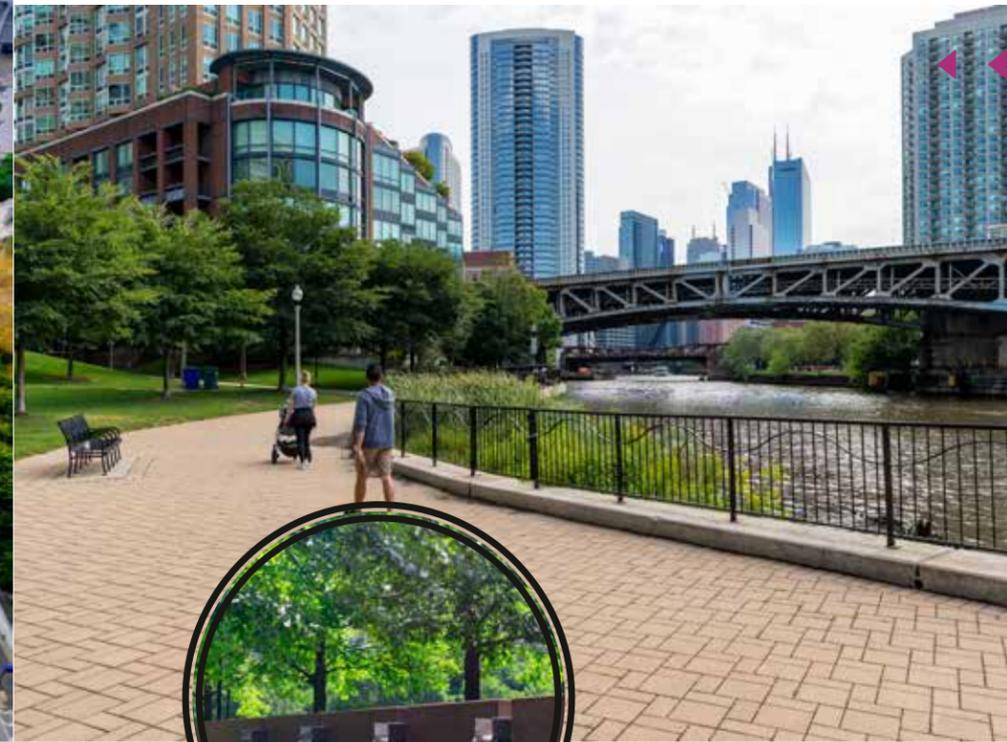
- Tony D.



MAGGIE DALEY PARK (LOOP)

337 E. Randolph St

This park has a wide range of activities for kids, including a climbing wall, a mini-golf course, a skating ribbon, and a play garden.



WARD PARK (RIVER NORTH)

630 N. Kingsbury St.

The playground is all soft ground, no mud, and the views of the river are relaxing. There is plenty of paid street parking.

SKINNER PARK (NEAR WEST SIDE)

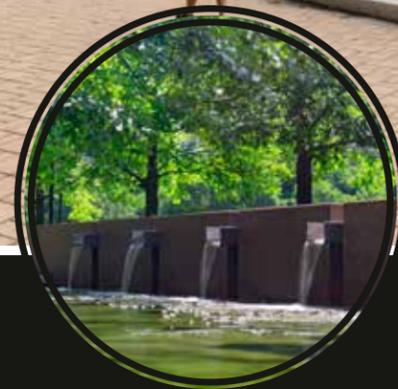
1331 W. Adams St.

Featuring a fieldhouse with a gymnasium and a swimming pool (at Whitney Young HS), basketball and tennis courts, a playground, and a splash pad.

WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK (NEAR NORTH)

901 N. Clark St

This small park was founded in 1842! Featuring a central plaza with benches, trees, and a fountain. It also hosts community events such as outdoor concerts and art festivals.



LAKESHORE EAST PARK (NEAR EAST SIDE)

450 E Benton Pl.

The park offers stunning views of Lake Michigan and is a mix of natural and urban elements, including lush greenery, walking paths, and a fountain. It also has a children's playground, a dog park, and an outdoor fitness center.

LOCAL TIP



"Looking to explore the Loop on foot, check out Lakeshore East Park, it's a hidden oasis." - **Nathan B.**



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By Julie Fischer

To learn more about pet-friendly Chicago, follow [@dog_friendly_chicago](#) on Instagram! 

Furry Friends



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Julie was born and raised in Wisconsin and originally moved to Chicago for graduate school. She's lived in Chicago for almost six years and has enjoyed exploring the many unique neighborhoods the city has to offer. She has two Boston Terriers, Oskar, and Milo, that she loves to bring with her to all the dog-friendly spots in the city. You can follow their tips and adventures on Instagram [@dog_friendly_chicago](#).

PET FRIENDLY CHICAGO LOOP

Chicago is a city full of life, culture, and diversity, and for those moving to the Loop with their furry friends, there's plenty to explore. Whether you're looking for a pet-friendly restaurant to enjoy a meal with your pup or want to take a stroll through a dog-friendly park, there is something for everyone. Here are some of the best pet-friendly places in Chicago to help you and your furry friend settle into your new home.



BEST DOG-FRIENDLY PARKS

- Fred Anderson Park:** 1611 S. Wabash Ave.
- Lake Shore East Dog Park:** 450 E. Benton Pl.
- Mary Bartleme Dog Park:** 115 S. Sangamon
- Navy Pier** (only outdoor areas) is dog friendly: 600 E Grand Ave.

PET SERVICES

- Chicago Urban Pets:** IG [@chicagourbanpets](#) | **PupStars:** IG [@pupstarspetcare](#)
- Vetted Pet Health:** [getvetted.io](#) | **Wiggleyville:** 1137 W. Madison St.



DOG-FRIENDLY EVENTS

- What:** Doggie Date Night | **When:** Wednesdays 5-7 pm
Where: PB&J 205 N Peoria St.
- What:** Drinks only Bingo | **When:** Tuesdays at 8 pm
Where: Rebel and Rye 726 W Grand Ave.
- What:** Fido to go™ dog and cat treat food truck serving handmade specialty cookies and frozen yogurts
When: Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 4-7 pm, Saturday morning | **Where:** Tuesdays-Burnham Pointe in Printers Row, Wednesdays Kingsbury & Erie, Saturday Mornings outside the Drunken Bean at Lake Shore East Park
- What:** Dog-centric Yappy Hour | **When:** Bi-monthly, seasonal
Where: The Northman Beer & Cider Garden 233 East Riverwalk
- What:** Mercury Cruises-Chicago's only Canine cruise
When: seasonal, check their website for details [mercurycruises.com/mercurys-canine-cruise](#)
Where: 112 E Wacker Dr.
- What:** Movies in the Park- Bring your pup and a picnic blanket with your favorite snacks
When: May-September | **Where:** Chicago Park District*
*This does not include the Millennium Park movie series.

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LOCAL TIP



"Chicago offers UberPet! When calling an on-demand ride, scroll down and click the UberPet option. These drivers permit dogs of all sizes to hop in the back of their car for a ride." - **Julie F.**

DOG-FRIENDLY SHOPS & RESTAURANTS

STORES IN THE CITY: Aritzia, Nordstrom/Nordstrom Rack, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Home Depot, Lush cosmetics, Sephora (Check local store policy), Ross Dress for Less, UPS store, Michael's, DSW

THE SHOPS AT NORTH BRIDGE: 520 N Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611 » Dog friendly with pet comfort stations on Levels 1 & 2 that have waste bags, water, and treats

PLACES WITH A DOG MENU

- Cafe Olivia:** 550 E Grand Ave.
- Bandit:** 841 W Randolph St.
- PB&J:** 205 N Peoria St.
- Shake Shack:** Multiple locations

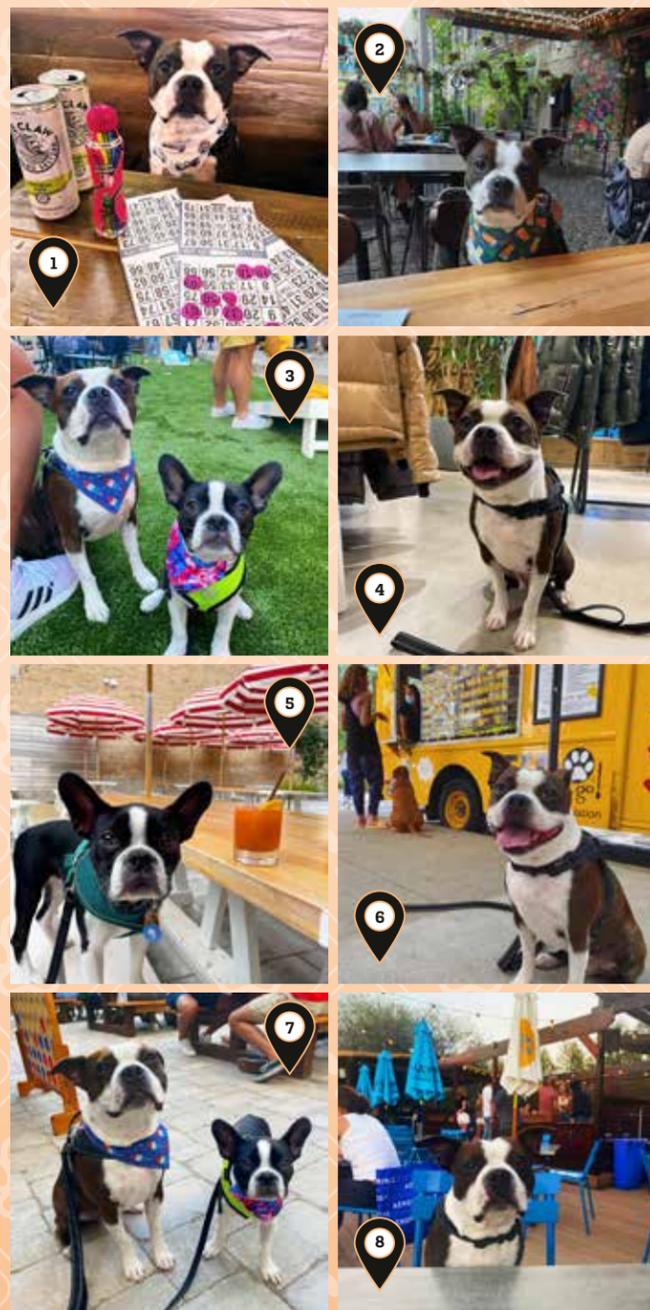
DOG BAKERY/TREATS
Tails In the City-
Luxury Pet Boutique:
1 E Delaware Pl.

PATIOS & RESTAURANTS

- (W= winter-friendly)**
- Bar Cargo** (River North): 605 N Wells St.
- Bunker** (West Loop): 1515 W Monroe St.
- Cafe Michelle** (The Loop): 200 N Lakefront Trl.
- Clark Street Ale House** (W) (River North): 742 N Clark St.
- Clover** (W) (River West): 722 W Grand Ave.
- District Brew Yards** (West Loop): 417 N Ashland Ave.
- Electric Garden** (W) (West Loop): 324 S Racine Ave.
- Etta River North** (W): 700 N Clark St.
- Green Street Smoked Meats** (West Loop/Fulton Market): 112 N Green St.
- Jojo's Shake Bar** (River North): 23 W. Hubbard St.
- Lizzie McNeill's** (Streeterville): 400 N McClurg Ct.
- Rebel and Rye** (W) (River North): 726 W Grand Ave.
- Recess** (W) (West Loop): 838 W Kinzie St.
- Saint Lou's Assembly** (West Loop): 664 W Lake St.
- Spoke and Bird** (South Loop): 205 E 18th St.
- The Northman Beer & Cider Garden on the Riverwalk:** 233 East Riverwalk
- Whispers at Oak Street Beach** (Gold Coast): 1001 N Lake Shore Dr.

THE ADVENTURES OF
Oskar & Milo!

Photos by @dog_friendly_chicago



1. Rebel and Rye 2. Bandit 3. PB & J 4. Aritzia
5. Parson's Chicken & Fish 6. Fido to go™ dog and cat treat food truck
7. Saint Lou's Assembly 8. Caffè Oliva

SEE MORE OF THEIR ADVENTURES ON INSTAGRAM!
@dog_friendly_chicago on Instagram!

LOCAL TIP



"My favorite things about living in the Loop area is the walkability, dog parks, boutiques, coffee shops, nightlife, and views for days! The West Loop is such a friendly place to live and work!" - **Kim E.**



FIND YOUR NEW FAVORITE SPOT

- Aglaia Coffee & Tea Co.:** 925 W Chicago Ave.
- Bae Coffee Company:** 2945 N Broadway
- Beatrix:** 519 N Clark St., 834 W Fulton Market
- Big Shoulders Coffee:** 858 N State St. and other locations
- Café Crèmerie:** 615 N State St.
- Cafe Press:** 800 S Clark St.
- Caffe Umbria:** 346 N Clark St.
- Cupitol:** 455 E Illinois St.
- Dollop:** 345 E Ohio St. and other locations
- Edie's All Day Cafe & Bar:** 675 N Wells, 354 W Hubbard
- Hero Coffee Bar:** 221 N Wells and other locations

- Heritage Outpost:** 300 S Wacker
- La Colombe Coffee:** 4 E Elm St.
- Matcha Cita:** 1017 W Lake St.
- Monday Coffee Co.:** 113 N Green St.
- Nomad Chicago:** 820 N Franklin St.
- Overflow Coffee:** 1449 S Michigan Ave.
- Sawada Coffee:** 112 N Green St.
- Sweet Bean:** 1152 S Wabash Ave.
- Spoke & Bird Cafe:** 205 E 18th St.
- The Drunken Bean Coffee & Wine Bar:** 400 East South Water St.
- VietFive Coffee:** 1116 W Madison St.

FIT & THRIVE

The Ultimate Guide to Mind and Body Wellness in Chicago

Powered by Chi-Society

With so many options in the city, it can be overwhelming to know where you should go. Below are some of our recommendations for finding the right studio for you:

1. Pick something you enjoy doing! Start to narrow down your options by knowing what activities you enjoy or are interested in checking out.
2. Pick a place that is close to home or work.
3. Community is key! You want a place that will make you feel warm and welcome. Your gym or Studio is the perfect place to meet new friends and it's also a place you want to feel comfortable and welcome so you can stick to your fitness routine and feel good going.

We've teamed up with CHI-SOCIETY and local residents to create this list of top picks:

AERIAL FITNESS

AIR › Lincoln Park, South Loop, Lakeview › airfitnow.com

CHIROPRACTIC

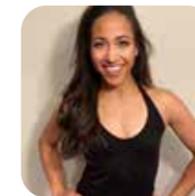
Renewed Body › West Loop
renewedbodychiro.com
Optimal Performance › Lincoln Yards, Bucktown › opmovement.com

CROSS FIT

MagMile CrossFit › Streeterville
magmilecrossfit.com
PXM CrossFit › Andersonville, Edgewater › pxmfitness.com
Archetype Crossfit › Lakeview
archetype.fit



LOCAL TIP



"Becoming a member of a fitness studio is a surefire way to meet amazing people and build connections...and if you live in a high-rise, attend any social event the building puts on because you never know who you will meet."

- Evie O.

CYCLE

Spynergy › Wicker Park › spynergystudios.com
Soulcycle › Old Town, The Loop › soul-cycle.com
SALT › Bucktown › saltfit.com

DANCE

MVFITNESS › River North › mvfitnesschi.com

FULL-SERVICE GYM

Midtown Athletic Club › Bucktown › midtown.com

HIIT

Basecamp › West Loop › basecampfitness.com
Rise Nation › River North
rise-nation.com/chicago

HOLISTIC HEALTH CENTER

Haven Chicago › Fulton Market
havenholistichealth.com

MASSAGE

Valena Wellness › River North
[instagram.com/valenawellness](https://www.instagram.com/valenawellness)
Freedom Massage Therapy › West Loop, Lissette
freedommassagechicago.square.site

MED SPA

Luxury Psychiatry and Medical Spa › West Loop
luxurypsychiatrymedicalspa.com
Opulence Chicago › West Loop › opulencechicago.com

MULTIPLE FORMATS

Urban Grind › River North › ugchicago.com
On Your Mark › West Loop › oymtraining.com

PERSONAL TRAINING

The Gym Pod › West Loop, South Loop › thegympod.com
Live Better Co.: Streeterville, livebetterco.org

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Emerge Physical Therapy & Wellness › Lincoln Park › emergeptw.com
Delos Therapy › River North, Lincoln Park › delostherapy.com

PILATES

ONYX › River North › myonyxfit.com
Resistance › Wicker Park › resistancechicago.com
Centered on North › Lincoln Park, Old Town › centeredonnorth.com
Pilates + Coffee › Roscoe Village › pilatesandcoffee.com
Amplified Pilates › River North › amplifiedpilates.com

ROCK CLIMBING

Brooklyn Boulders › West Loop › brooklynboulders.com



STRENGTH

- Delos Strength ▶ River North ▶ delostherapy.com
- EDGE Athlete Lounge ▶ Lincoln Yards, Bucktown
edgeathletelounge.com
- Train Moment ▶ Fulton Market, Lincoln Park ▶ trainmoment.com
- BTY Training Lab ▶ Fulton Market ▶ trainbty.com
- Club 33 ▶ Old Town ▶ club33fit.com
- Bolt Fitness ▶ Ravenswood ▶ boltfitnesschicago.com
- Chicago Strength ▶ River North ▶ chicagostrength.com
- Barry's ▶ River North ▶ barrys.com
- P.volve ▶ West Loop, Wicker Park, Lincoln Park
pvolve.com/pages/chicago
- Cross Town Fitness ▶ West Loop, Roscoe Village, Lakeview
crosstownfitness.com
- Ethos ▶ River North ▶ ethostrainingchi.com
- GetFit1st ▶ Humboldt Park ▶ getfit1stchicago.com

YOGA:

- The Space Between ▶ River North ▶ thespacebetweenyoga.com
- Yoga 2.0 ▶ River North ▶ yogazpointo.com
- Ritual Hot Yoga ▶ River North, Lakeview ▶ ritualhotyoga.com
- The Collective Yoga Co-op ▶ Edgewater ▶ thecollectiveyogacoop.com
- Heat 3.0 ▶ Lincoln Park ▶ heat3-0.com
- Move Therapy and Wellness ▶ Roscoe Village, Lakeview
movetherapyandwellness.com



sweet treats



BAKERY

- Artopolis Bakery, Cafe & Agora: 306 S Halsted St.
- Decadent Dessert Bar and Bistro: 1355 S Michigan Ave.
- Dessert Dealer: 108 N Green St.
- Good Ambler: 216 N Peoria St.
- Sugar Bliss: 122 South Wabash Ave.

ICE CREAM

- Amorino: 38 S Michigan Ave.
- Cone Gourmet Ice Cream: 1047 W Madison St.
- Jojo's Shake Bar: 23 W Hubbard St.
- Kilwins: 310 S Michigan Ave.
- Paleta Factory: 850 W Superior St.

DONUTS

- Bombo Bar: 832 W Randolph St.
- Dan the Baker: 311 N Morgan St. In Emily Hotel Cafe
- Do-Rite Donuts: 181 N Morgan St.
- Doughnut Vault: 401 N Franklin St.
- Firecakes Donuts: 68 W Hubbard St.

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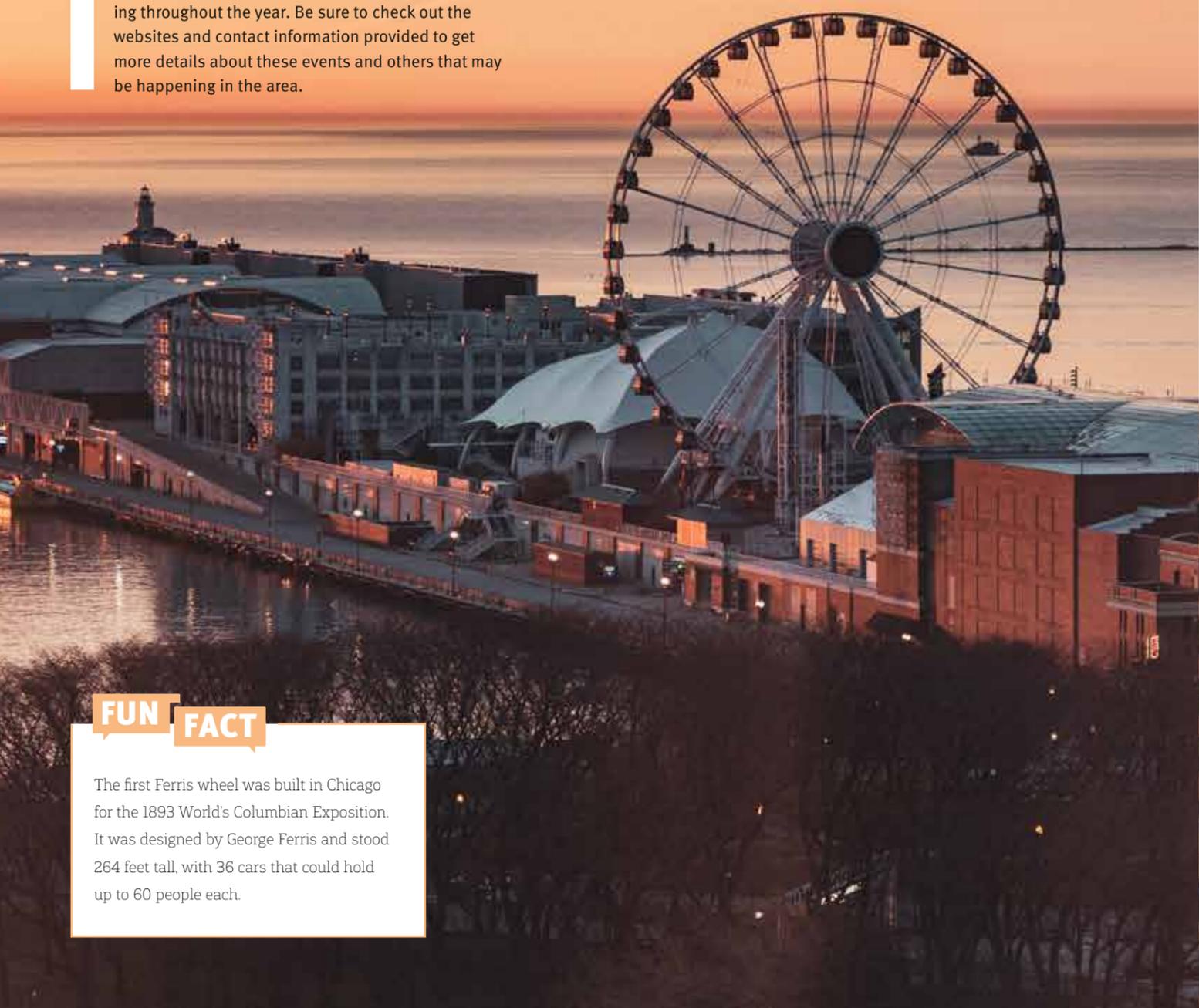


SCHEDULE ONLINE

EVENTS

STAY IN THE LOOP

These are just a few of the many big events happening throughout the year. Be sure to check out the websites and contact information provided to get more details about these events and others that may be happening in the area.



FUN FACT

The first Ferris wheel was built in Chicago for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. It was designed by George Ferris and stood 264 feet tall, with 36 cars that could hold up to 60 people each.

APRIL - JUNE

FUN FACT

The Chicago River is dyed green every year for St. Patrick's Day to celebrate the city's Irish heritage. The tradition dates back to 1962 and uses 40 pounds of vegetable dye.

JANUARY - MARCH

RESTAURANT WEEK » Chicago Restaurant Week is an annual culinary event in which participating restaurants offer prix fixe menus at discounted prices, giving locals and visitors the opportunity to try new restaurants and sample different cuisines.

CHICAGO AUTO SHOW » The Chicago Auto Show is the largest auto show in North America and features over 1,000 different vehicles from 36 manufacturers. It's a great opportunity to check out the latest cars, trucks, and SUVs and learn about new technologies in the automotive industry.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AND DYEING OF THE CHICAGO RIVER » Chicago's St. Patrick's Day celebration is world-famous, and the parade and dyeing of the river are must-see events. The river is dyed green to celebrate the holiday, and the parade features floats, bagpipers, and more.

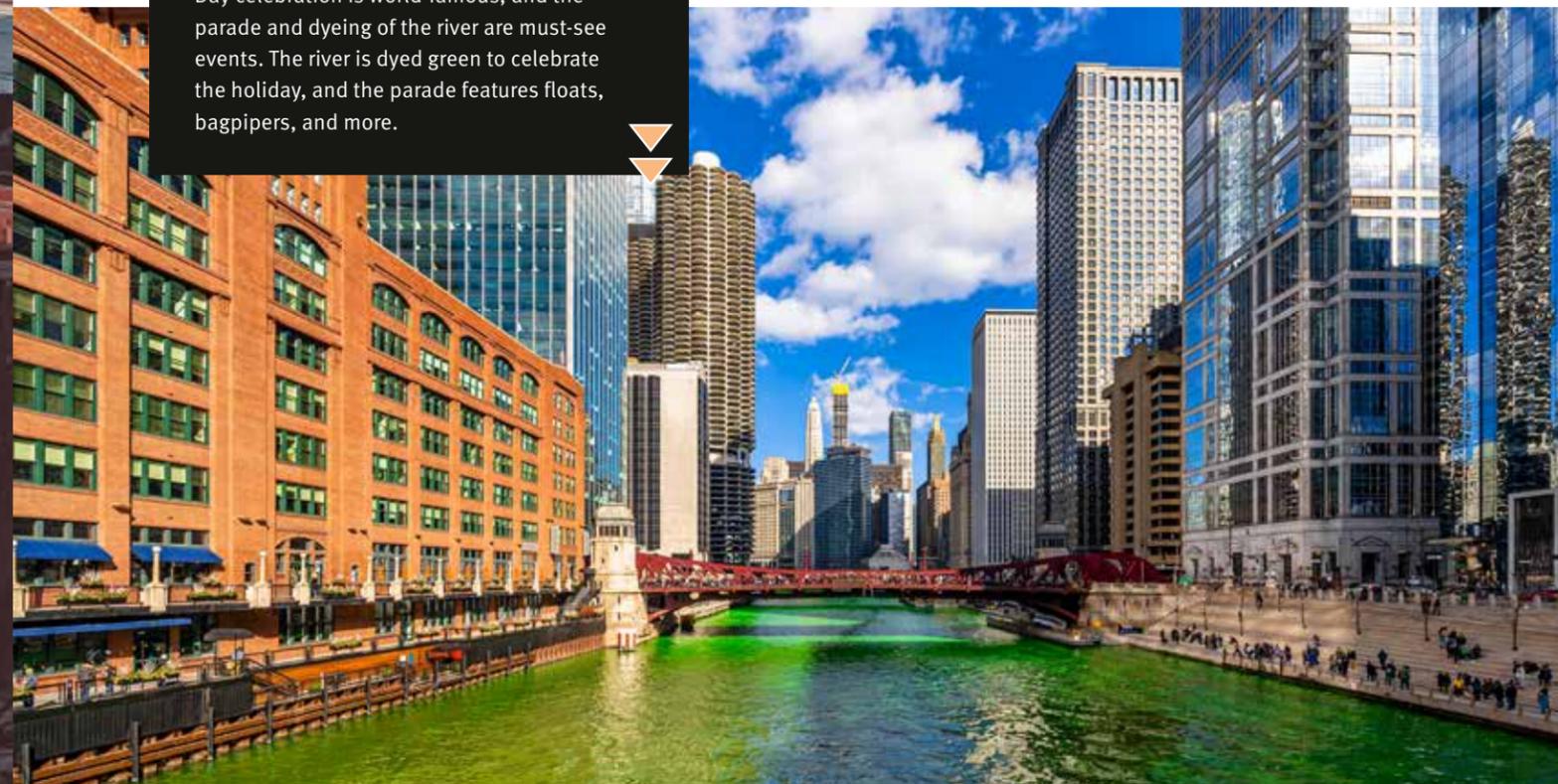
EXPO CHICAGO » A dynamic international art fair that gathers leading galleries and artists from around the globe to showcase contemporary and modern artworks. The EXPO provides a platform for art enthusiasts and collectors to explore a diverse range of mediums, including painting, sculpture, photography, and new media.

C2E2: CHICAGO COMIC AND ENTERTAINMENT EXPO » C2E2 (Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo) is an annual fan convention that celebrates pop culture and entertainment, with a particular emphasis on comics, anime, gaming, and movies. The event features a range of activities and attractions, including panel discussions, autograph signings, cosplay competitions, exhibitor booths, and more.

LIVE ON THE LAKE » This free summer concert series, held at the Lake Stage in Polk Bros Park on Navy Pier, features a diverse lineup of live music performances, spanning various genres and styles.

RANDOLPH STREET MARKET FESTIVAL » Located in the West Loop, this outdoor market festival highlights the area's vintage and antique vendors, along with indie designers and local artisans.

GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL » The Grant Park Music Festival is a free outdoor music festival that begins in June and spans the summer months. It offers a diverse lineup of concerts, ranging from classical and opera to jazz and world music. It is led by the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus, which features some of the best musicians and singers from around the world.





JULY - SEPTEMBER

LOLLAPALOOZA » Lollapalooza is one of the world's biggest music festivals and features over 170 performers across four days. It's a great opportunity to enjoy live music from a variety of genres and soak up the festival atmosphere.

CHICAGO BLUES FESTIVAL » The Chicago Blues Festival is the largest free blues festival in the world and features some of the biggest names in blues music. It's a great opportunity to enjoy live music, food, and drinks in the heart of the city.

ARC MUSIC FESTIVAL » A celebration of house and techno music, this festival takes place at Union Park and features world-renowned DJs and producers.

CHICAGO DUCKY DERBY » An annual fundraiser for Special Olympics Illinois, this event involves thousands of rubber ducks racing down the Chicago River for a chance to win prizes.



TASTE OF CHICAGO » Taste of Chicago is the city's premier food festival and features over 200 different menu items from some of the best restaurants in the city. There are also live music performances and family-friendly activities.

CHICAGO JAZZ FESTIVAL » The Chicago Jazz Festival is a free four-day festival that celebrates jazz music from around the world.

It features performances by some of the best jazz musicians in the industry, and takes place in the beautiful Millennium Park.

JAZZIN AT THE SHEDD » Enjoy live jazz performances at Chicago's iconic Shedd Aquarium during this summer concert series, which combines music and marine life for a unique experience.

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

CHICAGO MARATHON » One of the world's largest and most prestigious marathons, the Chicago Marathon attracts runners from around the globe. The race winds through 29 neighborhoods, with spectators lining the streets to cheer on participants.

FALL FEST ON THE RIVER WALK » This family-friendly festival takes place along the scenic Chicago Riverwalk and celebrates the arrival of fall. Enjoy live music, local food vendors, pumpkin decorating, and other festive activities while taking in the beautiful autumn scenery.

ARTS IN THE DARK - STATE STREET » A magical nighttime event, Arts in the Dark transforms State Street into an illuminated spectacle of art and performance, featuring illuminated floats, puppets, and costumes, along with music and dance performances.

OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO - CITYWIDE » Explore the city's architectural gems during this annual event, which offers free access to hundreds of architecturally and culturally significant buildings across Chicago, including private homes, iconic skyscrapers, and historical landmarks.

CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL » The Chicago International Film Festival is one of the longest-running film festivals in the country and features screenings of both local and international films. It's a great opportunity to see some of the best new films before they hit theaters.

MILLENNIUM PARK CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING » Kick off the holiday season in Chicago with the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Millennium Park. Enjoy live music and holiday performances as the tree is lit, followed by ice skating, caroling, and other festive activities.

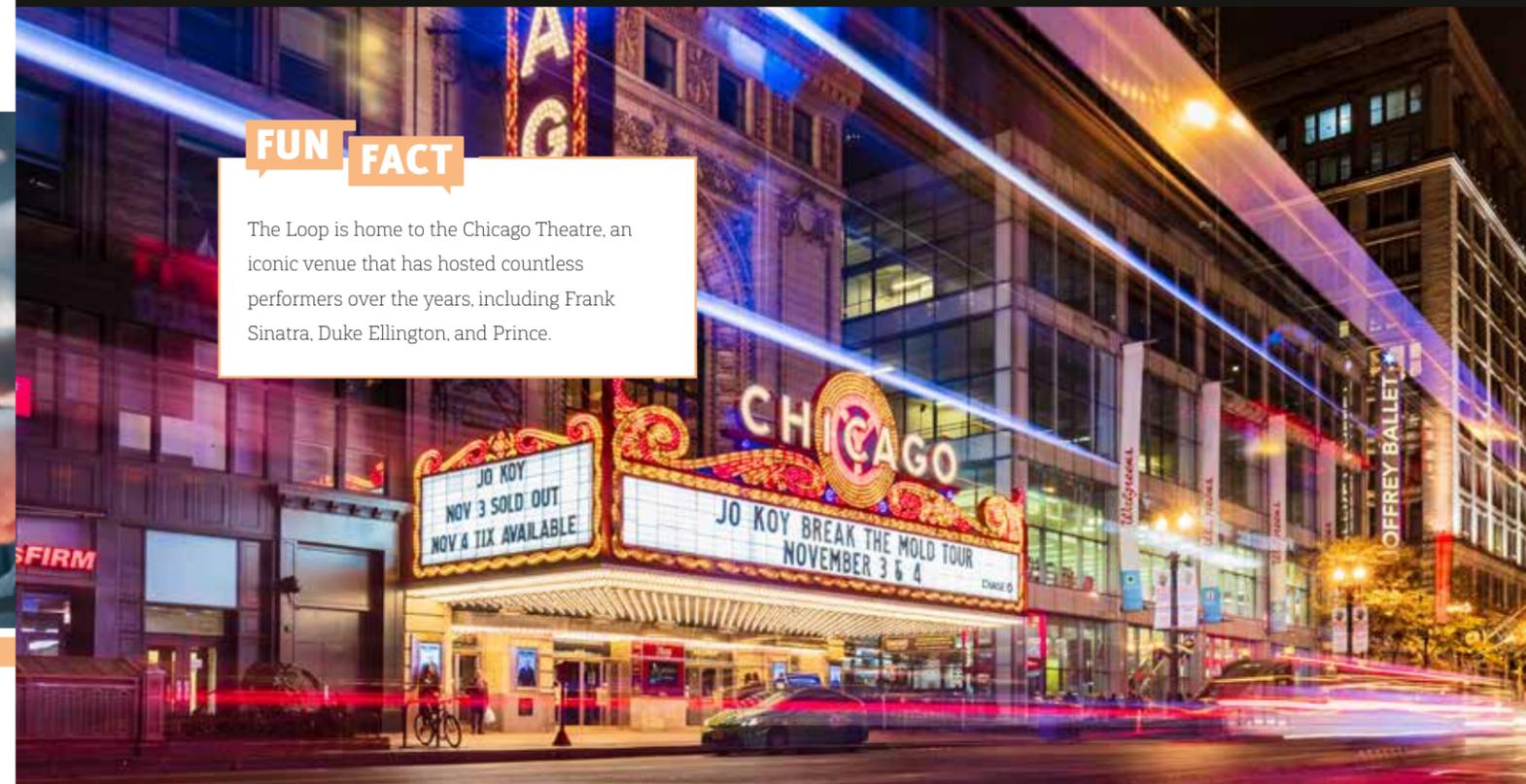


CHRISTKINDLMARKET » The Christkindlmarket is an annual holiday market that features vendors selling traditional German food, drinks, and gifts. It's a great place to shop for unique holiday gifts and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

CHICAGO NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS » Ring in the new year with a spectacular fireworks show at Navy Pier. The event is free and open to the public and is a great way to celebrate the start of a new year in the city.

FUN FACT

The Loop is home to the Chicago Theatre, an iconic venue that has hosted countless performers over the years, including Frank Sinatra, Duke Ellington, and Prince.



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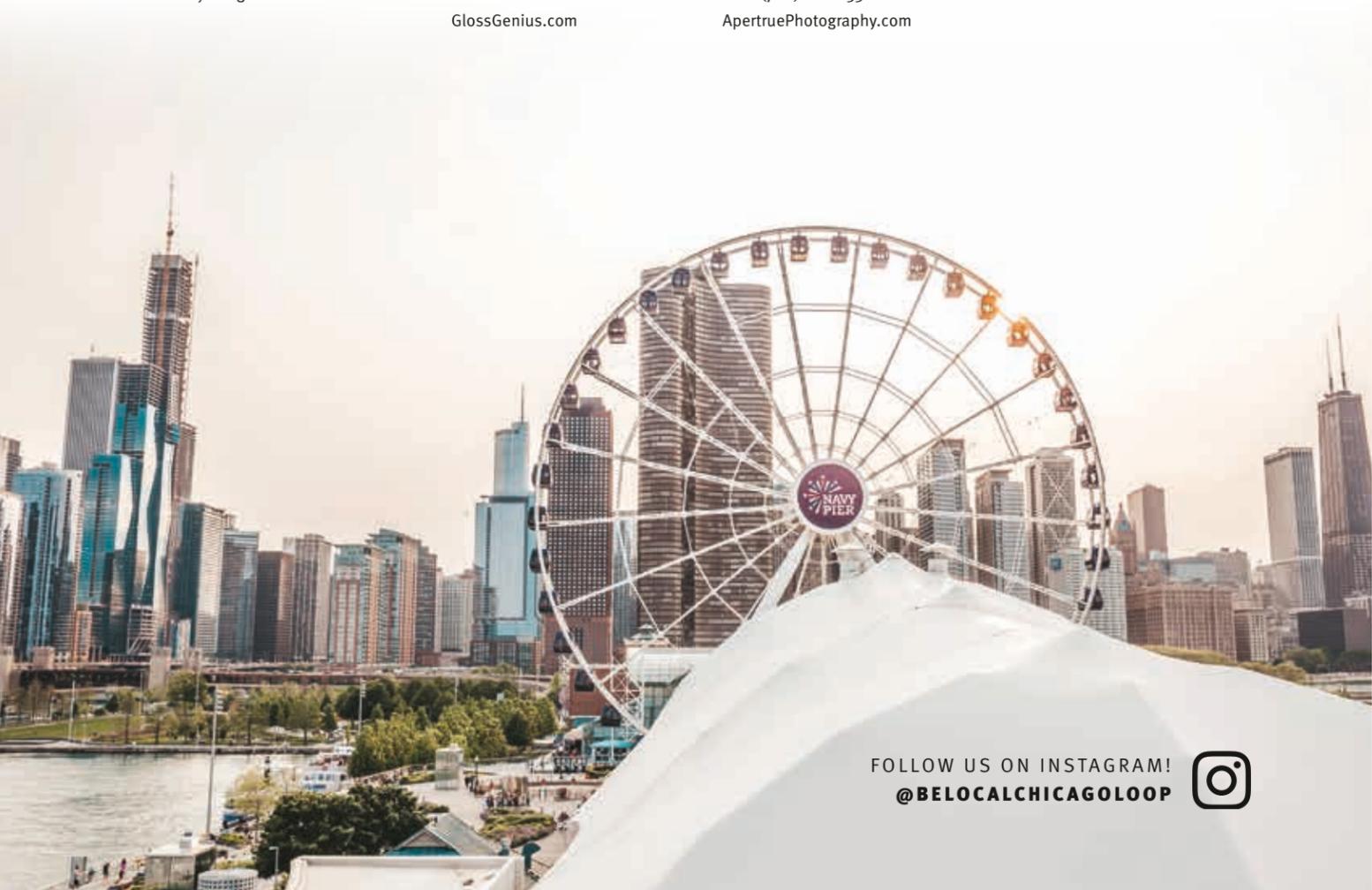
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