

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

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EXPERIENCE AN UNCLUTTERED AND SIMPLIFIED CHICAGO

Mapping Chicago: The Past and the Possible exhibition opens as part of a citywide initiative

CHICAGO (August 13, 2007) – The Chicago History Museum opens a new exhibition, *Mapping Chicago: The Past and the Possible* on September 23 as part of Chicago’s city-wide Festival of Maps. The exhibition includes many different kinds of maps documenting places, people, and events that connect visitors to Chicago’s past, present, and future.

Maps suggest stories and spark memories. To capture this idea, Museum staff imagined the stories that might emerge from these maps. The narratives presented in the exhibition are well-researched, but they are not the experiences of historical figures. Instead, they are imagined characters, sometimes people sometimes not, that help visitors connect to the maps and tell a story about the city’s storied past.

There are over 30 maps in the exhibition. Included are maps of Fort Dearborn in 1808, The World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893, Chicago’s new house numbering system from 1909, Chicago Jazz Spots from 1914-28, The Chicago Riot of 1919, and the plans for the *Chicago* Olympics in 2016.

Mapping Chicago: The Past and the Possible also looks at the Replogle Globe Company which has been making maps into globes for over 77 years in Chicago. Replogle is the world’s largest globe manufacturer and with their help the exhibition allows for the visitor to see how globes are made. The Replogle globe-makers assemble and box as many as one-million globes each year including world globes, game globes, decorative globes, and dry-erase globes for schools. The Museum thanks the Replogle Globe Company for their support of this exhibition, making them the presenting sponsor of *Mapping Chicago: The Past and the Possible*.

Last, but certainly not least, maps help inspire imagination. With that in mind the Museum dedicated a section of the exhibition to maps created by children. “The exhibition uses children’s artwork to reinforce the message that the maps we make reflect who we are and how we live,” said John Russick, exhibition curator. The children’s artwork was produced in Chicago Park District field houses by summer camp students for this exhibition.

This exhibition would not have been possible without generous contributions from Carole and Gordon Segal and Bank of America.

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The Chicago History Museum, a major museum and research center for Chicago and American history, is located at 1601 N. Clark Street. The Museum can be reached by CTA buses 11, 22, 36, 72, 151, and 156. Parking is conveniently located one block north of the Museum at Clark and LaSalle Streets (enter on Stockton Drive). Admission to the Museum is a suggested donation of \$12 adults, \$10 seniors/students, free for children 12 years and younger. General Admission is free on Mondays. Please call 312.642.4600 or visit us at www.chicagohistory.org.