

# ChicagoHistoryMuseum

## Imagining Chicago: The Dioramas

The Chicago history dioramas are back! The Museum has restored these nearly 75-year-old intricate and finely-crafted models to their original, awe-inspiring glory with updated lighting effects and mechanisms that animate several of the scenes.

The dioramas show in great detail how Chicago developed from a swamp into a city beginning with John Kinzie's fur trading cabin and the construction of Fort Dearborn. They explore Chicago's highs and lows from the devastation of the Great Chicago Fire, when the city first grabbed the world's attention, to the glamour and opulence of the World's Columbian Exposition, when it captured the world's imagination.

The Sauganash Tavern allows visitors to hear the music much loved by the Tavern's owner, Mark Beaubien, and watch dancers twirl across the tavern's main floor. The Rush Street Bridge diorama displays how the city's industrial and commercial enterprises developed along the Chicago River. The LaSalle Street diorama gives a glimpse into how Chicago grew at an incredible pace. This scene focuses visitor's attention on Courthouse Square where Abraham Lincoln was mourned after his assassination. In the Washington Park Racetrack diorama visitors witness a horserace with animals and jockeys charging toward the finish line.

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