

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

Museum Fact Sheet

ADDRESS: 1601 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60614-6038
312-642-4600
www.chicagohistory.org

MUSEUM HOURS: Monday - Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 12 noon – 5:00 p.m.

SUMMER RESEARCH CENTER HOURS:
(May 31-September 6)
Tuesday – Wednesday: 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
CLOSED Saturday, Sunday, and Monday

RESEARCH CENTER HOURS:
(September 7 – May 30)
Tuesday – Thursday: 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Friday – Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
CLOSED Sunday and Monday

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$14 Adults, \$ 12 Seniors (65+)/Students (13-22),
Free for Children 12 and under.

We offer a new schedule of discount days, which provide free admission to Illinois resident visitors. Illinois Resident Discount Days at the Museum are on:

- Monday, July 4
- Tuesday, August 23–Wednesday, August 24
- Monday, September 12–Friday, September 16
- Monday, September 19–Friday, September 23
- Monday, September 26–Friday, September 30
- Monday, October 3–Friday, October 7
- Monday, October 10–Thursday, October 13

Illinois Resident Discount Days replace free Mondays to maximize opportunities for visitors, especially those unable to visit us on Mondays. This gives us the flexibility to share Chicago's story with Chicagoans and Illinois residents for free beyond just Mondays.

HISTORY

The Chicago Historical Society was founded in April 1856 by the city's leading entrepreneurs to document Chicago's transformation from a frontier town into a major urban center. The Society's original collection was destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Over the next twenty-five years, the Society rebuilt its collection, and in 1896 a new facility was constructed at Dearborn and Ontario Streets. In the 1920s, the Historical Society purchased thousands of artifacts and manuscripts from the estate of Charles F. Gunther. This purchase augmented the extensive research library and archival collection and formed the basis of its highly regarded collection of decorative and industrial arts, paintings, sculpture, and costumes. In 1932, the Chicago Historical Society built a new red-brick Georgian style facility on Clark Street in Lincoln Park, its current location. Expansions in the 1970s and 1980s doubled the size of the facility.

During 2005-06, the Museum renovated approximately 75 percent of its public space. In February of 2006, the Chicago Historical Society announced its new name: Chicago History Museum. The Museum features a renovated lobby with new artifacts, installations, and it introduces new galleries: the Costume and Textile Gallery, dedicated to displaying changing exhibitions from the Museum's renowned costume and textile collections; Konen Family Children's Gallery, where children learn about Chicago through their five senses; and the KPMG and Paul and Katherine Snyder Community Gallery that explores Chicago's diverse people and places. The Exelon Wing houses the long-term exhibition, *Chicago: Crossroads of America*, which showcases Chicago's past in five themed sections; the Tawani Foundation Diorama Hall; and the Chicago Room, an event space connected to the Uihlein Plaza and overlooking Lincoln Park.

COLLECTION

The collection includes over 22 million items organized into seven main holdings: Archives and Manuscripts; Architecture; Costumes; Decorative and Industrial Arts; Prints and Photographs; Painting and Sculpture; and Library materials. The collection is kept and maintained at several locations including the Museum at 1601 North Clark Street.

EDUCATION

The Chicago History Museum offers informative and interactive exhibitions and programming that serves Illinois State education guidelines and requirements. The Museum sponsors special teacher conferences and workshops in conjunction with new exhibitions, and produces a range of print and multimedia materials for use in the classroom. The Museum also offers wide-ranging public programs, including panel discussions, lectures, walking tours, bus and 'L' tours, book signings, and performance events.

WEBSITE

The Chicago History Museum's website, www.chicagohistory.org serves not only as an introduction to the Museum, but also features special online exhibitions, access to the research collection, blogs, and interactive ways to stay involved in Museum activities. The website also links to the electronic *Encyclopedia of Chicago*.

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FUNDING

The Chicago History Museum is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization and is affiliated with the Chicago Historical Society. The Museum provides exhibitions, programming, and operations that are member supported and privately funded through contributions to the Chicago Historical Society from individuals, corporations, foundations, and government agencies. The Chicago Park District also provides support for all of the Museum's activities in a unique public-private partnership.

RESEARCH CENTER

Researchers have access to photographs, documents, periodicals, maps, books, newspapers, and directories that are found in the Research Center holdings. Other collections holdings are available by appointment only.

MUSEUM STORE

The Museum Store offers a wide selection of items on the history and culture of Chicago and the United States, including a large selection of books, posters, photos, jewelry, and toys. In addition to the Clark Street location, the Store is also accessible online at www.chicagohistory.org.

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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 \$14 adults, \$12 seniors/students, free for children 12 years and younger. Please call 312.642.4600 or visit us at www.chicagohistory.org. The Chicago History Museum is affiliated with the Chicago Historical Society and acknowledges the Chicago Park District's generous support of all the Museum's activities.