

Social Narrative: The Chicago History Museum





Today, I am visiting the Chicago History Museum. Here, I can learn about Chicago's history or conduct research at the Abakanowicz Research Center.

Reading this narrative will help me to decide where I would like to go on my trip and prepare me for what I can expect to experience.



This is the Chicago History Museum. It is located at the corner of Clark Street and North Avenue. There are many ways to get here.



If I drive, I can park in the parking lot on Stockton Drive, which is one block north of the museum.



I will approach the Museum from the north side if I use the parking lot. If I use the parking lot, I will cross LaSalle Drive, a busy street, to reach the Museum. I can also be dropped off in front of the Museum's main entrance on Clark Street. I can have my parking validated for \$10 at the Ticket Desk. If I have any questions, a staff member can assist me.





If I commute by CTA bus, I can take the 22, 36, 72, 73, 151, or 156. If I commute by CTA train, I can get off at the Brown Line Sedgwick station or the Red Line Clark/Division station. If I ride a Divvy bicycle, I can dock it at a station by the main entrance on Clark Street.



This is the main entrance to the Chicago History Museum. Directly to the right is the automated, wheelchair-accessible entrance.





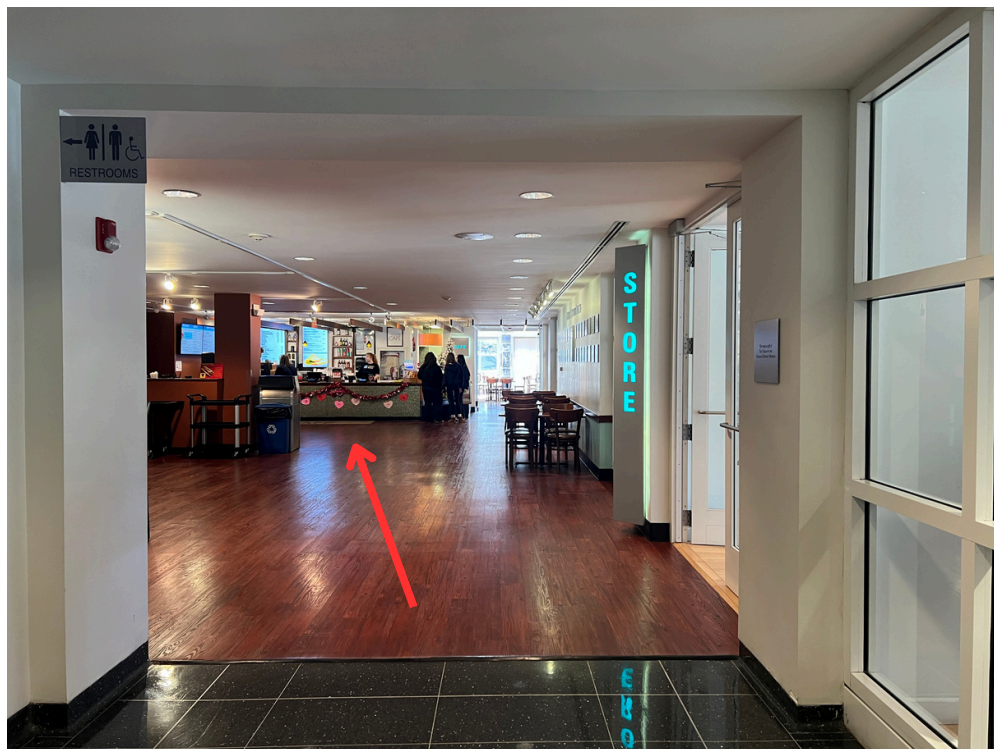
This is the lobby where I will start today's visit. On the right side is the Ticket Desk.



One of the first people that I can interact with is a Security Officer.



It can be crowded and noisy in the lobby, and there are neon lights that flash on one of the lobby displays.



To my right of the lobby is the North & Clark Café, where I can purchase food and beverages, the Museum Store, and restrooms.

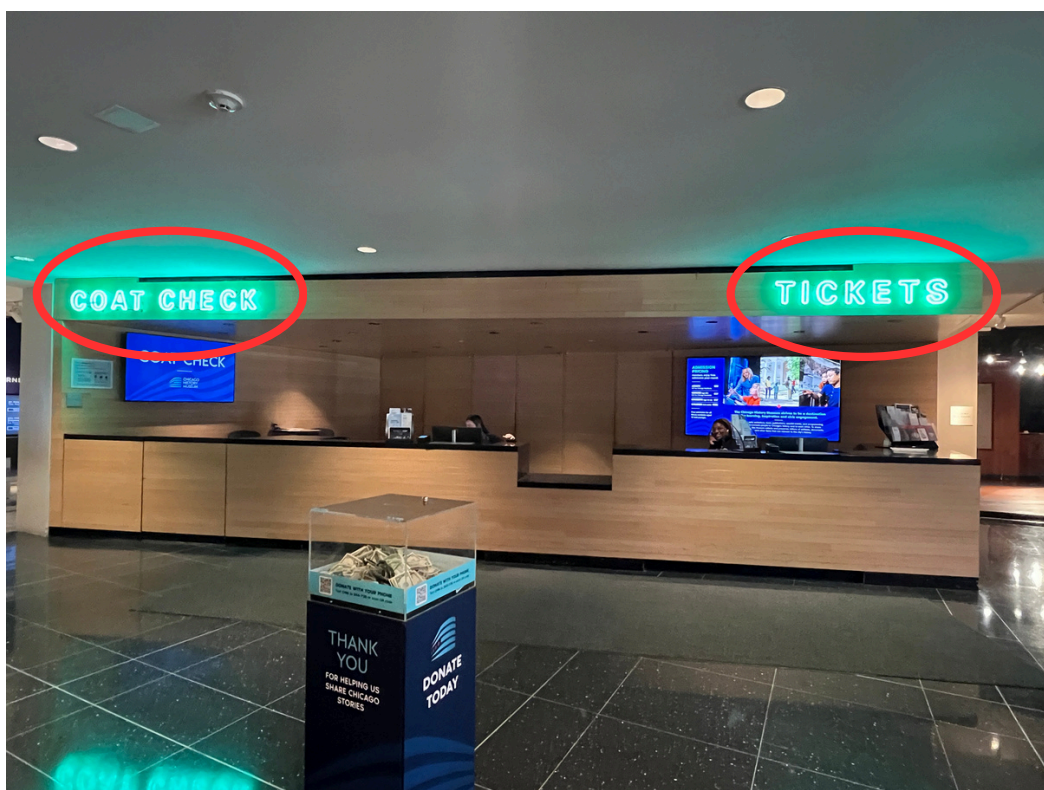


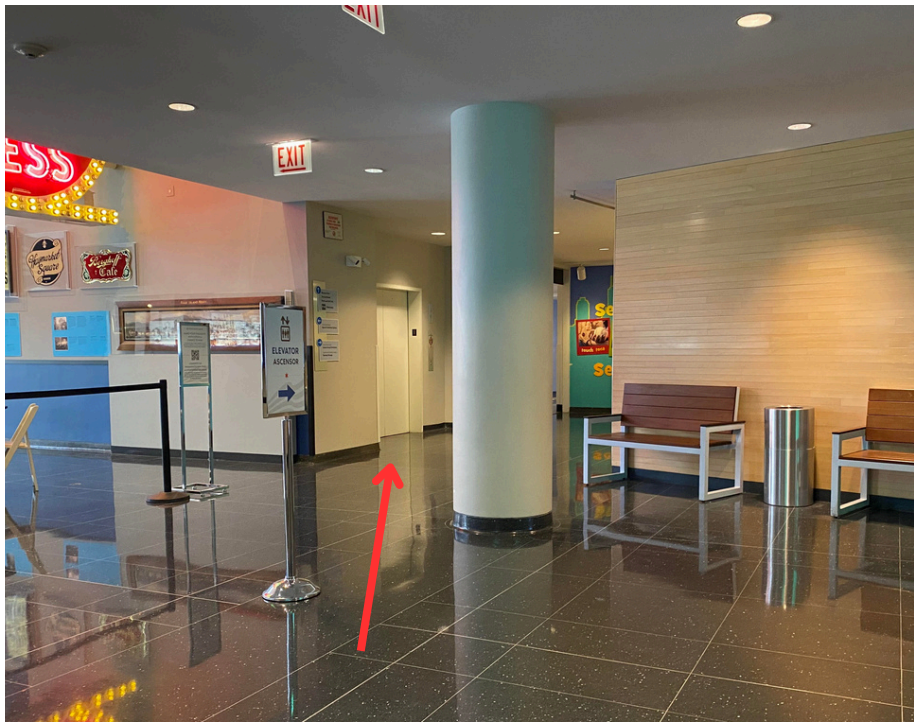
This is the Ticket Desk where I can purchase tickets, have tickets scanned, and ask questions. My ticket is good for the whole day. If I feel overwhelmed, I can leave and re-enter whenever I want.



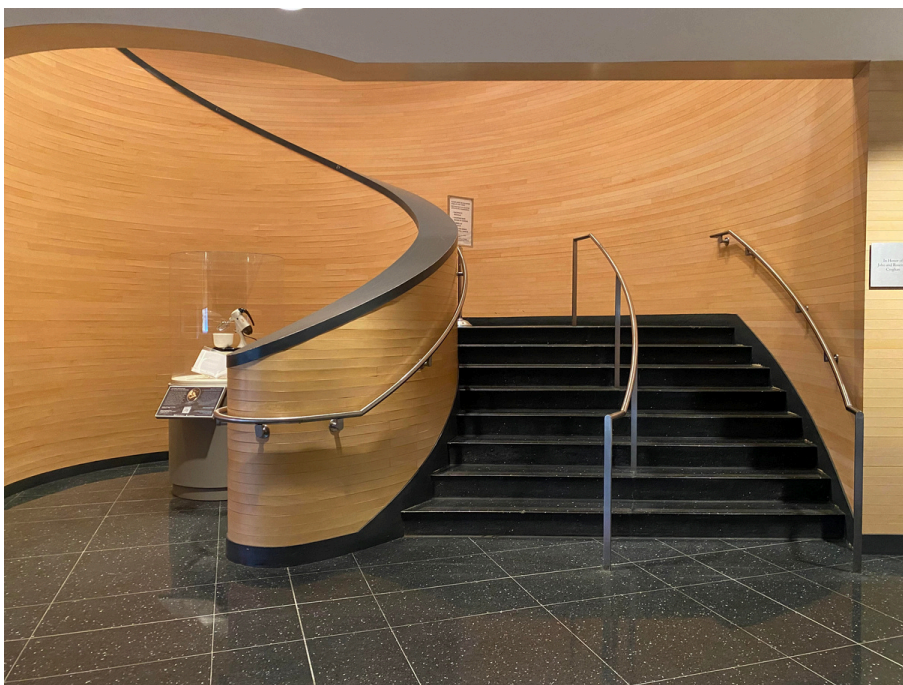
I can recognize our Visitor Services staff because they will be behind the desk and paying close attention to guests in the lobby.

Visitor Services staff can also help me check my coat and bag at the front desk, so that I can pick up these items after my visit.





To get to the second floor, I can take the elevator, which is to the left of the stairs.



I can also take the stairs, which are directly across from the Ticket Desk.



If I stay on the first floor,
I can visit a movie
theater, and three
exhibitions: Sensing
Chicago, Facing Freedom
in America, and the
Diorama Hall.



I can find the film
schedule on the
screen outside the
theater, or I can ask
a staff member.

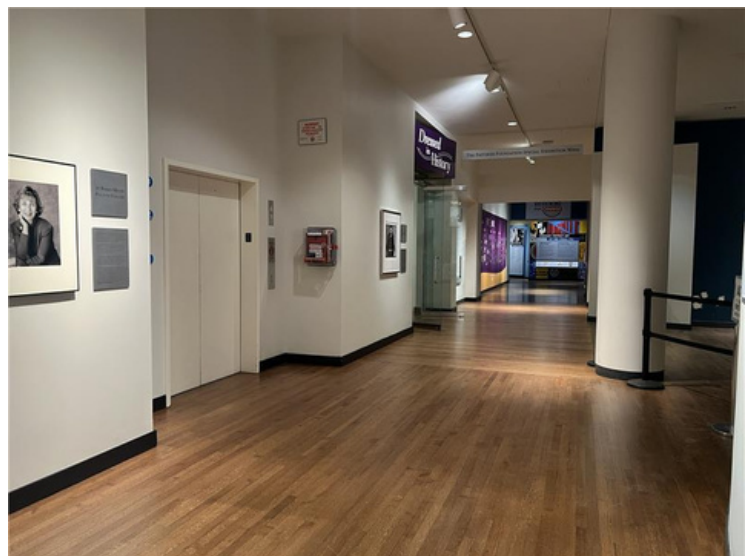


If I am on the first floor, I can use the restrooms that are back toward the front entrance and on the way to the café. There are also restrooms beside the Chicago flag, just past the theater.





If I go up to the second floor, I can see Chicago: Crossroads of America, Abraham Lincoln, Lincoln's Chicago, the Chicago Room, which is a ballroom with stained-glass windows, and special exhibitions that change regularly.



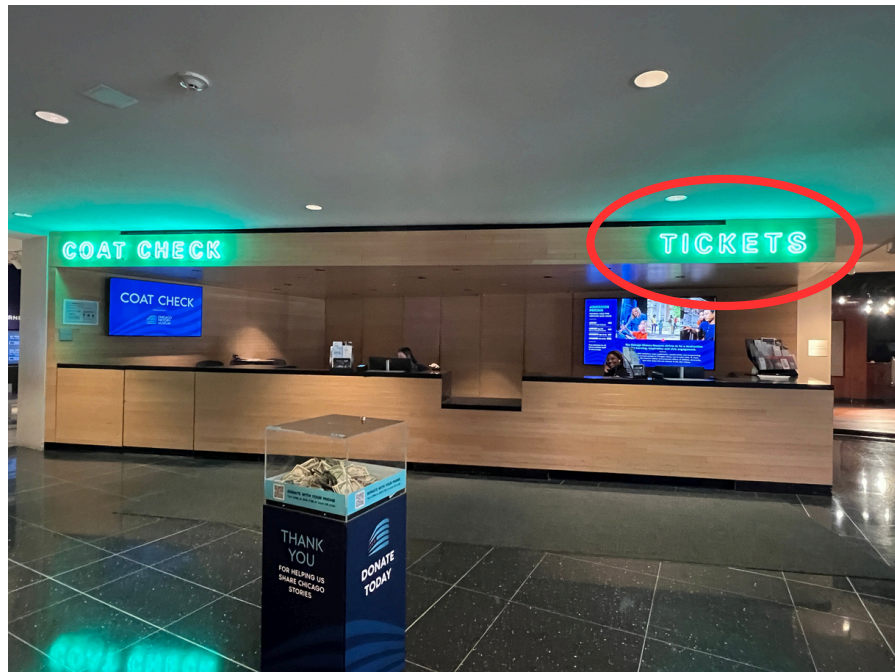


While I'm on the second floor, I can use the restrooms that are located on either side of Lincoln's Chicago. This also includes a family and gender-neutral restroom.



The Museum can get very loud at times, especially during weekday mornings and on holidays. If I get tired or overwhelmed, I can borrow a pair of noise-canceling headphones from the Ticket Desk, or I can ask for access to a quiet space. The Chicago Room is also often a quiet place where I can go to rest.

If I want to conduct research at the Chicago History Museum, I will need to register to visit the Abakanowicz Research Center. I can register and check my bag with the Visitor Services staff at the Ticket Desk.



After checking in, I can take the elevator in the lobby to the third floor. The Abakanowicz Research Center is to the right. If I'd like to take the stairs, a Visitor Services staff member can help me find my way.

Masks are required inside, so I can either use my own mask or take one provided at the Abakanowicz Research Center front desk. There are also masks at the first floor Ticket Desk.





Before, during, or after my visit, I can go the North & Clark Café, which is located on the first floor. The café tends to be busiest from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. It closes one hour before the Museum closes. I can find the entire menu on the Museum's website.



I can also visit the Museum Store at any point during my visit. It is located on the first floor near the front entrance. If I don't have time to explore the shop during my visit, I can always check out the online shop on the Museum's website!



If I want to go outside at any point, I can visit the Jaffee History Trail. I can start the trail at the relic from the Chicago Fire, which is located on the corner of Clark Street and LaSalle Drive. The Trail wraps around the structure of the Museum and ends at the fountain on the corner of Clark Street and North Avenue. On the Trail, I can follow the trail markers to learn more about Chicago's history.



When my visit is over, I can make my way back to the lobby. If I checked a coat or a bag, I should return my number and get my belongings. I can exit out of the front revolving doors or the accessible doors.