

11 NPEA Annual Conference April 3-5, 2019 CHICAGO

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATIONAL ACCESS 11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE CHICAGO-AREA ACTIVITIES

Be sure to take advantage of downtime from the conference to explore Chicago. Here are a few suggestions to help you in planning some fun outings and favorite local activities! *Please note that all descriptions are excerpted from websites or other online sources.*

Activities and Attractions

Cloud Gate

The 110-ton elliptical sculpture, located in Millennium Park, is forged of a seamless series of highly polished stainless steel plates, which reflect Chicago's famous skyline and the clouds above.

https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/millennium_park_artarchitecture.html

Magnificent Mile

With so many stores (about 460 to be more exact) you could spend days just shopping. The Magnificent Mile packs luxury boutiques, department stores, and multi-story mega malls all into one eight-block stretch. And that's not including the nearly 300 restaurants and 60 hotels that also make up this cosmopolitan downtown center. Beyond the glossy retail facades, however, lay incredible art and architecture, history and culture.

<https://www.choosechicago.com/neighborhoods/downtown/magnificent-mile/>

Millennium Park:

Discover a state-of-the-art collection of architecture, landscape design, and art that provide the backdrop for hundreds of free cultural programs including concerts, exhibitions, tours, and family activities. In Millennium Park, you'll find a new kind of town square – a lively, spectacular gathering spot located in the heart of the city and a destination for Chicagoans and visitors alike.

https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/millennium_park.html

Navy Pier

One of the most popular stops for visitors to Chicago is the south dock of Navy Pier, a 2,000-foot long pedestrian boardwalk that stands as one of the best in the United States. With entertainment venues, restaurants, and theme park rides, Navy Pier is open year round for your enjoyment.

<https://freetoursbyfoot.com/chicago-navy-pier-things-to-do/>

Willis Tower & Sky Deck

Offering spectacular views spanning up to four states, the Willis Tower & Sky Deck is a one-stop Chicago experience full of interactive exhibits and “The Ledge,” which is a glass balcony extending four feet outside the 103rd floor of Willis Tower!

<http://theskydeck.com/>

Tours

Chicago Big Bus Tour

Elevate your visit to Chicago with Big Bus Tours. Hop on for panoramic top-deck views of iconic skyscrapers and Lake Michigan, and hop off to explore institutions like the Magnificent Mile, Field Museum, and Adler Planetarium.

<https://www.bigbustours.com/en/chicago/chicago-bus-tours/>

Free Tours By Foot

Free Tours by Foot is pleased to present the best pay-what-you-like guided Chicago walking tours. These interesting and informative sightseeing city tours will take you through many of the Windy City’s most famous neighborhoods. You can select among walking, food, architecture, and bike tours, and the guides will help you find the best places to visit and the stories behind them.

<https://freetoursbyfoot.com/chicago-tours/>

Waterway Cruise

Chicago's First Lady Cruises is the official cruise line of the Chicago Architecture Foundation and is proud to present the official Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise. The relaxing 90-minute daily Chicago river tour features indoor and outdoor seating, a full service bar aboard each vessel and is consistently recognized by locals and visitors alike as the best way to see Chicago. A portion of each ticket supports architecture education provided by CAF.

<https://www.cruisechicago.com/architecture-tours>

Museums

Adler Planetarium

Extending out into Lake Michigan from its Museum Campus home, the Adler Planetarium is America's first planetarium and has become a recognized leader in science education. Immersive theater programs, special exhibitions, and events such as lectures and viewing parties allow you to journey through the vast universe – from the depths of powerful black holes to the heights of Voyager 1, the farthest human-made object from Earth.

<https://www.adlerplanetarium.org/>

Art Institute of Chicago

Founded in 1879 and located in Chicago's Grant Park, the Art Institute is one of the oldest and largest art museums in America. Recognized for its curatorial efforts and popularity, the museum hosts approximately 1.5 million guests annually. Its collection is encyclopedic, and includes iconic works such as Pablo Picasso's *The Old Guitarist* and Grant Wood's *American Gothic*. Its permanent collection of nearly 300,000 works of art is augmented by special exhibitions that illuminate aspects of the collection and present cutting-edge curatorial and scientific research.

<http://www.artic.edu/>

DuSable Museum of African American History

The DuSable Museum of African American History, located in the historic Hyde Park area of Chicago in Washington Park, unites art, history and culture. Founded in 1961 by teacher and art historian Dr. Margaret Burroughs and other leading Chicago citizens, the DuSable Museum is one of the few independent institutions of its kind in America, and is dedicated to the collection, documentation, preservation, and study of the history and culture of Africans and African Americans. The Museum is proud of its diverse holdings that number more than 15,000 pieces and include paintings, sculpture, print works and historical memorabilia. The museum has an affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution.

<http://www.dusablemuseum.org/>

Museum of Science and Industry

The Museum of Science and Industry—one of the largest science museums in the world—is home to more than 400,000 square feet of hands-on exhibits designed to spark scientific inquiry and creativity. Located in Jackson Park, it is housed in the former Palace of Fine Arts from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Among the museum's exhibits are a full-size replica coal mine, German WWII submarine *U-505*, a 3,500-square-foot (330 m²) model railroad, the command module of Apollo 8, and the first diesel-powered streamlined stainless-steel passenger train.

<https://www.msichicago.org/>

Shedd Aquarium

The Shedd Aquarium is an indoor public aquarium that contains 32,000 animals from aquatic environments around the world. Located on Lake Michigan, the aquarium opened in 1930 and now hosts over 2 million visitors annually. It contains 1,500 species, including fish, marine mammals, birds, snakes, amphibians, and insects, and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987.

<https://www.sheddaquarium.org/>

The Field Museum of Natural History

The Field Museum, which opened in 1894, is one of the largest natural history museums in the world, with over 40 million artifacts specimens. Its diverse, high quality permanent exhibitions, which attract up to two million visitors annually, range from the earliest fossils to past and current cultures from around the world to interactive programming demonstrating today's urgent conservation needs.

<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/>

Arts & Theater

Broadway in Chicago

Broadway In Chicago was created in July 2000 and has grown to become one of the largest commercial touring homes in the country. Broadway In Chicago lights up the Chicago Theater District entertaining well over 1.7 million people annually in five theatres. It presents a full range of entertainment, including musicals and plays, on the stages of five of the finest theatres in Chicago's Loop, including: the CIBC Theatre, Oriental Theatre, Cadillac Palace Theatre, the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, and the Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place. Broadway In Chicago is best known for attracting pre-Broadway productions.

<http://www.broadwayinchicago.com/>

Second City Chicago

The Second City is an improvisational comedy enterprise, best known as the first ever on-going improvisational theater troupe based in Chicago. The Second City Theatre opened in 1959, and has since become one of the most influential and prolific comedy theatres in the world. Since its debut, the Second City has consistently been a starting point for comedians, award-winning actors, directors, and others in show business, including Bill Murray, Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Steve Carell, Stephen Colbert, Steven Yeun, Tim Robinson, Keegan-Michael Key, and Aidy Bryant.

<https://www.secondcity.com/>

The Chicago Theatre

The Chicago Theatre is a landmark theater located in the Loop area of Chicago, and the grandeur of its building often leaves visitors breathless. The elegant lobby, majestic staircase and beautiful auditorium complete with murals above the stage and on the ceiling, are components of building called "the Wonder Theatre of the World" when it opened in 1921. From 1925 to 1945, the Chicago Theatre was a dominant movie theater enterprise. Currently, Madison Square Garden, Inc. owns and operates the Chicago Theatre as a performing arts venue for stage plays, magic shows, comedy, speeches, and popular music concerts. The distinctive Chicago Theatre marquee, an unofficial emblem of the city, appears frequently in film, television, artwork, and photography.

<https://www.msg.com/the-chicago-theatre>

Restaurants

Al's Italian Beef (*Yelp Price Range: Under \$10, Distance to Conference Hotel: 0.5 miles*)

What started in 1938 as a beef stand in Chicago's "Little Italy" neighborhood has grown into a quintessential food icon and Chicago legend. It's all about the drip-down-your-hands Italian beef sandwiches smothered with hot and sweet peppers and dipped in meat juices at this homegrown fast-food chain, and don't forget the fries! When you want to indulge, it's a Chicago classic.

<http://www.alsbeef.com/>

Bavette's Bar & Bouef (*Yelp Price Range: \$31-\$60, Distance to Conference Hotel: 0.3 miles*)

A stylish departure from a traditional steakhouse, Bavette's embraces French flair without the formality, blending fine dining with unabashed fun. Guests can indulge in timeless steakhouse fare, including seafood towers, richly flavorful ribeyes, classic side dishes, and house made desserts, paired with strong cocktails and a well-curated international wine list. The gilded space features red leather banquettes, glowing chandeliers, and lively jazz.

<http://bavettessteakhouse.com/>

Blackwood BBQ (*Yelp Price Range: Under \$10, Distance to Conference Hotel: 0.3 miles*)

They know how to smoke meat at these counter-serve kitchens, with a simple menu of down-South-style barbeque offered with regional sauces and a handful of sides. You might encounter lines at prime times, but luckily they move quickly. Additionally, some locations serve breakfast.

<https://www.blackwoodbbq.com/>

Coco Pazzo (*Yelp Price Range: \$31-\$60, Distance to Conference Hotel: 0.3 miles*)

In 1992, Jack Weiss opened the doors of Coco Pazzo, which features the straightforward seasonal cuisine of Tuscany. Since then, business professionals, celebrities, politicians, and those just wanting to share a special occasion have returned to Coco Pazzo for a memorable fine dining experience. Located in a 100-year old loft building, timber beams, brick walls and rich cypress floors are warmed with velvet drapes that create a rustic yet urban atmosphere.

<http://www.cocopazzochicago.com/>

Dos Urban Cantina (*Yelp Price Range: \$31-\$60, Distance to Conference Hotel: 4.5 miles*)

Dos is the partnership of husband and wife chef team Brian Enyart and Jennifer Jones Enyart. The couple met while working under master chefs Rick Bayless and Charlie Trotter, respectively, and soon developed a mutual love of food and travel. Their menu is an original interpretation of cuisine that embraces contemporary flavors and ingredients inspired by the boldness and bounty of Mexico. The Chicago Tribune named Dos Urban Cantina as "one of the most important Mexican restaurants to open in Chicago."

<https://dosurbancantina.com/>

Eleven City Diner (*Yelp Price Range: \$11-\$30, Distance to Conference Hotel: 3.0 miles*)

Eleven City Diner is an homage to old-school diners and Jewish delicatessens in Chicago. It is owner Brad Rubin's opinion that every great Chicago neighborhood has a casual family restaurant as one of its cornerstones, and he opened Eleven City Diner to be that restaurant for the city's historic Lincoln Park neighborhood. The Diner serves breakfast all day, and an especially popular choice is the "make your own omelette" option on the menu.

<http://www.elevencitydiner.com/>

Green Door Tavern/The Drifter (*Yelp Price Range: \$11-\$30, Distance to Conference Hotel: 0.5 miles*)

From its earliest days in 1921, The Green Door Tavern has been a neighborhood favorite. Its warm wooden interiors, decorative backsplash of memorabilia from days long past, and down-to-earth staff have kept its many loyal customers happy through Chicago's bitter winters to its hot, summer nights. Its name originated because if the door of a restaurant was painted green during the prohibition era, it indicated the presence of a speakeasy (in this case, The Drifter). One step inside The Drifter is a step back in time, with many of the fixtures from its original state.

<https://www.greendoorchicago.com/>

Green Street Smoked Meats (*Yelp Price Range: \$11-\$30, Distance to Conference Hotel: 1.0 mile*)

Located in Chicago's West Loop, the nationally acclaimed Green Street Smoked Meats beckons guests with house smoked, Central Texas-inspired BBQ served at the counter in a warehouse-style restaurant. The menu focuses on staples of backyard BBQ, including brisket, short ribs, and chicken legs, along with pork belly and smoked salmon. An array of vegetable-centric side dishes includes a savory potato salad, sweet and nutty broccoli salad, and the immensely popular Frito pie.

<https://greenstreetmeats.com/>

Pequod's Pizza (*Yelp Price Range: \$11-\$30, Distance to Conference Hotel: 3.0 miles*)

A casual neighborhood sports bar with the usual trappings (high booths, exposed brick), Pequod's serves one of the finest versions of Chicago's polarizing signature deep dish pizza. The game changer: a layer of cheese between the flaky crust and the cast-iron pan it's baked in that yields irresistibly crispy, blackened edges. Try the version with big hunks of fennel-flecked sausage and hot specks of giardiniera. In a system called "priority seating," calling at least 24 hours ahead won't secure a reservation, but it will move you to the top of the waiting list once you arrive. You can avoid the long waits on weekends by having it delivered to your hotel.

<https://pequodspizza.com/>

Manny's Cafeteria & Delicatessen (*Yelp Price Range: \$11-\$30, Distance to Conference Hotel: 2.1 miles*)

At the corner of Jefferson and Roosevelt, Manny's is a classic Jewish deli in Chicago. And in true Chicago form, it's also been a political hangout over the years (by the famous and infamous alike). Manny's opened more than 75 years ago, but the restaurant is still a destination spot and has all the things you'd want from a classic Jewish deli - it's family-owned, has a long history, there's counter service, and the food includes stacked corned beef and pastrami sandwiches, matzo balls the size of your head, latkes, and black and white cookies to cap off any meal.

<https://www.mannysdeli.com/>

Portillo's (*Yelp Price Range: Under \$10, Distance to Conference Hotel: 0.8 miles*)

Portillo's is an American restaurant chain that specializes in serving Chicago-style food such as hot dogs, Maxwell Street polish, and Italian beef, as well as burgers, salads, and chocolate cake. The company was founded by Dick Portillo in 1963 in Villa Park under the name "The Dog House." Fast-forward fifty years, Portillo's is now the largest privately owned restaurant company in the Midwest. Though a large operation, Portillo's has loads of quirks and a retro feel, all of which is designed to improve customer service.

<https://www.portillos.com/index.html>

Primebar (*Yelp Price Range: \$11-\$30, Distance to Conference Hotel: 0.3 miles*)

Located in Chicago's Loop neighborhood, Primebar is a modern day alehouse and your go-to destination for cool food, local brews, and great cocktails. The distinctively urban interior features recycled wood, salvaged lighting, and over-sized leather booths, making Primebar a stylish downtown spot to grab a quick lunch, a relaxing dinner, or an after-work cocktail.

<http://primebarchicago.com/>

Swift & Sons (*Yelp Price Range: Above \$61, Distance to Conference Hotel: 1.1 miles*)

The west loop of Chicago—and more specifically, Fulton Market—is where American steak was born. The team of Boka Restaurant Group, B. Hospitality, executive chef Chris Pandel, and world renowned designers, Avroko, have created Swift & Sons, a place that not only elevates what has already been done, but evolves the American steakhouse for the modern diner.

<https://www.swiftandsonschicago.com/>

The Publican (*Yelp Price Range: \$31-\$60, Distance to Conference Hotel: 0.9 miles*)

An homage to oysters, pork, and beer, The Publican's eclectic menu is inspired by simple farmhouse fare in a space evocative of a European beer hall. The menu features hand-selected and sustainably-raised fish, seafood, and pork and showcases the exceptional farmers and fishermen's bounty. From classic Belgian-style mussels and seafood stew to housemade terrines and charcuterie, the daily rotating menu reflects the best seasonal and local ingredients available. Presented simply and free of adornment, other favorites include beef heart tartare, country ribs, and The Publican's signature Farm Chicken, as well as fresh and pickled vegetables.

<http://www.thepublicanrestaurant.com/>

3 Greens Market (*Yelp Price Range: \$11-\$30, Distance to Conference Hotel: 0.2 miles*)

A casual restaurant, coffee shop, grab-and-go marketplace, and bar, 3 Greens Market offers a diverse assortment of food and beverage choices under one roof. Guests can choose from an 18-foot fresh salad bar, order directly from Dillman's Pastrami Shop, or indulge in a small cheval cheeseburger and golden fries. The eclectic decor, a mash-up of 1960s and 1970s design, evokes vintage rec rooms and living room spaces.

<https://3greensmarket.com/>

Valois Restaurant (*Yelp Price Range: Under \$10, Distance to Conference Hotel: 7.5 miles*)

Valois is an old-school, cash-only cafeteria, complete with old-school food (like meatloaf), plastic trays, and people who will yell at you if you move too slowly through the line. This cafeteria of comfort food has long been a favorite of former President Barack Obama, dating back to his days as an organizer in Hyde Park. The menu even lists the President's favorites, as well as daily specials.

<http://www.valoisrestaurant.com/>

Wildfire Chicago (*Yelp Price Range: \$31-\$60, Distance to Conference Hotel: 0.7 miles*)

From the decor to the jazz music, Wildfire has the style and warmth that makes it perfect for celebrating with friends or a quiet evening for two. The extensive menu features broiled steaks and chops, wood-roasted seafood and roasted meats, all prepared in an open kitchen. Signature dishes include Horseradish Crusted Filet Mignon, Macadamia Nut Crusted Halibut, Wildfire Chopped Salad and Cedar Planked Salmon. So order a signature martini or one of the many wines by the glass, then sit back and enjoy the 1940s supper club experience of Wildfire.

<http://wildfirerestaurant.com/chicago/>