Welcome to the Windy City!: A Chicago Conference Guide

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Locals suffer through six months of winter, so we savor three short months of summer bliss. Early August activities include free concerts in Grant Park, the Chicago Hot Dog Festival, and yoga in the Lincoln Park Zoo. Explore Lake Michigan from Navy Pier or stroll through the Theater District just steps from the conference hotel. Hop on the L trains for access to parks, museums, bookstores, and nightlife in all corners of the city.

As you plan your AEJMC calendar, schedule time outside the Downtown Marriott. Make the most of summertime Chi.

* Chelsea was an adjunct professor at DePaul University (Chicago) during AY 16-17. This guide was revised from earlier versions published in the LGBTQ Interest Group and Commission on the Status of Women newsletters, summer 2017.

Attractions

Art Institute of Chicago
Adjacent to Millennium Park and “The Bean,” the Art Institute of Chicago boasts one of the city’s largest collections of ancient and modern art.
www.artic.edu/
111 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60603

Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise
Truly the best tour of Chicago. You’ll get the full history of our city’s beautiful buildings while cooling off on this breezy cruise.
www.architecture.org/rivercruise

The Chicago Theater and Theater District
Iconic marquees light the way through this walkable row of antique theaters across the river from the conference hotel.
175 N State St, Chicago, IL 60601

John Hancock Center
This 100-story building downtown has a 360 Degree Observation Deck.
www.360chicago.com/
875 N Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611

Museum Campus
The Shedd Aquarium, Adler Planetarium, Field Museum, and Soldier Field are centrally located along Lake Michigan on the Near South Side.
1200 S Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60605

National Museum of Mexican Art
A permanent collection of 10,000 pieces spans 3,000 years of Latin American history. Free admission.
http://nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org/
1852 W 19th St, Chicago, IL 60608

Skydeck Chicago
If the Hancock Center’s 360 Degree Observation Deck doesn’t awaken your fear of heights, the Skydeck’s glass floor will do the trick.
http://theskydeck.com/
233 S Wacker Dr, Chicago, IL 60606

Tribune Tower
This neo-gothic behemoth will impress journalists and mass communication educators alike.
435 N Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611

Trump Tower
Make like the locals and take a selfie flipping the bird at this landmark in River North.
401 N Wabash Ave, Chicago, IL 60611

Wrigley Field
If you watched the World Series, you’ll want to check out the north side’s beloved stadium.
1060 W Addison St, Chicago, IL 60613

Outdoor Space

Garfield Park Conservatory
A gorgeous indoor botanical garden with rooms devoted to palms, ferns, succulents, and flowering varietals. A 30-minute Green Line ride -- but worth it.
https://garfieldconservatory.org/
300 N Central Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60624

Kathy Osterman Beach
Known by locals as “Hollywood -- The Gay Beach.” Great for people-watching and swimming. Snap a photo of the rainbow-painted pier.
5800 N Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60660

Lincoln Park Zoo
This free zoo is a perfect place to spend a solo morning. But it’s even better with your kids! Complimentary outdoor yoga is offered on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
www.lpzoo.org/
2001 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60614

Millennium Park and Cloud Gate
This sprawling park is home to a quintessential downtown photo opportunity. Cloud Gate, a mirrored stainless steel sculpture, looks like a giant coffee bean.
Navy Pier
*The iconic Lake Michigan tourist attraction boasts a gigantic Ferris Wheel and a stellar view of the skyline.*

https://navypier.com/
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago, IL 60611

Oak Street Beach
*An urban oasis within a quick walk from the Marriott.*
1000 N Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60611

**Conference-Accessible Cuisine**

Beatrix
*Whether it’s coffee, a sandwich, or a cocktail you need, Beatrix has you covered.*
http://beatrixchicago.com/rivernorth/
519 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60654

Billy Goat Tavern
*This Chicago institution inspired John Belushi’s famous “Cheezborger, cheezborger!” Saturday Night Live skit.*
http://www.billygoattavern.com/locations/michigan/
430 N Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611

Eataly
*Across from the Marriott sits Chef Mario Batali’s sprawling warehouse of Italian food vendors.*
43 E Ohio St, Chicago, IL 60611

Glazed and Infused
*Who doesn’t crave a gourmet donut before an early morning panel?*
http://www.goglazed.com/
30 E Hubbard St, Chicago, IL 60611

Lou Malnati’s Pizzeria
*Arguably the most traditional deep dish served downtown.*
https://www.loumalnatis.com/
439 N Wells St, Chicago, IL 60654

The Purple Pig
*A James Beard Award-winning chef offers creative interpretations of Mediterranean staples.*
https://thepurplepigchicago.com/
500 N Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611
**Bookstores**

Kibbitznest
*If you’re looking for a computer-free café with a built-in bookstore and beer on tap, this is your spot.*
http://www.kibbitznest.com/
2212 N Clybourn Ave Chicago, IL 60614

Quimby’s Bookstore
*This Wicker Park establishment offers local feminist zines alongside the standard indy book selection.*
http://www.quimbys.com/
1854 W. North Ave Chicago, IL 60622

Seminary Co-Op Bookstore
*Tucked away on the University of Chicago campus, this customer-owned shop has one of the largest academic reading selections in the world.*
https://www.semcoop.com/
5751 S Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL 60637

Women & Children First
*One of the nation’s premier feminist bookstores. Kid-friendly and LGBTQ-approved.*
http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/
5233 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60640

**Nightlife**

The Baton Show Lounge
*For five decades, drag queens have run the show at this downtown dive.*
436 N Clark St.

Berlin
*Folks of all strokes are welcome on this Boystown dance floor until the lights turn on at 4 a.m.*
954 W Belmont Ave

Buddy Guy’s Legends
*The classic blues club has live music every night of the week.*
700 S Wabash Ave

Chicago Athletic Association Game Room
*A speakeasy-style billiards room with swank 1920s ambiance.*
12 S Michigan Ave

The Green Mill
Al Capone’s old hangout is now Chicago’s best jazz club.
4802 N Broadway St

The Redhead Piano Bar
_A classic downtown piano bar with nostalgic décor from yesteryear._
16 W Ontario St

Second City Comedy Club
_The popular standup spot jumpstarted Chris Farley, Stephen Colbert, and Tina Fey’s careers._
1616 N Wells St.

Second Story Bar
_A little known cash-only watering hole. Downtown’s only gay drinking establishment._
157 E Ohio St #2

Streeter’s Tavern
_Bar-games galore, including ping pong and foosball. One of Chicago’s beloved 4 a.m. pubs._
50 E Chicago Ave

**Neighborhoods**

**Andersonville**
The center of a mature LGBTQ and feminist community on the North Side.
Clark Street & Berwyn Ave.

**Boystown**
The name is self-explanatory. Head to Halsted Street for drag bars and dance clubs.
N. Halsted Street & W. Belmont Ave.

**Chinatown**
South of downtown, this architectural delight has the best dim sum and steamed buns in the city.
W. Cermak Road & S. Wentworth Ave.

**Hyde Park**
University of Chicago’s campus is tucked away near Barack Obama’s home turf.
E. 53rd Street & Lake Park Ave.

**Little Italy**
The University of Illinois at Chicago backs up against some of the west side’s best eateries.
S. Racine Ave. & W. Taylor St.

**Lincoln Park**
Home to DePaul’s central campus, this walkable neighborhood is full of century-old architecture, boutiques, and quiet cafes.
W. Fullerton Ave. & Clark St.

Logan Square
*Where fashionable 20-somethings go for cheap eats and stiff drinks.*
N. Kedzie Ave. & N. Milwaukee Ave.

Magnificent Mile
*Find high-end shops in the blocks adjacent to the conference hotel*
N. Michigan Ave. & E. Chicago Ave.

Pilsen
*This colorful neighborhood on the southwest side is home to a thriving Latino diaspora and beautiful street murals.*
W. 18th Street & S. Ashland Ave.

Roger’s Park
*Chicago’s most diverse neighborhood has plentiful nightlife and delicious food. Check out the many restaurants along Devon Ave. in Little Pakistan.*
Devon Ave. & N. Western Ave.

Wicker Park
*A popular shopping and nightlife district without the Magnificent Mile tourists.*
N. Damen Ave. & N. Milwaukee Ave.

Wrigleyville
*Home of the Chicago Cubs and countless sports bars.*
N. Racine Ave. & W. Addison St.

**Transportation**

Cabs
*On most downtown streets, you can hail an old-school taxi. If the cab’s lights are off, it is occupied by another customer.*

Chicago L Trains and City Buses
*Save cash on rideshare apps by taking the L or CTA buses. Trains serve most corners of the city for $2.25 per ride. Buses run regularly. Transfers are valid for two hours.*
http://www.transitchicago.com/

Divvy
*If you prefer to see Chicago on two wheels, check out our bike share system.*
https://www.divvybikes.com/

Rideshare Apps
*Uber and Lyft both serve the city. Use Uber Pool and Lyft Line to avoid excess charges.*