

# ChicagoHistoryMuseum

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## HISTORY MUSEUM ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAMMING JANUARY - MARCH 2007

New program series' and tours are a great way to beat the winter blues in Chicago

CHICAGO (January 9, 2007) – The Chicago History Museum has many exciting programs and events planned over the next three months. Programs will cover issues relating to what it means to be an American, the history of black media in Chicago, discussions concerning local and national events effecting Chicagoans, unique tours around the city, as well as conversations with influential Chicagoans providing an “insiders look” into their lives and work.

*Shaping Our Nation's History* explores what it means to be an American, the challenges and assumptions about democracy, freedom, and civil rights. This series has been broken down into three programs. *What is the History of American Democracy?* on Tuesday, January 30 traces the development of democratic principals in the United States through political, economic, and social forces. *Imagining a Nation of Immigrants* on Tuesday, February 6 speaks to the vital role of immigration in America. The final program on Tuesday, February 13, *Is it African American History or American History?* discusses the role of African Americans as architects of their own history. All programs in the *Shaping Our Nation's History* series run from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Museum. Individual programs are \$10/\$8 for Museum members; tickets for the three-part series are \$25/\$20 for Museum members.

*Black Media History*, led by Christopher Benson of the University of Illinois, explores the past century of black-owned media in Chicago. Some of the earliest and most influential voices in the black press were based in Chicago. The first program, *The Advocates* on Thursday, February 8, will discuss African American newspapers and how they transformed Chicago. The second program, *Picture Perfect* on Thursday, February 15, examines magazines and their influence in showing the nation that black is beautiful, and profitable. The third and final program, *Voices of a New Generation* on Thursday, February 22, looks at the industry leaders, and the representation of the black image through radio and television. All programs in the *Black Media History* series run from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Museum. Individual programs are \$10/\$8 for Museum members. A *Historic Bronzeville* bus tour on Saturday, February 24, from 1:00- 5:00 p.m. explores Bronzeville and discusses its critical role in the city's history. This tour is offered in

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conjunction with the *Black Media History* series. Attending the tour costs \$45/\$40 Museum members. Tickets are offered for both the series and tour at \$68/\$58 Museum members.

*In the K/Now* is a new program series in conjunction with the Public Square at the Illinois Humanities Council. This monthly series will explore current issues faced by Chicago residents as their environments change and grow under the influence of diverse populations, cultures, beliefs and visions for an urban society. On Thursday, February 1, *Chicago Politics and the 2007 Mayoral Election*, will be an interesting discussion about the candidates, the upcoming election, and Chicago politics. On Thursday, March 1, *The War In Iraq: Impact and Influence in Chicago*, marks the third anniversary of the U.S. occupation of Iraq. Panelists will include Usama Alshaibi, filmmaker of *Nice Bombs*, a documentary on the war in Iraq and his own family's experiences; a soldier's perspective on the war and his view of the country's response; as well as academic scholars discussing the impact of the war in Iraq on Chicago and its people. All programs in the *In the K/Now* series run from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the Museum and are free of charge.

In February and March, the Chicago History Museum will be offering some exciting new tours. On Saturday, February 3, from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. the *Chicago in the News* bus tour led by historian Sarah Marcus will explore the events and scandals that have splashed headlines nationwide. Destinations include the Biograph Theater, Art Institute, Jackson Park and more. On Saturday, March 3, from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. the *Chicago Dioramas Inside and Out* bus tour led by Vincent Michael will begin with a tour of the Museum's newly reinstalled diorama gallery. Participants will then travel to the actual sites the dioramas depict around the city, including the Washington Park, LaSalle Street, and the Midway Plaisance. Tickets for these tours are \$45/\$40 for Museum members. Tours exploring the city via the 'L' brown, blue, and green lines are ongoing on Sundays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Please visit [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org) for dates; tickets are \$15/\$10 for Museum members.

*Chicago Treasures* focuses on Chicagoans who have influenced and been influenced by Chicago in their work. Through conversations with distinguished guests, ranging from celebrities to musicians to artists of all types, attendees get an "insider's look" into the people who impact the identity of this city. The program is hosted by Steve Edwards, host of *Eight Forty-Eight* on WBEZ. Save the dates for these *Chicago Treasures* programs on March 14, March 28, April 18, and May 9. All programs in this series run from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Museum. Individual programs are \$12/\$10 for Museum members; tickets for all four lectures are \$42/\$35 for Museum members.

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*History Pub Crawls* will debut in March and run through December 2007, Chicago bar expert, Sean Parnell, creator of the Chicago Bar Project, will lead topic specific tours of various historic bars and pubs throughout the city. These monthly walking or trolley tours will allow Chicagoans and tourists the chance to get a taste of Chicago in a unique way by visiting four or five historic watering holes. Thursday, March 15 kicks off the series with *Erin Go Beer! Irish Pubs of Chicago*. The tour will visit various historic Irish pubs of Chicago via a private trolley; and guests will learn about Irish immigration, Irish contributions to Chicago, folklore, history, and more. Tickets are \$25/\$20 Museum members.

For more information on any of these programs, please visit the Chicago History Museum website at [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org) or call the Museum at 312.642.4600.

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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 a suggested donation of \$12 adults, \$10 Seniors/Students, free for children 12 years and younger. General Admission is free on Mondays. Please call 312.642.4600 or visit us at [www.chicagohistory.org](http://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.