

# ChicagoHistoryMuseum

## Museum Fact Sheet

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

**MUSEUM HOURS:** Monday -Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 12 noon – 5:00 p.m.

**RESEARCH CENTER HOURS:** 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 with audio tour, \$ 12 Seniors (65+)/Students (13-22) with audio tour, Free for Children 12 and under, Mondays – Free General Admission

## 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.

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## **EDUCATION**

The Chicago History Museum offers teachers and students informative and interactive exhibitions and programming that serve 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](http://www.chicagohistory.org) was completely redesigned and launched in September 2006. The website serves not only as an introduction to the Museum, but also features special online exhibitions and access to the research collection. The website also links to the electronic *Encyclopedia of Chicago*.

## **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 collection holdings are open 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, travelers at O'Hare International Airport can also visit the satellite store location in Terminal 3, or browse and purchase items online at [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org).

## **CAFÉ**

The Museum offers visitors and members a café by Wolfgang Puck. The café offers a full spectrum of healthy selections that reflect Chicago's diversity.

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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 with audio tour, \$12 seniors/students with audio tour, 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.