

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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50TH ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Celebrate the Nation's Birthday and the 100th anniversary of Burnham's *Plan of Chicago*.

CHICAGO (June 29, 2009) – The Chicago History Museum is proud to host its 50th Annual Star-Spangled Independence Day Celebration on Saturday, July 4th on the plaza directly behind the Museum. The celebration also commemorates the 100th anniversary of Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett's *Plan of Chicago*, which was presented exactly one century ago to-the-date.

The 1909 *Plan of Chicago* outlined several major concepts to transform Chicago, including a permanent greenbelt around the metropolitan area and the development of the lakefront parks along with civic and cultural centers, a regional highway system, improvement of the railroads, and a systematic arrangement of the streets. The plan included ambitious proposals for the lakefront and river and declared that every citizen should be within walking distance of a park. To further celebrate this landmark event in the city's history, members of the Burnham and Bennett families will attend as guests of honor and will read excerpts from the Plan.

The celebration is a family affair with plenty of activities including face painting, crafts, musical performances and a children's costume parade. The celebration is FREE to the public. The Museum will open at 12 noon and Admission is FREE until 1:00 p.m. when a Daniel Burnham historical re-enactor will present a slideshow titled, *Daniel Burnham: Make No Little Plans*. The Museum is proud to partner with the Burnham Plan Centennial for the Fourth of July festivities.

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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. 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.