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Chicago to Take Center Stage this Summer *Burnham Plan Centennial kicks off in Millennium Park and expands to include entire region*

CHICAGO – May 13, 2009 – The Burnham Plan Centennial officially kicks off its summer celebration on June 19, when two temporary pavilions designed by world-renowned architects open in Chicago’s Millennium Park.

The recyclable pavilions will highlight Chicago’s growth as a world-class city and inspire visitors to engage in a new wave of bold planning to address the issues of the 21st Century. As beautiful pieces of design and innovation, the pavilions will offer visitors the opportunity to explore the city from a different angle.

In 1909, architects Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett unveiled the *Plan of Chicago*, a visionary plan for making the city and region one of the most livable, prosperous places of the 20th Century—with a spectacular lakefront, open spaces and dynamic transportation systems. This vision shaped the pavilion designs by Zaha Hadid, of Zaha Hadid Architects in London, and Ben van Berkel, of UNStudio in Amsterdam.

Zaha Hadid Architects’ pavilion is a curvilinear design which will feature state-of-the-art fabric technologies wrapped around an aluminum ribcage. Inside the pavilion, an immersive video experience will give visitors a feeling for Chicago’s transformation over time and visions of its future.

UNStudio’s pavilion serves as a modern city-viewing machine. The floating rooftop features strategically placed cut-outs that give visitors never-before seen perspectives of Chicago’s skyline. At night its color-lit floor changes with one’s movement through the pavilion.

The bold designs of the pavilions serve as physical representations of the Centennial’s mission to celebrate the region’s leadership in architecture and urban design, while inspiring a new wave of civic engagement and planning for the next 100 years.

“This is an exciting time, as metropolitan Chicago moves into the 21st Century,” said Emily Harris, executive director of the Burnham Plan Centennial. “We’re inviting visitors from everywhere to come share the Burnham spirit of bold plans and big dreams for a better future.

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Now is an especially important time to identify the specific strategies and initiatives that can enhance this region's position as a desirable place to live and work in the competitive global economy."

As part of the June 19 official opening, the Grant Park Music Festival will perform the free-admission world premiere of "Plans," a symphonic work by composer Michael Torke. The work for orchestra and chorus was inspired by the visionary language in the original *Plan of Chicago* and will be performed in the open-air Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park at 6:30 p.m. The free concert will be repeated on June 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Opening weekend at Millennium Park is just the beginning of a wide array of events and programs to entice visitors this summer. More than 200 organizations from throughout the region are Burnham Centennial Program Partners, each planning Centennial-related programs or events. Virtually all major cultural and civic institutions have scheduled related events during the summer, when the bulk of tourists visit the city. These include:

- Exhibits at the Art Institute of Chicago, The Field Museum, and the Museum of Science and Industry
- Architectural tours of Burnham-designed buildings and city spaces, many hosted by the Chicago Architecture Foundation and others by the City of Chicago
- A documentary film *Make No Little Plans* will be shown free in Millennium Park on Sept. 2, at 7:30 p.m.
- A free Burnham Lakefront Bike Tour directed by The Campaign for a Free and Clear Lakefront on June 7 at 1 p.m.
- A free exhibit of Chicago architects' bold and dramatic visions of the future, starting Sept. 4 at 72 E. Randolph St., a half block from Millennium Park

The Program Partners reflect the scope of the original *Plan of Chicago*, which encompasses the greater metropolitan region south from Kenosha, Wis., west to DeKalb, Ill., and east to Michigan City, Ind. These regional events underscore local legacies of the *Plan* as well as the continuing need for all parts of the region to work together to address broad future-oriented issues, such as transportation and the environment.

Regional events include:

- Weekend-long paddling expedition leaving from Burnham Harbor in Chicago and traveling in 5-8 mile segments to end in Michigan City, Ind. on June 13 -14, sponsored by the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association
- A *Make Big Plans* exhibit designed by the Newberry Library that will be up simultaneously at more than 50 libraries throughout Chicago and the region
- A 100-mile bike ride from Lake Forest, Ill., to Michigan City, on June 6, organized by Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

These and the hundreds of other events are featured at www.burnhamplan100.org, which is the best source of complete and up-to-date information on events and contact information for sponsoring organizations. Residents and visitors should use the web site to plan a summer of fun and inspiring activities.



Note to media: High-resolution images are available upon request. These include renderings of the two pavilions planned for Millennium Park; images from the original *Plan of Chicago*, including many of the Jules Guerin paintings; photo of Daniel Burnham; and photos of legacies of the original Plan, such as the Michigan Avenue Bridge and the double-decker Wacker Drive. For a complete listing and contact information for Program Partners, and details of events they plan, please go to www.burnhamplan100.org.

About The Burnham Plan Centennial

The Burnham Plan Centennial includes more than 200 program partners from the three-state region spanning from Kenosha, Wis., through DeKalb, Ill., to Michigan City, Ind. In honor of Daniel Burnham's 1909 *Plan of Chicago*, this Centennial year is stirring a region-wide community to action, working to build the best quality of life for people and planet alike. Our region's community foundation, The Chicago Community Trust, provided leadership funding for the Burnham Plan Centennial, and is joined by the Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trusts as founding sponsors. Organizational and staff support for the Burnham Plan Centennial Committee is provided by Chicago Metropolis 2020.

The Pavilions are privately funded, with support from Mr. and Mrs. John H. Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley M. Dixon, Jamee and Marshall Field, Margot and Thomas Pritzker, Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan, and The Crown Family. Corporate sponsors include British Airways, ArcelorMittal, Marmon/Keystone Corporation (a member of The Marmon Group of companies), as well as the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. National City, now a part of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., is the official sponsor of the June 19 public opening events.

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