

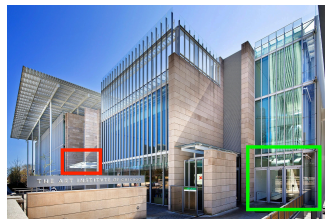
2026 Annual Convening Schedule



Thursday, September 17, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Convening Day 1 at the Art Institute of Chicago
111 S Michigan Ave

Entry instructions

Enter AIC at the Modern Wing Entrance on Monroe Street



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| 8:30–9:45 a.m. | Check-in and Breakfast at Member's Bar |
| 10:00 a.m. | Welcome in Fullerton Hall |
| 10:15 a.m. | <p>Keynote Lecture: Tedi Asher, Ph.D
 Neuroscience researcher at the Peabody Essex Museum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Experimentation as Experience: Harnessing (neuro)science to cultivate connection in museums</i> |
| 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Lunch in Ryan Learning Center Studios A, B, C |
| 1:00–2:30 p.m. | <p>Case Studies from the Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Felicia Knise, North Carolina Museum of Art, "From Audience to Author: Teens Creating Interpretation" ● Leigh Dale, Philadelphia Museum of Art, "'The Beautifulmess Is Messy': Editing, Authorship and Children's Voice in Museum Interpretation" ● Lisa Borgsdorf and Jennifer Friess, University of Michigan Museum of Art, "Provisioning a 'Future Cache'" ● Rachel Nicholson and Jordan Cromwell, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, "Boston Stories, Boston Voices" |
| 2:45–4:30 p.m. | <p>Art Institute of Chicago Gallery Rotations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Willem de Kooning exhibition interpretive planning: Gallery 135 ● Mindful Looking program and audio: Gallery 109 ● "8 Ways to Look at Art" visitor resource: Gallery 261 <p>Please check your folder for your group color.</p> |

5:00–7:00 p.m.

Evening Reception at the Chicago Athletic Association, including
Book Signing with Beverly Serrell from 5:00–6:00 p.m.
12 S Michigan Avenue

6:00–7:00 p.m.

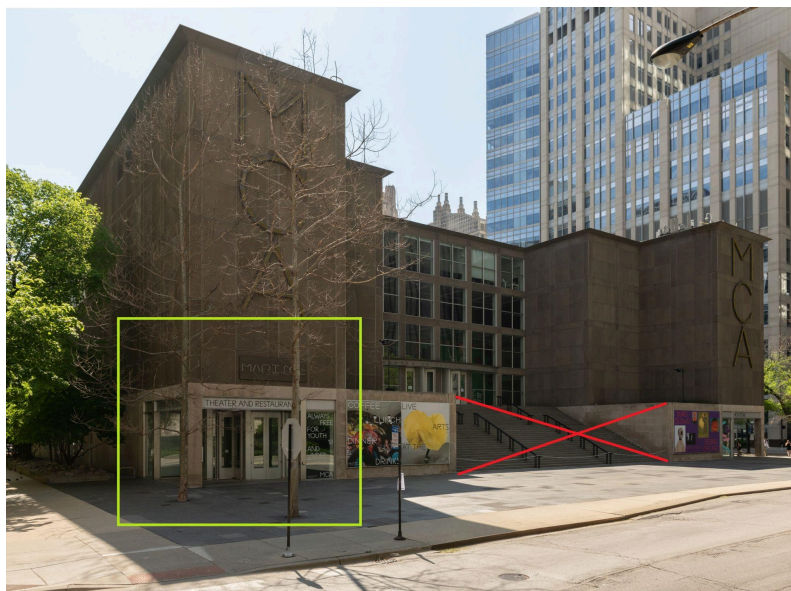
Public Program: “Conversations: New Stories for Ancient Art”
Art Institute of Chicago, Fullerton Hall



Friday, September 18, 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Convening Day 2 at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago
220 E Chicago Ave

Entry Instructions:

Enter the museum from the Marisol Cafe entrance at the ground level. It's north of the grand staircase near the corner of Pearson Street and Mies Van der Rohe Way.



8:30–9:15 a.m.

Check-in and breakfast in Kovler Atrium (2nd Floor)

9:15 a.m.

Welcome and AAMI Business

9:35 a.m.

Excellence in Art Interpretation Award Announcements

10:00–11:30 a.m.

Case Studies from the Field

- Stephanie Foster, Cleveland Museum of Art, “Little Thinkers”
- Kris Wilton and Jeremy Radtke, Rhode Island School of Design Museum, “Why Is this Even Here?: Introducing New Ways of Looking at the RISD Museum”

- Emily Canosa, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, “Too Big to Fail: Interpreting Frida”
- Kelly Skeen Fried, National Museum of Wildlife Art and Marie Hofer, National Gallery of Art, “Tear Down that Wall!: Reimagining Visitor Response”

11:35 a.m.–noon

Outdoor Performance: The Poor Farm Experiment, Leopold Benches: A P(o)or(t)ch Theater (MIDWEST REDUX)

11:35 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Lunch in Streeterville

1:00 p.m.

Remarks

1:00–3:00 p.m.

MCA Open House

- Exhibition Tour: *Dancing the Revolution* timed, 1:15 and 2:15
- Karaoke El Nuevo Horizonte ongoing, *Dancing the Revolution*.
- Drop-in Artmaking “Patch Up Your Heart” ongoing, Learning Studios
- Ask AAMI
1:00pm - 2:00pm, Crown Family Room
- Excellence in Art Interpretation Award Posters ongoing, Crown Family Room
- Translating Interpretation at MCA with Antonio Diaz Oliva ongoing, Commons
- Screening: “Hear from the Artist” videos with Sam Clapp ongoing, Commons

Streeterville Lunch Recommendations

Cafecito

215 E Chestnut St

A vibrant, counter-service or dine-in spot specializing in authentic, pressed Cuban sandwiches, hearty platters, and excellent Cuban coffee.

Devil Dawgs Rush Street

804 N Rush St

A straightforward, counter-service staple serving up the quintessential Chicago-style char dog, along with Polish sausages and cheese fries, offering a quick bite of local flavor, no frills.

Indian Garden

247 E Ontario St, 2nd Floor

A second-floor restaurant offering a generous and reliable daily lunch buffet. It features a wide spread of traditional Indian curries, tandoori dishes, and fresh naan.

Do-Rite Donuts & Chicken

233 E Erie St

A wildly popular, compact eatery famous for pairing small-batch, artisanal donuts with exceptional, crispy fried chicken sandwiches.

Ramen-san Deluxe

165 E Huron St

A sit-down spot specializing in rich, comforting bowls of ramen, maki rolls, and steamed buns.

Beatrix (Streeterville)

671 N St Clair St

A polished restaurant and coffeehouse offering an all-day menu of fresh, "healthy-meets-delicious" American food.

Gino's East (Magnificent Mile)

162 E Superior St

A classic Chicago institution famous for its signature deep-dish pizza with a golden, cornmeal crust. The space is legendary for its graffiti-covered walls, offering a fun, tourist-friendly atmosphere for those wanting a definitive local slice.

Aster Hall (Food Court)

900 N Michigan Ave, Levels 5 & 6

Located inside the 900 North Michigan Shops, this is a luxurious, beautifully designed food hall featuring a curated collection of chef-driven stations.

- Food Options:
 - Small Cheval (*Iconic burgers, fries, and shakes*)
 - Al Pastor Tacos No. 2 (*Tacos and Mexican fare*)

- o Ginza Ramen (*Ramen bowls and sides*)
- o Aster Sushi (*Sushi and rolls*)
- o Grateful Grains & Greens (*Fresh salads and bowls*)
- o The Rotisserie (*Rotisserie chicken and sides*)
- o Chicago Char Dogs (*Hot dogs and street food*)
- o Fresko (*Mediterranean fare*)
- o 3 Greens Market / 3 Greens Coffee (*Grab-and-go hot/cold bar, pastries*)
- o Midnight Juice & Coffee Co. (*Smoothies, juices, and coffee*)
- o The Chocolate Bar (*Desserts*)

Northwestern Hospital (Food Court)

251 E Huron St, 2nd Floor (Feinberg/Galter Pavilions)

Spread across the second floor of the pavilions, this sprawling food court is designed to efficiently serve hospital staff and visitors, offering an incredibly diverse array of well-known fast-casual chains in one central location.

- Food Options:
 - o Panera Bread
 - o Protein Bar & Kitchen
 - o Greek Kitchen
 - o Blackwood BBQ
 - o Burrito Beach
 - o Corner Bakery
 - o Saigon Sisters
 - o Subway
 - o M Burger
 - o Ramen-San
 - o LYFE Kitchen
 - o Assorted Coffee/Snacks (*Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, Stan's Donuts, Argo Tea*)