

Michael & Stephanie Chu's "Homegrown" Guide to Chicago

IPBA 2025 Conference Week

(1 mile - 1.6 kilometers)

[Chicago neighborhoods map](#)

Google Maps work well for distances/transportation

Resources to find things to do, restaurant recommendations, etc.

- [Eater Chicago](#) ([South Loop recommendations](#))
- [NewCity Chicago Arts & Culture](#)
- [TimeOut Chicago](#)
- [Reader](#)
- [Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs](#)
- [Choose Chicago](#) ([Chicago Like A Local](#) blog)
- [Hot Tix](#) (discounted theater tickets)
- [Get Your Guide Chicago](#)
- [Viator Chicago](#)

Coffee spots close to Marriott Marquis

- [The Spoke & Bird](#) (7 min walk)
- [Tea Pot Brew Bakery](#) (12 minute walk)
- [Overflow Coffee](#) (17 minute walk)
- Starbucks, 111 E. Cermak Rd. (5 minute walk)

A few favorite coffee spots further afield:

- [Sawada Coffee](#) (12 minute drive, Fulton Market)
- [Cafe Yaya](#) (27 minute drive, DePaul)
- Heritage Bicycles and Coffee (12 minute drive, [Financial District](#); 29 minute drive, [Lakeview](#))
- [Loba Cafe](#) (25 minute drive, Lakeview)

Restaurants & bars close to Marriott Marquis, recommended by Eater Chicago:

- [Chicago Firehouse Restaurant](#)/Blue Room speakeasy bar
- [Oliver's](#)
- [Spoke & Bird Cafe—South Loop](#)
- [La Cantina Grill](#)
- [Cafe Bionda](#)
- [Chicago Oyster House](#) (steak house, actually)
- [Kong Dog](#) (Korean-style corn dogs)
- [Pizano's Pizza & Pasta](#)
- [Reggie's Chicago](#) (music & bar)
- [Il Culaccino](#)
- [VU Rooftop Bar](#)
- [Haidilao Hot Pot Chicago](#)
- [Fatpour Tap Works—McCormick](#)

- [Mustard Seed Kitchen](#)
- [Apolonia](#)
- [Williams Inn Pizza & Sports Bar](#)
- [White Castle](#) (super famous tiny and fun little square hamburgers with five holes in them - Chicago founded, open 24 hours! Michael loves these and eats six at a time, Stephanie does not!) - very close to hotel

More personal favorites near Marriott Marquis:

- [Qing Xiang Yuan](#) Dumplings, (Chinatown) \$
- Chinatown restaurants on Cermak and Wentworth
- [Moody Tongue Brewery & Restaurant](#) (dining room & bar) \$\$\$\$

Restaurants further afield

- [Sunda-Fulton Market](#) Filipino and sushi (say hi to Chef Paul from the Chus) \$\$\$
- [Lula Cafe](#) American (Logan Square) \$\$
- [Three Arts Club Cafe](#) American (Gold Coast) \$\$
- [Cindy's Rooftop/Game Room/Cherry Circle Room, Chicago Athletic Association Hotel](#) (Loop) \$\$
- [Lou Mitchell's](#) old style diner breakfast/brunch (West Loop) \$
- [Chilam Balam](#), Mexican (East Lakeview) \$ dinner
- [Kasama](#), Filipino (West Town?) \$ breakfast, \$\$\$\$ dinner
- [Momotaro](#), Japanese (West Loop) \$\$\$\$ dinner + Izakaya \$\$ dinner
- [Cafe Yaya](#), Israeli (East Lakeview) \$ breakfast/coffee, \$\$ lunch/dinner
- [Parachute HiFi](#) Korean fusion \$\$
- [Anelya](#) Ukrainian \$\$\$\$
- [Aba](#), Mediterranean \$\$\$\$ dinner
- [Green Street Smoked Meats](#) American barbecue (West Loop) \$\$
- [Smoque](#) American barbecue (Old Irving Park) \$
- [Little Bad Wolf](#), tacos, bao, burgers, salads; walk in only (Andersonville) \$\$
- [Lost Larsen Bakery](#) (Wicker Park & Andersonville) \$\$
- [Jennivee's Bakery](#) (East Lakeview) \$
- [Au Cheval](#) (West Loop-full menu) \$\$\$ and Small Cheval (multiple locations-burgers & fries only); walk-in only \$
- [Armitage Ale House](#) Pub food with Indian influence \$\$
- [Summer House Santa Monica](#) American \$\$
- [Margie's Candies](#) - old-school ice cream parlor (Bucktown) \$
- [Big Star](#), Mexican (Wicker Park, West Town) \$\$
- [Beatrix](#), American (multiple locations, skip St. Clair location at the hospital) \$
- [Pequod's Pizza](#) (Lincoln Park, Stephanie Chu's favorite) \$
- [Lou Malnati's Pizza](#) (South Loop, Mike Chu's favorite) \$
- [Garrett's Popcorn](#) popcorn, especially Garrett's Mix of cheese + caramel (multiple locations) \$
- [Marisol Restaurant & Bar](#) American; inside Museum of Contemporary Art (Magnificent Mile) \$\$

- [Daisies](#) Italian (Logan Square) \$\$\$
- [Topolobampo](#) \$\$\$\$ and [Frontera Grill](#) \$\$ Elevated Mexican (River North)
- [Dear Margaret](#) French-Canadian (Lakeview) \$\$
- [Khmai Fine Dining](#) Cambodian (Loyola) \$\$
- [The Warbler](#) American (Lincoln Square) \$\$
- [Virtue](#) Southern American (Hyde Park) \$
- [Manny's Deli](#) Old school Chicago deli, traditional haunt of Chicago politicians \$
- [North Pond Restaurant](#) American, beautiful setting inside Lincoln Park; dinner & brunch (Lincoln Park) \$\$\$
- [The Weiners Circle](#) Hotdogs + attitude (Lakeview) \$
- [Portillo's](#) Hotdogs, burgers & milkshakes (River North) \$
- [Demera](#) Ethiopian (Uptown) \$
- [Duck Inn](#) American (Bridgeport) \$\$

Breweries

- [Moody Tongue](#) (Convention Center)
- [Dovetail Brewery](#) (Northside)
- [Begyle Brewing](#) (Northside)
- [Hopewell Brewing Co](#) (Northside)
- [Bitter Pops](#) (Northside)
- [Revolution Brewing](#) (Avondale)
- [Off Color Brewing](#) (Lincoln Park)

Dance

- April 24, "Sleeping Beauty", Grand Kyiv Ballet, [Harris Theater for Music & Dance](#) (Loop)
- April 25, "Hedwig & the Bauhaus", Hedwig Dances, [Ruth Page Center for the Arts](#) (Gold Coast)
- April 26, "Of Light and Shadow", 5:8, [Harris Theater for Music & Dance](#) (Loop)

Art

- See Museums below
- April 24-27, [International Exposition of Contemporary and Modern Art](#) (EXPO Chicago) (Navy Pier)
- April 25-27 [One of A Kind Arts Spring Show](#) (350 artists on one floor), Merchandise Mart (River North), great for gifts to take home!
- April 25-27 [Art on the Mart](#), projections on the side of the Merchandise Mart starting at 8:30pm

Theater

- [Broadway in Chicago](#)
 - *Titanique*, Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place (Streeterville)
 - *Riverdance 30–The New Generation*, Cadillac Palace Theater (Loop)
- Regional theaters
 - *Book of Grace* by Suzan-Lori Parks, [Steppenwolf Theater](#) (Lincoln Park)

- *Bust* by Zora Howard, [Goodman Theater](#) (Loop)
- *Translations* by Brian Friel, [Writers Theater](#) (suburbs—requires a car)
- *Sunny Afternoon* by Ray Davies and Joe Penhall, [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#) (Navy Pier)
- *Frankenstein* Rewired by the A.B.L.E. Ensemble (Artists Breaking Limits and Expectations) , [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#) (Navy Pier)
- *Berlin* by Mickie Maher, [Court Theater](#) (Hyde Park)
- Local theaters
 - *Prayer for the French Republic* by Joshua Harmon, [Theater Wit](#) (East Lakeview)
 - *Teatro Zinzanni: Love, Chaos and Dinner*, Cambria Hotel (includes dinner, Loop)
 - *No Such Thing* by Lisa Dillman, [Rivendell Theater](#) (Andersonville)
- Improv and Sketch Comedy (multiple shows at each place)
 - [The Second City](#) (Old Town)
 - [The Annoyance Theater & Bar](#) (East Lakeview)
 - [iO Theater](#) (Lincoln Park)
- Magic
 - [The Magic Parlour](#), Goodman Theater (Loop)
 - [Chicago Magic Lounge](#) (Andersonville)
- Music
 - [The Green Mill](#) jazz & more (Uptown)
 - [Kingston Mines](#) blues (Lincoln Park)
 - [Reggie's](#) eclectic mix (convention center neighborhood)
 - [Blue Chicago](#) blues (River North)
 - [Buddy Guy's Legends](#) blues (South Loop)
 - [Rosa's Lounge](#) blues (Logan Square)
 - [House of Blues](#) blues and more, gospel music brunch (River North)
 - [Chicago Theater](#) touring shows: April 21: An Evening with Itzak Perlman; April 26: Trisha Paytas: The Eras of Trish Tour (Loop)
 - [Old Town School of Folk Music](#) eclectic mix (Lincoln Square) April 23: Troubadours of Rhythm: April 25: Bill Callahan; April 26: LOVE with Johnny Echols; April 27: Cheryl Wheeler & Kenny White
 - April 23 @7:30pm, Tchaikovsky's "Souvenir de Florence", [Harris Center for Music & Dance](#) (Loop)
 - April 24-26 @7:30 pm, Mäkelä Conducts Mahler 3", [Chicago Symphony Orchestra](#) (Loop)
 - [The Salt Shed](#): April 22: Poison the Well with Glassjaw, Better Lovers, and Teenage Wrist; April 24: The Alchemy Tour with Suleika Jaouad hosted by Jon Baptiste; April 25: Denzel Curry–Mischievous South Tour
 - [April 24 Under the Dome Concert at Chicago Cultural Center: Qari & Elton Aura](#)
 - April 25: [Documentary screening: WE WANT THE FUNK! On the history of funk music, Chicago Cultural Center](#)
- Spectacle
 - April 25 [Bingo Loco](#), Morgan Manufacturing (North Center)

- [Teatro Zinzanni](#) Love, Chaos & Dinner, Cambria Hotel (Loop)
- [Lips Drag Queen Show Palace, Restaurant & Bar](#) (South Loop)
- See “Magic”

Things to Do Inside

- Museums
 - [Art Institute](#) (Loop)
 - [Museum of Contemporary Art](#) (Magnificent Mile)
 - [Museum of Science & Industry](#) (Hyde Park)
 - [Field Museum of Natural History](#) (on nearby Museum Campus)
 - [Shedd Aquarium](#) (on nearby Museum Campus)
 - [Adler Planetarium](#) (on nearby Museum Campus)
 - [Chicago History Museum](#) (Gold Coast)
 - [Chicago Children’s Museum](#) (Navy Pier)
 - [National Museum of Mexican Art](#) (Pilsen)
 - [DuSable Black History Museum](#) (Hyde Park)
 - [Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio](#) (Oak Park), also self-guided walking tour of nearby homes
 - [Frank Lloyd Wright homes and buildings](#) (around the city)
 - [Museum of Contemporary Photography](#): Regina Agu: Shore|Lines (South Loop)
 - [Museum of Surgical Science](#) (Gold Coast)
 - [Hyde Park Arts Center](#) (Hyde Park)
 - [Driehaus Museum](#) (Magnificent Mile)
- Landmarks/experiences
 - [Willis Tower](#) Skydeck
 - [Hancock Tower](#) Skydeck, 360 degree views of Chicago
 - [Rookery Building](#)
 - Chicago Cultural Center (Loop)
 - [Free public tours Thurs & Fri 1:15 pm \(45-60 min\)](#)
 - Tiffany dome
 - [A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration](#)
 - [Two hundred and fifty-one days, Bryana Bibbs](#)
 - [Ba’hai House of Worship for North America](#) (Wilmette suburb—requires car)
- Shopping
 - High End and Local Designers
 - Oak Street boutiques
 - [Maria Pinto](#)
 - [Ikram](#)
 - [Calvin Tran](#)
 - Department Stores
 - Bloomingdale’s (Magnificent Mile)
 - Nordstrom (Magnificent Mile)
 - Macy’s (State Street)
 - Shopping streets in neighborhoods

- Armitage Ave, Sheffield St. east to Halsted St. (Lincoln Park)
 - Chu favorites: [Lori's Shoes](#), [Art Effect](#), [Tie Bar](#)
- Southport Ave, Roscoe St. north to Grace St. (North Center)
 - Chu favorites: [Jenni's Ice Cream](#) (multiple locations), [Music Box movie theater](#), [Candyality](#), [Evereve](#), [Pink Moon Bay](#)
- Damen/North/Milwaukee Webster to Bucktown Park (Bucktown/Wicker Park)
 - Chu favorites: [Virtu](#) (tell owner Julie that the Chus sent you!), [p.45](#), [Volumes Bookcafe](#), [Top Drawer](#)
- Lincoln Ave, Sunnyside St. to Lawrence Ave (Lincoln Square)
 - Chu favorites: [Neighborly](#), [ENJOY](#), [The Book Cellar](#), [Midwest Nice](#) (local artists), [Gene's Sausage Shop](#), [Fleet Feet](#) running store—also other locations, [Merz Apothecary](#)
- State Street (Loop)
 - Macy's Department Store, Target, Uniqlo, etc.

Things to Do Outside

- Architectural boat tours with [Chicago Architecture Center](#) or [Wendella Boats](#)
- [Architectural walking/bus tours with Chicago Architecture Center](#)
- [Lincoln Park Zoo](#) (free) and [Lincoln Park Conservatory](#)
- Walking the Lakefront and the Riverfront (free)
- [Bobby's Bike Hike tours](#) (bike, walking, food)
- Segway tours
- Visit University of Chicago (Hyde Park) or Northwestern University (Evanston)
- Mural tours in Pilsen
- [Self-Guided Public Art Tour](#)
- [Water taxi to Chinatown](#)
- [Graceland Cemetery](#) Where all the Chicago luminaries are buried and a beautiful place to take a walk (Lakeview)

Gardens & Parks

- [Millennium Park](#) fountains, public art and grounds (Loop)
 - [Cloud Gate](#) (aka The Bean)
 - [Augmented Chicago: Inaugural Realities installations](#)
 - [Franz West installations](#)
 - [Crown Fountain](#)
 - [Pritzker Pavilion](#)
 - [Lurie Gardens](#)
- [Garfield Park Conservatory](#) Spring Flower Show: Rooted in Mystery (Garfield Park)
- [Lincoln Park Conservatory](#) (Lincoln Park) adjacent to the Lincoln Park Zoo
- [Notherly Island](#) (adjacent to museum campus)
- [Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary](#) & Montrose Beach
- [Peace Garden](#) (Hyde Park)
- [Promontory Point](#) (Hyde Park)

- [Chicago Botanic Garden](#) (suburban, requires a car)

Favorites for Kids

- April 19, [Chicago Symphony Orchestra](#), “Once Upon a Symphony: Abiyoyo”
- [Museum of Science & Industry](#) (Hyde Park)
- [Shedd Aquarium](#) (museum campus)
- [Field Museum](#) (museum campus)
- [Chicago Children’s Museum](#) (Navy Pier)
- [Maggie Daley Park](#) (Loop)
- [Lincoln Park Zoo](#) (Lincoln Park)
- [Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum](#) (love the butterfly room; Lincoln Park)
- [2D Restaurant](#) (Lakeview)
- [Margie’s Candies](#) old fashioned ice cream shop
- [Sky Zone](#) trampoline park and indoor amusements for kids (Lincoln Park)
- Harry Potter Shop Chicago (North Michigan Avenue)
- American Girl Doll store (North Michigan Avenue)
- Chicago Parent Magazine: [Best Indoor Places to Play](#) and [Things to Do with Kids](#) for this week
- [Centennial Wheel](#) at Navy Pier

Neighborhoods to Explore (in no particular order)

- Andersonville
- Lincoln Square
- Hyde Park
- Pilsen
- East Lakeview
- Southport Corridor
- Bucktown/Wicker Park