

# ALL EYES ON CHICAGO

The “Windy City” has received a lot of attention lately. Not only is Chicago the home of our newly sworn-in 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Barack Obama, it is also in the midst of a bid for the 2016 Summer Olympics. With the world watching, the city is putting its best face forward and there isn’t a better time to visit.

Member Board Members and Executives will have a chance to see all of the excitement for themselves 17-20 June 2009 when Chicago hosts NCARB’s 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and

what a city could look like. It helped spread the City Beautiful movement that influenced the design of cities like Washington, DC and San Francisco. Although the “White City” no longer exists, several of Burnham’s buildings do survive and the Chicago Architecture Foundation offers a walking tour of all of his important landmarks.

## MODERN-DAY CHICAGO

Situated between Lake Michigan and the heart of downtown Chicago, Millennium Park

has an impressive array of painting, sculpture, photography, and other art mediums. This May, it will open the Modern Wing, designed by Renzo Piano, to house its collection of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century art. The new wing will increase the size of the museum by a third, making it the second largest art museum in the United States. The glass-and-limestone addition will have sweeping views of the surrounding cityscape and will incorporate several “green” components, including a unique roof sunshade dubbed the “flying



Conference. The home base for this year’s meeting will be downtown along the Chicago River at the Renaissance Chicago Hotel.

## A RICH ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Chicago is known all around the world as a place of incredible architecture. When the city began rebuilding after the Great Fire of 1871, it used a new type of architecture that pioneered steel-frame constructions and featured the world’s first skyscraper. Today the city boasts one of the tallest skylines in the world and includes the tallest building in the United States, the Sears Tower.

Skyscrapers weren’t Chicago’s only major contribution to the world of architecture. In 1893 the city beat out several U.S. cities to host the World’s Columbian Exposition. The exposition attracted 27 million visitors and featured nearly 200 classically inspired buildings in what we now call the “Beaux Arts” style, all built on the same scale and painted white. The “White City” was designed by Chicago-native Daniel Burnham and Frederick Law Olmsted to be a prototype of

has become one of the cities most popular attractions. “Millennium Park honors and builds on several proud Chicago traditions at once—beautiful architecture, landscaped and protected parklands, and the ongoing celebration of the arts,” said Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley when the park was completed in July 2004.

The 24.5-acre park features gardens, an interactive fountain, sculpture, and the most sophisticated outdoor pavilions of its kind in the United States—all free for visitors to explore. The park includes amazing works of art inspired by both the people and the city, including Jaume Plensa’s interactive Crown Fountain and Anish Kapoor’s stainless-steel-plated Cloud Gate sculpture. The main attraction, however, is Frank Gehry’s Jay Pritzker Pavilion. One of the most sophisticated outdoor pavilions of its kind in the United States; it mimics the acoustics of an indoor theater.

Across the street from Millennium Park is the Art Institute of Chicago, which is home to this year’s Icebreaker. The 130-year-old museum

carpet.” The screen will save electricity by adjusting the interior lighting to the natural light throughout the day.

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

There are no shortages of family-friendly attractions in the city. Navy Pier, right on Lake Michigan, is the city’s most popular attraction and includes rides, entertainment, and lake cruises. There are also fireworks displays over the lake twice a week during the summer months. The Lincoln Park Zoo is free and has thousands of animals and features an African Safari ride. Chicago’s lakefront beaches are also free and a perfect place to walk, jog, bike, or get some fresh air without ever leaving the city.

Attendees of the 2009 NCARB Annual Meeting and Conference are invited to explore all the city has to offer. They will also learn, discuss, and debate the issues vital to the Council’s mission and responsibilities. For more information about the 2009 Annual Meeting and Conference, visit the Members’ Only section of the web site, [www.ncarb.org](http://www.ncarb.org). **DC**