

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
CHICAGO OFFICE OF TOURISM

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## **CHICAGO GARDENS: PAST AND PRESENT**

**Exhibition at Chicago Tourism Center, 72 E. Randolph Street  
June 17- August 16**

***Artists Create Still-Life Paintings at the Gallery Every Day***

*Chicago Gardens: Past and Present*, an exhibition at the Chicago Tourism Center gallery, 72 E. Randolph Street, from June 17 through August 16, features Chicago artists' perspectives on gardens and plants and explores the history, development and wide range of Chicago gardening styles. Local artists from the Palette & Chisel Academy create still-life paintings at the gallery, daily from 10 a.m. - 6p.m. [www.explorechicago.org](http://www.explorechicago.org).

Highlights of the exhibition include:

- Work inspired by nature from Chicago artists including photographs of private Chicago gardens by Brad Temkin; Andrew Young's mixed-media pieces; Chris Meerdo's intricately layered video; Carolyn Ottmers sculptures; and Cathryn Bouzide and Danny Mansmith's "tree of knowledge" installation.
- Renderings by Chicago landscape architect Jens Jensen of gardens in Chicago parks and historic gardens.
- Archival illustrations and images from the book *Chicago Gardens: The Early History* by landscape historian Cathy J. Maloney.
- Photographs of:
  - the planning and growth of Millennium Park's Lurie Garden.
  - community gardens such as Neighborspace, a network of Chicago gardens that provides thousands of people with the opportunity to grow fruits, vegetables, and flowers in their own neighborhoods, and the Lion's Garden at Lowell Elementary School, a project of arts-based community development organization Architresures.
  - urban farming projects including chef Rick Bayless' backyard garden in Bucktown that produces food for his restaurants Topolobampo and Frontera Grill, and Nance Klehm's urban foraging products.

Gallery hours are Mondays–Thursdays 8 am–7 pm (6 pm Fridays), Saturdays 9 am–6 pm (10 am Sundays), Holidays 10 am–4 pm. Admission is free.

*Chicago Gardens: Past and Present* is sponsored by Flair Communications Agency, Inc. and Artists Frame Service.

This exhibition is presented as part of *Explore Chicago: Take a Neighborhood Vacation*, insider ideas and tips for discovering and exploring Chicago's neighborhoods this summer. For more information, visit [www.explorechicago.org](http://www.explorechicago.org) or call 312.744.2400. The Chicago Office of Tourism, a division of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, is the official city agency dedicated to promoting Chicago to domestic and international visitors and providing innovative visitor programs and services.

Visitors and Chicagoans planning to entertain out-of-town guests can receive Chicago brochures, reserve hotel accommodations and receive trip-planning assistance by calling toll-free 1.877.CHICAGO (1.877.244.2246), or visiting [www.explorechicago.org](http://www.explorechicago.org). Brochures and information on Chicago events and activities are also available at the Visitor Information Centers. The centers are located at Chicago Water Works, 163 East Pearson Street at Michigan Avenue and the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 East Randolph Street. The TTY toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1.866.710.0294.