



## **2015 AERA Annual Meeting & Exhibition and NCME Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, April 16 – Monday, April 20, 2015**

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### **Headquarter and Session Hotels:**

For the 2015 Annual Meeting the primary site of the Annual Meeting is the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers. The Co-headquarter hotels where sessions will also be held are the Chicago Marriot Downtown Magnificent Mile, Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park, Hyatt Regency Chicago, InterContinental Chicago (NCME Headquarter Hotel), Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers and Swissotel Chicago.

### **Accessibility Rooms and Shuttle Service:**

ADA rooms are available on a request basis but are not guaranteed. AERA will be providing a shuttle service for persons with disabilities. Shuttles will travel between the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park, Hyatt Regency Chicago, InterContinental Chicago, Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers and Swissotel. Shuttles will depart approximately every thirty minutes and will loop continuously throughout the day.

### **Basic Chicago Information:**

#### **Total Tax:**

16.4% (Subject to change).

#### **Time Zone:**

Chicago, Illinois is in the Central Time Zone.

## **Weather & What to Wear:**

On average, the April temperature in Chicago will be between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit. There still may be colder days and it is recommended that you bring a coat or jacket especially for nights and mornings. You can expect to see spring time in Chicago beginning around this time. Flowers will start to blossom and the lakefront will become more active.

## **International Travelers:**

### **Passports:**

Regulations require all persons traveling to the U.S. by air, land or sea must present a passport or other valid travel document to enter the United States. For more information please contact the US Department of State ([www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)) or the US Department of Homeland Security ([www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)).

### **Visas:**

Many citizens of Canada and of the countries that participate in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) can travel to the U.S. for up to 90 days without obtaining a visa, as long as they meet all requirements.

If you are not a citizen of these countries or are not eligible to participate in the VWP, please visit the US Department of State website mentioned above to find out how to obtain a visa. If you do not have access to the Internet, contact your nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for further information.

## **Transportation:**

Chicago has many forms of transportation available. One of the easiest forms of transport in Chicago is walking. There are about 8 blocks to a mile and the city is laid out on a grid. The grid is centered at the intersection of Madison and State Street. By looking at the addresses of buildings, you can tell how many blocks away from the center you are (Starting in 3600 would be 36 Blocks from the center).

You can also utilize the 'L' Train service in Chicago. This train system has above ground, street-level, and subway systems and is another very convenient form of transport with 144 stations around the city. There are 2 lines that both offer service around the clock: the blue line mainly transports guests between the airport and downtown areas and the red line caters to the downtown area specifically when traveling north or south.

There are also over 100 bus routes around the city and there are usually bus stops every few blocks. The bus systems are very convenient but most of them do require exact change. If you don't want to pay with cash, reloadable bus passes can be bought at 'L' Stations or online at [transitchicago.com](http://transitchicago.com). Unlimited passes can also be purchased for different lengths of time from the same website or locations.

### **Area Airports:**

There are 2 airports that service the Chicago area: Chicago O'Hare International Airport and Chicago Midway Airport. O'Hare is one of the largest airports in the world and is located 13 miles from downtown. Midway airport is smaller and is located about 10 miles from the city. Both airports have an abundance of taxis and other forms of transport to downtown Chicago. For more information on transportation from the airports, please see the sections below.

### **Airport Transportation:**

For airport transportation assistance upon arrival please go directly to the nearest Airport Information Booth where the most suitable form of transportation will be recommended. Airport information booths are located on the lower levels of the domestic terminals and on the upper and lower levels of the International Terminal.

*Safety Advisory:* Ignore offers of ground transportation from solicitors inside the terminal buildings. While these solicitors may look and sound official, they are not authorized to solicit passengers and are breaking the law.

### **Taxi:**

Taxi services from the airports may be one of the easiest forms of transportation to the downtown area. From O'Hare you can expect to pay between \$40 and \$50 per trip and from Midway between \$30 and \$40 per trip. These rates are always subject to change and travel time does affect rate. There are Taxi Stands at the lower-level curb front (outside of baggage claim) at each terminal.

### **Shuttle Service:**

There is a great shuttle service called GO Airport Express that can offer pair fares and group discounts. They can also offer customized reservation portals for your group. Individual transport would most likely be more expensive through this service but if you are traveling in a group, you could save money.

### **Car Rental At the Airport:**

Midway Airport has most major rental car services available, all conveniently housed in the new rental car facility. The address of the new building is 5150 W. 55th Street and there is a shuttle available outside of baggage claim at lower level door #3.

O'Hare International Airport has an even larger selection of rental choices. Each of the rental companies has a shuttle service that can take you to their rental facility. These shuttles pick up at the arrival curb front outside baggage claim on the lower level.

More Information can be found at: [flychicago.com](http://flychicago.com)

## **Neighborhoods/Attractions:**

### **Field Museum**

Centered within The **Field Museum's** 20 million biological and anthropological specimens is Sue, the largest and most complete T. rex ever found.

1400 S Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60605  
(312) 922-9410

### **The Museum of Science and Industry**

It is the largest science museum in the Western Hemisphere - offering over 800 captivating interactive exhibits including the U-505 submarine, a working coal mine, a Boeing 727 airplane, and much, much more.

5700 S Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60637  
(773) 684-1414

## **The Art Institute of Chicago**

Among Chicago's world-class institutions showcasing art is **The Art Institute of Chicago**, whose permanent collection of paintings, drawings, photography and textiles includes the largest compilation of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works outside the Louvre.

111 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60603  
(312) 443-3600

## **Broadway in Chicago**

Step out into the bright lights of Broadway In Chicago's bustling downtown Theater District, which features world-premieres and unforgettable, award-winning musicals.

Broadway In Chicago operates five venues in the district including The Bank of America Theatre, Oriental Theatre, Cadillac Palace Theatre, the Auditorium Theatre and the Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place. These large theaters often host pre-Broadway productions and the industry's most anticipated stage shows.

## **Blue Man Group**

Experience a multi-sensory show that fuses theatrical spectacle and original music with comedy, art, vaudeville and science. The three performers — they are of course, blue! — bang drums, slosh paint and interact with the audience throughout their wild, offbeat, ever-changing show. The Blue Man Group phenomenon has been filling the Briar Street Theater in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhoods since the show started over 15 years ago.

3133 N Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60657  
(773) 348-4000

## **Steppenwolf Theatre**

Be moved at the Tony award-winning Steppenwolf Theatre, well known for its thought-provoking plays and trailblazing ensemble of fierce artists. You will probably recognize the actors on stage, many of whom appear on television and in movies. In fact, legendary actor Gary Sinise founded the theater with his high school pal, Jeff Perry, and Perry's college buddy, Terry Kinney.

Now in its fourth decade as a professional theater company, Steppenwolf has received unprecedented national and international recognition from media, theater critics, and audiences alike.

1650 N Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60614  
(312) 335-1650

## **Millennium Park**

Millennium Park offers dazzling music, art, landscape design and architecture – including the mammoth stainless-steel Cloud Gate sculpture – plus ice skating in the winter, splashing around in the interactive Crown Fountain during summer, and alfresco dining from spring to fall.

## **Navy Pier**

Iconic Navy Pier will undoubtedly make your must-see list. With rides including a 150-foot Ferris wheel, as well as restaurants, summer fireworks, sightseeing cruises and Segway tours, it's no surprise the Pier remains a top Midwest tourist destination.

## **Chicago's Magnificent Mile**

Chicago's Magnificent Mile is one of the great avenues of the world and is at the center of all that makes Chicago an international destination. It is the 13-block stretch of North Michigan Avenue that runs from the banks of the Chicago River to the south, to Oak Street to the north. The Magnificent Mile district extends a full square mile from North Michigan Avenue. It is a spectacular showcase of style, flavor, entertainment and fun. With more than 460 stores, 275 restaurants, 60 hotels and unique entertainments and attractions packed and stacked along its length, The Magnificent Mile has an indulgence for every passion and every pocket.

## **Restaurants and Food Vendors:**

### **Acanto (18 S Michigan Ave)**

\$\$-Italian

The reincarnated Henri ditched the white tablecloths and fancy French food to become this more casual Italian concept. The restaurant has an enoteca vibe with an extensive wine list, impressive cheese program, pastas and wood-fired pizzas. Fans of the former were skeptical about the switch, but early praise from critics and a consistent crowd of regulars at lunch and dinner suggest the new restaurant is more than welcomed.

Website: <http://www.acantochicago.com/>

### **Vie Restaurant (4471 Lawn Ave)**

\$\$\$-American

City dwellers say this Western Springs New American is "worth the travel" to the 'burbs for Paul Virant's "exceptional" New American cooking that showcases "the season's best" ingredients in "outstanding" "fine-dining" dishes; the space is "warm and inviting but still elegant", and "impeccable" service further justifies the spendy tabs.

Website: [www.vierestaurant.com](http://www.vierestaurant.com)

### **Katsu Japanese Restaurant (2651 W Peterson Ave)**

\$\$-Japanese

"If you crave real Japanese sushi" (and "not Westernized maki rolls") fans say "don't miss" this West Rogers Park stalwart where chef-owner Katsu Imamura makes use of "excellent-quality" ingredients in his "expertly prepared" fare ("one word: omakase"), earning it top Food honors in Chicago; "friendly" staffers work the minimalist space, and "expensive" tabs aren't a surprise given the highly rated offerings.

Website: <http://katsujapanesesteakhouse.com/>

### **Next Restaurant (953 W Fulton Market)**

\$\$\$-Eclectic

Part "foodie dinner theater", part "culinary adventure", Grant Achatz's West Loop Eclectic presents a "simply mind-blowing", often-changing themed tasting menu prepared with an "unmatched" level of detail and "impeccably presented" by an "exemplary", "professional" staff that earns top Service honors in Chicago; the modern, high-style space provides a fitting backdrop, and given the "stunningly good" offerings, sky-high prices barely register – just note you'll need to score a "hard-to-get" online ticket in order to go.

Website: [www.nextrestaurant.com](http://www.nextrestaurant.com)

### **Goosefoot (2656 W Lawrence Ave)**

\$\$\$-American

Dining is an "event" at this big-ticket New American in Lincoln Square where Chris Nugent's "finely thought out" tasting menus yield "creative, beautiful and delicious" plates in a simple, upscale-casual space; it's BYO, but the "helpful" staff will assist in "selecting the wine before coming" – just note the tiny surrounds mean scoring reservations can be "very difficult."

Website: <http://www.acantochicago.com/>

### **Bien Trucha Inc (410 W State St)**

\$\$-Mexican

Enthusiasts "create food memories" at this wallet-friendly Geneva "favorite" tended by "attentive" staffers who deliver "inventive, skillfully prepared" drinks and "authentic" Mexican fare highlighting "perfect levels of spice and acidity"; the "tiny" light-toned space gets "packed" quickly, so "get there before it opens" or you may "wait for hours." Website: [www.bientrucha.com](http://www.bientrucha.com)

### **Alinea (1723 N Halsted St)**

\$\$\$\$-American

"Expect to be wowed" at Grant Achatz's "unrivaled" Lincoln Park New American, a "culinary experience of a lifetime" (and Chicago's Most Popular restaurant) where "transcendent flavors", "unforgettable, artistic presentation" and "mind-blowing technique" highlight a multicourse tasting menu that's akin to "going on a food safari"; "über-modern" decor is enhanced by "interactive, accommodating" staffers, and while you may need to "bring the Brink's truck" to pay, well, that might be the cost of "foodie heaven."

Website: [www.alinea-restaurant.com](http://www.alinea-restaurant.com)

### **Lou Malnati's Pizzeria - River North (439 N Wells St)**

\$-Pizza

For "real Chicago pizza", fans hit up this "top-notch" chain "staple" that "sets the standard" with its "deep-dish butter crust" pies made "just right" with the "perfect" ratio of cheese to sauce – and its "crisp" thin-crust pies and "big", "not-to-be-missed" salads are a hit too; service is generally solid (if occasionally "slow"), and if the decor is considered just "fine", well you "don't go for the ambiance."

Website: [www.loumalnatis.com](http://www.loumalnatis.com)

### **Topolobampo (445 N Clark St)**

\$\$-Mexican

"Tops in its category", Rick Bayless' "world-class" River North destination ranks as a "magnificent experience", offering "wow"-worthy, "high-end" Mexican tasting menus made up of "innovative", "flavorful" dishes plus "don't-miss" margaritas and "excellent" wines; its "upper-crust" atmosphere ("totally different from Frontera next door") further explains the "premium" prices, while "welcoming, passionate" staffers are another reason to "keep going back" (if you can "snag a table").

Website: <http://www.rickbayless.com/restaurants/topolobampo/>

### **Girl & the Goat (809 W Randolph St)**

\$\$-Seafood

"Believe the hype" say fans of this spendy West Loop "blockbuster" where "genius" Stephanie Izard takes diners on a New American "culinary adventure" courtesy of "mind blowingly interesting" small plates including "brilliant" nose-to-tail creations ("how is it possible for pig face to be so delicious?"); the "warm", "casual" digs have a "lively" (some say "noisy") buzz and service is "knowledgeable", so many are left with but "one wish" – to be able to "get in more often."

Website: [www.girlandthegoat.com](http://www.girlandthegoat.com)

### **Frontera Grill (4445 N Clark St)**

\$-Mexican

Still "hip", "always packed" and "innovative" after more than 25 years, Rick Bayless' "top-notch" River North Mexican draws 'em in with "perfectly constructed" "gourmet" dishes elevated by "creative and novel" flavor combinations and further boosted by "powerful but refined" margaritas; "helpful" staffers work the colorful, art-enhanced digs, and even if reservations are tough to come by and "you could have a birthday waiting for a table", it remains a "perennial favorite" that fans say "belongs on everyone's bucket list."

Website: <http://www.rickbayless.com/restaurants/frontera-grill/>

### **Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse (5464 N River Rd)**

\$\$\$-Steakhouse

A "big-time steakhouse for big-time folks", this Gold Coast "staple" and its suburban spin-offs deliver "cooked-to-perfection" chops, equally "excellent" seafood and drinks and "absurdly large desserts"; "professional, accommodating" staffers lend more appeal, while an "energetic" atmosphere (especially at the flagship, which can get "crowded" and "noisy") means it's tops for "people-watching."

Website: <http://www.gibsonssteakhouse.com>

### **Carnivale (702 W Fulton St)**

\$\$\$-Nuevo Latino

Carnivale is a reflection of Latin culture and community, as passionate as the people themselves. The soulful cuisine allows you to explore the dishes of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Argentina, El Salvador, and Mexico. The kaleidoscope of colors, music and playful décor ignites the sense of being in a Latin house party. Executive Chef Rodolfo Cuadros supports the Green City Market and uses as many local, sustainable ingredients as possible out of concern for the environment and community.

Website: <http://www.carnivalechicago.com/>