

## On Chicago

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### Child Care

LASA will subsidize the cost of child care for accepted participants who are taking their children to Chicago. LASA will provide reimbursements at the rate of US \$10.00 per hour for one child and US \$12.00 for two or more children, for a maximum of 10 hours.

LASA maximum responsibility per family will be \$100.00 for one child and \$120.00 for two or more children. A parent who bills LASA for child care must be a 2014 member of the Association and a registered attendee of LASA2014. To receive reimbursement, the parent must submit the original bill from the caregiver, with the name(s) of the child(ren) and the dates of the service, to the LASA Secretariat on or before July 15, 2014.

### Audio/Visual Equipment

LASA will provide an LCD projector, a screen, and the proper connections for a laptop in each meeting room. Panelists will be responsible for bringing laptops for their presentations. Separate audio and video equipment and Internet connection will not be provided. *Any video presentations should be recorded on DVD or any other media so they may be viewed via the laptop.* Presenters will be required to provide their own speakers if needed. AV staff will be available if participants experience any problems with the equipment.

### Constancias

Constancias for LASA2014 will be provided during check-in at the registration area located on the 4th floor across from the State Ballroom. ■

By late May, LASA Congress attendees should find a Chicago that has reached the promise of spring and left behind, this year, a particularly bitter winter. LASA-goers will notice an ebullience in the air and Chicagoans in the streets in large numbers, walking, biking, and enjoying the city's many outdoor cafes and restaurants as well as its parks and gardens, as the city gears up for the traditional beginning of the summer on Memorial Day, May 26. The Palmer House Hilton, where the conference will take place, is located in the center of the **Loop**, which in turn is the heart of downtown Chicago. The downtown, quite rightly, is the prime tourist attraction in Chicago, as much for its vibrant street life and shopping districts as for its world-famous architecture, in which the skyscraper, in all its forms, predominates. The Chicago Architecture Foundation, which has a storefront on Michigan Avenue, offers foot and other tours of the downtown as well as other parts of the city. Chicago's extraordinary museums, which cluster around the Loop as well as the adjacent neighborhood of **Gold Coast**, cannot be ignored. The extraordinary Art Institute is within walking distance from the conference hotel, with the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Adler Planetarium, the Shedd Aquarium, and the Field Museum of Natural History all easily reachable on foot as well.

Transportation in and around the Loop is plentiful and easy. Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) bus and train service, the latter locally known as the "El," make a good portion of the city beyond the downtown accessible. Downtown, the Loop is literally defined by the elevated tracks that circle 20-odd blocks and that radiate out north, west, and south to the city's neighborhoods. To get further afield—that is, to the suburbs and some more distant communities—either the

excellent but at times infrequent commuter rail system, Metra, or a car is necessary. Luckily, in May weather, renting a bicycle is a fine option and the city is well appointed with bike-friendly streets and dedicated paths. If the weather holds, bikes are the best option and can be used to reach almost any point in the city.

Chicago is a city of neighborhoods that speak to its identity as an immigrant city since its inception in the nineteenth century. Its population within the official city limits is roughly three million, and its urban area, known as Chicagoland, counts a little under ten million inhabitants. The diversity of its population is immense. The Latino population, in all its Latin American and Peninsular varieties, predominates. It is wildly diverse, including urban, regional, and ethnic varieties of Latin American groups. Roughly a third of greater Chicago's population is Latin American, which translates into well over three million of its inhabitants.

For anyone with an interest in the city's Mexican culture, including music, cuisine, and really anything at all, the South Side neighborhoods of **Pilsen** and **La Villita** are a must. Pilsen has seen heavy gentrification in recent years, with art galleries and tony restaurants moving into the neighborhood, as the neighborhood has strengthened its Mexican roots. Both neighborhoods are easily reached on the El. **Chinatown**, also on the city's South Side, is the heart of Chicago's many East Asian communities and can be reached both by El and water taxi. It offers a rich array of Asian food. **Bronzeville**, centered on 47th Street on the South Side, was the center of the city's African American life in the first half of the twentieth century and has recently seen much renovation and preservation of its architecture. The beautifully designed residences are reason enough to visit.

Immediately west of downtown along Randolph Street visitors will find the appropriately named Near West Side, which hosts a high concentration of restaurants and bars, as well as **Greektown**. Nearby on Desplaines Street, one can find a memorial sculpture commemorating the site of the Haymarket Affair in 1886. Going north along Milwaukee Avenue, **Wicker Park** and **Bucktown** have some of the city's best nightlife, with countless restaurants and bars, and also some wonderful residential architecture, particularly along and around the triangular Wicker Park itself. **Logan Square**, adjacent to the former two neighborhoods to the north, is full of the typical Chicago residential house called the greystone and hosts a major intersection for the city's boulevard system at its eponymous square. The city's North Side is made up of a number of densely populated neighborhoods, including **Rogers Park**, with its small beaches and Latino, African American, and Jewish communities. **Andersonville**, formerly home to the city's Swedish and Peruvian communities, is centered around Clark Street and has an active street life with a small-town feel. Just south of it, **Uptown** has some of the city's prime performance venues, such as the Aragon Ballroom, as well as a storied history of both Appalachian migrants and gangster life (for the latter, the still-operating Green Mill is a must, and its regular jazz and swing shows are superb). **Lake View** further south boasts vintage high-rise buildings, all sorts of restaurants, and spectacular views of Lincoln Park; it is also the center of Chicago's gay community. Speaking of views, the Hotel Lincoln's rooftop terrace, open to the public, offers one of Chicago's finest. **Old Town**, where the hotel is located, hosts some of Chicago's oldest neighborhoods and houses. In any of these neighborhoods and indeed in many others, the visitor will find

remarkable examples of Chicago's residential architecture, as notable in individual examples as in the existence of entire neighborhoods integrally maintained over the years. (**Pullman**, the famous company town on the far south side of Chicago, is worth a visit for those interested, but be forewarned: it's far.)

Chicago's grand tradition of green spaces means that its parks merit special attention. The boulevard system, designed in the nineteenth century as a ring around Chicago, runs through the South, West, and North Sides and includes Garfield, Washington, and Humboldt Parks, all spectacular examples of the city's motto, *Urbs in horto*. Lincoln Park on the lake and Garfield Park both offer wonderful greenhouses, the former's specializing in orchids and the latter's in palm trees. But Millennium Park, a step away from the Loop, is undoubtedly the most popular of the city's recent additions to its green space. It boasts concert venues, public sculpture, elaborate tree and other plantings, as well as examples of the architect Frank Gehry's work. The fact that it opened many, many years behind schedule seems to have been quickly forgotten in light of its splendor.

The Chicago River has seen a slow but steady rebirth over the last few years. Historically used as both industrial pathway and sewage dump, only a small part of the northern branch saw residential development in the early twentieth century. Under the current mayor, plans for the river are ambitious if slow to develop. The Chicago Architecture Foundation runs a highly recommended boat tour that highlights the city's modern skyscraper tradition as seen from the water. The adventurous can rent canoes and paddle the river, an experience that, if exhilarating, also requires dodging the occasional sailboat. Last, but certainly not least, are

Chicago's beaches. While not technically open until Memorial Day, if the weather is warm expect them to be well populated by Chicagoans enjoying their fine sand and cool water. The closest beach to the Loop is at Ontario Street.

LASA attendees will doubtless be interested in the local universities and colleges. Four grand university campuses can be found in the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Illinois Institute of Technology, the University of Chicago, and Northwestern University. The first two are prime examples of modern architecture and midcentury urban planning, with many buildings designed by Mies van der Rohe. Beyond their striking main campuses in Hyde Park and Evanston, respectively, both of the latter two have campuses in downtown Chicago. Other important local institutions include Columbia College, Roosevelt University, DePaul University, Loyola University, and Chicago State University.

You will undoubtedly have many opportunities to eat in Chicago. The city may very well contain every conceivable form of cuisine. Every Chicagoan knows that the best pizza in the world is made here. Try a sizeable slice of deep dish pizza (no more than one slice is necessary, rest assured) or, for the daring, an Italian beef. (Neither is suitable if you fear cholesterol.) Enjoy all that Chicago has to offer! ■