

Chicago's Dept. of Cultural Affairs & Special Events (DCASE) presents:

Public Art Tour

Tour Starts: Chicago Cultural Center (north side), Randolph steps

Tour Ends: Millennium Park at the AR work (*The Lovers Dance*)



1. *We Will* (2005) – SW corner of Randolph & Garland Ct.

INTRO: Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events—or DCASE—presents our outdoor art tour. Welcome! We'll be visiting 6 public artworks today, stepping off from the Randolph steps of the Chicago Cultural Center. The tour should last about 45 minutes, and the total walking distance is about ½ mile (.8 km), ending in Millennium Park.

Our first stop is steps away from the Randolph side of the Chicago Cultural Center, at the SW corner of Randolph St. & Garland Ct. Here, we can see a tall, welded stainless-steel sculpture, standing at 35 feet tall (10.7 m). This is *We Will*, completed in 2005 by artist Richard Hunt. It was commissioned by the developers of the Heritage building, a condo and retail mixed-use building downtown.



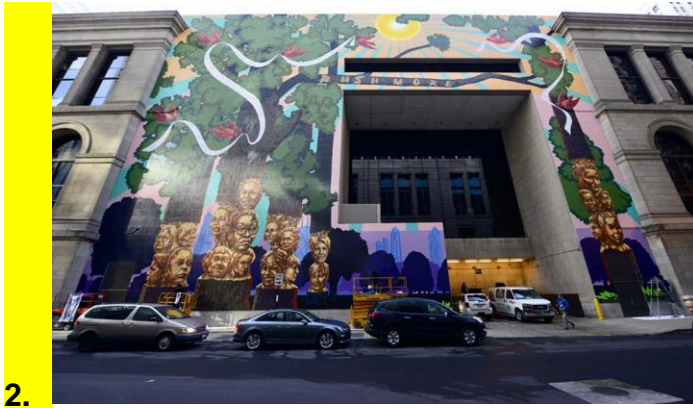
About the artist: Hunt was born in Chicago in 1935 and graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He had over 150 public sculpture commissions in the United States and was the 1st African American sculptor to have a major solo exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

In 1968, Hunt was appointed by President Johnson to serve on the National Council on the Arts – the first African American visual artist to hold the position.

In 2015, to celebrate his 80th birthday, the Chicago Cultural Center exhibited 60 pieces of his work, representing his career. In 2022, Barack Obama commissioned Hunt as the first artist to create a work for the Obama Presidential Center. The artist passed away in December 2023 at the age of 88.

We Will has been described as, “leaping from its stippled metal pedestal like a flame dancing in the breeze”. About the work, Richard Hunt said, “in some works it is my intention to develop the kind of forms Nature might create if only heat and steel were available to her.”

The next artwork on this tour is just around the corner: Head South down Garland Ct. and look up!



2.

Rushmore (2017) – Chicago Cultural Center

This 132-foot by 100-foot mural (40.2 by 30.5 M), called **Rushmore**, is artist Kerry James Marshall's largest work to-date. This gift to the city was specifically designed for narrow Garland Court, hoping to open up the site. His solution was to create a park-like view with a bright sun and stand of trees, while also honoring the Cultural Center as the hub of artistic activity in Chicago. The trees represent a kind of Forest Rushmore, honoring the contributions of 20 women, past and present, who've shaped the city's arts and cultural landscape. If you look at the white ribbon at the top, you will see the names of the women represented. (For a listing of who's who, please visit the DCASE website.)

About the artist: Kerry James Marshall is a Chicago resident and MacArthur 'Genius Grant' recipient, known for referencing African American culture and history, including the Civil Rights and Black Power movements. Marshall's work has been included in many prestigious international exhibitions in different types of media, including collage, drawings, and even comic books.

In 2023, Marshall was chosen to create new stained-glass windows for the National Cathedral in Washington D.C, despite never having worked in the medium. He replaced the previous windows, which depicted Confederate iconography, with new windows, titled *Now and Forever*, that contain themes of racial justice.

Continue South on Garland Ct then cross the street left (east) towards the front of the Washington entrance of the Cultural Center..



3.

Bronze Cow (2001) – Chicago Cultural Center

About the Cultural Center: Completed in 1897 as Chicago's first central public library, the Chicago Cultural Center was designed to impress and prove that Chicago had grown into a sophisticated metropolis. The stunning landmark building is home to two magnificent stained-glass domes. It is open daily and presents free visual and performing arts, and more.

Bronze Cow: Cows have been part of Chicago's history since its days as the meatpacking center of country – from the Civil War to the 1920s. Additionally, Mrs. O'Leary's cow was unfairly blamed for starting the great Chicago Fire of 1871.

In 1999, a herd of fiberglass cows united Chicago through a public art project entitled, "Cows on Parade", curated by DCASE's own Nathan Mason.

The idea was originally conceived and presented in Zurich, Switzerland in 1998. Chicago businessman Peter Hanig saw the painted cows and brought the idea back to Chicago. Chicago's "Cows on Parade" featured 320 life-sized fiberglass cows, each designed by local artists, adorning the city's sidewalks, plazas, and public parks.

Today, **Bronze Cow** stands before the Cultural Center to commemorate the event, commissioned by Peter Hanig and created by Pascal Knapp, the son of the creator of the original Zurich Cow Parade. It weighs 2500 lbs (1134 Kg) and depicted in its eyes are two famous Chicago landmarks – the "Chicago Picasso" and the historic Water Tower.

Its plaque reads: "The bronze cow is a gift to all Chicagoans in gratitude for the support of the cows and other art in public places."

Our next stop is in Millennium Park: cross Michigan Ave at Washington and walk east to Cloud Gate.

(Millennium Park Info)

Opened in 2004, the 24.5-acre Millennium Park is a former industrial wasteland transformed into a world-class public park. Until 1997, the land was covered with railroad tracks and parking lots. The Park was conceived in 1997 with then-Mayor Richard M. Daley's and others' vision of turning the area into a public space. The project evolved, featuring a collection of world-renowned artists, architects, planners, landscape architects, and designers.

Up next is a work that needs little introduction: walk east to Cloud Gate, aka “The Bean”.

4. Cloud Gate (2004) – Millennium Park

This 110-ton (99,790 Kg), stainless steel sculpture was created by British-Indian sculptor Anish Kapoor in 2004 as his first public outdoor work in the United States. To craft its exterior, computer technology was used to cut 168 steel plates, fitted together and welded shut for a seamless finish. Inside, two large metal rings are connected via a truss framework, similar to a bridge. The exterior is attached to the frame with flexible connectors that let it expand and contract with the weather, an important feature considering Chicago’s cold winters and hot, humid summers.



This system allows the weight to be directed to its two base points, creating the “bean” shape and allowing for the concave area beneath that invites visitors to touch its surface and see their image reflected back. **Cloud Gate**, affectionately known as “The Bean”, reflects the skyline and surrounding green space. The reflection of the sky and The Bean’s curved underside serve as an entrance to the park, inspiring the artist to name the piece **Cloud Gate**.

About the artist: Artist Kapoor, born in Mumbai, specializes in installation and conceptual art, working on a variety of scales and with diverse materials, including mirrors, stone, wax, and PVC. He was awarded a Knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II in 2013 for his services to the visual arts.

Continue exploring Millennium Park in Boeing Gallery South, located near Monroe St. just east of Crown Fountain.



5.

Franz West: Millennium Park (2002, 2011) – Millennium Park

These three monumental installations are works of the acclaimed artist Franz West. The presence of Stonehenge (farthest north sculpture), Kugeln (Balls), and Dorit highlights the artist's belief in the accessibility of art and its power to transform public space.

As you walk by these sculptures, Stonehenge invites viewers to engage physically and imaginatively.

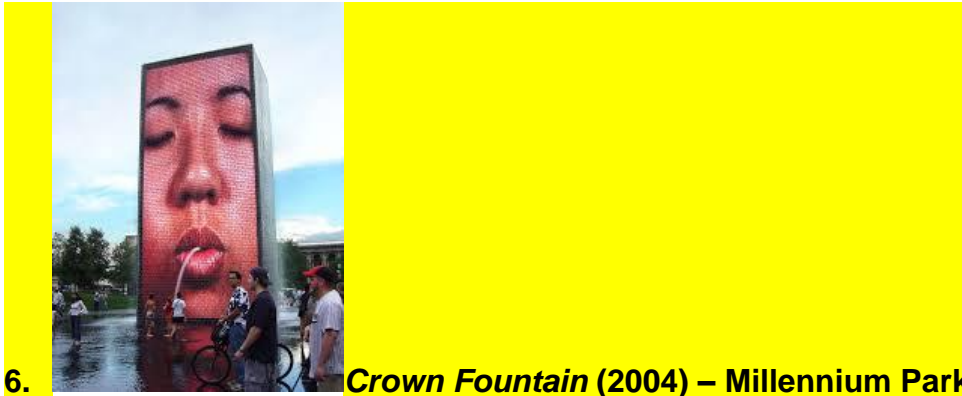
Kugeln presents three individual brightly hued spherical sculptures that disrupt conventional expectations of balance and form.

Dorit further exemplifies West's unique approach to sculpture, blending humor and a sense of the surreal with profound artistic statements.

They encourage viewers to experience art beyond the confines of galleries and museums, promoting a deeper connection with the artwork and their surroundings. West's innovative vision and his contribution to expanding the boundaries of contemporary sculpture make this exhibition a significant cultural event, offering a dynamic and immersive experience that celebrates the legacy of one of contemporary art's most transformative figures, in one of the world's most contemporary parks.

About the artist: Emerging in the early 1970s, Austrian artist Franz West, an influential figure in contemporary art, is celebrated for his ability to merge sculpture with everyday life, transforming public spaces into interactive art environments. His work challenges traditional perceptions of art, emphasizing the importance of viewer interaction and the integration of art into daily experience.

Continue South to Crown Fountain.



6.

Crown Fountain (2004) – Millennium Park

We are now at the last *physical* piece of art on our tour, but we will provide information about several Augmented Reality (AR) artworks in the park as well.

Designed as a “live” piece of art, **Crown Fountain** is an iconic fountain sculpture created in 2005 by artist Jaume [“Zhou-may”] Plensa. Two 50-foot (15.2 M) glass block towers stand at each end of a shallow black granite reflecting pool measuring 232 feet (70.7 M) across. The towers project video images on LED screens from a broad spectrum of 1000 Chicago citizens, Plensa’s tribute to the diversity of the city’s population, almost “archiving” its people.

Crown Fountain is a reference to the traditional use of gargoyles in fountains, where faces of mythological beings were sculpted with open mouths to allow water, a symbol of life, to flow out. Plensa adapted this practice by having water flow through an outlet in the screen, giving the illusion of water spouting from each figure’s mouth. The fountain’s water features operate during the year between mid-spring and mid-fall, while the images remain on view year-round.

About the artist: The Spanish artist is one of the world’s foremost sculptors working the public space, exhibiting work since 1980 with over 30 projects spanning the globe in cities such as Dubai, London, Tokyo, and Vancouver. Plensa regularly shows his work at galleries and museums and was awarded an honorary doctorate from the School of the Art Institute in 2005.

Head back toward Cloud Gate toward AR works. Stop at sign with QR code facing the Madison St. Entrance to Millennium Park.



Augmented Chicago: Inaugural Realities (Yvette Mayorga, *The Lovers Dance*)– Millennium Park

Through November 2025, there are four augmented reality works by Chicago-based artists on display throughout Millennium Park. Using the Hoverlay app, you are invited to experience a groundbreaking fusion of technology and artistry, transforming the park’s landscape into a dynamic canvas of digital creativity.

The work featured here, *The Lovers Dance*, is artist Yvette Mayorga’s first augmented reality public work. Drawing from the stories and shapes of her intricately piped paintings and public installations, Mayorga creates an immersive, interactive experience that reflects her signature feminine world-building. In *The Lovers Dance*, she explores themes of belonging and love by depicting two dancers emerging from the sky, set against a backdrop of piped frosted clouds reminiscent of a theatrical play.

If you’re interested in viewing the rest of the Augmented Reality works, another one of the pieces is just east of here (up the stairs), one is in the northwest corner of the park, and the 4th one is in Lurie Garden. **Attached is a map that you may want to photograph for your reference.**

But there’s so much more to explore – check out a few iconic sculptures nearby. Find “The Picasso” in Daley Plaza at 50 W. Washington and Alexander Calder’s *Flamingo* in Federal Plaza at 219 S. Dearborn. You can also view Nina Chanel Abney’s mural on the Michigan Ave side of the CitizenM Hotel at 80 E Wacker Pl. For questions or comments, reach out to DCASE@cityofchicago.org.

CONCLUSION: With that, we’ve reached the end of our tour. Thank you for joining us!



