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MAYOR EMANUEL ANNOUNCES RIVERWALK CONCESSIONS FOR 2018 SEASON  
A variety of dining, educational, cultural and recreational activities to be available this summer

The Chicago City Council today approved several measures that would enable six entities to operate on the Riverwalk under 10-year agreements.

“Further developing the Chicago Riverwalk will transform our downtown area and help to make the river the next great recreational frontier of the City of Chicago,” Mayor Rahm Emanuel said. “We are excited that residents and visitors will have a variety of opportunities to relax, dine and enjoy the river this summer.”

The Department of Fleet and Facility Management (2FM) has overseen the concession program since 2015. Building on the past success of Riverwalk vendors, 2FM issued an RFP for the Operations of Concessions on the Chicago Riverwalk in January of 2017. Proposals were due in March and were reviewed by an Evaluation Committee. Vendors making significant capital improvements and expanding their operations/offerings received 10-year agreements, which will improve the visitors’ experience and allow the vendors to establish their destination.

The lineup of vendors will provide a variety of dining, educational, cultural and recreational activities along the entire waterfront stretch from Wells Street to Lake Shore Drive for the 2018 season. The exciting new lineup includes numerous dining options, live entertainment, kayaking, cruises, boat rentals and water taxis.

The following vendors were approved by City Council to operate for a ten year term with two possible five year extensions:

LOCATION: Lakeshore Drive to Michigan Avenue

Island Party Hut  
Will offer island themed food and beverage as well as charter boat rentals  
305 East Riverwalk South- between Field Drive and Columbus  
www.islandpartyhut.com

Urban Kayaks & Cantina
Returning to the riverwalk, will offer kayak rental and guided tours. New to their operations is the inclusion of food and beverage.
435-499 East Riverwalk South
www.urbankayaks.com

Northman on the River
New to the Riverwalk, will offer food and beverage options, specializing in cider
233 East Riverwalk South- immediately west of Columbus

LOCATION: The Marina - State to Dearborn

City Winery
Will offer food, drink and live music with an expanded menu
11 West Riverwalk South- State Street Side
www.citywinery.com/chicago

LOCATION: The Cove - Dearborn to Clark

Tiny Tapp, Café and Market
Will offer food and beverage, specializing in signature cocktails, coffees and pastries, and grab and go food and merchandise options
71 West Riverwalk South- Clark Street side
www.tinytapp.com

LOCATION: The Water Plaza – LaSalle to Wells

Frost Gelato
Will offer gelato, milkshakes and other desert options
151-155 West Riverwalk South- Clark Street side
www.frostgelato.com

The following vendors were approved to operate for a three year term:

LOCATION: Wabash Avenue - East

O’Brien’s Riverwalk Cafe
Will offer food and beverage
45 East Riverwalk South- between Field Drive and Columbus

LOCATION: Wabash Avenue - West

Chicago Brewhouse
Will offer food and beverage, specializing in microbrews made in Chicago
35 East Riverwalk South- between Field Drive and Columbus

LOCATION: The Marina- State to Dearborn

Downtown Docks
Will provide recreational boat docking
10 West Riverwalk South- between Field Drive and Columbus
LOCATION: The River Theater – Clark to LaSalle

Wendella- Chicago Water Taxi
*Will offer boat tours and water taxis service throughout the entire Chicago River system*
105 East Riverwalk South- between Field Drive and Columbus

The six new sections of the Chicago Riverwalk between State Street and Lake Street were financed through the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Transportation Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (TIFIA) program. Revenues generated from the concessions are pledged towards repayment of the loan. Vendor revenues have increased each year with $4.5 million in 2015, $9 million in 2016 and an estimated $11 million in 2017.

The Riverwalk has been honored with 20 major awards for its merits, design and economic impact. Additional information is available on the website at [www.Chicagoriverwalk.us](http://www.Chicagoriverwalk.us) which is updated throughout the season.

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