


2019 SYMPOSIUM

KNOW *Your* CHICAGO

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO GRAHAM SCHOOL



WELCOME TO THE 2019 KNOW YOUR CHICAGO SYMPOSIUM!

Founded in 1948 by Mary Ward Wolkonsky, Know Your Chicago strives to foster understanding of and appreciation for the diverse forces and institutions shaping this great city and to encourage civic participation.

As the official beginning to the 71st annual Tour season, the Symposium brings together distinguished speakers who address important issues related to the six tour topics. We hope that their words bring a sense of context and history to each of our upcoming topics. This year's Tours focus on architectural reinvention, an unsung philanthropist whose legacy continues to shape Chicago, the inspiration and stagecraft behind Chicago's theater scene, an insider's look into art collecting in the Windy City, and the process behind exhibition design at our city's top museums.

We trust you will find today's speakers engaging and thought-provoking, and we look forward to learning with you this season.

ORDER OF EVENTS

OPENING REMARKS

Penny Obenshain, Chair, Know Your Chicago

Susana Vasquez, Associate Vice President, Office of Civic Engagement at the University of Chicago

FROM VACANT TO VIBRANT: TRANSFORMING CHICAGO

Bonnie McDonald, President, Landmarks Illinois

This talk corresponds with Tour 1: Reinventing Legendary Structures

JULIUS ROSENWALD: THE EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT OF A FORGOTTEN CIVIC GIANT

Peter Ascoli, Biographer; Past Director of Development, Steppenwolf Theatre Company and Chicago Opera Theater; Adjunct Professor, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies; Grandson of Julius Rosenwald

Stephanie Deutsch, Author; Married to Great-Grandson of Julius Rosenwald

This talk corresponds with Tour 2: Rosenwald: The Remarkable Legacy of a Retail Giant

RECONSIDERING ART HISTORY, COLLECTING ART ON THE SOUTHSIDE AND BEYOND

Allison Gass, Dana Feitler Director of Smart Museum of Art

This talk corresponds with Tour 5: Art All Ways: Collectors, Collections, Collecting

BREAK FOR LUNCH

CHICAGO AND ITS THEATER: THE SOUL OF A CITY

Chris Jones, Chief Theater Critic and Sunday Culture Columnist,
Chicago Tribune

This talk corresponds with Tours 3 and 6: Behind the Curtain

EXHIBITION DEVELOPMENT FROM THE INSIDE OUT

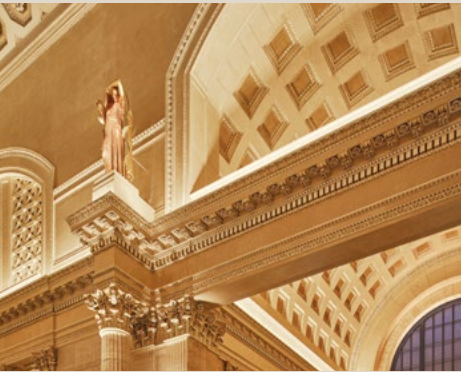
John Russick, Senior Vice President, Chicago History Museum

This talk corresponds with Tour 4: Museum Exhibit Design from Concept to Creation

LEARN ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

FROM VACANT TO VIBRANT: TRANSFORMING CHICAGO

This talk corresponds with Tour 1: Reinventing Legendary Structures



BONNIE MCDONALD

Bonnie McDonald is president and CEO of Landmarks Illinois, advancing the vision, mission, and programs of Illinois's nonprofit historic preservation organization. Her transformative thinking leads Landmarks Illinois beyond concern of individual buildings to focus on the impact of people, their lives, and their connection to place and community. McDonald provides extraordinary leadership to a rapidly growing organization, interfacing with a robust board, staff, committees, and partners. Since establishing the first regional office in Springfield, she vanguards successful legislation to catalyze building reuse, playing a significant role as thought leader and advocate in achieving key preservation successes. Named to the *Newcity* "Design 50" list of the 50 individuals shaping Chicago design, McDonald serves as the Board Chair of the National Preservations Partners Network, a national preservation organization. She holds a BA in art history from the University of Minnesota and an MA in historic preservation from Cornell University.

JULIUS ROSENWALD: THE EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT OF A FORGOTTEN CIVIC GIANT

This talk corresponds with Tour 2: Rosenwald: The Remarkable Legacy of a Retail Giant



PETER ASCOLI

Peter M. Ascoli received a BA from the University of Chicago, a BA from St. Catherine's College, Oxford, and a PhD from UC Berkeley, each in European history. He also has a master of management degree from Northwestern's Kellogg Graduate School of Management. Ascoli worked as a fundraiser for a variety of cultural and educational nonprofit organizations, including the University of Chicago, Chicago Opera Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Starting in 1993, he began working on a biography of Julius Rosenwald, his maternal grandfather. The book, titled *Julius Rosenwald: The Man Who Built Sears, Roebuck and Advanced the Cause of Black Education in the American South*, was published by Indiana University Press in June 2006.

STEPHANIE DEUTSCH

Stephanie Deutsch has written articles and book reviews for many publications and is the author of *You Need a Schoolhouse: Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald, and the Building of Schools for the Segregated South*, published in 2011 by Northwestern University Press. She grew up in Arlington, Virginia as well as in New Zealand and France, where her father was serving in the Foreign Service. She holds degrees from Brown University and Harvard University. Her husband, David Deutsch, a retired television director, is a great grandson of Julius Rosenwald.

ALISON GASS

Alison Gass is Dana Feitler Director of the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago. Gass leads the University's fine arts museum and its thought-provoking exhibitions, public and arts education programs, collaborations with students and faculty, and exquisite collection of more than 15,500 objects. Prior to joining the Smart Museum in May 2017, Gass was chief curator and associate director for exhibitions and collections at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University. Before that, she was a member of the leadership team that opened the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University, including serving as the museum's acting director. Gass began her curatorial career at the Jewish Museum in New York City, then became an assistant curator at SFMOMA. Gass earned her bachelor's degree from Columbia University and holds a graduate degree in art history from the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University.

CHRIS JONES

Chris Jones is the longtime chief critic and Sunday arts and culture columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*, and Broadway critic for the *New York Daily News*. He appears weekly on CBS-2 in Chicago. *American Theatre* magazine named him one of America's 12 most influential theater critics, and the *New York Times* cited him as a reason why Broadway shows try out in Chicago, noting the role his reviews play in helping producers improve productions for New York runs. Jones has received the George Jean Nathan Award, the country's most prestigious award for drama criticism. He serves as director of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Critics Institute. His latest book, *Rise Up! Broadway and American Society from 'Angels in America' to 'Hamilton'*, tells the story of Broadway's renaissance from the darkest days of the AIDS crisis through to the triumph of *Hamilton*. Jones lives on Chicago's North Side with his wife and two sons.

JOHN RUSSICK

John Russick is senior vice president of the Chicago History Museum. Over more than twenty years, he has led the development of a host of exhibitions, programs, and digital experiences for the museum. He has also held positions at Chicago's Field Museum and the National Museum of American History. His publications include *Connecting Kids to History with Museum Exhibitions* (Left Coast Press, 2010) and *Remembering Chicago: Crime in the Capone Era* (Turner Publications, 2010). He served as a consultant to the 2011 Florentine Films documentary, *Prohibition*, directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. He organizes the annual Excellence in Exhibition Label Writing Competition for the American Alliance of Museums. His most recent initiative, Chicago00, has produced several cutting-edge augmented and virtual reality experiences featuring the remarkable photography collection of the Chicago History Museum.

RECONSIDERING ART HISTORY, COLLECTING ART ON THE SOUTHSIDE AND BEYOND

This talk corresponds with Tour 5: Art All Ways: Collectors, Collections, Collecting



CHICAGO AND ITS THEATER: THE SOUL OF A CITY

This talk corresponds with Tours 3 and 6: Behind the Curtain



EXHIBITION DEVELOPMENT FROM THE INSIDE OUT

This talk corresponds with Tour 4: Museum Exhibit Design from Concept to Creation



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

2019 TOUR SCHEDULE

	KNOW YOUR CHICAGO 2019 SYMPOSIUM	9/4/19 SOLD OUT
TOUR 1	REINVENTING LEGENDARY STRUCTURES	9/18/19 SOLD OUT
TOUR 2	ROSENWALD: THE REMARKABLE LEGACY OF A RETAIL GIANT	9/24/19 OR 9/25/19 SOLD OUT
TOUR 3	BEHIND THE CURTAIN: INSPIRATION AND TRANSFORMATION	10/10/19 OR 10/11/19
TOUR 4	MUSEUM EXHIBIT DESIGN FROM CONCEPT TO CREATION	10/15/19 OR 10/16/19
TOUR 5	ART ALL WAYS: COLLECTORS, COLLECTIONS, COLLECTING	10/22/19 OR 10/23/19 SOLD OUT
TOUR 6	BEHIND THE CURTAIN: SETTING THE STAGE	10/28/19 OR 10/29/19

KNOW YOUR CHICAGO COMMITTEE

Penny Obenshain, Chair

Susan S. Aaron
Duffie A. Adelson
Joan Blew
Judith S. Block*
Lucille Burrus
Linda Pike Celesia
Dee Dee Chesley
Josie Brown Childs
Gay-Young Cho*
Mari H. Craven
Paula Epstein
Karen Frank
Kitty Freidheim
Mary Galvin
Denise Gardner
Louise Glasser
Maureen S. Hartigan
Dorothy Hawley
Marian Jacobson
Jan Jentes*

Colleen Karavites Karr
Donna LaPietra
Janis Lariviere
Susan Clark McBride
Judith Paine McBrien
Nancy McCracken
Gail McGuinness
Erica C. Meyer
Joan L. Miller
Josephine B. Minow*
Ellen O'Connor*
Marlene O. Rankin
Biba Roesch
Madeline Rosenberg
Carol Schulz
Pam Sheffield*
Patricia A. Sikorovsky*
Joan F. Small
Beth Sonnenschein*
Isabel C. Stewart

Jeannette P. Tamayo
Betty Van Gorkom*
Bonnie Bartlit Vickrey*
Joan von Leesen
Claire Weiler
Tracy S. Whitehead
Iris S. Witkowsky
Linda Woloshin
Bobbi Zabel

FOUNDER

Mary Ward Wolkonsky

HONORARY MEMBERS

Shadi Bartsch-Zimmer
Amy Eshleman

*Indicates Former Chair

OUR PARTNER

The University of Chicago Graham School has provided diverse educational programs for adults since the University's founding in 1890. The partnership with Know Your Chicago is an example of its dedication to continuing education programs and civic awareness.



Learn more at graham.uchicago.edu.

OUR FOUNDER



Mary Ward Wolkonsky (1907-2002) was an extraordinary woman who made significant and lasting contributions to the educational and philanthropic world of Chicago. Throughout her life, she offered her talents in a multitude of ways, focusing particularly on issues and organizations that advanced the role of women.

Wolkonsky loved Chicago. In 1948, she founded Know Your Chicago, not only as a way to share her excitement about our city, but also to educate women for civic participation. Over its long history, Know Your Chicago has enabled thousands to experience the unique, the serious, the humorous, the beautiful, and, often, the little-known aspects of this wonderful city.

Born in Michigan, Wolkonsky moved to Chicago in 1939 and quickly became involved in the life of the city. Her remarkable intelligence, charm, and leadership abilities made her an asset to many of the area's leading institutions, including the University of Chicago. This affiliation was a source of particular pride. She founded the Women's Board of the University, served as its chairman for eight years, and was named a University trustee in 1975.

Music was one of Wolkonsky's great interests. She was an excellent pianist, both classical and jazz; knew the lyrics of an amazing number of cabaret songs; and,

even in her 90s, was always ready to put on her dancing shoes. She followed the careers of many of the great jazz ensembles of Chicago, often visiting the clubs where they played. This love of music led to her long involvement with the University of Chicago's music program where she served as chairman of the Visiting Committee to the Department of Music and founded the Jazz Archive.

Wolkonsky also founded Bright New City, a series of lectures and seminars on the physical and cultural aspects of Chicago. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Lyric Opera and was instrumental in creating its Women's Board. She served on the boards of the Chicago Public Library Foundation, the Chicago Symphony, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Field Museum, the Chicago Art Institute, and Planned Parenthood. Her numerous awards and honors are a testament to her vision and character.



KNOW *Your* CHICAGO

Learn more at knowyourchicago.org.