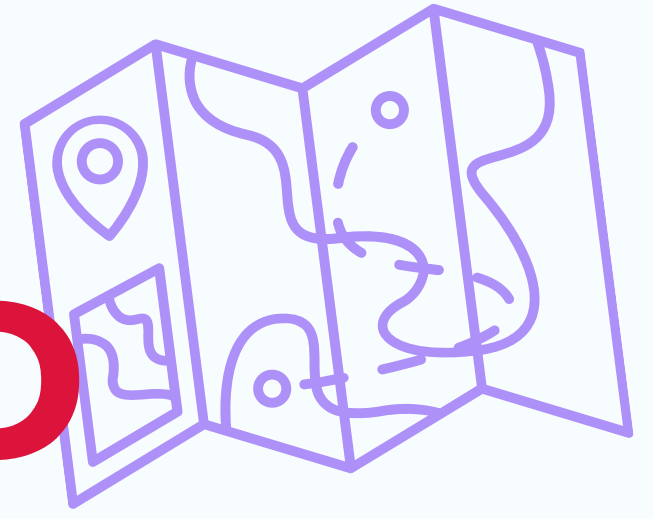




CLOCING AROUND CHICAGO



The Community Guide to CGI 2026



CLOC GLOBAL INSTITUTE



WELCOME TO CHICAGO

Chicago is a city built with intention. After the Great Chicago Fire, it rebuilt itself: bigger, bolder, and more innovative. Today, its skyline, lakefront, and neighborhoods reflect that same spirit of smart design and constant reinvention.

That's exactly why we're here.

At the 2026 CLOC Global Institute, our community comes together to become **Stronger by Design** by building better systems, stronger partnerships, and a more connected community.

This guide is powered by that community. Inside, you'll find favorite coffee spots, neighborhood gems, must-see landmarks, and local customs curated by your peers.

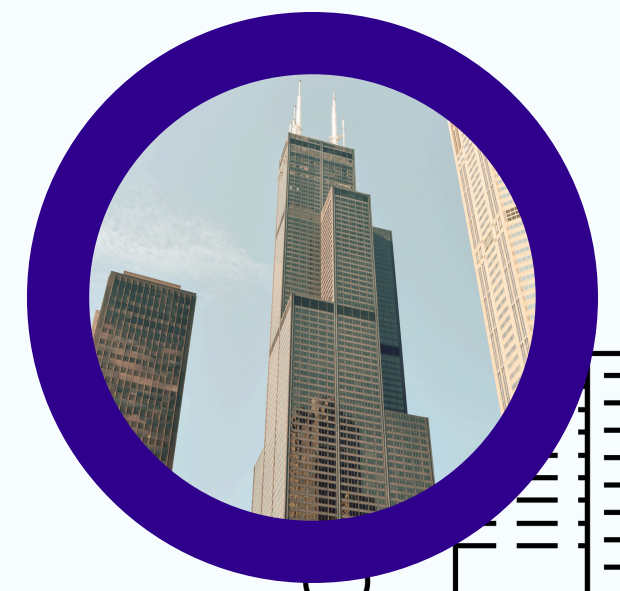
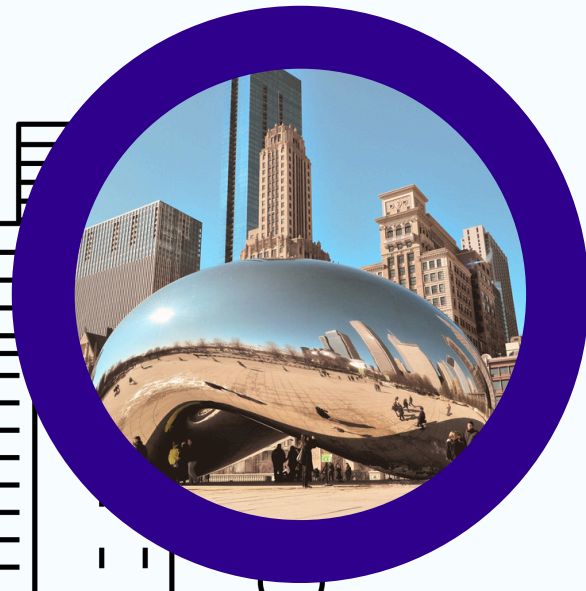


"You're coming during one of our most beautiful seasons, when Chicago really puts on its best outfit."



CHICAGO'S ICONS

Must-See Attractions



Cloud Gate

Chicago's most iconic photo moment.
Yes, it's The Bean.

Millennium Park

Art, architecture, and skyline views in one place.

Chicago Riverwalk

Walk, dine, or just take in the city from the water's edge.

Navy Pier

Classic Chicago energy, right on the lake. CGI After Dark will take place here!

Willis Tower

Go up if you dare. The views are worth it. Also, check out the views from 875 North Michigan Ave.



NEIGHBORHOODS



Just a few of the 200+



South Loop

Museums, lakefront,
convenient



West Loop

Restaurant row,
trendsetting energy



River North

Galleries, dining,
polished nightlife



Wicker Park

Indie shops, cool
vibes



Logan Square

Hip, historic, creative



Lincoln Park

Green space, classic
charm



“Step outside downtown and into Chicago’s neighborhoods, each one with its own culture, flavor, and story.”



“Chicago is a world class city with Midwest friendliness and community. The city is approachable with down to earth vibes.” - Janessa Nelson



SOUTH LOOP

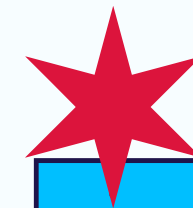
Your Home Base

Welcome to the South Loop, home to **McCormick Place** and your hub for CGI 2026.

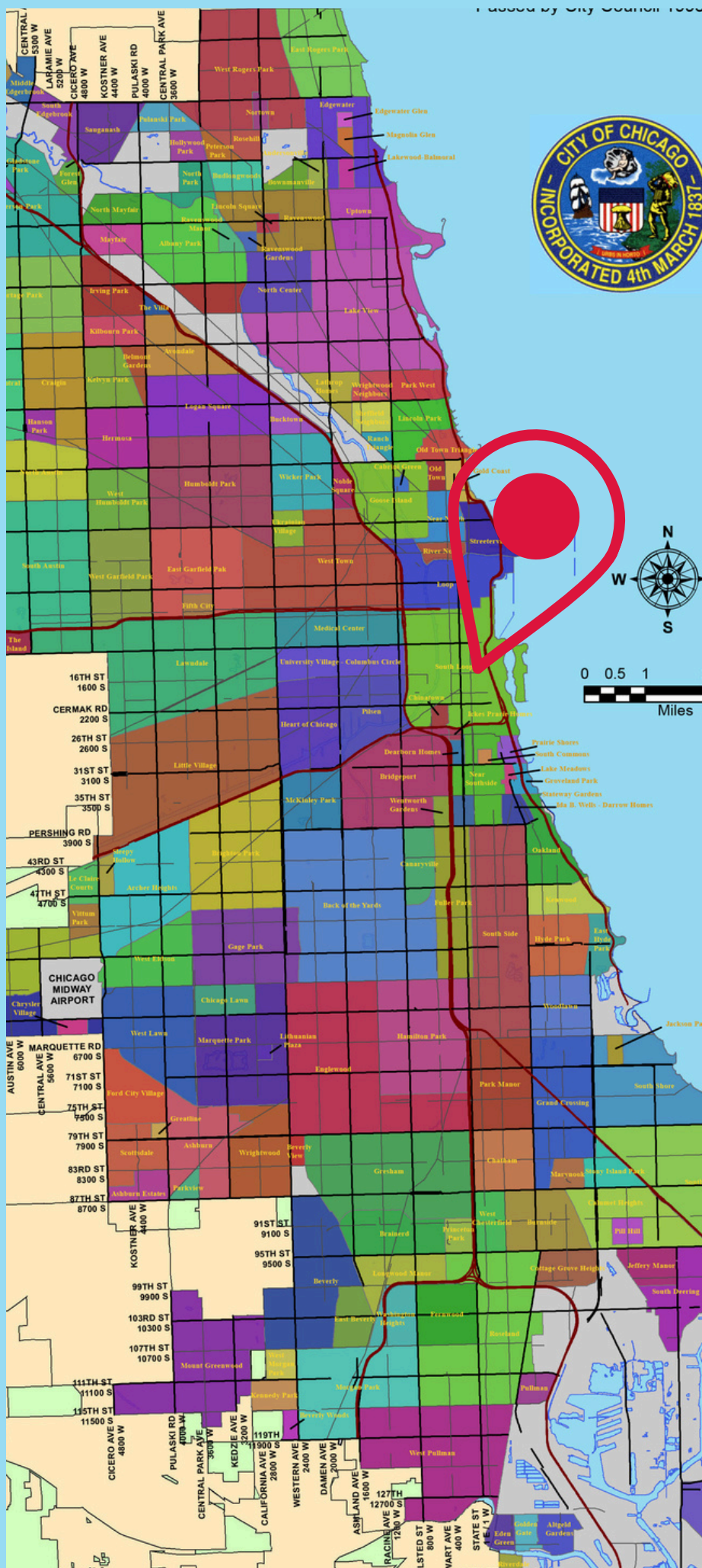
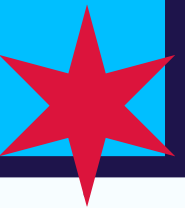
This neighborhood is built for convenience, but don't mistake it for boring. You're steps from the lake, minutes from world-class museums, and a quick ride to some of the city's best food.

What's nearby:

- Lake Michigan shoreline walks
- Museum Campus
- Easy CTA access to anywhere in the city
- Chinatown is just a short trip away



McCormick Place is close to Chinatown for incredible food options!



ART, CULTURE & CAN'T-MISS STOPS



Art Institute

One of the world's great art museums.



The Second City

Where improv comedy became an institution.



Field Museum

Home of Sue the T. rex.



Magnificent Mile & State Street

Shopping + architecture + Classic Chicago energy



in partnership with **ePIQ**

The Second City
WORKS

Join us for an interactive keynote session with The Second City Works, where collaboration isn't just discussed, it's experienced.

EVEN MORE ART, CULTURE & CAN'T-MISS STOPS



Museum of Contemporary Art

Modern, bold, and always changing.



Shedd Aquarium

A Chicago classic on the lake.



Chicago Architecture River Cruise

The best way to understand the city's design story.



Rosa's Lounge

"You can't come to Chicago without checking out a blues club! If you're looking for an authentic Chicago blues experience, Rosa's Lounge in Logan Square is worth the Uber. If you want something closer, visit Kingston Mines in Lincoln Park."

- Tanya Svoboda

LOCAL SPECIALTIES

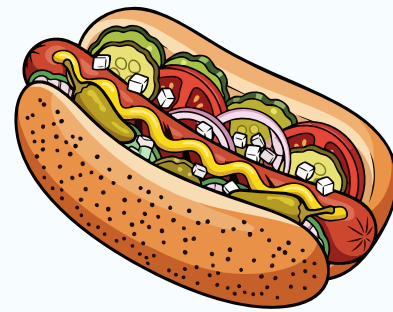


Deep Dish Pizza

A fork-and-knife situation of cheesy goodness.

Everyone has their fave, but here's a few:

- Lou Malnati's
- Pizzeria Uno
- Pequod's



Chicago Hot Dog

Mustard, relish, onion, tomato, pickle, sport peppers, and celery salt.

NO. KETCHUP. EVER.



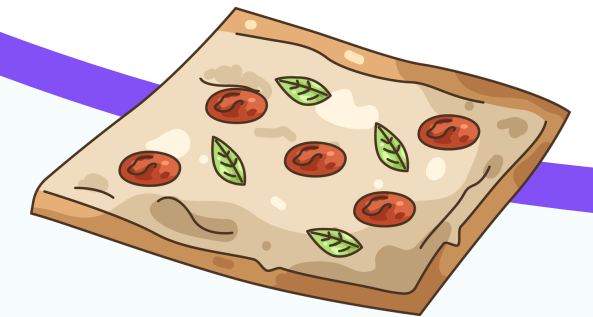
Italian Beef

Get it dipped with giardiniera. Trust us.



Garrett's Popcorn

The Chicago Mix is a sweet and savory combination of cheese and caramel.



Tavern-Style Pizza

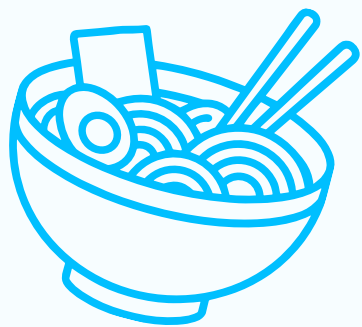
The local favorite you didn't know about. This is our everyday pizza!

Try:

- Vito & Nicks'
- Palermo's
- Professor Pizza



Wash it down with a Chicago Handshake, available across the city, with non-alcoholic options at select spots.



WHERE TO EAT

A Few Favorites from the CLOC Community

Gene & Georgetti

Retro supper club vibes: checkered tablecloths, martinis, and a hint of old-school Chicago.

What to Order

Steak, medium rare is the obvious choice here.

Creepies

It's the French bistro you didn't expect, but you want to come back to tomorrow.

What to Order

Get The chicken. You'll see.

High Five Ramen

Ramen and slushy cocktails in a cozy basement spot with very limited seats.

Pro Tip

Grab a drink upstairs at Green Street Smoked Meats while you wait!

Tweet

Awesome brunch and drinks in a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere.

What to Order

Country Benedict and a Wasabi Bloody Mary

Void

Playful Italian-American dishes in a cozy, eclectic setting.

What to Order

Spaghetti Uh-O's and No-Lört

Extra Credit

- Longman & Eagle
- Duck Inn
- QXY Dumpling
- Au Cheval
- 312 Fish Market
- Phodega

Chicago has a robust food scene with 20 MICHELIN-starred restaurants.



COFFEE BREAKS

Chicago takes its coffee seriously! There are too many great cafés to name, and you'll find a good one on just about every corner.

You really can't go wrong!

Starbucks Reserve Roastery

"The Starbucks Reserve Roastery is the largest in the world, set inside a stunning Chicago building with a massive spiral staircase and multiple floors to explore. Gorgeous and worth the trip."



Intelligentsia

"The best mocha in the Loop."

Dark Matter

A Chicago staple.



WHERE TO DRINK

A Few Favorites from the CLOC Community

The Red Lion Pub

A famously haunted, yet cozy British pub.



The Red Lion Pub
— Est. 1984 —



Lone Wolf

Neighborhood bar with an old-school vibe offering craft beers, classic cocktails & bar bites.

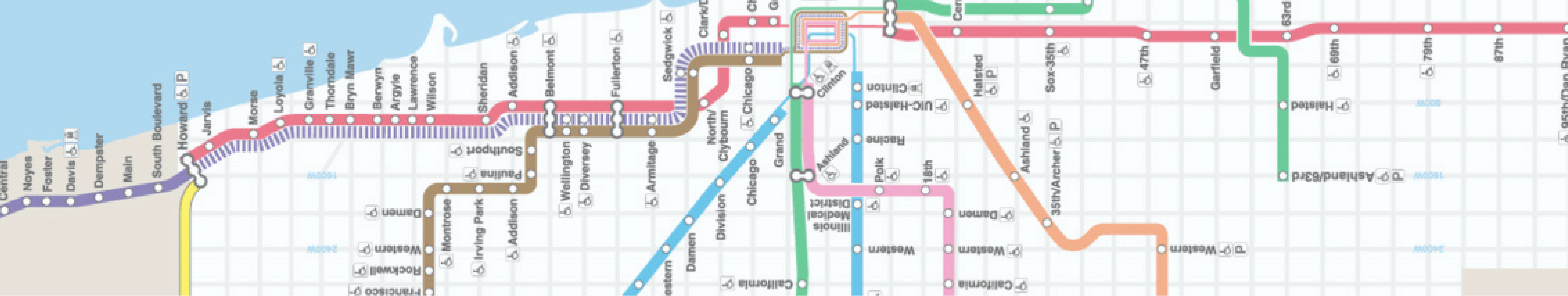
The Aviary

Swanky cocktail lounge with intricate drinks in super creative presentations
"Cocktails from your wildest dreams."

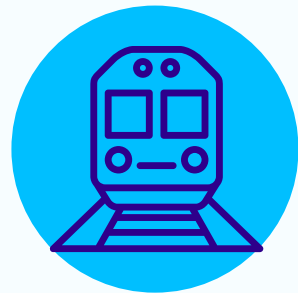


Delilah's

An old-school dive featuring one of the most serious whiskey stockpiles of over 800 bottles.



GETTING AROUND THE CITY



CTA & The L

Trains and buses across the city.
Fast. Affordable. Reliable
Tap to pay or use Ventra
Google Maps or City Mapper work seamlessly.



Taxis

Uber / Lyft / Taxis
Easy, especially at night
Good for door-to-door trips or when you're short on time.



On Foot

The grid system makes Chicago great for walking. It's also the best way to take in the architecture. You can also grab a Divvy bike if you get tired.

INSIDER TIPS

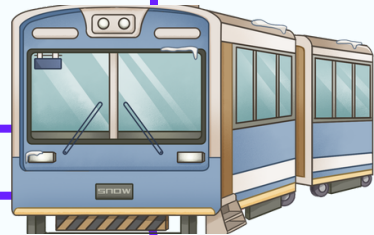
The Crosstown Classic | May 15–17

The Crosstown Classic takes place the weekend following CGI. It is the perfect time to be in Chicago! Witness the storied rivalry, splitting the city between North Side (*Cubs*) and South Side (*Sox*) loyalty, it is a highlight of the summer.



Bring a coat!
It may still be a bit chilly.

Use the public transit. Take the L at least once.



Go for the thin crust pizza.

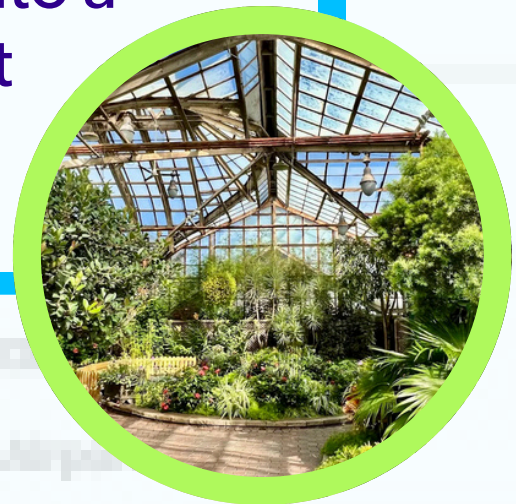
Walk the lakefront, you won't regret it.

Visit the Chicago History Museum

Chicago's history is quintessentially a story of the "American West" - you'll be surprised by how much of the city is a reflection of America's rapid industrial and technological evolution of the 19th century.
– Andrew Greenfeld

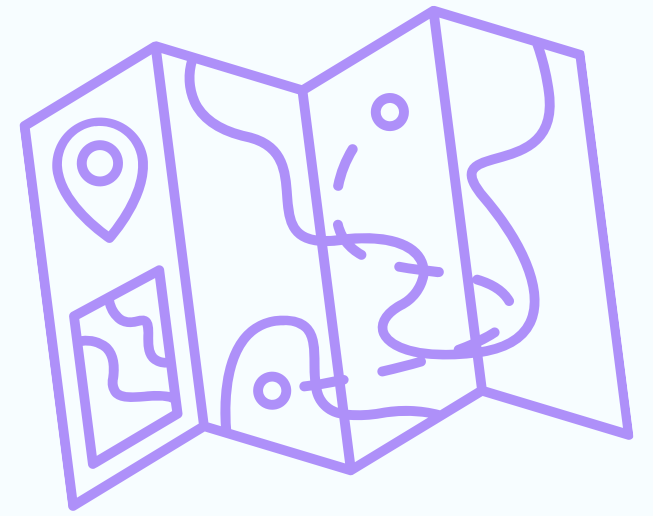
Visit the Lincoln Park Conservatory

It's a beautiful, peaceful, and revitalizing place to take a break from the city and escape into a jungle wonderland! The photo opps don't hurt, either. – Em Atteberry

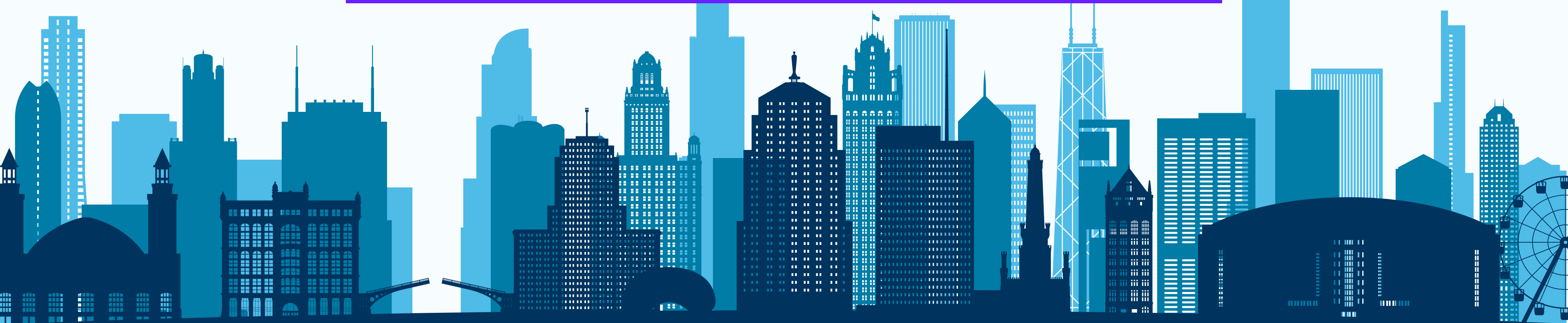




SEE YOU IN CHICAGO



CLOC Global Institute | May 11-14, 2026



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