

May 25, 2006

Friends of the Chicago River



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Discover Chicago's River at the NEW McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum Opening June 10, 2006

CHICAGO: On Saturday, June 10, Friends of the Chicago River will open the McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum, a new institution committed to helping people understand the history of the Chicago River and its inextricable link with the city. Located inside the southwest tower on the Michigan Avenue Bridge, the Bridgehouse tells the fascinating story of a meandering prairie stream transformed to serve a city and celebrates Chicago's world famous bridges. Friends of the Chicago River invites members of the media to a press conference and sneak preview of the Bridgehouse Friday, June 9, at 10:30 a.m.

"Chicago is here because the river is here," said Margaret Frisbie, Friends' executive director, "and at the site of Fort Dearborn it is the perfect place to tell that story—and it is quite a story. Destiny said that the Chicago River would be straightened, dredged, and reversed. The Chicago River's presence made the connection from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi possible and put a little town named Chicago on the map in something less than 30 years.

"And the story isn't over. Today the Chicago River is an incredibly diverse river with grand promenades and world famous architecture along its banks downtown. There is wildlife as near as Wolf Point and people use it for recreation all along its lengths. We are looking forward to being able to share its quirky history and wonderful surprises, while providing a never-before-seen view of the river and the city."

Completed in 1920 as part of the 1909 Burnham Plan, the Bridgehouse is entered off the Chicago Riverwalk from the Michigan Avenue Bridge at Wacker (376 North Michigan Ave., Chicago,) and will be open daily from 10 a.m. through 5:30 p.m. for a suggested donation of \$3. For more information and details on the opening celebration, please call (312) 939-0490.

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McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse—ad 1

The McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum is named for the McCormick Tribune Foundation, one of the nation's largest charitable organizations originally established as a charitable trust upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick in 1955. In the early part of the 20th century, McCormick played a critical role in shaping the city he loved. As a Chicago Alderman, McCormick turned his full attention to cleaning up the Chicago River and served as president of the Chicago Sanitary District (now Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago). Since 1955, the McCormick Tribune Foundation has honored McCormick's legacy by advancing the ideals of a free democratic society through investments in our children, communities and country. For more information, please visit www.McCormickTribune.org.

Friends of the Chicago River is a nonprofit organization with 2,000 members that works to foster the vitality of Chicago River for the plants, animals and people who share its watershed. Celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year, Friends of the Chicago River is pleased to invite the public to its 25th Anniversary events, including bridgehouse events, which are posted on Friends' website at www.chicagoriver.org or by calling Friends of the Chicago River at (312) 939-0490.