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## **An *Outdoor* Ice Skating Rink...in the Summer?!** **Navy Pier Offers a “Cool” Treat as Part of Its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*Skate by the Lake in Navy Pier’s new Polk Bros Park, starting June 10*

**CHICAGO** – Navy Pier is an even “cooler” place to visit this summer. As part of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Navy Pier announced today that guests will be able to ice skate outdoors all summer long at the *Skate by the Lake* ice rink in Polk Bros Park, located at the main entry point of Navy Pier. *Skate by the Lake* opens to the public at noon on Friday, June 10.

The state-of-the-art summer ice skating rink is a temporary installation in the new Polk Bros Park. The Park is named in honor of the Polk family, who generously provided a gift of \$20 million in 2014 for the complete re-imagining of the 13-acre park at the Pier’s west entrance. The outdoor ice rink is 82-feet long and 66-feet wide, and is one of many special experiences planned for this summer, as part of the Fifth Third Bank Centennial Celebration® at Navy Pier.

“We are excited to offer Navy Pier guests the unique opportunity to skate in Chicago’s warm summer breezes. It is both thrilling and fitting to offer this memorable experience in Polk Bros Park, whose namesake family built a summer rink for Chicagoans to enjoy more than half a century ago,” said Marilyn Gardner, President and Chief Executive Officer for Navy Pier, Inc., the non-profit organization that operates Navy Pier.

The Polk family had a history of using creative promotions to attract customers to its Polk Bros. discount appliance and furniture stores. In 1953, for example, Polk Bros. built a summer ice skating rink in the parking lot of the Polk City complex on North Central Avenue. That rink was home to many Chicago Blackhawks practices that were free for the public to watch.

“The creativity that Navy Pier is demonstrating through the introduction of a summertime ice skating rink in Polk Bros Park underscores their vision of the Pier transformed into a vibrant, interactive and accessible cultural destination. What better place for families to enjoy the beauty of the city’s skyline and Chicago’s glorious

summers than at the gateway to the renewed Navy Pier,” said Gillian Darlow, Chief Executive Officer for Polk Bros. Foundation.

Skaters can enjoy *Skate by the Lake*, from noon until 10 p.m. daily, throughout the summer. Tickets to the rink cost \$10 for guests with their own skates and \$15 for those who need to rent skates.

To mark the historic anniversary of the Midwest’s most-visited leisure destination, as well as delight generations of guests as it enters its next century, the place known as “the People’s Pier” is undergoing a massive, pier-wide transformation. In addition to the debut of the new Fountain and Plaza, along with the temporary ice skating rink, in Polk Bros Park, Navy Pier recently unveiled the bigger, taller and better *Centennial Wheel*; authentic Chicago restaurants that elevate the new Dining Experience food court; plus a revitalized, pedestrian-friendly South Dock that encourages guests to stroll and enjoy the land, lake and sky.

Some of the exiting and unforgettable events planned for guests of all ages during this summer’s Fifth Third Bank Centennial Celebration® at Navy Pier will include:

- The **Louis Vuitton America’s Cup World Series Challenge Chicago**, hosted by Navy Pier on Lake Michigan on June 10 through June 12. Navy Pier will make maritime history as the first-ever freshwater venue chosen to host an America’s Cup racing event.
- **PEPSI® Tall Ships® Chicago**, a world-class nautical event, offering the opportunity for the public to explore some of the world’s most historic vessels, dockside, from July 27 - 31, 2016.
- The **Aon Summer Fireworks Series**, lighting up the skyline on Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:15 p.m. through Labor Day Weekend.
- The **Miller Lite Beer Garden**, featuring free, live, local music throughout the summer.

Other summer highlights will include a special **Fourth of July** fireworks show; **Navy Pier’s 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday** on July 15, including a special **Miller Lite Toast to the Century** and fireworks show; and **Venetian Night** on September 10.

For more details, please visit the Navy Pier website at [www.navypier.com](http://www.navypier.com) or the Navy Pier Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

### **About Navy Pier**

Located on Lake Michigan, Navy Pier is the top-attended leisure destination in the Midwest, stretching more than six city blocks and welcoming more than 9 million guests annually. Originally opened in 1916 as a shipping and recreation facility, this Chicago landmark showcases more than 50 acres of parks, restaurants, attractions, retail shops, sightseeing and dining cruise boats, exposition facilities and more. In 2016, Navy Pier celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a series of special events and programming, the grand opening of its new *Centennial Wheel* and ongoing pier-wide redevelopment efforts as part of the “Fifth Third Bank Centennial Celebration.” Navy Pier, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization, maintains and oversees Navy Pier and its redevelopment into a bolder, greener and more contemporary urban space. For more information, visit our website at [www.navypier.com](http://www.navypier.com).

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