



# A CHICAGO EXPERIENCE

OCTOBER 30, 2025

HONORING MAYOR RICHARD M. DALEY

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES





## NAVY PIER'S MISSION

Navy Pier is the People's Pier, Chicago's lakefront treasure, welcoming all and offering dynamic and eclectic experiences through partnerships and programs that inspire discovery and wonder. Since our revitalization in 1995, more than 255 million guests have enjoyed the Pier's 50 acres of unparalleled experiences and attractions. From engaging performing arts experiences to serving as a vital economic anchor for our region, Navy Pier enriches the lives of millions of guests, artists, employees, and partners each year.





# A CHICAGO EXPIERIENCE

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October 30, 2025

## Honoring **Mayor Richard M. Daley**

*A Chicago ExPIERience* will reflect on the 1995 redevelopment of Navy Pier and celebrate the economic and cultural impact it has had on our community over the past century.

The night will honor the leadership, influence, and innovation of Mayor Richard M. Daley who championed this transformation and once again made Navy Pier the heart of the Chicago experience.

Gala guests will step back in time and experience the fun and wonder that revitalized the Pier 30 years ago and continues to inspire millions from across globe to this day.

## A CHICAGO EXPIERIENCE CO-CHAIRS

We are honored to list the following individuals as Gala Co-Chairs. This group has made a profound impact on the growth of the Pier, from the 1995 redevelopment to the Navy Pier of today.

Jennifer Steans  
*Board Chair*

Marilynn Kelly Gardner  
*President and CEO*

Nora Daley

John Schmidt

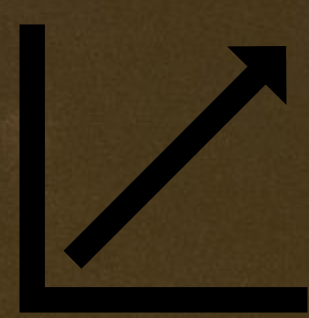
Eric Smith

Kelly Welsh





# Navy Pier Mission Highlights



8.5M+

2024 Pier-Wide Visitors



55%

Of Visitors Are From  
The Chicagoland Area



11M

Annual Website Views



500+

Free & Ticketed Events  
Annually



70+

On-Site Businesses Employing  
3,000 Individuals



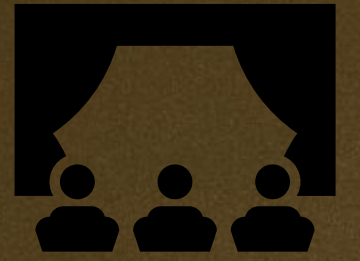
140+

Local schools and  
nonprofits served



3,000+

Annual Local Performing Artists



230+

Arts and Cultural Partner  
Organizations



# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

	<b>\$100,000 Event Vice Chair</b>	<b>\$50,000 Lead Sponsor</b>	<b>\$25,000 Host Committee</b>	<b>\$12,000 Event Partner</b>
<b>A Chicago ExPIERience Tickets</b>	20 Premium Tickets	20 Tickets	10 Tickets	10 Tickets
<b>Recognition in fundraising initiatives, event collateral, and digital materials</b>	Prominent Listing and verbal recognition during event	Priority Listing	Name and Logo	Name
<b>Visibility in Gala program book</b>	Full-page color ad	Full-page color ad	Half-page color ad	Name and logo
<b>Recognition on Gala website</b>	Logo	Logo	Logo	Logo







# NAVY PIER BOARD

**Jennifer Steans, Chair**  
President & CEO  
Financial Investments Corporation

**Dean M. Harrison, Vice Chair**  
Former President and CEO  
Northwestern Memorial HealthCare

**Eric Smith, Vice Chair**  
Vice Chair  
BMO Commercial Bank

**Jill Griebenow, Treasurer**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Cboe Global Markets

**Jorge Ramirez, Secretary**  
Managing Director, Infrastructure Investments  
Labor & Government Strategies  
GCM Grosvenor

## DIRECTORS

**James Blair**  
President and CEO  
F.H. Paschen

**John Bucksbaum**  
Founder  
Bucksbaum Retail Properties, LLP

**Eileen Chin**  
President  
RM Chin and Associates

**Michelle Collins**  
President  
Cambium LLC

**Sasha Gerritson**  
Former Opera Program Director  
Northeastern Illinois University School of Music

**Scott Goodman**  
Principal  
Farpoint Development

**Sandra P. Guthman**  
Chair Emerita, Board of Directors  
Polk Bros. Foundation

**Torrence Hinton**  
President, Ohio  
FirstEnergy Corp.

**Travis Hunter**  
Managing Partner  
KPMG

**Laura Keidan Martin**  
Partner  
Katten

**Steven Koch**  
Managing Partner  
Bowline Group

**Aarti Kotak**

**Suzet McKinney**

**Richard S. Price**  
Executive Chairman  
Mesirow

**Bridget Reidy**  
Former Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer  
Exelon Corporation

**Smita Shah**  
Founder & CEO  
SPAAN Tech

**John H. Simpson**  
Partner  
Broadhaven Capital Partners

**Emily Heisley Stoeckel**  
Chairman of the Board  
The Heico Companies & Heico Holding

**Syreeta Harris Strickland**  
Head of Investment Banking Marketing  
William Blair

**Kelly R. Welsh**  
Chief Legal Officer and Head of Corporate and Public Affairs  
Discover

**Phil Wilmington**  
Former Vice-Chairman  
Workday

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

**Jeff Bethke**  
Chairman  
Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority  
CEO  
Ingenuity Advising

**Larita Clark**  
CEO  
Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority

**Marilynn Kelly Gardner**  
President and CEO  
Navy Pier

**Terrance B. McGann**  
Board Member  
Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority  
Partner  
McGann, Kettermann & Rioux

## LIFE TRUSTEES

**Norman Bobins**  
Founder  
Norman Bobins Consulting LLC

**William J. Brodsky, Chair Emeritus**  
Chairman  
Cedar Street Asset Management

**Donna La Pietra**  
Executive Producer  
Kurtis Productions

**John R. Schmidt**  
Senior Counsel  
Mayer Brown



# WITH GRATITUDE

## Gala Vice Chairs



Jennifer Steans and  
Jim Kastenholz

## Gala Presenting Sponsor



## Gala Lead Sponsors



## Gala Host Committee

Ellen Alberding and Kelly Welsh Charitable Fund  
at the Chicago Community Foundation



Mr. & Mrs. Norman Bobins,  
The Robert Thomas Bobins Foundation

Joan and  
Bill Brodsky

William Daley and  
Bernadette Keller



Emily Heisley Stoeckel  
and Kevin L. Stoeckel

Katten



Laura and  
Craig Martin



Much



PEOPLES GAS®  
*We Keep Life Moving®*



Linda and  
Richard Price





WITH GRATITUDE

Gala Event Partners

Ariel  
Alternatives



Jacolyn and John Bucksbaum  
Family Foundation



Michelle L. Collins



FRANCZEK

Marilynn Kelly Gardner



Kathy and  
Dean Harrison



Koch Family  
Foundation

MAYER|BROWN  
JOHN R. SCHMIDT  
NICHOLAS R. VALLORANO



M. Bridget Reidy



John H. Simpson  
Family Foundation





## Contact Us



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