What's New

Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light: Closes January 7, 2024
Enjoy Chicago’s longstanding holiday tradition, now in its 81st year. Our Main Level features more than 50 cultural trees, displays, and a majestic Grand Tree in the center of the Rotunda. • Main Level 2

Black Creativity: Juried Art Exhibition
Opens January 15, 2024
The nation’s longest-running exhibition of African American art features over 100 works by professional and youth artists. • Main Level 2

Pompeii: The Exhibition
Closes January 15, 2024
Travel back in time and marvel at more than 150 precious artifacts from the city forever preserved in Pompeii: The Exhibition. • Main Level 2 • Timed-entry ticket required.

Must-See Exhibits

Pioneer Zephyr
Explore a new story about one of the fastest trains in the world in a renovated exhibit showcasing its legacy and impact on the future of transportation. • Entry Hall

U-505 Submarine Exhibit + On-board Tour
The world-famous U-505 is the centerpiece of an unforgettable exhibit. Experience the Battle of the Atlantic, the U-505’s capture and more. An optional on-board tour allows you to explore the U-505 from fore to aft. Allow 30 minutes prior to your scheduled tour time to explore the exhibit. • Lower Level 1 • On-board tour requires a timed-entry ticket and is not accessible to wheelchairs or strollers.

Colleen Moore’s Fairy Castle
Experience the enchantment of this one-of-a-kind castle that has called MSI home since 1949. • Lower Level 1

Coal Mine
Descend a mine shaft, take a ride on the Coal Mine train, and learn the evolution of the technology of coal mining in this 30-minute guided walking tour. • Main Level 2 • Timed-entry ticket required. Not accessible to wheelchairs or strollers.

Science Storms
Investigate the science behind nature’s power as you understand the dynamics of a 40-foot tornado, see an avalanche in motion, and more. • Main Level 2

Transportation Gallery
Witness how humankind has flown, soared, sped, and chugged throughout the years with this awe-inspiring collection of planes, trains, and automobiles. Don’t miss The Great Train Story’s 20 trains on a cross-country journey. • Main Level 2 and Balcony Level 3

The Blue Paradox
This experience explores the impact plastic pollution has on our ocean ecosystems and the planet. Through mind-blowing visuals, provocative data, and emotional storytelling, the Blue Paradox makes the ocean plastics crisis – and the collective actions needed to address it – relevant and relatable. • Main Level 2 • Free with timed-entry ticket available at the exhibit entrance.

More Favorites

Genetics + Baby Chick Hatchery
Learn about DNA, discover what makes us unique, and watch as baby chicks peck out of their shells. • Main Level 2

Numbers in Nature: A Mirror Maze
Navigate a giant mirror maze and discover the mathematical patterns that abound in the natural world. • Main Level 2 • Free with timed-entry ticket available at the exhibit entrance.

Science Experiences

Live Science
Discover interactive science moments with our staff and volunteers throughout the Museum. Investigate the conditions needed to form a vortex, learn how the Tesla coil fires, and more. Visit the Information Desk on Main Level 2 to see what’s offered.

Giant Dome Theater
Enjoy a premium theater experience on our newly renovated five-story, domed wraparound screen. Immerse yourself in the brightest, clearest, and most colorful picture we’ve ever presented. Travel the globe on a scientific adventure without ever leaving your seat. For today’s current films and showtimes, please visit a ticket counter or scan this QR code. • Lower Level 1 • CIBC is the Giant Dome Theater season sponsor. A timed-entry ticket is required for films.

Toymaker
Opening Holiday 2023
Watch the entire process of manufacturing a toy on this modern assembly line. You’ll be able to follow along every step of the way, from parts to packaging. The speed and precision is quite a show in itself – not to mention the dancing and drawing the robots will do while you wait. • Main Level 2