



ENGINEERING FEST

SUSTAINABLE ENGINEERING

2025 Report

ENGINEERING FEST

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025

INTRODUCTION

Engineering Fest is the CAC's contribution to National Engineers Week. This annual festival offers a variety of activities for ages 8-12 and their families, at no cost to participants. This program supports the CAC's strategic goals to be the leading forum that educates and inspires, and to strive to represent the diversity of Chicago.

Over 1,000 people attended the thirteenth Engineering Fest on Saturday, February 22. The learning focus was Sustainable Engineering, hosted

by Chicago icon and leader in sustainability and social impact, Willis Tower. Participants had a chance to meet with more than 65 engineering and design professionals, who led hands-on activities that explored architecture and engineering's role in creating the built environments they want, need and deserve.

Engineering Fest registrants hail from 144 unique zip codes in Chicagoland and beyond. More than 65% reside in the City of Chicago.





GOALS

- **Demonstrate why Design Matters** in the built environment, as it relates to the past, present and future.
- **Create a fun and interactive learning experience** that illustrates how structures and systems are designed.
- **Convene engineering and design professionals** to impart their specialized knowledge, share their career pathways and expose young people to a wide range of real-world professions.
- **Showcase Chicago's history and future** as an innovator in the field, while making concepts real, tangible, and personal for participants.

“ I loved the various engineering disciplines displayed and explanations as to how they tie into the development of the Willis Tower.”

– PARENT PARTICIPANT



ACTIVITIES

Various design challenges, tours and other activities took place throughout Willis Tower's Catalog spaces, which were filled to capacity. Activities were led by partner organizations and CAC volunteers, and included:

- Walking Tours
- Ask An Expert
- Build a Chicago Skyscraper! (with CAC Teen Fellows)
- City of Small Shoulders (with Bit Space)
- Construction and Engineering (with Dawson Technical Institute of Kennedy-King College)
- Creating Power: Electric Circuits and Wind Energy (with Chicago Council of Science and Technology)
- Design Your Dream Community (with Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning)
- Engineer a Tower Crane (with Turner Construction Company)
- LEGO Build Green Challenge
- Photo Booth
- Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine (with JGMA)
- Sustainable Design and Build (with Clayco)
- Shake Table, Bridges & Marshmallows (with Structural Engineers Association of Illinois)
- Wild Mile Garden Design (with Urban Rivers)
- Willis Tower Engineering
- Water Filter Lab (with CAC Girls Build!)



“The volunteers who explained things at the tables were knowledgeable and very good with children. The activities were engaging and not ‘dumbed down’ because the participants were kids.”

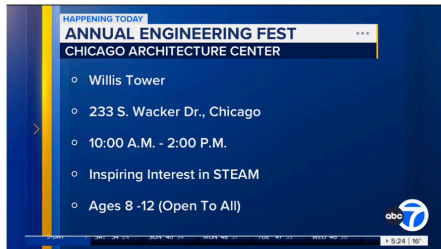
– PARENT PARTICIPANT



WLS-TV (Chicago, IL) - ABC 7 Eyewitness News 5am

Television

Aired on February 22, 2025 at 5:21 AM on WLS-TV (Chicago, IL)
Chicago, IL, United States



WBBM-TV (Chicago, IL) - CBS 2 Sunday News at 7am

Television

Aired on February 23, 2025 at 7:20 AM on WBBM-TV (Chicago, IL)
Chicago, IL, United States



“Great event, looked like the children as well as the parents were participating and enjoying the event! Kudos to the CAC staff and organization.”

– VOLUNTEER

MEDIA COVERAGE

ABC 7 Eyewitness News 5am | WLS-TV (Chicago, IL), February 22

“The Chicago Architecture Center is hosting its annual Engineering Fest at Willis Tower today. There are hands-on activities geared toward children ages 8 to 12, but organizers say the whole family is welcome to join.”

Impressions: 27,780

CBS 2 Sunday News at 7am | WBBM-TV (Chicago, IL), February 23

“Building up a love of architecture: Young future scientists got to learn about that and the Willis Tower yesterday, the Chicago Architecture Center held its annual Engineering Fest.”

Impressions: 14,729



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*CAC's Engineering Fest is a part of The Richard H. Driehaus
Foundation Youth Learning Programs.*

SEE YOU AT ENGINEERING FEST 2026, SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26!

architecture.org/efest

Photo credit: Anna Munzesheimer