

## 5 NEIGHBORHOOD

### go-tos

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- 6 **LULA CAFE**  
**2537 N Kedzie**  
**Boulevard**  
**Logan Square** ⑤  
**+1 773 489 9554**  
**[lulacafe.com](http://lulacafe.com)**

The city's (and perhaps the country's) original farm-to-table restaurant, Lula opened in 1999 and, miraculously, has seldom repeated a specials menu since. From unique brunch dishes to lush, coursed-out dinners featuring farm-fresh produce and protein, it's a favorite destination for locals as well as visitors in-the-know. Don't skip dessert: the carrot cake is a must.

- 7 **SOUTHPORT**  
**GROCERY AND CAFE**  
**3552 N Southport**  
**Lakeview** ⑤  
**+1 773 665 0100**  
**[southportgrocery.com](http://southportgrocery.com)**

With just enough tables to accommodate popping in for breakfast or lunch (and secret dinners), this bustling staple in the heart of Lincoln Park's shopping district prides itself on from-scratch favorites like quiches with fresh ingredients, finger-lickin' sweet entrees, and chopped salads that rotate with the seasons. The grocery features housemade preserves and local purveyors.

## 5 VERY SMALL bars

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### 131 THE VICTOR BAR

4011 N Damen  
Avenue  
North Center ⑤  
+1 773 360 7049  
[thevictorbarchicago.com](http://thevictorbarchicago.com)

More intimate than tiny, The Victor Bar is as dark as its cocktails are strong. The simple menu is divided into Shaken and Stirred, with a nice mix of standards (old fashioned, sazerac) alongside originals (Scotty Doesn't Know: scotch, averna, lemon juice, maple syrup), and a handful of French wines.

### 132 MATCHBOX

770 N Milwaukee  
Avenue  
River West ①  
+1 312 666 9292  
[matchboxbar.com](http://matchboxbar.com)

With barely enough room to squeeze into seats, this cocktail bar dates back to 1945 and was recently restored. Fortunately, its menu still reflects the classics, built in the classic style: with powdered sugar and fresh juice. Shimmy into a seat and taste the difference in the bar's gimlets, Tom Collinses, and famously strong margaritas.

### 133 SMALLBAR

2956 N Albany  
Avenue  
Avondale ⑤  
+1 773 509 9888  
[theoriginalsmallbar.com](http://theoriginalsmallbar.com)

Cozy but not cramped. Boasting one of the city's most impressive beer menus, there are varieties and flavors to suit every taste. Check the specials board or ask any of the friendly bar staff to recommend a favorite. Order a side of fried cheese curds, root for whatever game's on the TV, and kick back.

### 134 MILK ROOM

12 S Michigan  
Avenue  
The Loop ②  
+1 312 792 3536  
[lsdatcaa.com/  
milk-room](http://lsdatcaa.com/milk-room)

If you've strolled through the Chicago Athletic Association Hotel, you've probably walked right past this itty-bitty boîte whose vintage stained-glass doors keep it successfully hidden. Behind them are just eight seats, a single bartender, and a collection of some of the oldest, rarest spirits in the world – with the prices to match.

### 135 THE ALDERMAN

1163 W 18th St  
Pilsen  
+1 312 243 2410  
[thealderman  
chicago.com](http://thealdermanchicago.com)

Tucked behind a side door at an enormous party bar, this 14-seat cocktail den is as laidback as its mixologist-host, Lance Bowman. After a complimentary welcome drink, inventive interpretations of classics are up for grabs alongside originals incorporating everything from toasted marshmallows to palo santo. The hip-hop soundtrack keeps the drinks from coming off too seriously.





EXILE IN BOOKVILLE

# 55 PLACES TO SHOP

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5 <b>BOOKSHOPS</b> for browsing	88
5 <b>VINYL RECORD</b> shops	90
5 <b>unique SECONDHAND</b> shops	93
5 <b>ICONIC Chicago</b> merchants	96
5 <b>classic WOMEN'S</b> boutiques	98
5 <b>UNUSUAL RETAIL</b> destinations	100
5 <b>great places for HOUSEWARES</b>	102
5 <b>WEIRD &amp; WONDERFUL</b> boutiques	104
5 <b>PLANT and FLOWER</b> shops	106
5 <b>CARD and GIFT</b> shops	108
5 <b>great BOOZE</b> shops	110

## 5 historic SKYSCRAPERS

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### 191 **THE ROOKERY BUILDING**

209 S LaSalle St  
The Loop ②  
+1 312 553 6100  
*therookery  
building.com*

Completed in 1888 during the city's building boom following the Great Chicago Fire, this 11-story building was the world's first skyscraper. Renovated twice thereafter, The Rookery was touched by not one but four of the city's most storied architects: Daniel Burnham and John Wellborn Root, Frank Lloyd Wright, and William Drummond.

### 192 **MONADNOCK BUILDING**

53 W Jackson  
Boulevard  
The Loop ②  
+1 312 922 1890  
*monadnock  
building.com*

Don't judge this historic skyscraper by its plain-jane exterior. Its solid, no-nonsense façade was a design choice when architects Daniel Burnham and John Wellborn Root were commissioned for the new commercial building in the late 1870s. Hiding inside are all the gilded flourishes common to the Victorian era – notably the decorative aluminium staircases that break up the long hallways.





243 **LURIE GARDEN**

AT: MILLENNIUM PARK

220 E Monroe St

Millennium Park ②

+1 312 228 1004

[lurigarden.org](http://lurigarden.org)

In peak summer, this vast modern garden is a sea of blue and purple thanks to its dense crops of sage, asters, blazing star, ironweed and more. Hidden from view by a dense 'shoulder' hedge – a nod to the 'City of Big Shoulders' nickname – it feels private and quiet despite its location between Pritzker Pavilion and the Modern Wing of the Art Institute.

244 **CHICAGO WOMEN'S PARK AND GARDEN**

1801 S Indiana

Avenue

Prairie District ③

+1 312 328 0821

[chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://chicagoparkdistrict.com)

This quaint park functions almost like a courtyard connecting a handful of historic homes in the city's Prairie District. The beautiful formal garden features tidy landscaping, neatly raked gravel paths, and a sculptural tribute to local activist Jane Addams. At the center is the Botanical Gardens Fountain, adding a tranquil soundtrack to the small space.

245 **FORMAL GARDEN**

AT: HUMBOLDT PARK

3019 W Division St

Humboldt Park ④

+1 312 742 7529

[chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://chicagoparkdistrict.com)

When completed in 1908, this stately Formal Garden boasted year-round landscaping designed by seminal architect Jens Jensen. The garden features a semi-circular design and a central reflection pool – which has long been dry. A complete restoration project launched shortly before the pandemic, though is currently on hold. For now, just the garden's central flowers are maintained.

# 5 GALLERIES and ART CLUBS

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306 **WESTERN EXHIBITIONS**  
1709 W Chicago Avenue, #5009  
West Town ④  
+1 312 480 8390  
[westernexhibitions.com](http://westernexhibitions.com)

A longtime exhibitor of weird and wonderful, unique and thought-provoking works. Among the standouts are Deb Sokolow's tongue-in-cheek conspiracy plans, Paul Nudd's vaguely biological bursts of color, and partners Dutes Miller and Stan Shellabarger's beautiful collaborations.

307 **KAVI GUPTA GALLERY**  
835 W Washington Boulevard  
West Loop ④  
+1 312 432 0708  
[kavigupta.com](http://kavigupta.com)

Kavi Gupta represents a roster of artists on the brink of breakout, and maintains them through their success. Layer-rich painter Angel Otero, multidisciplinary sculptor Allana Clarke, and culture vulture Tony Tasset are among Gupta's diverse roster.

308 **THE ARTS CLUB OF CHICAGO**  
201 E Ontario St  
Streetsville ①  
+1 312 787 3997  
[artsclubchicago.org](http://artsclubchicago.org)

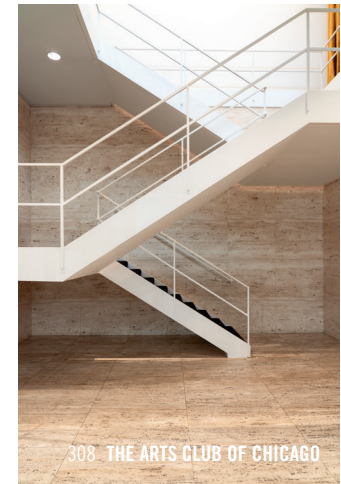
Set in a Mies van der Rohe-inspired building, this private arts club maintains a street-level gallery open to the public. International stars and local up-and-comers alike have staged traditional framed wall hangings, site-specific installations in the garden, and jaw-dropping takeovers of the gallery space.

309 **CARRIE SECRIST GALLERY**  
1732 W Hubbard St,  
#1A  
West Town ④  
+1 312 610 3821  
[secristgallery.com](http://secristgallery.com)

Though Secrist's roster of artists doesn't stray too far from painting, drawing, sculpture and collage, the exhibitions are anything but traditional. The gallery is known to paint gallery walls a stark aqua to help works pop, or install a yellow stripe on its floor to create space for abstract sculpture installations.

310 **VERTICAL GALLERY**  
2006 W Chicago Avenue, #1R  
Ukrainian Village ④  
+1 773 697 3846  
[verticalgallery.com](http://verticalgallery.com)

On a busy stretch of this hip hood, Vertical Gallery packs in the crowds for dense exhibitions inspired by street art, pop culture, and highly graphic illustrations. Many works are grouped directly next to each other to maximize wall space, and the range of art – from graffiti writers to hyper-realistic painters – is a treat.





391 HOTEL ZACHARY

## 5 BOUTIQUE hotels

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### 391 HOTEL ZACHARY

3630 N Clark St  
Wrigleyville ⑤  
+1 773 302 2300  
[hotelzachary.com](http://hotelzachary.com)

Baseball fans aren't the only ones who can appreciate this handsome hotel within home run distance of Wrigley Field. Spanning seven floors with box-seat views of the ballpark, it's finished in a vintage clubhouse feel with leather details, brass fixtures, and ivy-green accents. Outposts of some of the city's most popular foodie spots are just downstairs.

### 392 21C MUSEUM HOTEL CHICAGO

55 E Ontario St  
River North ①  
+1 312 660 6100  
[21cchicago.com](http://21cchicago.com)

As the northernmost outpost of the 21c group of museum-hotels, Chicago's location features this mini-chain's knack for marrying curious visual arts installations with modern, comfortable rooms and suites. Renowned local artists are invited to take over the walls throughout the year, and lecture and performance series are sprinkled into the calendar.

443 **JAPANESE GARDEN AT JACKSON PARK**

**6300 S Cornell Avenue**  
**Jackson Park ⑦**  
**+1 773 256 0903**  
***gardenofthe phoenix.com***

Especially in early spring with the cherry blossoms in bloom, this is a peaceful and beautiful spot to stop. This little garden and its larger location, on Jackson Park's vast Wooded Island, are remnants from the Chicago World's Fair of 1893. A mile west on 57th Street, the University of Chicago's commercial district has options for light bites.

444 **HUMBOLDT PARK BOATHOUSE**

**1301 N Humboldt Drive**  
**Humboldt Park ④**  
**+1 312 742 7549**  
***chicagoparkdistrict.com***

With 200 acres of prairies, meadows, nature vistas and more, Humboldt Park is one of the largest parks on the North Side. All paths lead to the Boathouse in the center of the park overlooking a pleasant lagoon. Street vendors sell Puerto Rican snacks, and during the warm months, swan-shaped pedal boats are for rent.

445 **GREAT LAWN AT MILLENNIUM PARK**

**201 E Randolph St**  
**Millennium Park ②**  
**+1 312 742 1168**  
***millenniumpark.org***

A state-of-the-art sound system and genius quick-dry drainage system make this green patch adjacent to Pritzker Pavilion one of the poshest lawns in the city. During summer evenings, the Frank Gehry-designed bandshell hosts free concerts, and the city flocks with picnic baskets to enjoy the twilight soundtrack.



443 JAPANESE GARDEN AT JACKSON PARK