

RIVERWALK



LYNN NEILS

I have been a volunteer Chicago Greeter since its first full year in 2001.

I have loved meeting visitors from all over the world and introducing them to my favorite city in the world - Chicago.

The Riverwalk is a special place in the city for me and all Chicagoans. For me, I live in a highrise building on the river. For all of us, Chicago wouldn't be here without the river, so the Riverwalk is a great way to celebrate our history.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY



The Riverwalk extends 2.5 miles—the full length of the main branch of the river. The area east of Michigan Ave. has just been reimagined and improvements continue today.

1 MOSAICS AT THE GATEWAY

Starting at the far east end, you will find **the mosaics at the Riverwalk Gateway** underneath the Lake Shore Drive bridge. Created by artist Ellen Lanyon each panel depicts a chapter in the story of Chicago and how we tamed and used the river.

From the Native Americans and early explorers, to the first permanent resident, beyond the Great Chicago Fire, including images of the flora and fauna in and around the river.

2 WII NAVAL MEMORIAL

Heading west, your second stop should be the **WWII Naval Memorial**.

The memorial acknowledges the 28 submarines that passed through the city on the river on their way to the Pacific and to all submariners past, present and future.

3 ECHO HECHO FRESCO

Next, check out the new mural painted under the Columbus Street bridge.

The colorful zigzag design by Alberto Aguilar **“Echo Hecho Fresco”** reflects the movement of visitors walking along the Riverwalk, the boats passing by on the river and the vehicular traffic crossing the river on the bridge above.

Continuing west, each section between the bridges west of Michigan Avenue has a different function.



COLUMBUS ST BRIDGE MURAL

4 COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Between Michigan Avenue and Wabash Street are the kiosks in the “**Community Marketplace**”. Here you can have a bite to eat and shop for a souvenir created by a local.

5 MCCORMICK TRIBUNE BRIDGEHOUSE

Don’t forget to stop in at the **McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse** and **Chicago River Museum** to learn about the river and the moveable bridges. For current hours and admission fees check out <http://www.bridgehousemuseum.org/>

6 VIETNAM MEMORIAL

Between Wabash and State St you will find the **Vietnam Memorial**, the largest outside of Washington D.C. It honors every branch of the military, the 15 Medal of Honor winners from Illinois and the nearly 3,000 men and women from our state who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

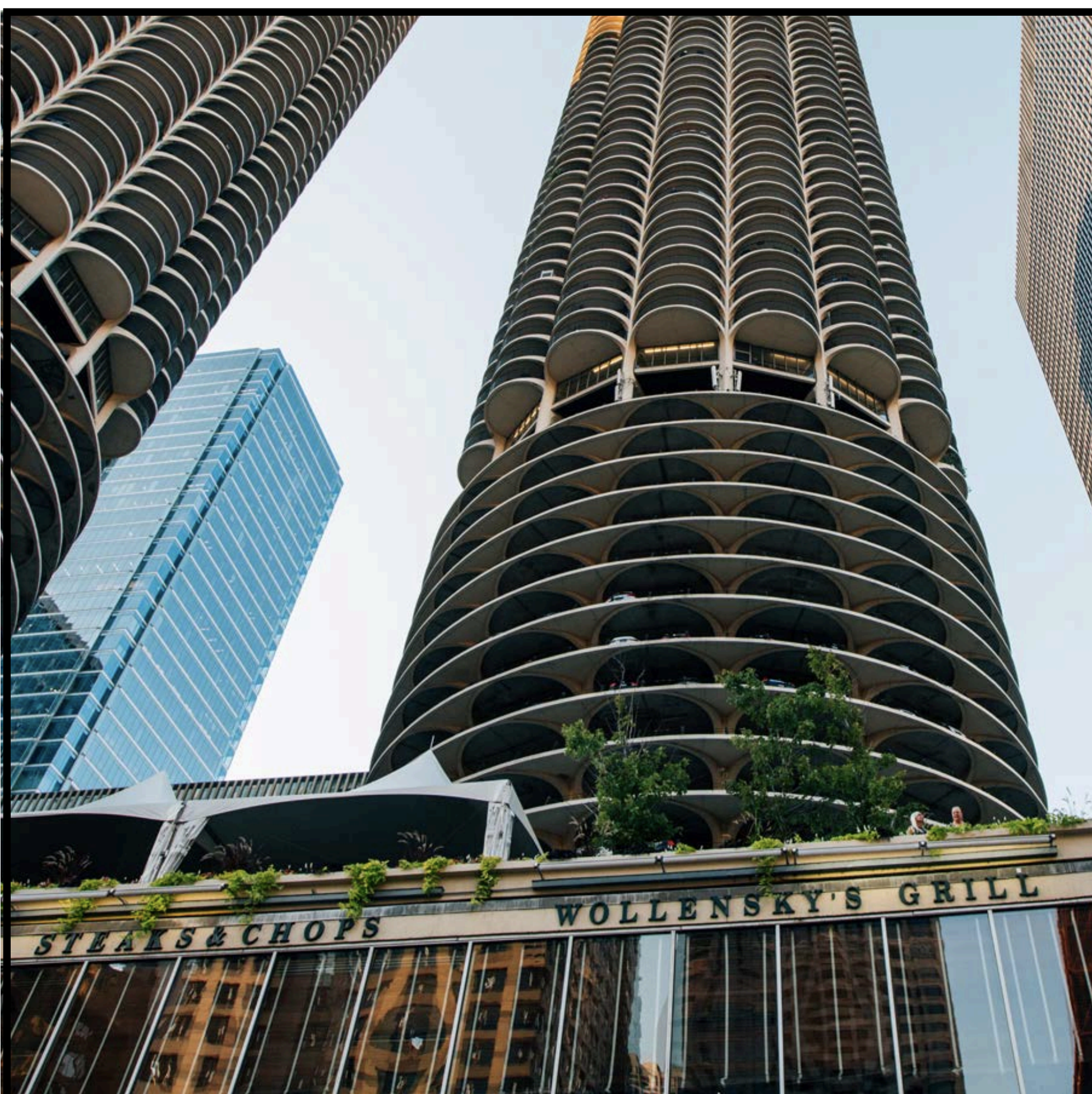
7 MARINA CITY

Next is “The Marina” which pays homage to the iconic **Marina City** a.k.a. Corn Cob Buildings across the river.

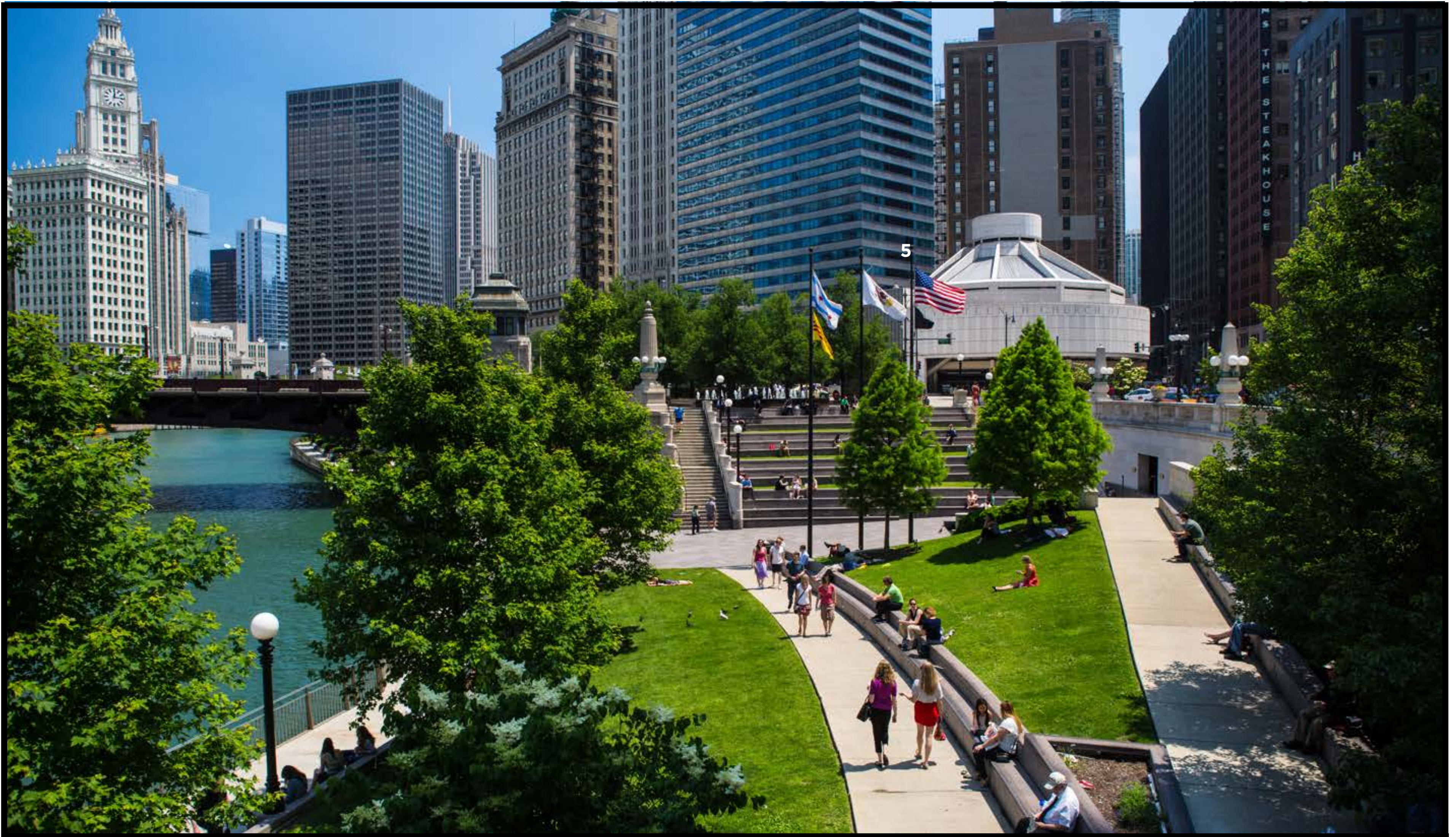
8 RIVER THEATER

The “**River Theater**” with its steps is the site of a 2nd memorial to the loss of lives. On the 24th of July 1915, the SS Eastland was docked here while employees from the General Electric factory with their friends and family boarded the vessel for an excursion across the lake and a picnic in Michigan City, Indiana.

The unstable boat suddenly rolled over on its side. As a result, 844 men, women and children including 22 entire families lost their lives that day. The Eastland Disaster is commemorated with a plaque on Upper Wacker Drive at LaSalle St.



MARINA CITY



CHICAGO RIVERWALK

9 WATER PLAZA

The **“Water Plaza”** is a fun place for kids of all ages to run through the fountains. Be sure to bring a change of clothes.

10 THE JETTY

“The Jetty” is a great place to fish if you have a fishing license. The fish are attracted to the roots of the plants in the floating gardens.

Each night about 30 minutes after sunset you can enjoy music that accompanies Art on the MART. It is the largest, free digital art exhibit in the world.

11 CONFLUENCE

Last, but not least is the **“Confluence”** where the river divides into the North and South branches.

This is a great place to sit and watch the “boat ballet” as the tour boats, private boat, kayaks and canoes float by and to enjoy a changing art exhibit.