
Davis Brody Bond Architects and Planners

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The Chicago SkyLine and the Citywide Lighting Framework Plan

Unveiling of Two Visionary Urban Projects for the City of Chicago

Davis Brody Bond Architects and Planners is pleased to share the unveiling of two initiatives that will serve to stimulate Chicago's tourism industry and magnify its reputation as a year-round destination: **the Chicago SkyLine** and the **Chicago Lighting Framework Plan**. Collaborating with an international team of designers and engineers on both projects, the firm is proud to be at the forefront of a new vision for downtown Chicago. On May 3, Laurence Geller, chairman and CEO of Geller Capital Partners, and Lou Raizin, founder of Broadway in Chicago, presented these privately conceived initiatives for Chicago's tourism industry at the City Club of Chicago in an effort to build future financial support throughout the local business community.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JKITgpU_EE

Chicago SkyLine

Designed in collaboration by Davis Brody Bond and Marks Barfield Architects, the Chicago SkyLine is a sophisticated, environmentally friendly, aerial cable car running along the south bank of the Chicago River. The SkyLine emerged from Davis Brody Bond's PierESCAPE entry to the Navy Pier Centennial Vision competition, and links Navy Pier, the Chicago Lakefront, and the Riverwalk with downtown Chicago. With stations just a short stroll from Millennium Park and Michigan Avenue, the SkyLine encourages visitors to explore the city without the use of cars, reducing the carbon footprint. The ability to move tourists to and from Navy Pier will not only help ensure the Pier's position as the top tourist destination, but will also energize the city's Riverwalk and other public spaces in a way that is both practical and inspirational. The system is designed to carry up to 3,000 people per hour at 800 ft/minute (240 m/minute), in each direction along the Chicago River. The Chicago SkyLine will enable its passengers to inhabit this wonderful city and its breath-taking scales from a privileged position - a position the attraction shares with the Chicago Towers.

<https://vimeo.com/165363195>



Lou Raizin commented:

"The SkyLine is a prime example of how we can move Chicago from old guard to vanguard. We kept coming back to the same question: what's our unique feature? Where's our Eiffel Tower? Where's our Big Ben? These ideas are our attempt to answer this question and are intended to start a conversation in the city about what we would like our reputation to be in the future."

Steven Davis, Partner at Davis Brody Bond, said:

"The SkyLine, as a concept, originated during the Navy Pier Centennial Vision competition in 2010. We realized that without creating an innovative mode of transport, directly connecting the Loop with Navy Pier, we would leave a trove of potential visitors untapped. The SkyLine is the embodiment of that idea. And what an exciting proposal it is!"

David Marks, director at Marks Barfield Architects, remarked:

"The Chicago SkyLine could do for Chicago what the London Eye has done for London, and become a very identifiable landmark within the city, driving tourism and prosperity. Gently fitting in and standing out at the same time, it will allow local people and visitors alike to appreciate the city and its world-class architecture from a completely new perspective, stimulating Chicago's tourism industry. Its design touches the ground lightly and with an environmentally sensitive and delicate presence - like jewels in a necklace - energizing the city's Riverwalk, and attracting the eyes of the world."

Chicago Citywide Lighting Framework Plan (CLFP)

The winning design for the Citywide Lighting Framework Plan (CLFP) proposes scalable 'platforms of light' that are grounded by the functional understanding of the networks, nodes and strata which define the City of Chicago. By utilizing the city as a canvas, the CLFP creates a series of flexible lighting platforms derived from the arts, events, architecture, landscape, information, media, and natural phenomena. These platforms provide a basis from which to revitalize infrastructure, provide social incentive, economic opportunity and a means of technological implementation. Through urban design, performance art, activation of the public realm and re-charge of the city's collective imagination, the CLFP will transform the atmosphere of the city into a highly interactive, unique environment.

<https://vimeo.com/153818627>



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About the Chicago SkyLine Team

Lou Raizin

Lou Raizin has over 30 years' experience in the entertainment industry. As a founder and the prime mover behind Broadway In Chicago, a joint theatrical venture formed in 2000, his leadership propelled the transformation of Chicago from a short-term stop on 'the road' to the third most important city in the world for theater. Raizin's focus on economic development, tourism and culture has led to the creation and continued sponsorship of the annual League of Chicago Theater's Emerging Theater Award and the Illinois High School Musical Theatre Award. Raizin's stint as Chair of the Chicago Loop Alliance led to the creation of Pop Up Art Loop, comprised of over 14 galleries, and a number of major public art projects in the city. Raizin serves on the Executive Committee of Choose Chicago, and has chaired the State Street Commission and serves as a director of a number of other civic and not-for-profit organizations.

Laurence S. Geller CBE

Laurence S. Geller CBE is currently Chairman, Geller Investment Co. Mr. Geller is an accomplished businessman and entrepreneur who has led multi-national corporations in the hospitality industry, most recently as President and Chief Executive Officer of Strategic Hotels & Resorts (NYSE: BEE), a company he founded in 1997. Prior to Strategic Hotel Capital, L.L.C., Mr. Geller was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Geller & Co., a gaming, tourism and lodging advisory company he founded in 1989. Geller & Co. specialized in domestic and international hotel, corporate and real estate development, financing, structuring, restructuring, and asset management. Previously, Mr. Geller held positions as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Hyatt Development Corporation, Senior Vice President of Holiday Inns, Inc. (responsible for initially the International Division and subsequently, the North American Division's growth, franchising, and operations) and Director of Grand Metropolitan Hotels in London. Mr. Geller serves on the Boards of Michels & Taylor (London) Ltd., and Dolphin Capital Investment Limited.

Davis Brody Bond Architects and Planners

Davis Brody Bond, an international firm with offices in New York City, Washington, DC and Sao Paulo, has been completing award-winning projects of challenging complexity on five continents since 1952. Beginning with a thorough understanding of program and context, the firm has successfully met and exceeded the expectations of a diverse range of clients ranging from the National September 11 Memorial Museum and the National Museum of African American History and Culture to embassies in Indonesia and Mexico. The firm has been honored with more than 200 major design awards including the American Institute of Architects Firm Award, the Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Architecture, the Presidential Award for Design Excellence, the Chicago Athenaeum Award and four Good Design is Good Business Awards (formerly the Business Week Architectural Record Award).

www.davisbrody.com

Marks Barfield Architects

Marks Barfield Architects is one of the UK's most versatile and innovative architecture practices. Founded in 1989 by David Marks and Julia Barfield, the practice uses its creative approach to provide visionary, formally exciting and technically astute solutions to a broad range of projects. Best known as the practice that conceived and designed the world-famous London Eye, Marks Barfield Architects has grown a practice with a unique entrepreneurial experience, giving it a deep understanding of the development process facing its clients, as well as valuable insights into specialisms such as fundraising and stakeholder engagement. The bold, do-it-yourself example set by Marks Barfield is an important precursor to the adventurous, self-initiated, socially engaged work of architects of the "pop-up" generation. Marks Barfield Architects has received over 60 Awards in 20 Years for design, innovation and sustainability, including the 2001 Architectural Practice of the Year, 2003 Queens Award for Enterprise & Innovation, and 2009 Sport & Leisure Architect of the Year.

www.marksbarfield.com

Publications for Reference

[Chicago Tribune - Could Airborne Cable Car Boost Chicago Tourism](#)

[Chicago Tribune - 5 Fresh Visions for Navy Pier](#)

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