

GET CREATIVE! THINGS TO SEE + DO

Take a class. Visit a museum late-night. Go on an artistic date. Learn to be a nature photographer. There is a lot to do this winter, so instead of wishing you could escape to somewhere warm, embrace our area's busy seasonal calendar. What else is there to do until April besides get creative? A full list of artist talks, walks + auctions is also online.

Learn! Take a Class at Lillstreet

Take up art this winter and successfully complete a new year's resolution. Lillstreet welcomes everyone of all levels and experience. Adult classes include painting, ceramics, textile, printmaking, jewelry/metal work, glass, digital art, and more. Kidstreet classes offer glass bead making, painting, and cartoon drawing. There are engaging toddler classes and family workshops too. Lillstreet.com

Go Dark at The Art Institute

See the Modern Wing in a new light! Take special nighttime tours of the current exhibition and rock out to DJs and live performances. Complimentary appetizers + cash bar. \$20 members + students; \$25 gen. admission. 9pm-midnight on select nights this winter. Artic.edu/aic/calendar/after_dark/



Get it Wright: Chicago's First 'Starchitect'

Many of Frank Lloyd Wright's famous designs are in our backyard! Tour Wright's home + studio in Oak Park, or see the Robie House in Hyde Park and the Rookery downtown. Self-guided tours available. Concerts also offered on various days. GoWright.org

Treasure Hunt at the Randolph St. Market

These *Wonderful Winter Markets* are an antiques and design lover's paradise. Browse or buy. 1340 W. Washington • Feb 4-5 + Mar 24-25 Randolphstreetmarket.com

Discover Outsiders at the Roger Brown Study Collection in Lincoln Park:

Most Chicagoans have heard of Roger Brown, but a visit to the unique study collection of outsider art, packed from floor to ceiling, is an unforgettable experience. Located on N. Halsted in Lincoln Park + open to the public by appt., based on staff availability. To schedule a visit: rbsc@saic.edu or 773.929-2452 Saic.edu/webspaces/rogerbrown/brown/index.html

Play at the Old Town School of Folk Music

Take dance and music classes at the coolest concert space in town. Make sure to admire the colorful mural in the lobby by Chicago's own Tony Fitzpatrick. Oldtownschool.org

Study how to be a Nature Photographer at the Chicago Botanic Gardens in Glencoe

Escape to the greenhouses and bask in the humidity of the tropics, smell the fragrances of tropical plants. Or, embrace winter by walking the outdoor gardens and catching views from the Dwarf Conifer Garden and the Malott Japanese Garden. On the first Saturday of each month walk through the garden with a professional photographer. Meet at the Alsord Auditorium at 9am for a brief talk before setting out to discover what's in season. Chicagobotanic.org



Find New Inspiration at MCA First Fridays

With a new theme each month, tickets include admission, live entertainment and complimentary Wolfgang Puck hors d'oeuvres. Doors are open 6-10pm, with a cash bar until 9:30pm. Guests must be 21 or older. Mccchicago.org

BACK TO SCHOOL + PARTY WITH ART

When you're out of school, you're finally ready to pay attention in class. This winter is the time to learn to paint, sculpt, write, or design. There are many art centers in the area where you can try your hand at something creative. Speaking of creative, ever thought of having a party in a gallery? It's easier than ever to throw a one-of-a-kind art bash.

Art Workshops on the North Shore

Two lively art centers on the North Shore offer activities for you to participate in all winter.

The **Evanston Art Center** offers a range of classes and workshops, for people of all ages and levels of experience, taught by professional artists. Register online for winter classes that begin January 9. Classes match any interest, from learning to make a cocktail hat, experimenting with lithography, exploring digital design, or navigating the business of art: marketing, ceramics, fashion, painting, and metal sculpture. Evanstonartcenter.org

The **Art Center in Highland Park** also offers classes and workshops in the visual arts, and they host regular gallery exhibitions, special events and performances for class members and faculty, as well as local artistic talent. Theartcenterhp.org



Class is in session at EAC

Party Rentals in Bridgeport at BAC

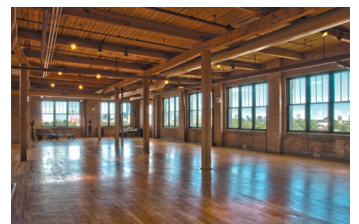
Our topsy-turvy world these days seems to make people want to have a party. New, stunning event spaces are popping up all over town, and a few offer uniquely artistic spaces in buildings that were once a part of the city's industrial history.

The Bridgeport Art Center offers a "Skyline Loft", an 18,000 sq. ft. space that defines raw urban elegance. With 1911 architectural elements still in place, timber construction, exposed brick, soaring ceilings, the only thing that's changed is the view of the skyline, since the city has grown up around BAC quite a bit in 100 years.

BAC handles gatherings for 50 or galas for 800; the top floor loft space is a blank canvas. Get creative and start planning in 2012. For more info contact:

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Additional event ideas on page 15.



Endless space to plan the party of your dreams