

2025 ADS National Show Tours

Ravinia's Sculpture Collection - FREE

Thursday, September 18, 2025

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

Transportation on your own, cars depart from the Renaissance Hotel



Participants will drive independently to Ravinia, an internationally renowned music festival site (a 10-minute drive from the Renaissance Hotel and just 5 minutes from the Chicago Botanic Garden).

Join us for a tour of Ravinia's sculpture collection, which began in 1976 with *Music for A While*, a monumental Corten steel sculpture gifted by Ravinia Life Trustee Richard Hunt, one of the foremost artists of the 20th century. Since then, other generous donors have contributed to this impressive collection, which ranges from massive to miniature works.

We will spend the hour leisurely walking along the Bernbaum Sculpture Walk, featuring 36 pieces from Ravinia's collection. The tour will be led by Charlotte Hadley, a longtime CSDS member and member of the Ravinia Women's Board.

Behind the Scenes Tour, Chicago Botanic Garden Production Greenhouses - \$20

SOLD OUT / WAITLIST ONLY

Thursday, September 18, 2025

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Transportation provided to CBG by the Renaissance Hotel



Photos courtesy of Chicago Botanic Garden

Explore the Chicago Botanic Garden's Kris Jarantoski Campus, home to the CBG's Production Greenhouses. Spanning 55,000 square feet of energy-efficient indoor growing space and 151,000 square feet of outdoor nursery space, these state-of-the-art facilities enable the Garden to maintain horticulture excellence and support advanced plant conservation research. The Greenhouses produce plants for many seasonal indoor and outdoor displays as well as house permanent plant collections such as the famed bonsai plants, an orchidarium, and the *Amorphophallus titanum* plants also known as Titan Arum or corpse plants. Step behind the scenes on an exclusive tour, meet the expert horticulturists, and uncover the secrets of plant production at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

The tour will also include a visit to the rare book collection at CBG's Lenhardt Library. In 2002, the CBG acquired an incredible collection of 2500 rare books and 2000 historic periodical titles that span five centuries of research in botany, botanical art, horticulture, agriculture, gardening and landscape design. The digitized rare books included in Illinois Digital Archives provide an opportunity for close examination of unique materials.

Because capacity for this tour is very limited, ***it will only be available to Full Registration attendees.***

(max 20 people)

Bahá'í Temple & Gardens, Navy Pier, Elks National Memorial - \$40

Friday, September 19, 2025

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Bus departs from the Renaissance Hotel

Lunch on your own at Navy Pier



Photos by Sonia Harmon, Martin Lobel

Bahá'í Temple and Gardens

Only 20 minutes away from the Renaissance Hotel is an architectural wonder. On the guided tour, discover the Bahá'í faith's message of unity, celebrating all religions as revelations of one God. Admire the temple's majestic domed architecture, intricate carvings, and symbols of diverse faiths on its nine pillars. Stroll on your own through lush gardens surrounding this tranquil, nine-sided masterpiece, embodying harmony and inclusiveness.

Navy Pier

Next, we'll journey into Chicago, taking in the stunning skyline before arriving at Navy Pier—the Midwest's most visited tourist destination. Lunch will be at your leisure, with plenty of options to choose from. The pier offers a variety of choices, including a food court, classic favorites like chicken, burgers, hot dogs, and pizza, as well as international cuisines such as Chinese and tamales. Save room for dessert, as there's a tempting array of ice cream flavors available too!

Elks National Memorial

Our final stop, located near Lincoln Park, is the Elks National Memorial. Learn about this magnificent memorial that boasts Chicago's grandest domed rotunda, stunning meeting rooms, monumental statues, priceless artwork, and exquisite marbles from around the world.

(min 25, max 50 people)

Steve Meggos Dahlia Garden Tour and Picnic Lunch - \$45

SOLD OUT / WAITLIST ONLY

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Noon - 4:30 p.m.

Bus departs from Renaissance Hotel (no private cars allowed)

Picnic Lunch included



Photos provided by Steve Meggos

Join us for a special afternoon with Steve Meggos, talented dahlia hybridizer. We will visit Steve's magnificent garden showcasing colorful dahlias along with dozens of other flowers and fruit trees. Steve will share his expertise and insights on hybridizing dahlias into stunning, unique blooms.

With almost 30 years of experience, Steve has been hybridizing dahlias since 1996 and is a proud member of the Central States Dahlia Society. He is pictured above with his latest creation — a breathtaking new dahlia that has yet to be named.

Steve's remarkable creations include Daddy's Little Girl (a personal favorite), Greek Sunset, Harvey Koop, John Meggos, Nikitas Meggos, Vassio Meggos, and of course, Jody Meggos, the President's Choice dahlia for the 2025 ADS National Show. Steve's 2024 intros include: Lori Kaiser, Alia Meggos, and Maria K.

During the visit, guests will enjoy a delicious picnic lunch featuring chicken, Vienna all-beef hot dogs, a variety of fresh salads (including vegan and vegetarian options), soft drinks and water, and dessert.

Don't miss this unique opportunity!

(min 25, max 50 people)

Ball Horticultural Company and Morton Arboretum - \$55

SOLD OUT / WAITLIST ONLY

Monday, September 22, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Bus departs from the Renaissance Hotel

Box Lunch included



Photos by Sonia Harmon

Tour Ball Horticultural Company, Ball Helix and Ball Seed

Today's tour takes us to Chicago's western suburbs, where we'll begin our day at Ball Horticultural Company, a global leader in horticulture since its founding in 1905. With a presence in over 20 countries, Ball is a family-owned innovator in seed and plant technology, bringing excitement and advancement to the world of flowers. Our group will be divided in two, with each half alternating between exclusive, behind-the-scenes experiences showcasing some of Ball's most cutting-edge research and technology.

Ball Helix

Tour Ball Helix and meet a team of experts in molecular biology, chemistry, and pathology, who collaborate with breeding and production divisions to drive horticultural innovation.

Ball Seed

Tour North America's top wholesale horticultural distributor. Ball Seed offers cutting-edge tools and solutions for professional growers. Highlights include the advanced Opex Perfect Pick automated seed storage and picking system.

Box Lunch at Ball Horticultural

We'll eat our box lunch from Jersey Mike's Subs at Ball's lovely covered pavilion. Sub sandwiches from Jersey Mike's Subs will be provided along with chips, bottled water, and chocolate chip cookie.

Attendees will choose from the following options (all subs will include lettuce and tomato): turkey and provolone, Italian (provolone, ham, prosciuttini, cappacuolo, salami, and pepperoni), roast beef and provolone, or veggie (swiss, provolone, green bell peppers).

The Morton Arboretum

Next we'll visit The Morton Arboretum, a 1700-acre, world-renowned tree-focused botanical garden and global scientific tree research center. We'll enjoy an All-Aboard Bus Tour led by a knowledgeable Morton Arboretum guide, showcasing their vast and diverse collections of trees. It's possible that the first hints of fall color will be starting to emerge!

After the bus tour, you can explore their newest outdoor art exhibit, *Vivid Creatures: An encounter with colorful forest friends*. Discover giant, larger-than-life, colorful, playful animal sculptures up to 24 feet tall placed outdoors within walking distance of the Arboretum's central Visitor Center.



(min 25 , max 50 people)