

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Chicago's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Dearborn Garden Walk to be its Biggest Yet! Complete with Big Name Sponsors including American Girl Place®, Never Before Seen Designer Vignettes, Garden-Themed Window Displays, and Art in the Garden**

**Chicago, IL** – The 50<sup>th</sup> annual Dearborn Garden Walk will take visitors on a magical journey of whimsical garden vignettes, secluded urban retreats and architectural tours, with the backdrop of live classical music and jazz performances throughout. Visitors will be treated to inspirational and creatively themed garden vignettes such as a feng shui garden, a magical tea party, and a 50s retro garden. In addition, several area businesses will show their support by decorating their storefront windows with a garden theme. The walk is on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 12pm-5pm and begins at **1300 N. Dearborn Avenue, Chicago, IL 60610 (entrance at corner of Goethe / Dearborn Streets).**

A self-guided tour of more than twenty Near North private gardens will reveal spectacular landscaping, lily ponds, electric trains with landscaping to scale, gazebos, fountains, sculptures, architectural artifacts and even a resident frog! In addition, there will be two new rooftop gardens this year: The Latin School “green” roof, designed by Peter Lindsay Schaudt, featuring a tiled walkway and patio offering a spectacular view of the neighborhood, and a private rooftop garden atop a vintage gray-stone home on North Dearborn.

Highlights of the tour include never-been-seen **garden vignettes** by some of Chicago's most recognized names. The vignettes will showcase dramatic outdoor rooms and scenes that will prompt visitors to consider imaginative ways to bring the outside into their homes and work areas. This year's garden vignettes include: A whimsical American Girl Place® tea party; a well-balanced Feng-Shui Garden designed by Judith Miller; ‘Sculptures in the Garden,’ by Doug Dawson, and a fun 50s Retro Garden by Genevieve Lethu French tableware.

Leading up to the event, the following boutiques have agreed to show their support by creating a garden-themed window display in their storefront windows through July 20, 2008. **The participating stores include:** David Yurman, Denim Lounge, The Esquire Theatre (Marquee), Frette, G'Bani, Georg Jensen, Goldsmith Ltd., House of Kahn Estate Jewelers, Intermix, Jil Sander, Lester Lampert, Luca Luca, Marilyn Miglin, Madison & Friends, Me & Ro, Optica, Pratesi, TOD's, and Trabert & Hoeffler.

**Whole Foods Gold Coast** has generously offered to serve guests refreshing glasses of iced tea in one of the gardens.

**Goldsmith Ltd. necklace designer, Sherry Bender**, is creating a necklace from Stacy Sweat's (Stacy Sweat Design) gorgeous Garden Walk poster and program floral design. The necklace will be 18-carat yellow gold-accented with small diamonds and soft color green and pink precious stones (retail value more than \$5,000). Proceeds from the sale of the necklace will go to the North Dearborn Association. The necklace will be on display at Goldsmith Ltd., 900 N. Michigan Avenue, starting in mid-June and will be available for viewing and purchase during the Garden Walk.

Finally, patrons can experience "**Art in the Garden with Artist William Nelson.**" Mr. Nelson ([www.williamnelsonart.com](http://www.williamnelsonart.com)) will be painting an oil on canvas of one of the Dearborn street gardens on-location during the walk. This is a wonderful treat for patrons to be able to see the world-renowned, Chicago-based artist in action as he artfully recreates the beauty of the gardens onto canvas.

Entrance is on corner of Dearborn & Goethe. Tickets are \$35.00 on July 20, 2008 and \$30.00 in advance. Children 16 years of age and younger accompanied by an adult, as well as North Dearborn Association Partners in Preservation members, are free.

Advance sales have already exceeded years past and advance purchase is recommended! Advance sales close at noon Saturday, July 19, 2008. Admission includes a Garden Walk program with a map for a self-guided tour of the gardens; live jazz and classical music in select gardens and guided architectural tours of Dearborn Street.

To become a North Dearborn Association Partner in Preservation member and receive one free admission or to order advance non-refundable tickets, telephone 312-632-1241; order on-line [www.dearborngardenwalk.com](http://www.dearborngardenwalk.com); send check or money order payable to NDA c/o Carol Truesdell, 1241 N. Dearborn Street, #1, Chicago, IL 60610; or fax with credit card and mailing info to: 312-944-9342.

Greg Hodapp, Carol Truesdell, and Woody Olsen are co-chairs of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Dearborn Garden Walk. Eileen Ganz is President of the North Dearborn Association. Committee Members: Diane Bitter, Peg Callard, Rick Daitchman, Loretta Foxman Polsky, Sandee Geringer, Susanne Goldman, Richard Gordon, Kathleen Greco, Shelley Greenwood, Julia Hertzler, Virginia Hogan, Jimmy Newton, Chris Ryan, Anne Marie Ryan, Margo Sanida, Kathy Sauer, Kathy Simon, Michele Studl, Connie Steutzer-Mark, Mike Truesdell, Debra A. Walsh, Cookie Wherry, Eric Wyss, and Deborah Zimmer.

The North Dearborn Association (NDA) is dedicated to the preservation and beautification of its Near North neighborhood. The Association recently celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, at which Mayor Richard M. Daley complimented it as “representing the best part of what is good about this city.” Among its recent projects, the NDA has led efforts to have vintage lampposts with hanging floral baskets installed at the intersections along North Dearborn from Division Street to the entrance of Lincoln Park at North Avenue. The new street lamps will be installed prior to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Garden Walk through the efforts and support of Alderman Brendan Reilly. In addition, NDA fought to preserve the vintage integrity of a structure housing a new CVS store, and is currently working to help preserve and renovate the historic 3Arts Club landmark building. Proceeds from the Garden Walk go back into the community for preservation and beautification efforts. The NDA is a member-supported organization. To become involved or for more information, please visit: [www.northdearbornassociation.com](http://www.northdearbornassociation.com).

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