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**The North Dearborn Association Announces
54th Annual Dearborn Garden Walk**

Take a sidewalk tour of historic Dearborn Parkway as you enjoy more than twenty-private rear gardens – some with garden vignettes designed by Chicago’s top interior designers - during the 54th annual Dearborn Garden Walk.

Chicago, IL (February 15, 2012) – An annual tradition in Chicago will bloom again this summer. Chicago’s 54th Dearborn Garden Walk – presented by the North Dearborn Association – is one of the country’s oldest garden walks. Each year, this nationally-recognized event draws crowds from all over the world to take part in a one-day, self-guided walking tour. More than twenty of Chicago’s most spectacular, private rear gardens will be on display throughout Chicago’s historic Near North neighborhood. The 54th Dearborn Garden Walk will take place on Sunday, July 15, 2012 from 12pm-5pm and tickets are \$30 (advance) / \$35 (gate).

Year after year, visitors travel from all over the country to experience this annual event and walk away with ideas for their own outdoor spaces. Over 20 private rear gardens are featured and range from minimalist to classic small gardens and patio/terrace designs, each showcasing the most creative use of outdoor space in an urban setting. Many of the gardens are created around entertaining and sitting areas, offering city dwellers additional living quarters in the warmer months.

Highlights of the tour include never-been-seen **garden vignettes** by some of Chicago’s top designers. The vignettes will showcase dramatic outdoor rooms and scenes utilizing a variety of outdoor tables, chairs, colorful cushions, linens, floral decorations, and other accessories including fine china, crystal, and flatware. The vignettes prompt visitors to consider imaginative ways they can recreate their own backyard spaces.

In addition to the self-guided walking tour and garden vignettes, visitors can participate in an hour-long, wonderfully entertaining and educational sidewalk guided tour of historic Dearborn Parkway that highlights the outstanding architectural facades in the neighborhood. The architectural tour, which

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starts at 1:30pm, 3:30pm, and 5:00pm, includes both pre and post-Chicago fire structures, sites that have been used in movies, homes formerly occupied by famous celebrities, and even a US President!



Tickets are \$35.00 on July 15, 2012 and \$30.00 in advance. Advance sales end on Saturday, July 14, 2012 at 12:00pm – all advance ticket purchasers are automatically entered in drawings for goods and services from neighborhood businesses. Admission includes a Dearborn 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 walking tours of historic Dearborn Parkway.

The program booth will be at Latin Middle School, 45 West North Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60610. Children 16 years of age and younger accompanied by an adult, as well as North Dearborn Association Partner in Preservation members, are free. For ticket purchase information, please call: 312-632-1241 or visit online at: <http://www.DearbornGardenWalk.com>.

Editors Note: Hi-res images of gardens and vignettes are available upon request.

About North Dearborn Association:

Founded in 1954, the North Dearborn Association (NDA) is an influential organization dedicated to the preservation and beautification of its Chicago Near North neighborhood. The Association recently celebrated its 50th 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 led the efforts to install vintage lampposts with hanging floral baskets at the intersections along North Dearborn from Division Street to the entrance of Lincoln Park at North Avenue; facilitated the donation of the Eldon Danhausen sculpture ‘The Community’ to the Ogden International School; and is currently working to preserve and renovate the historic 3Arts Club landmark building. Proceeds from the Association’s annual Dearborn Garden Walk go back into the community for preservation and beautification efforts. For more information, please visit: www.northdearbornassociation.com.

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