

SEPTEMBER, 2026

Crystal Lake Camera Club



Spokane (WA) Park

Color Image by Andrew Nelson
(Shown at the August 11 Meeting)

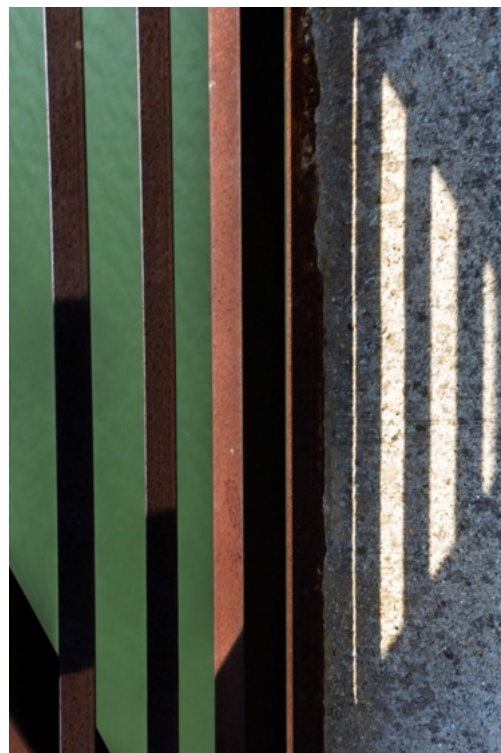
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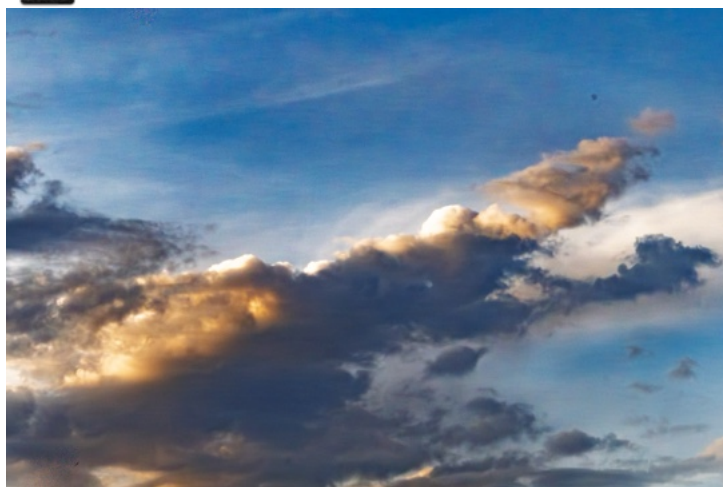
IMAGES FROM THE AUGUST 11 MEETING

The images on this page and the cover are by Andrew Nelson.

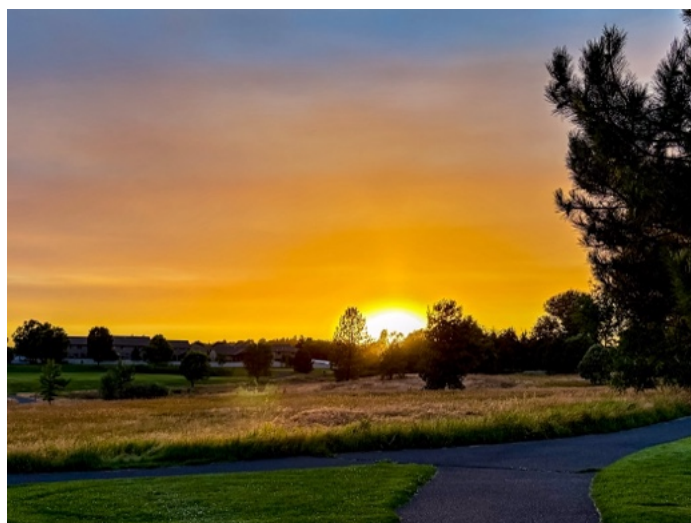
Andrew said: “As with many photographers I am often looking at clouds to enhance a photograph, sometimes they perhaps deserve one on their own. The grid pattern was created by sunlight coming through a metal grille on a bridge. The sunset pictures were taken in Spokane at the end of July in a park. We were there helping my daughter and her family move to a new house. I often took the dog (Cooper) for a walk in the evening. About a week after these photographs were taken the area was threatened by a major fast-moving wildfire (Old Trails Fire). My daughter and family were evacuated from their home for about a week. Luckily, the firefighters managed to stop the blaze from crossing a road less than a mile away from the house and park. Their area was saved, but many entire subdivisions (640 homes, many inside Spokane city limits), and about 4000 acres were not so lucky.”



Grid



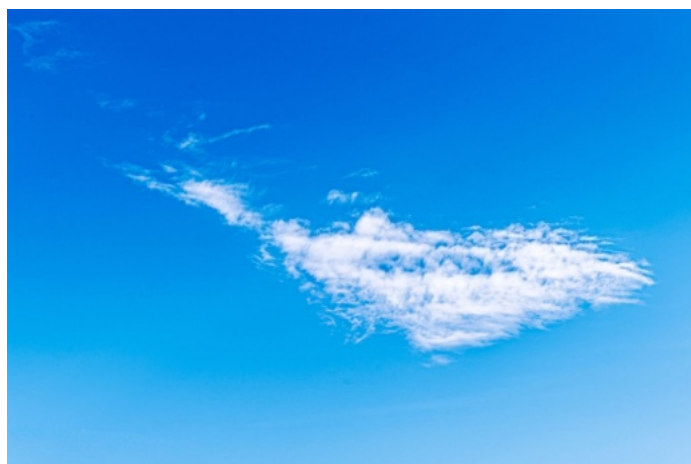
Clouds



Spokane Park



Spokane Park



Cloud

IMAGES FROM THE AUGUST 11 MEETING

The images on this page and two on the next are by Russ King.

Russ said: *"The six pictures I presented were submitted to "4th Friday at Dole" for a juried selection. None of them were accepted by them but I think all of them deserve to be viewed. I would like to say that I am particularly interested in one of them, but I really like all of them. The club discussed the Horse picture and several items were pointed out, so thank you. But I really like to submit my pictures to this juried event, and have been submitting three pictures per month for the past 15 months. Eight have been selected, so I think that is a pretty good return!"*



West End of Route 66



White Pass - Not On This Bridge!



Arabian Horse Show, Scottsdale AZ



Mesa Arch, Canyonlands National Park

IMAGES FROM THE AUGUST 11 MEETING



CTA Entrance, Fullerton Station



200 W Madison

The images above and the previous page are by Russ King.

The images below are by Linda Hopp.

Linda said: *"The swallowtail image was just a favorite taken at Trail of 100 Giants in California that I wanted feedback on. The other was taken during my first attempt at street photography and I thought I'd share."*



Flight of Fancy



Chase Tower Chicago

The pair of images here and the two pair on the next page are by Jeff Chemelewski.

A narrow, sunlit alleyway in a historic Italian town. The left building is a two-story yellow structure with green shutters and a red balcony. The right building is a taller, light-colored structure with an arched doorway. A motorcycle and a bicycle are parked in the distance.

A narrow, cobblestone street in a historic Italian town. The street is flanked by colorful buildings. On the left, a yellow building features a green double door, a window with a flower box, and a balcony with a red railing. On the right, a peach-colored building has a green door and a balcony with purple flowers. A red bicycle is parked on the right, and a black bicycle is on the left. The street is wet, reflecting the buildings.

IMAGES FROM THE AUGUST 11 MEETING



Source

The photos on this page and on the previous page are by Jeff Chemelewski.

Read Jeff's comments on the previous page.



Enhanced with AI



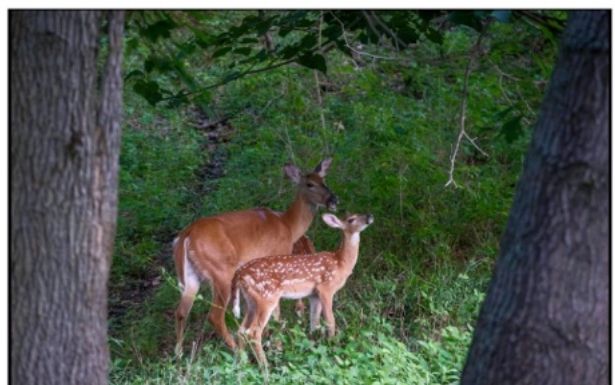
A Similar Source Image



Enhanced with AI

IMAGES FROM THE AUGUST 11 MEETING

The images on this page are by Doug Frey.
They were all taken at Wingate Prairie, next to Veteran's Acres in Crystal Lake.



IMAGES FROM THE AUGUST 11 MEETING



**Monochrome Image by
Judy Jorgensen**

Last Saturday Morning Breakfast Meeting – Everyone invited!

Please join your CLCC friends for the casual breakfast meeting on the last Saturday of the month. Lively discussions, good food! This month's will be on **Saturday, September 26, 2026**, 8:30 AM at

Buttered Toast Restaurant, 2520 Bunker Hill Dr, Algonquin.

Next month's breakfast meeting will be October 31.

LANDSCAPE & NATURE SMALL GROUP

When: Third Wednesday each month, 7PM

Where: 711 Glacier Parkway, Algonquin

RSVP: doug.Frey@me.com

This small group meets in Doug Frey's home on the Third Wednesday of the month, 7PM. There are wide ranging discussions from beginning landscape photography, to post-processing, prime locations, both near and far, everything in between, and sometimes beyond! Photos are shared and comments made. It is a very friendly group.

Meetings are casual and relaxed. Any related discussion topics can be brought up. It is a great community learning experience. Let Doug know that you are interested! See him at a club meeting, or send him an email at the address above.

THE FUTURE OF CLCC

Notes from the August 11 Meeting ~

Submitted by Steve Szalaj

At the August 11 meeting, there were 17 people present.

Thank you to all who submitted photos to Doug for our viewing and discussions.

Theme for the September 8 meeting: look over photos that you took at least 10 years ago. How do they compare to the photos you take today? What do you see and do differently? How have you grown? Share your images and thoughts at the meeting.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a framed photo for the wall. We will help with that if necessary at the Wednesday small group meetings. When you give a framed photo to hang, please include a note with your name, the title of the photo (if there is one), and a short description (where it was taken, when, etc.). Give this information to Linda Hopp, and she will create a formal tag. Also make sure the photo has a wire on the back to hang it from.

These are the people who contributed images at the August 11 meeting for *Show & Tell* (S&T), *Before & After* (B&A) and *critique* (C):

- Andrew Nelson - 2 cloud photos, grid, 3 photos from a park in Spokane, WA
- Doug Frey - deer photos taken at Wingate Prairie
- Jeff Chemelewski - 3 photos enhanced with AI, and their source images
- Judy Jorgensen - granddad with grandchild
- Linda Hopp - swallowtail butterfly, Chase Tower (Chicago)
- Russ King - Rt 66 western end, old trestle, Canyonlands NP, Arabian horse, 200 West Madison Building, CTA Entrance mosaic

Learning about Judging: We were handed the judging criteria published by the Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association (CACCA). We were then shown eight different images from various sources, and we each were to judge the images based on these criteria. A fun and informative discussion!

A REMINDER: Show & Tell, Before & After and Critique run more smoothly if images are sent to Doug before the meeting instead of on flash drives given to him at the meeting. He would like them a few days before the meeting so he can prepare the presentation. See page 11 for more information.

Take a moment to contribute to the Facebook **Crystal Lake Camera Club Group Chat** page (see page 10).

The **Landscape and Nature Photography** small group is meeting regularly on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Doug Frey's home (see page 8).

Have an idea for an outing? If you have an idea for a photo outing and you want company, let Doug Frey know. Others in CLCC may want to join you!

The CLCC Breakfast Meeting is the *last* Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted due to holidays, etc.) at Buttered Toast by Home Depot on Randall Road, Algonquin. All are welcome (see page 8). The next breakfast meeting is Saturday, September 26.

Video shared by Bill Tell - Of this video, Bill said, “This video really clarified something for me about my tendency to always trying to shoot 35mm and f/1.4.

Shooting wide open at f/1.4 is important when I want the photograph to tell a more artistic story—isolating the subject and making the image primarily about that person or object.

My second default has been f/8, which tells a different kind of story: the main character within an environment, where the surroundings are important to the photograph as well. It is also wonderful for general purpose casual photos.

I think I may have been relying on f/1.4 too often when I was really looking for a more artistic interpretation. Going forward, I’m going to simplify things and primarily use these two apertures: f/1.4 for the artistic shot and f/8 for the environmental story.

That simplicity also fits perfectly with my philosophy of predominantly using a single 35mm prime lens. By eliminating unnecessary choices like a zoom and keeping the camera settings simple, I can concentrate more on seeing, composing, and creating the photograph.

Sometimes, fewer technical decisions simply allow more creativity. That approach works particularly well for me.

The video does an excellent job of explaining this through a professional photographer’s experience and perspective.”



Video shared by Bill Tell - Of this video, Bill said: “There are probably many good videos on using one of photography’s most important tools—the TTL flash. This one stands out because it provides clear, easy-to-follow instruction and covers everything you need to know to create outstanding photographs with a single TTL flash.”



Join the **Crystal Lake Camera Club Group Chat** on FaceBook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/446897199179146> or scan this QR Code:

This is a closed group, so only members have access. Request membership through the page. Then, post your favorite images, join in the discussions, share information about photo outings, speakers, contests, etc.

Only group members will see your posts.



CLUB MEETING CALENDAR

All meetings start at 7PM and are at the Algonquin Township Building, 3702 Northwest Hwy, Crystal Lake, in **Meeting Room 2**. Enter at the back of the building.

September 8	Comparing your photos from 10 years ago vs. now
October 13	TBA
November 10	TBA

Show & Tell, *Before & After* and *Critique* have provided some lively, informative conversations for CLCC attendees. Great suggestions for outings and club offerings have come from these activities.

For Show & Tell: submit 3-4 JPG images to Doug Frey (doug.frey@me.com) on the **Sunday before the meeting** date. You can also bring them on a flash drive, but submitting them earlier is preferred, and helps the presentation go more smoothly.

For Before & After: submit *pairs of JPG images* to Doug Frey (doug.frey@me.com) on the **Sunday before the meeting** date, or bring the images on a flash drive (submitting them earlier is preferred, and helps the presentation go more smoothly). The pairs would include the image as it came out of the camera and the image after post-processing. Be prepared to tell (and perhaps even show) the changes that were made.

For Critique: submit 1-2 JPG images to Doug Frey (doug.frey@me.com) on the **Sunday before the meeting** date. These are images you present for group discussion and critique.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW YOUR IMAGES!

4th FRIDAYS ART EVENT AT THE DOLE

401 Country Club Rd
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815-347-8535

The next 4th Friday Art Event: **September 25, 2026**

Submission Deadline: Sunday, September 13, 2026, by midnight

Non-refundable submission fee: \$40 for up to 5 pieces submitted

Cash Awards - \$450 total:

- 5 Honorable Mentions: \$50 cash each
- 4th Fridays Team Choice: \$50 cash each
- Kim Holz Memorial Award: \$50 cash
- Nancy Merkling Choice: \$50 cash
- People's Choice Award: \$50 cash

Click here for the **PROSPECTUS** for the Photo-Only Exhibit.

Click here for the **SUBMISSION APPLICATION**

Note: Photos may also be submitted to the Mixed Art Exhibit, especially if the photo is larger than the requirements for the Photo-Only Exhibit. Click here for the Mixed Art Prospectus.



CRYSTAL LAKE CAMERA CLUB OFFICERS

See The Club Directory For Contact Information

President	Judy Jorgensen
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Gail Schulz
Board Member	Rich Bickham

YOUR IDEAS MATTER!

Do you have a story, images, trip, post-processing technique, event, etc. that would be good for Camera Club members to know about? Your submissions will make this newsletter valuable! Write it up, and send it to **Steven Szalaj**, Newsletter Editor, at szjsings@mac.com.

Please make your submission by the 22nd of the month.

GALLERIES, STORIES, VIDEOS AND INSPIRATION ON THE WEB

How To Begin Your Portrait Photography Journey

One of the first genres that people dabble with as photographers are street and portraits. Sometimes, the latter takes precedence, with some photographers often finding it challenging to start their journey. If you are someone who is unsure what to do in the initial stages of your photography, have a look at these points.

Pure Street Photography Awards 2026

These awards stand among the world's most respected international honors dedicated exclusively to the art of street photography. Created to celebrate photographs defined by honesty, observation and humanity, the Awards recognise work that transforms ordinary moments into enduring visual stories. Pure Street Photography is an online community dedicated to this aspect of photography.

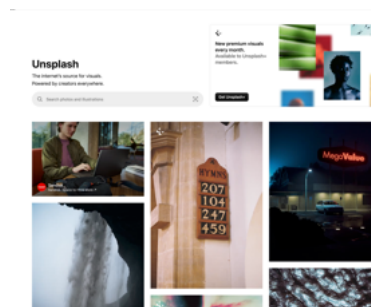
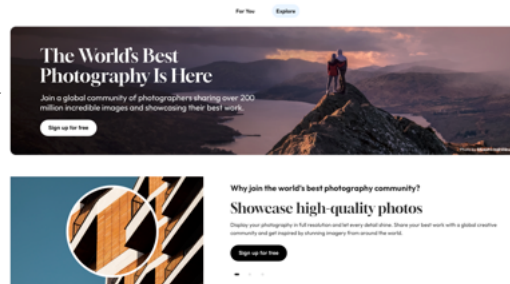
Are We Mistaking Technical Skill for Photographic Art?

This thoughtful essay (with images) by Adam Matthews explores “vernacular” photography and “fine art” photography and what makes each unique and valuable.

TWO ONLINE PHOTOGRAPHY COMMUNITIES

500px.com

Submit your best photos - as members of the community view and comment, your images will rise to the top, and be posted on the landing page. There are “Quests” - image competitions with cash prizes. You can also use this site for commercial licensing.



unsplash.com

A free photography community for sharing images with the world.

Post images, or download your favorites.

Helpful Resources - New links added!

Contribute to this page! If you have resources that you find useful, please share that link with me. Include a short summary of what can be found in the link. The reference can be a video, web page, PDF, or any other format that has an online link. Send your contributions to szjsings@mac.com by the 20th of each month.

~SJS, Newsletter Editor

Profoto Tutorials, submitted by Kevin Getty:

Tips and Tricks

<https://profoto.com/us/tips>

A terrific collection to help photographers of any level.

Photographic Composition Webinar, submitted by Scott Larsen:

The Art of Photography: Crafting Compelling Compositions

tinyurl.com/5ak88xt6

Natural Habitat Adventures posts a weekly webinar. This hour-long video is very helpful.

Photographers you may be interested in viewing, contributed by Judy Jorgensen:

Dan Anderson

danielandersonphotography.com/

Beautiful color landscapes and seascapes with striking composition from America, Norway, Faroe Islands, Scotland, Patagonia, Ireland, Antarctica, Europe, Iceland, etc. If you love black and white, check out his American West, Europe, Antarctica, and Greek islands black and white images of land, sea, and architecture.

Ed Callaert

edcallaert.photoshelter.com

This nature photographer travels extensively along the west coastal and mountain states as well as upper to mid east coast United States. His gallery is full of colorful landscapes and seascapes with interesting composition techniques you may want to try.

Willard Clay

willardclay.photoshelter.com

This landscape and bird photographer has a vast collection in his gallery by states and a stunning collection under birds. He also teaches at Mayslake in the Forest Preserve District of Dupage County. Enjoy, study, and try.

Resource for camera repair, contributed by Bill Batalden:

APS (AUTHORIZED PHOTO SERVICE)

8125 River Dr # 100

Morton Grove, IL 60053

repair@authorizedphotoservice.com

(800) 406-2046

Bill said: "I recently had my camera & lens repaired at APS authorized camera repair. I felt the work was good and the price reasonable. They give an estimate, which you have to approve, before proceeding with the work. When I spoke with the owner, he said he could offer a 'Club' rate."

Helpful Resources (continued)

Resource for camera repair, contributed by Sandy Wittman:

ROYAL CAMERA SERVICE, INC.

1134 E Lake Street

Hanover Park, IL

(630) 372-6150

Sandy said: "I had my Canon 7D Mark II repaired there this fall. They did an excellent job in about 10 days. The price was very reasonable. I found them to be knowledgeable and professional."

Resource for infrared photography, contributed by Peter Pelke

LIFE PIXEL Infrared Camera Conversions

<https://www.lifepixel.com/>

(866) 610-1710

Resource for purchasing, selling, trading and repairing used camera equipment

KEH

<https://www.keh.com/>

(800) 342-5534

"The original curator and reseller of rare and quality camera gear, KEH has always envisioned a better way to support the passion and profession of photography. We're proud to be the camera community's choice for gear that goes further. Field-tested. Expert-graded. Sustainable. Exchangeable. KEH-approved."

YouTube Channels by specific photographers

These were contributed by Doug Frey:

Nigel Danson - <https://www.youtube.com/@NigelDanson>

Adam Gibbs - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDyKBQGE7OOsWeQIPWqVSzw>

fototripper (Gavin Hardcastle) - <https://www.youtube.com/@fototripper>

Simon D'Entremont - https://www.youtube.com/@simon_dentremont

Mark Denney - <https://www.youtube.com/@MarkDenneyPhoto>

Thomas Heaton - <https://www.youtube.com/@ThomasHeatonPhoto>

Ian Worth - https://www.youtube.com/@ian_worth/

A great collection of "how-to" videos:

Providence Photography DFW

<https://www.youtube.com/@providencephotographydfw>

Photoshop Elements+: The Secret to Removing Impossible Backgrounds!**Take Better Photos Episode 3 - ISO and Exposure** (click the title)

Video shared by Bill Tell. Bill said: "*In my experience, this video is essential for anyone who wants a deeper, more complete understanding of exposure and is ready to move to the next level.*"

Capturing the Perfect Holiday Tablescape Just in Time for Thanksgiving! (click the title)

Shared by Peter Pelke - an in-depth article that covers lighting, angles, composition, techniques, gear, and much more.

Adobe Lightroom Classic - Tips and Tricks for a better workflow

Shared by Bill Tell - "*I've been watching a lot of YouTube videos on Lightroom Classic, and this is by far the best one yet. It's packed with solid tips you can apply to virtually any LRC workflow and settings. Incredibly helpful. It will make your post-processing much easier.*"

*Helpful Resources (continued)***What Makes Great Photos Great**

Shared by Bill Tell - *"This video is very good at explaining what makes a photo great as opposed to a snapshot. A snapshot can be technically very good but a great photo conveys emotion that makes one like to look at it."*

Best L-Bracket Showdown!

Shared by Bill Tell - *"Some photographers have asked me about the L-bracket for attachment of the camera to an Arca Swiss quick release system. This video demonstrates differences between brands of brackets. I highly recommend using an L-bracket if one expects to use a tripod."*

20 Tips for Starting Out in Street Photography

Shared by Doug Frey - *"Great article to help get started in street photography. Concise and clear ideas with excellent photo examples."*

Photography Courses Available at the Chicago Botanic Garden through November

Shared by Bill Tell - <https://www.chicagobotanic.org/learning/adult-classes/photography>

Camera Repair: Chicago Camera Specialists, 5 So. Wabash St., Suite 1017, Chicago, Illinois 60603

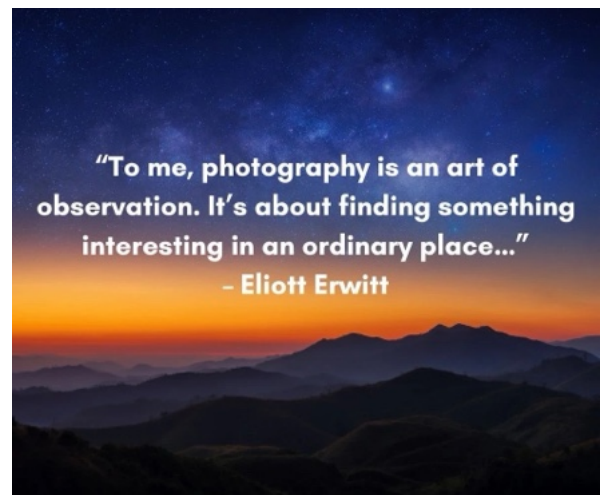
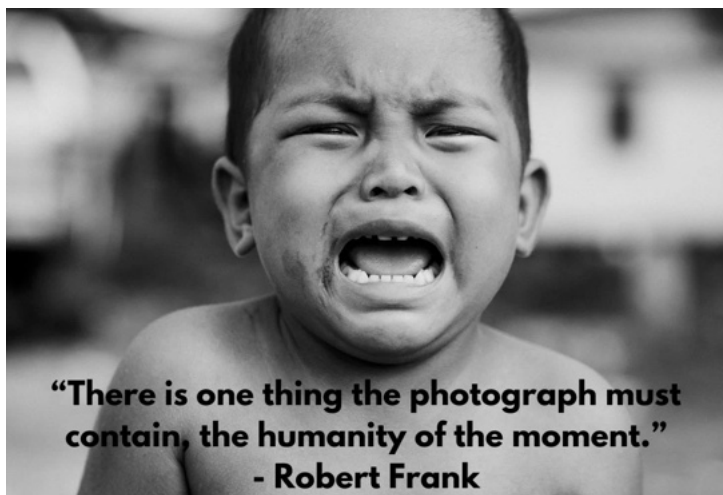
Phone: 312-332-5538, <https://www.chicagocameraspecialists.com/>

Shared by Russ King: *"He's only open M, W, F 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. [The owner] is desperate to sell the business, since he's clearly much beyond retirement age, but he cannot find anybody to take over and he feels guilty leaving all his loyal customers in the lurch. But he does a great job, at least on my Nikon, and he's very reasonably priced. Use him, or loose him, I say."*

Crossing Worlds | Jason Siegel & The SL3

https://youtu.be/NzGgvm_2vk4?si=ronBOvn4Ci2LX_ps

Shared by Bill Tell: *"I love street shooting, but to me the best street shooting is telling a story about a subject as this video explains." Photographer Jason Siegel explores the versatility of the creative process by blending diverse subjects, formats, and editing techniques. By capturing moments across various environments, Siegel demonstrates how combining different perspectives can tell a cohesive story and keep artistry evolving through continuous exploration of new techniques."*



Open House Chicago

Submitted by Steve Szalaj

Every October, the Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) hosts **Open House Chicago** - a free public festival that provides rare behind-the-scenes access to sites of architectural, historical and cultural significance.

Open House Chicago (OHC) is one of the largest events of its kind in the world. This year's **in-person site visits occur on October 17 - 18**, with extended programming and city-wide self-guided tours available for the entire month of October.

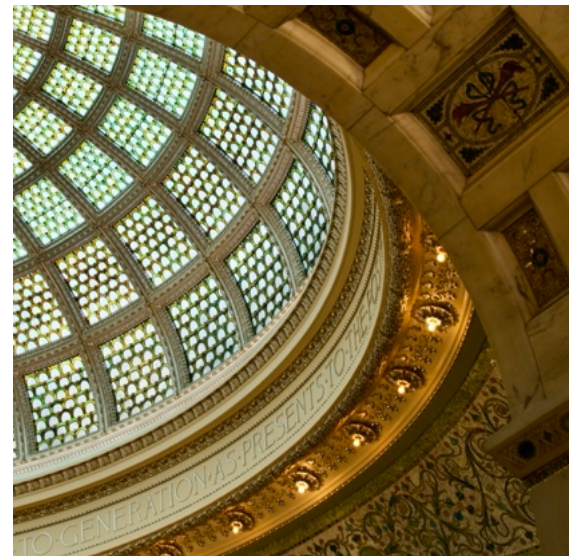


This year's program highlights more than 20 Chicago neighborhoods, North Shore suburbs and Oak Park, with self-guided tours, outdoor exploration on themes including community engagement, green spaces, historic preservation, residential architecture and more.



When you participate in the in-person site visits on October 18-19, there are CAC docents and volunteers to guide you into most places. Some sites are places that are not usually open to the public, such as the Cliff Dwellers Club, which offers spectacular views of Lake Michigan and Millennium Park. Other sites, that usually require an entrance fee, have free access. It is a great way to get unusual views of the city, its architecture and stunning, rarely seen spaces.

For more information see the [**Open House Chicago web site**](#). Right now, you can enjoy archives of OHC since 2015. Here is the page on Chicago's tourism site: [**Choose Chicago**](#).



There is an app to help guide your explorations. Chicago Architecture Center members get exclusive access and perks.

This is a wonderful way to see Chicago.