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Chicago Flower & Garden Show to Bloom Again at Navy Pier®
Popular Show Returns to Festival Hall March 7 – 15, 2009

(Chicago, June 26, 2008) – Mayor Richard M. Daley was pleased to join officials with the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA), the Mayor’s Office of Special Events (MOSE) and Special Events Management, owner of the **Chicago Flower and Garden Show**, in announcing a truly “green initiative”. In 2009, the **Chicago Flower & Garden Show** will blossom along Chicago’s lakefront. After a two-year absence from the city, the show is expected to cultivate new excitement in urban and suburban gardening when it returns to Navy Pier’s Festival Hall A and B, near the east end of the Pier, from Sat., March 7, through Sun., March 15, 2009.

“I am very pleased the **Flower and Garden Show** is returning to Chicago. It will bring tens of thousands of people to Navy Pier and is another reminder of the importance of trade shows, conventions and meetings to the Chicago-area economy,” said Mayor Richard M. Daley.

“It is a perfect complement to our long-standing goal of making Chicago the most environmentally-friendly city in the world,” added Mayor Daley. “Shows like the **Flower and Garden Show** keep our city’s economy growing and give us the resources we need to make sure Chicago is the kind of place that people want to visit and where people want to live, work and raise a family.”

The show’s returning sponsor is Belgard Hardscapes, a nationwide network of paving stone and garden wall products manufacturers, according to Tony Abruscato, President of Special Events Management.

“We are very pleased that this popular show is returning to Chicago’s most-visited tourist destination. And, we appreciate the sustained support of Belgard and WGN/720 Radio as sponsors who remain instrumental to the development of this annual event for people who love gardening and horticulture. With our return to Navy Pier, we are very confident about attracting additional sponsors to the show,” says Abruscato.

“Navy Pier is proud to, once again, host a world-class, citywide **Flower and Garden Show** which, for many years, has been a welcomed harbinger of spring for Chicagoans,” said Theodore R. Tetzlaff, Chairman of the MPEA. “This is just another example of how Chicago attracts some of the top conventions, trade shows, meetings and public shows in the world and it’s because of the dynamic leadership of Mayor Richard M. Daley.”

“We look forward to welcoming Special Events Management to Navy Pier, as it creates a dynamic show of the highest quality,” said Juan A. Ochoa, Chief Executive Officer of the MPEA. “This show will be the kind of event that’s perfect for a global city already receiving worldwide credit for its ‘green’ initiatives under the stewardship of Mayor Richard M. Daley.”

The show will draw thousands of Chicago-area renters, homeowners and downtown workers, as well as guests from across the Midwest, who visit the show to learn the newest tips in gardening and landscaping and to see magnificent display gardens.

Popular highlights of the **Chicago Flower and Garden Show** will include:

- **Lush Theme Gardens** spotlighting the styles of Chicago’s top landscapers and designers
- **Teaching Garden** featuring container gardening, hands-on demonstrations and classes
- **Garden Market** selling garden-related services and products
- **Garden Gourmet** featuring the culinary talents of 27 top chefs from Chicago and across the country
- **Home Market** featuring home improvement products and DIY (do-it-yourself) items
- **Educational Seminars** presenting local and national horticulture and botany experts organized by *Chicagoland Gardening Magazine*
- **Photography Garden** showcasing floral/landscape images by amateur photographers
- **Tablescapes** showing floral-inspired table settings for home, parties and weddings

New features of the 2009 show include:

- Horticulture Competition
- Children’s Activity Garden
- Green Industry Initiatives
- Preview Gala

Show Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. – Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays. Adult admission is \$14 weekends and \$12 weekdays. Tickets for children under 12 are \$5 every day. All-day reduced parking is \$15. For more information and group sales, please visit www.chicagoflower.com or call 773-435-1250.

The **Chicago Flower & Garden Show** is just the latest exciting event to come to Navy Pier, the number one tourist and leisure destination in the Midwest. This Summer alone, millions of Chicagoans and visitors from around the world will “go a little overboard” as they enjoy such fun, family-oriented Navy Pier attractions as the critically-acclaimed “*Cirque Shanghai: Gold*” acrobatic troupe, the spectacular fireworks shows, free “live” entertainment in the *Navy Pier Beer Garden* and the *Family Pavilion Stage*, movies at the *Navy Pier IMAX Theater* and performances at the Tony Award-winning *Chicago Shakespeare Theater*. For more information, please check our website: www.navy Pier.com .

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Located on Lake Michigan, just East of Chicago’s downtown, Navy Pier® (www.navy Pier.com) is the top-visited tourist and leisure destination in the Midwest, welcoming approximately 8.5 million visitors annually. It has an economic impact of more than one billion dollars annually. Originally opened in 1916 as a shipping and recreation facility, it is now one of the country’s unique recreation and exposition facilities, showcasing more than 50 acres of parks, gardens, restaurants, shops, attractions, sightseeing and dining cruise boats, exhibition facilities and more. Navy Pier is directly accessible by car, CTA Bus, taxi, bike or on foot. More than 1,700 competitively priced self-parking spots are available on the Pier, and free trolley buses serve off-site parking lots as well as the Grand Avenue stop on the CTA Red Line Train. For those arriving by taxi, convenient drop-off points are provided at the front, middle and east end of the Pier. Navy Pier is owned and operated by the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (www.mpea.com).