



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2013

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Navy Pier Open Through Renovation

*Pier open for business, filled with activities and events as
Centennial Vision redevelopment gets underway*

CHICAGO – It will be business as usual throughout the renovation of Navy Pier for all who want to enjoy the Pier’s popular mix of entertainment, food and retail – and the best vantage point in Chicago from which to take in the city skyline and Lake Michigan.

Construction crews this week begin transforming the Chicago landmark into a bolder, greener, more contemporary urban space, following a design that grew out of the *Centennial Vision* planning framework adopted by Navy Pier Inc. in 2011.

Phase I of the redevelopment will occur in stages over the next 20 months. The two primary construction periods will occur between September 2013 and Memorial Day 2014, then again between Labor Day 2014 and Memorial Day 2015. Limited construction activity may take place between Memorial Day and Labor Day 2014, but will be planned in a way that minimizes the impact on Pier operations during the summer.

Phase I projects include transformation of South Dock into a more engaging, greener space with new paved surfaces, more seating and additional social areas; conversion of the South Arcade indoor walkway into a Chicago-themed food experience; and creation of a lighted water fountain/ice skating rink in Gateway Park.

During the renovation numerous events and activities that Chicagoland has come to expect from the largest tourist destination in the Midwest will continue to take place this fall and winter of 2013-2014, starting with last week's successful, **EXPO Chicago**. **EXPO Chicago** featured leading international galleries and a curated blend of contemporary and modern art, design and new technology.

Among other events and activities scheduled over the next few months:

- Midwest MBA Career Fair (September 27)
- NACAC College Fair (September 28)
- Healthcare Facilities Symposium & Expo (Oct. 1-2)
- The Fear Haunted House at Navy Pier (Oct.10 - 31)
- Chicago Chocolate Festival (Oct. 18-22)
- Men's Health Urbanathlon (Oct. 19)
- SOFA Chicago (Nov.1 - Nov. 3)
- Chicago Toy & Game Fair (Nov. 23-24)
- Santa's Arrival/GNMAA Lights Festival & Fireworks (Nov. 23)
- Winter WonderFest at Navy Pier, presented by Bank of America (Dec.6-Jan. 12)
- New Year's Eve Family Bash (Dec. 31)

People attending these and other events or visiting the Pier's attractions or food and retail vendors will be able to walk along South Dock at all times during the renovation.

Phase I construction will be managed by Madison Evans Construction Group LLC, a joint venture of two local firms selected following a competitive process. Madison Evans provided the most cost effective proposal and a commitment to exceed the already high bar NPI had set for involvement of businesses owned by minorities and women.

The redevelopment may also include a new hotel and entertainment district near the Pier's east end, which would expand the Pier's audience with more adult, nighttime and year-round visitors.

Originally envisioned as one of five municipal piers in Daniel Burnham's "Master Plan of Chicago," Navy Pier celebrates its centennial in 2016.

Navy Pier Inc. Is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization established in 2011 to maintain Navy Pier as a historic public landmark and oversee its redevelopment.

For more information regarding Navy Pier activities and events, please visit navypier.com.

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