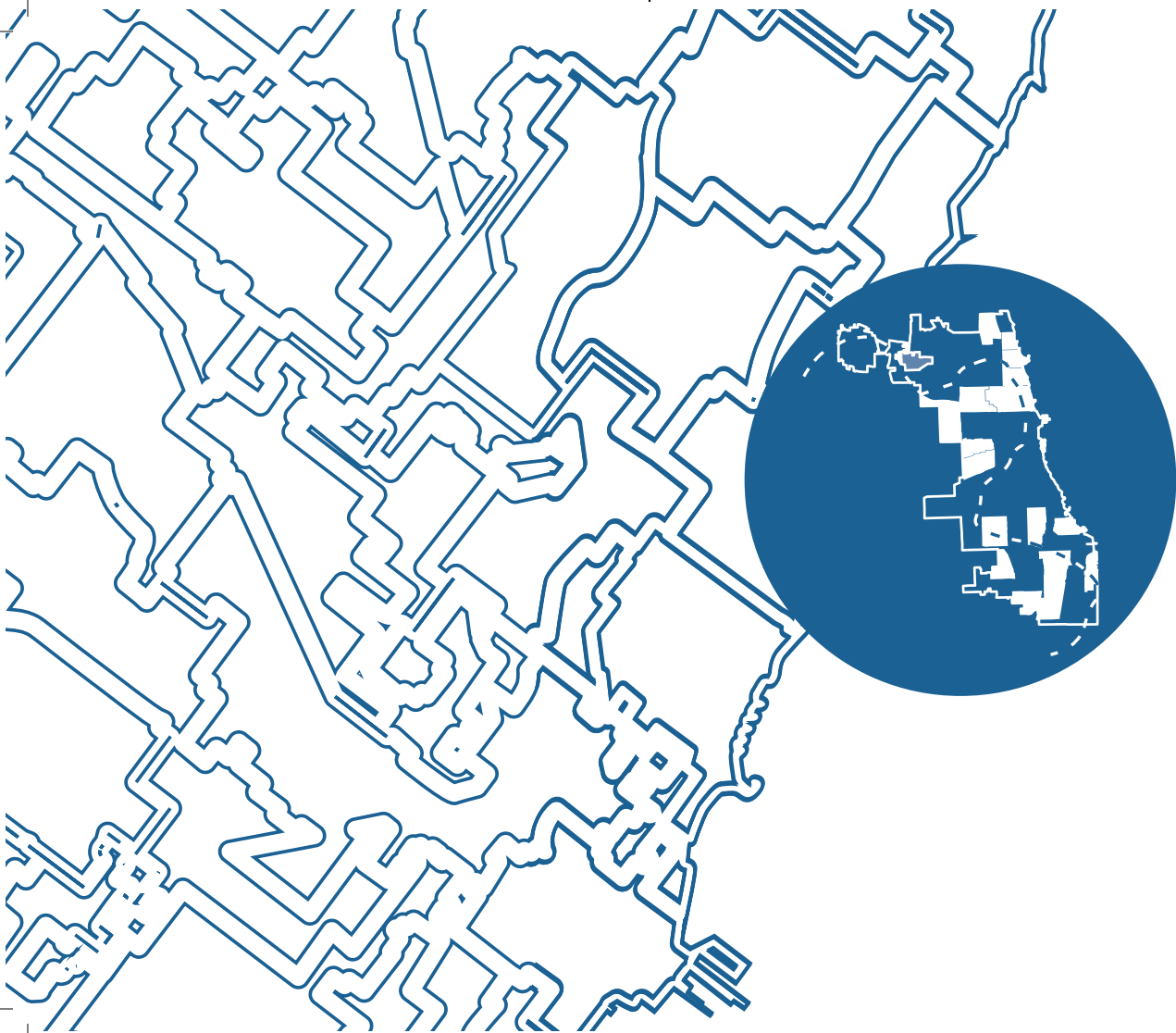




eco monopolies in the Commons

letterbox challenge

What is letterboxing?

Letterboxing is an outdoor hobby that dates back to the late 1800s. It is an activity that can be pursued independently or in groups and is an opportunity for creative expression and social exchange. Letterboxing today uses both analog tools of paper, stamps, and stamp pads, as well as online tools to provide clues and wayfinding to participants. An environmentally friendly activity, boxes are placed in publicly-accessible areas out of sight of casual visitors.

*To learn more about letterboxing, visit
atlasquest.com or letterboxing.org*



#letterboxchallenge
#ecomonopolies
#mcacommmons

Take the Challenge

This letterboxing challenge was designed as part of an exhibition by artist Joan Giroux in the Commons at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago to encourage folks to explore the hidden treasures in Chicago's green spaces.

Whether you set out from the MCA Chicago or from one of many different Chicago neighborhood parks, you'll be sure to discover new locales along the way.

In this book you'll find addresses for each of the Chicago Park District's 15 cultural centers, located throughout the city. You'll also find a page with clues for a couple of letterboxes at the MCA.

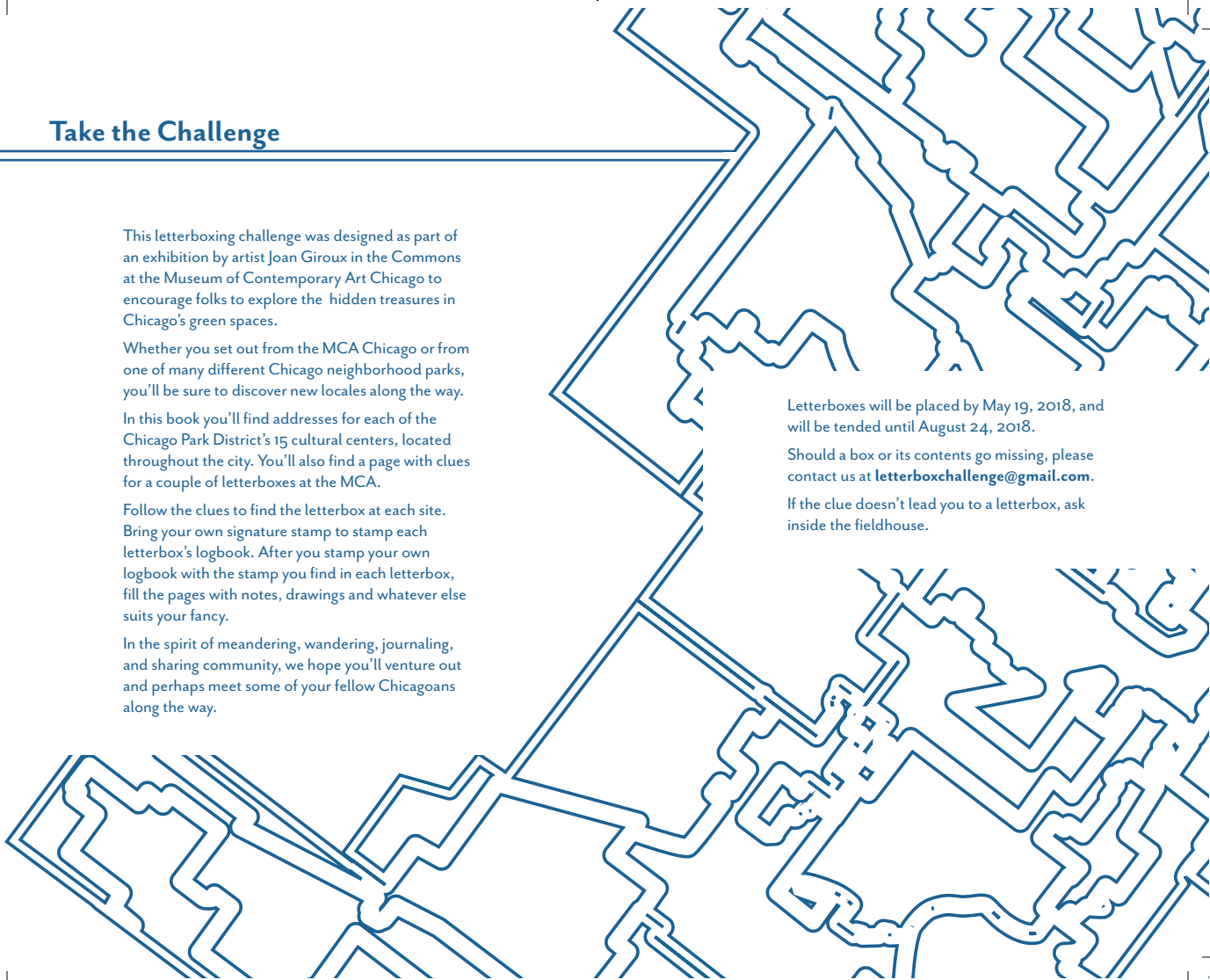
Follow the clues to find the letterbox at each site. Bring your own signature stamp to stamp each letterbox's logbook. After you stamp your own logbook with the stamp you find in each letterbox, fill the pages with notes, drawings and whatever else suits your fancy.

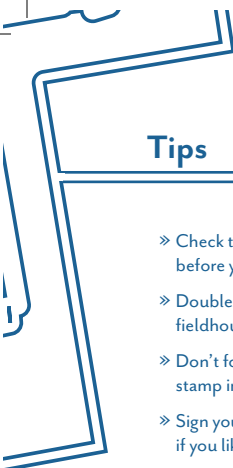
In the spirit of meandering, wandering, journaling, and sharing community, we hope you'll venture out and perhaps meet some of your fellow Chicagoans along the way.

Letterboxes will be placed by May 19, 2018, and will be tended until August 24, 2018.

Should a box or its contents go missing, please contact us at letterboxchallenge@gmail.com.

If the clue doesn't lead you to a letterbox, ask inside the fieldhouse.





Tips

- » Check the park and fieldhouse hours before you depart.
- » Double check your map route, some fieldhouses are tucked away.
- » Don't forget to stamp your signature stamp in the letterbox logbook.
- » Sign your letterboxing name and date it if you like.
- » Place the letterbox where you found it after you are done.
- » Leave the area as you found it or in even better condition.
- » If you have gloves and a bag, pick up garbage you see along the way.
- » Bring water and some snacks.

If you need a signature stamp, try a crafts or art supply store. Or come to the Commons to make your own (see next page).

Share your letterboxing stories.

Friday, August 31, 2018, 6–8 pm

Come to the Commons where you're invited to share stories, show your letterbox journals filled with stamps from sites you visited, and meet others who have taken the challenge. If you stamped your book at every cultural center, you'll receive a small prize.

If you can't make it that night, stop by the Commons between September 1 and October 7 to show your letterboxing book and receive your prize.

Museum Hours

Tuesday 10 am–9 pm

Wed–Thu 10 am–5 pm

Friday 10 am–9 pm

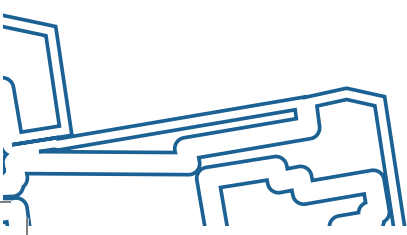
Sat–Sun 10 am–5 pm

Closed Mondays

If you want to make your own signature stamp or learn more about letterboxing, come to the Commons.

Fridays, June 8 – August 10, 2018
5–6 pm

MCA Chicago
220 East Chicago Avenue



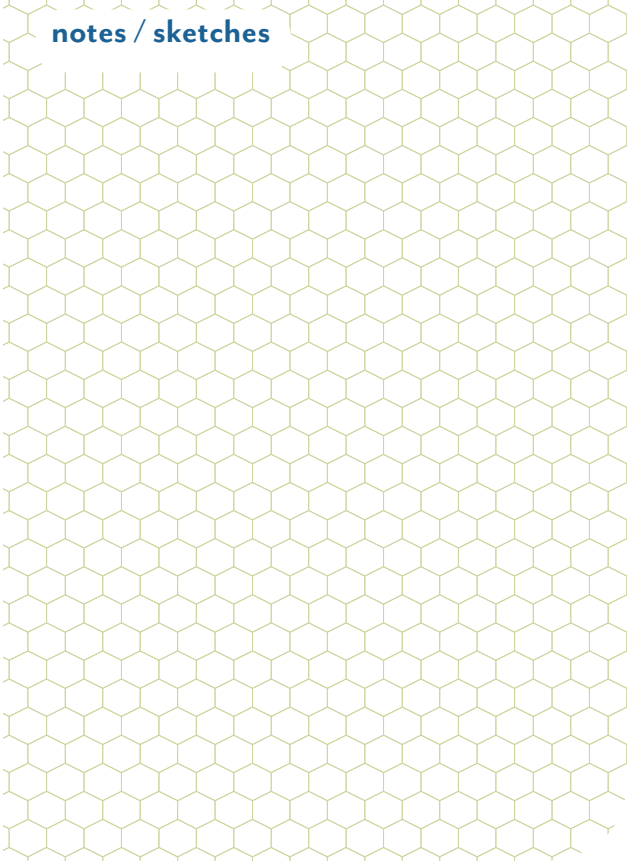
Austin Town Hall Park

Austin
5610 W Lake St
41° 53' 17.8728" N
87° 45' 56.8836" W

Clue:
Facing the town hall, look to the
east in the greenery.

Stamp here

notes / sketches



notes / sketches

Edgewater
6205 N Sheridan Rd
41° 59' 41.5644" N
87° 39' 18.5256" W

Clue:
You might take one or leave one.
If you follow these directions, you
will find me.

Beware, I may be a Horcrux!

Fieldhouse Hours
Monday–Friday 9 am–9 pm
Saturday 9 am–5 pm
Sunday Closed

Stamp here

Calumet Park

East Side
9801 S Ave G
41° 43' 4.188" N
87° 31' 50.3184" W

Clue:
At the southeast corner of the
fieldhouse, walk about 88 paces,
or 145 feet, east from the path.
Look to the base of the tree with
the tunnel through its trunk.
What kind of tree is that?
How can you tell?

Stamp here

notes / sketches

Douglas Park

notes / sketches

North Lawndale
1401 S Sacramento Dr
41° 51' 43.668" N
87° 41' 58.128" W

Clue:
Northeast of the entrance, when
facing the fieldhouse, see below
the base of illumination.

Stamp here

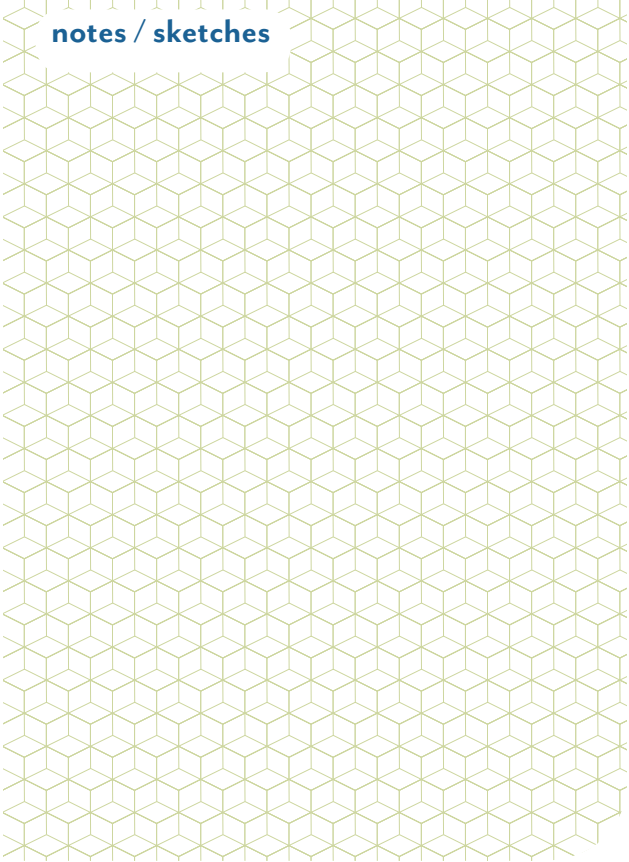
Hamilton Park

Englewood
513 W 72nd St
41° 45' 46.0656" N
87° 38' 15.6696" W

Clue:
In front of the raised arms made
from bits and pieces of glass and
tile, look to the crevice below
where flowers may bloom.

Stamp here

notes / sketches



Humboldt Park

notes / sketches

Handwriting practice area with a grid of yellow dots on a light blue background.

*Humboldt Park
1400 N Sacramento Ave
41° 54' 23.8968" N
87° 42' 5.1516" W*

*Clue:
East of the fieldhouse, south
of the red rings, find me in
the mouth of a gnarly tree.*

Stamp here

Indian Boundary Park

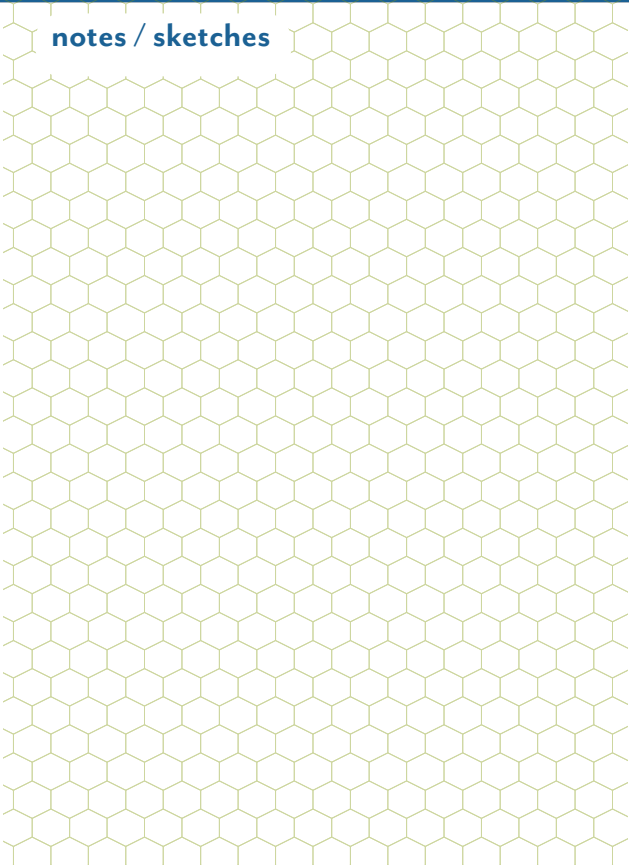
West Ridge
2500 W Lunt Ave
42° 0' 31.284" N
87° 41' 53.5392" W

Clue:
If you look to my name, you may
climb, you may swim, you may
rest. If you look behind me you
will find the box.

Nature Play Center Hours
Monday–Friday 10 am–6 pm
Saturday 10 am–4 pm
Sunday 10 am–4 pm

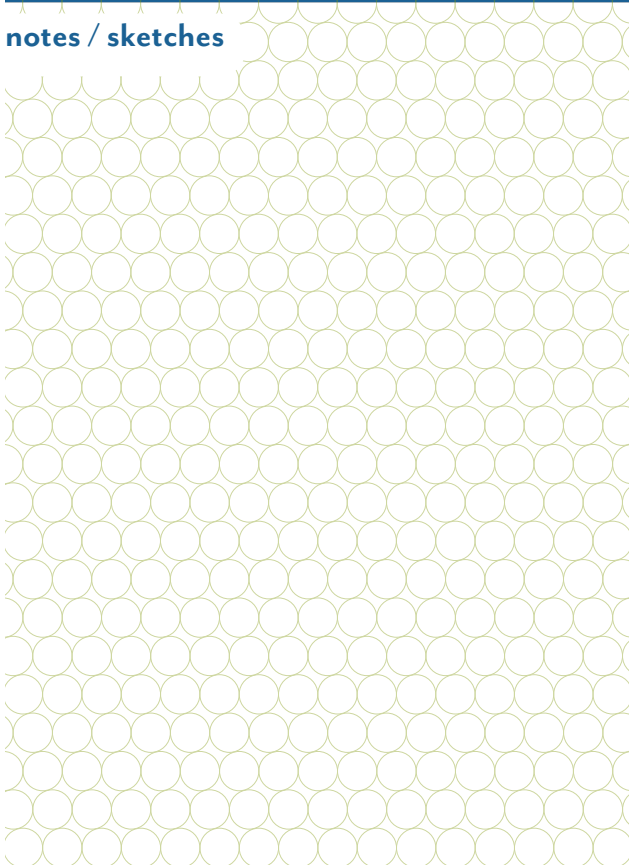
Stamp here

notes / sketches



Lincoln Park

notes / sketches



Streeterville (Near North
Side), Lincoln Park,
Lakeview, Uptown,
Edgewater
2045 N Lincoln Park W
41° 55' 10.8228" N
87° 38' 9.3552" W

Clue:
From the fieldhouse, head east
through the tunnel. Find the
thorny honey locust on the
north side. Look to the open
trunk by its base.

Stamp here

Marquette Park

Chicago Lawn
6743 S Kedzie Ave
41° 46' 15.186" N
87° 42' 10.4472" W

Clue:
Go towards the water in back of
the fieldhouse. Closest to the pier,
look in the tall grass.

Stamp here

notes / sketches

Palmer Park

notes / sketches

Roseland
201 E 111th St
41° 41' 30.8472" N
87° 36' 58.5864" W

Clue:
*Between the picnic grove, the
water park and the place where
dance and drama activities take
place, find me in the brush near
the base of a tall tree.*

Stamp here

Piotrowski Park

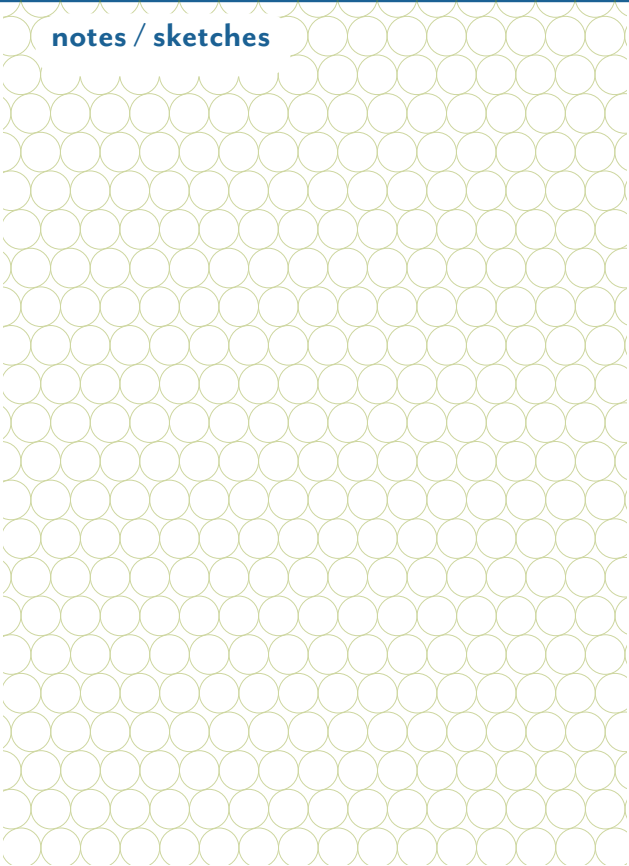
South Lawndale
4247 W 31st St
41° 50' 11.418" N
87° 43' 51.0636" W

Clue:
From time to time, I may hold fliers.
Now I hide a letterbox
on my underside.

Fieldhouse Hours
Monday–Friday 8:30 am–10 pm
Saturday 9 am–10 pm
Sunday 9 am–5 pm

Stamp here

notes / sketches



Ridge Park

notes / sketches

*Beverly
9625 S Longwood Dr
41° 43' 6.5496" N
87° 40' 7.3632" W*

*Clue:
Find the Daughters of the
American Revolution circle
and look under the benches.*

Stamp here

South Shore Cultural Center

South Shore
7059 S South Shore Dr
41° 46' 5.8872" N
87° 33' 49.9248" W

Clue:
Walk through the nature
sanctuary and towards the
lake. Find the box in the
cubby underneath.

Stamp here

notes / sketches

Tuley Park

notes / sketches

Chesterfield (Chatham)
501 E 90th Pl
41° 43' 48.432" N
87° 36' 40.32" W

Clue:
Look for me in the hedges
near the curved staircase on
the north side of the entrance.

Stamp here

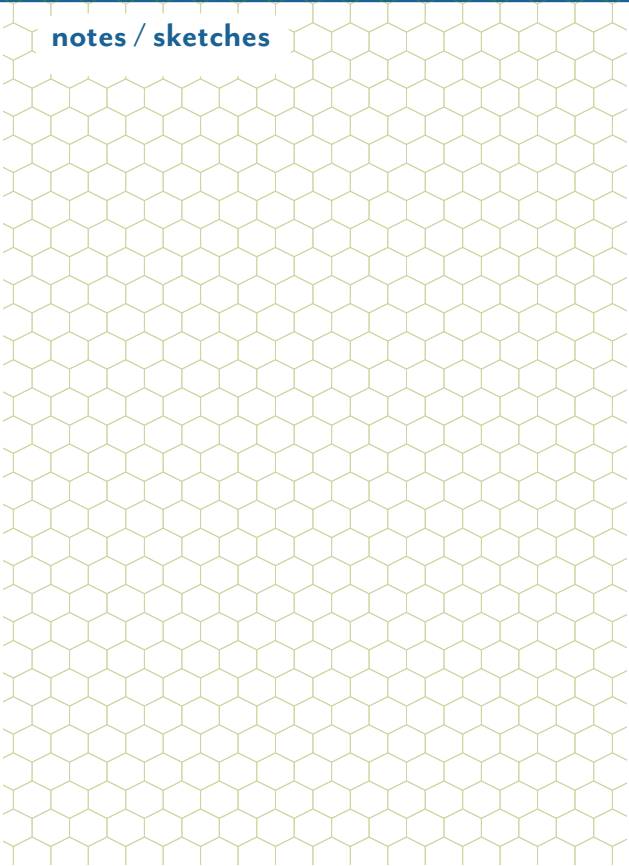
West Pullman Park

West Pullman
401 123rd St
41° 40' 12.1476" N
87° 37' 55.5492" W

Clue:
Find the sign and read about the Downy Woodpecker, the American Columbine and Bottlebrush Grass. Enter the sanctuary and walk a short way. Without leaving the path, look to your right and spy the hollow tree on the ground.

Stamp here

notes / sketches



MCA in the Commons

notes / sketches

Near North Side
220 E Chicago Ave
41° 53' 49.7076" N
87° 37' 15.2868" W

Clue:
*You're going to have to read up a
little to find this one.*

Museum Hours
Tuesday 10 am–9 pm
Wed–Thu 10 am–5 pm
Friday 10 am–9 pm
Sat–Sun 10 am–5 pm

Closed Mondays

*The Commons is free
and open to the public.*

Stamp here

MCA out of doors

Near North Side
220 E Chicago Ave
41° 53' 49.7076" N
87° 37' 15.2868" W

Clue:
Find the sculpture by our sister
to the north and look under a
nearby hedge.

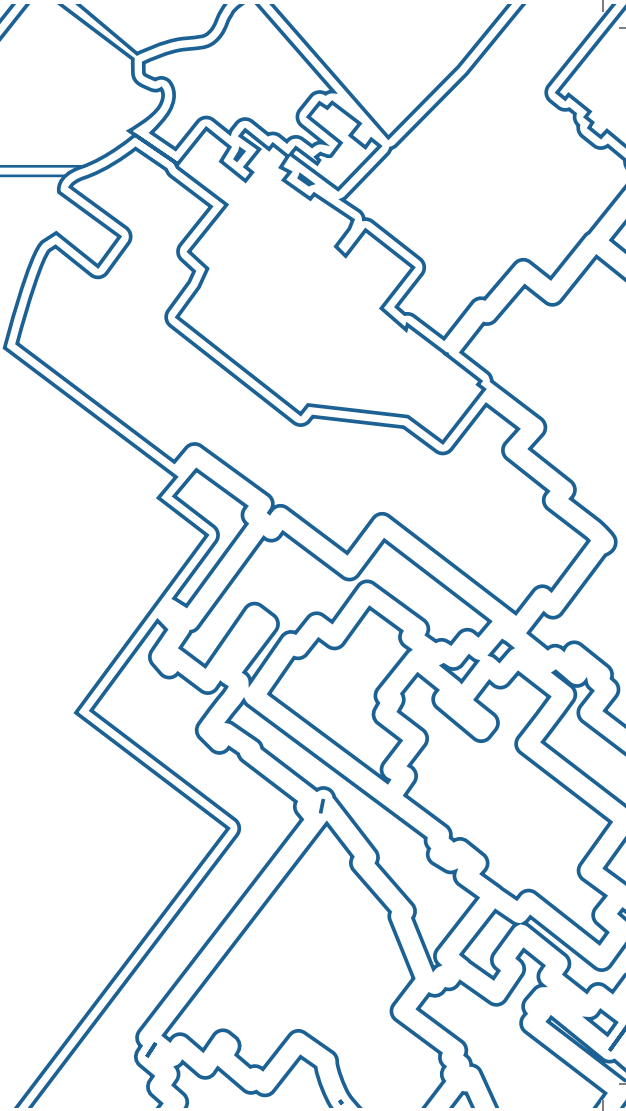
Museum Hours
Tuesday 10 am–9 pm
Wed–Thu 10 am–5 pm
Friday 10 am–9 pm
Sat–Sun 10 am–5 pm
Closed Mondays

Stamp here

notes / sketches

things you notice





This letterbox challenge is part of
Joan Giroux: eco monopolies
a Commons Artist Project
May 1 – October 7, 2018

organized by January Parkos Arnall,
MCA Curator of Public Programs
mcachicago.org/Exhibitions

The Commons Artist Project is an exhibition platform
in which artists create art forms that engage the public
in working toward a communal good.

in collaboration with the Chicago Park District's
Culture, Arts and Nature (CAN) department.
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

If you have ever watched a movie in the park, taken
part in a fishing or camping program, or enjoyed
the imaginative artwork created by youth in our
parks, then you are already familiar with some of the
responsibilities of CAN. There's something for all
ages and abilities, with 1500 Nights Out in the Parks
events. From SummerDance (DCASE partnership)
to the Winter Solstice Festival, programs span all four
seasons, and reach every corner of the city.

eco monopolies is part of an ongoing series which
began in 2000 in a park in Yokohama, Japan.