

Information material for applicants

1. The Danish Contribution

The Danish contribution to the Chicago Architecture Biennale 2019 is the first official Danish contribution to the biennale.

- The site for the Danish contribution is Chicago Conservatory in Garfield Park – originally planned by the Danish landscape architect Jens Jensen (1860-1951).
- The contribution should be developed and installed as a site specific piece. The contribution should interpret the theme ‘Commons and Communities’ [dansk: Fælledskaber] (see 1.2) and consider current relevant themes in architecture and landscape architecture such as sustainability.
- The contribution should interact with the public, engaging in a productive and rewarding relation with the community in and around the park.
- Furthermore the contribution should take in consideration the parks history and landscape architecture.
- The overall budget is: 1 mio. DKK.
- The Chicago Architecture Biennale opens the 19th of September 2019.

1.2 The Thematic frame for the Danish Contribution

Commons and Communities [dansk: Fælledskaber]

With the project 'Commons and Communities', The Danish Arts Foundation's Committee for Architecture wants to demonstrate architecture's capacity to strengthen the awareness about our common resources in cities and countryside

Every day, we share many resources. We, as humans, share nature's resources such as the air we breathe and the water we drink. In Denmark, we share the Danish landscape, our coasts, streams, forests, and fields as a community. In cities, we share our open spaces and interspaces, the architecture, our parks, squares, and streets. All these resources, however, are shared by a community, thereby making up a sort of 'common'. Yet, they can also be used, misused, overused, and overpopulated if we, who share in the resources, do not do this with an awareness of preserving and developing them as common goods for the future. On the other hand, there are fundamental elements that we have in common in our society, that do not decrease when used, but instead grows in sharing. Art and culture is like knowledge, developed and cultivated the more we, as a community, share and take part in it.

Today, the question of how to handle and preserve our common resources is being more and more frequently asked and therefore the Danish Arts Foundation's Committee for Architecture wishes to inquire about art and architecture's abilities to come up with relevant answers to the challenge. Based in the 'Commons and Communities' initiative, the Committee asks if art is capable of creating communities? If art and architecture can come up with answers to the question of how we can take care of our common resources in cities and country and strengthen the experience of them? And if an aesthetic experience is able to increase the attention to and awareness of our common resources?

2. The site

2.1 Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago – description

Designed in 1905, by the Danish-American landscape architect Jens Jensen, the Garfield Park Conservatory is one of the largest conservatories in the country. Set within the 75 square kilometer Garfield Park, the Conservatory's large glass-domed buildings cover naturalistic landscapes with plants from all regions of the world. Often called Chicago's "landscape art under glass", the Conservatory has been recognized not only for its beautiful spaces and horticultural and botanical practices, but also for its teaching and outreach to the local community.

Born in Dybbøl, Denmark in 1860, Jens Jensen trained at a Copenhagen agricultural school before immigrating to the United States in 1884. During his time at the Chicago Park District in the late 19th centuries, Jensen brought together ideas from his native Denmark as well as practices from Prairie School architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright. These Prairie School designers sought to use native materials and plants that reflected natural Midwest landscapes – a revolutionary idea in the US at the time.

Chicago's large urban parks, planned in the decades after the city's founding in 1837, provided critical space for recreation, contemplation, and health in densely populated neighborhoods. Jensen worked at the Chicago Park District during one of the park district's largest periods of growth to create outdoor gardens, lagoons, and natural areas – as well as interior landscapes under glass.

Today, the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance serves more than 250,000 people each year. Visitors come from around the region and country to enjoy plantings from around the world and take part in educational programs that connect nature to urban life. Local families and children, teens, and teachers participate in hands-on activities at the Conservatory.

The neighborhood of Garfield Park has undergone dramatic change over the past 50 years. Demographic shifts, population loss, and disinvestment in the neighborhood has led to decades of a struggling local economy and pockets of high crime. But the area is also seeing change and renewal today, with a new influx of grass-roots non-profit social services organizations, urban farms, and culinary start-up companies that engage local residents.

Link to website: <https://garfieldconservatory.org/>

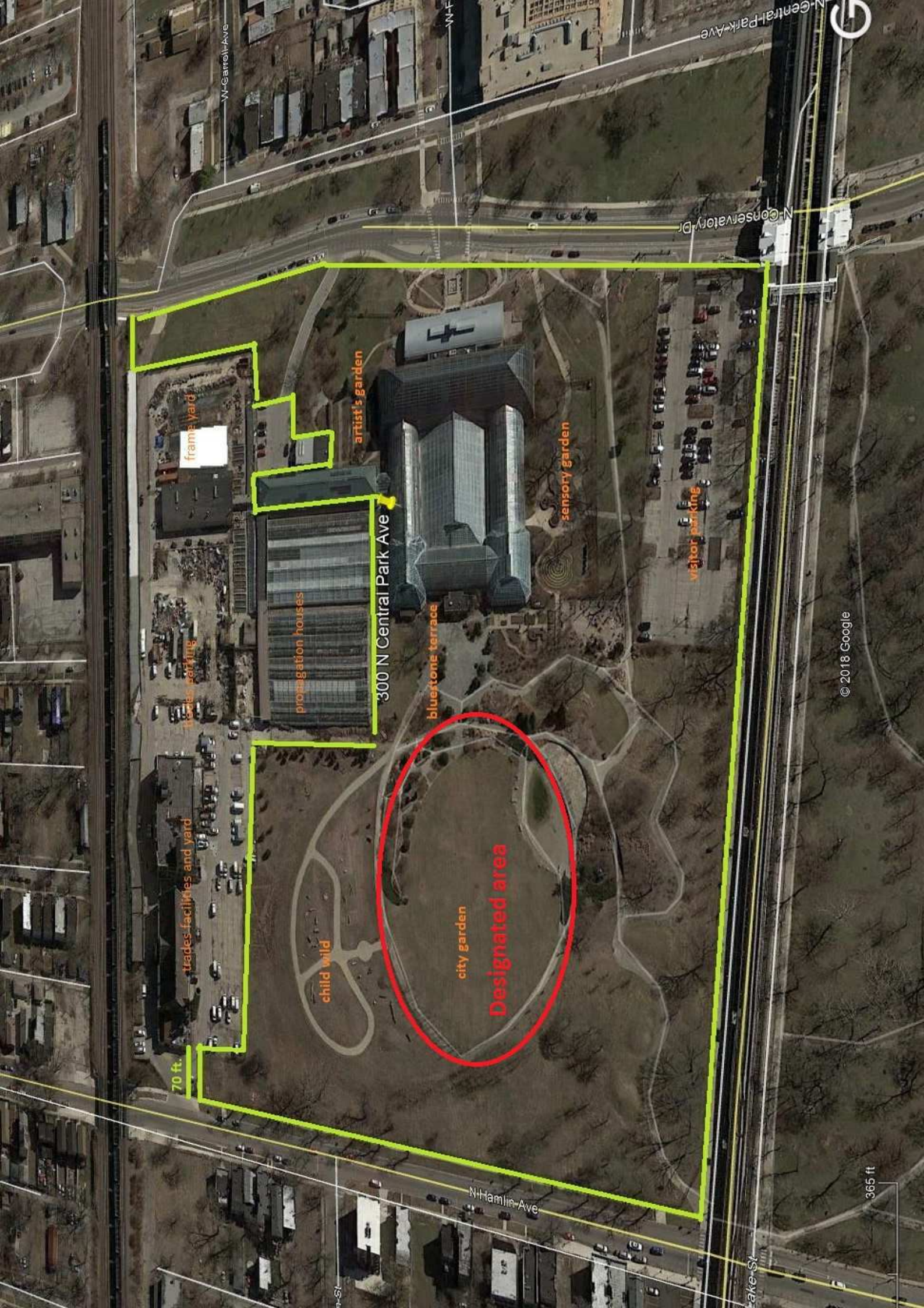
2.2 Information about the site

- The designated site for the Danish biennale contribution at is the 'City garden' at The Chicago Conservatory – see map 1.

2.3 Maps, measurements and photo material

Outdoor Gardens	Size
Sensory Garden	26,000 sq. ft.
Raised Beds in Sensory Garden	1400 sq. ft.
Blue Stone Terrace and Greenhouse Beds	28,000 sq. ft.
Monet Garden	7000 sq. ft.
Landscaped Areas along Central Park Ave.	100,000 sq. ft.
Alliance Demonstration Garden	4100 sq. ft.
City Garden/as of 2005)	150,000 sq. ft.
Total of Outdoor Gardens	315,800 sq. ft.

- Video sweep over The city garden :
<https://www.provector.dk/video/?p=51398&cid=79&pl=13052&start=0>



70 ft.

trades facilities and yard

trades parking

propagation houses

artist's garden

sensory garden

child wild

city garden

Designated area

visitor parking

300 N Central Park Ave

bluestone terrace

W Garrell Ave

N Central Park Ave

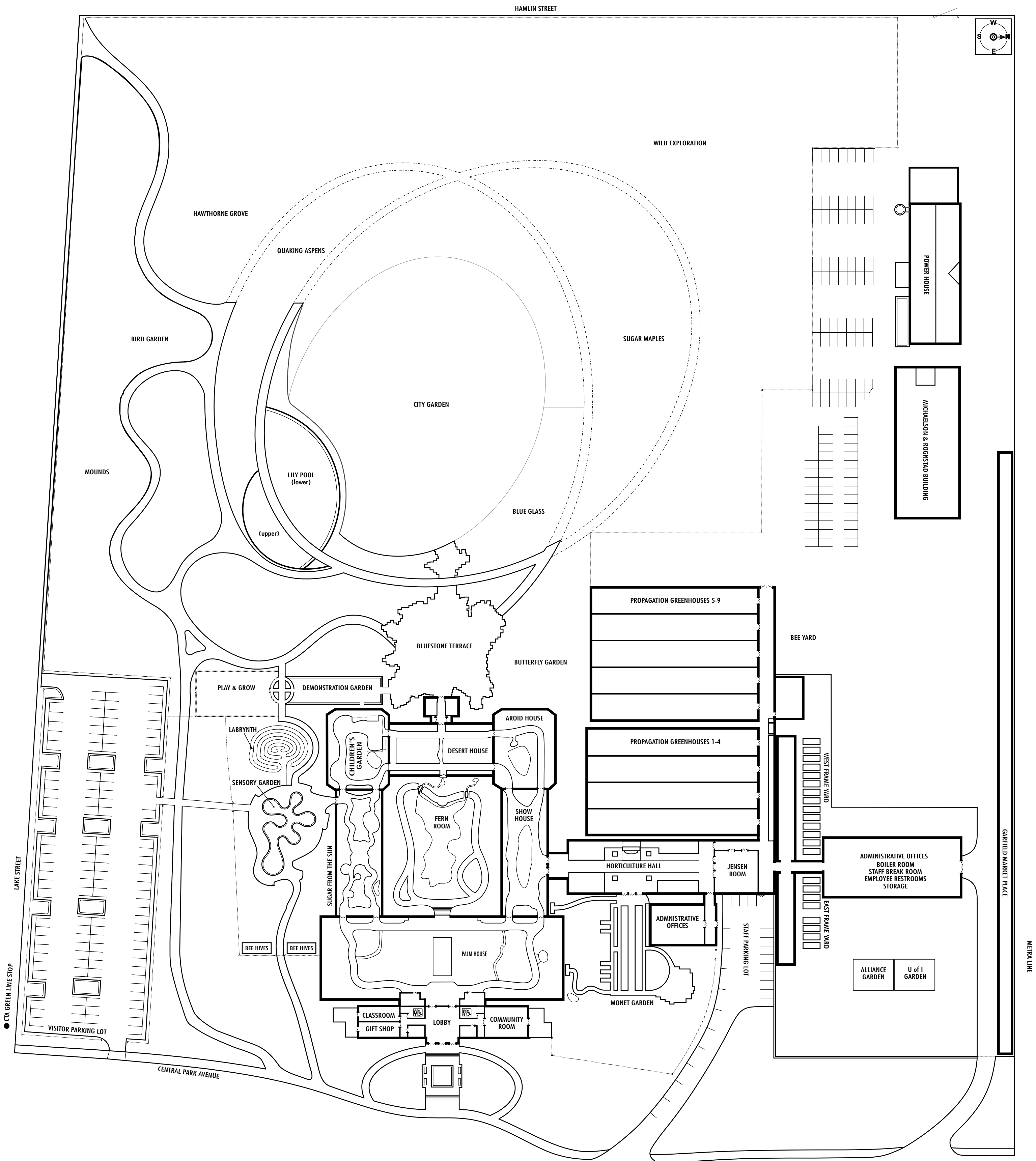
N Conservatory Dr

N Hamlin Ave

Lake St

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365 ft













2.5 restrictions and installation guidelines

There are few restrictions for art locations, however, The Chicago Conservatory do prohibit:

- Attaching or hanging from plants
- Suspending heavy objects over walkways or rare plants

Any art must be installed by the artist. The Chicago Park District does not have staff to install works.

The artist/curator must supply all installation tools and materials. Due to insurance restrictions, the Chicago Park District cannot loan out equipment, such as ladders. The conservatory does not have lifts available.

Installations should be planned during open conservatory hours, preferably between 7:30 am and 3:30 pm.

Any initial walkthrough with artist(s) must include conservatory staff. This will help the artist know specific challenges and benefits of chosen placements.

The conservatory does not have the capacity for special lighting. Our electrical capacity and access is limited. Artist provided lighting will be considered on a case by case basis.

Signage will be provided by the artist/curator. The sign should be printed on water-proof paper or manufactured waterproof material (lamination in the conservatory environment is not acceptable). Signs should be 6 x 4 inches, with a horizontal orientation.

All art installations, including signage, must be completed 48 hours before the scheduled opening.

3. Information on the Chicago Architecture Biennale

Chicago Architecture Biennial

Now in its third edition, the Chicago Architecture Biennial is north America's largest exhibition of contemporary architecture from around the world. In 2017, more than 140 architects and designers from 20 countries were chosen by the year's artistic director/curator for the Biennial. The Biennial is sponsored by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. While the main exhibitions take place downtown at the Cultural Center, dozens of Biennial partner organizations and city parks serve as venues for other large-scale installations and programs. From September 2017 - January 2018, the Biennial attracted more than 550,000 visitors from around the world and more than 15,000 Chicago young people took a guided field trip through the installations. This is the first Danish contribution to the biennial.

3.1 Chicago Architecture Biennial Curatorial statement

“...and other such stories”

Titled ...and other such stories, the 2019 Chicago Architecture Biennial is rooted in close readings of the spatial realities of its host city. Sitting at the crossroads of the Great Plains and the Great Lakes, Chicago has been shaped by planetary forces: colonial expansion, mass migration, extraction economies, and rapid industrialization. Thus, Chicago's urbanism is inextricable from the flows of people, goods, and capital—and the concurrent exploitation of bodies, labor, and nature—that have contributed to its making. Today, despite the promise of economic development, Chicago, like many other established and emergent global metropolises, faces challenging urban conditions that require the reimagining of forms of exchange between human activity, technology, and the natural world. By extension, owing to its physical geography, Chicago is a singular context in which to address climate and ecological concerns shared by many postindustrial societies.

A city of cultural encounters and differences, Chicago has been shaped by waves of migration from Europe, the American South, and Latin America. Yet its urban fabric displays clear demographic demarcations and acute forms of spatial segregation that have been forged through uneven planning and housing policies. These divisions impact the experiences of residents and visitors today and replicate patterns of social and economic inequity that

pervade cities and nation states around the world. The realities of spatial injustice in Chicago co-exist alongside the city's history as an epicenter of progressive social movements that have often leveraged architecture and public space as sites for social action and advocacy. Chicago is thus an ideal site for investigation of the ways the built space reflects and impacts our understanding of the common, the collective, and the constitutional.

The story of Chicago's urban evolution is one of many such tales. The city illuminates many key issues confronting architecture and urbanism today, and its stories extend beyond regional and national boundaries to parallel those of other built and natural environments worldwide. Building upon a research-driven approach to historical and contemporary spatial conditions, ...and other such stories draws from the complexities and potentialities of Chicago to trace dialogues between various practices and the questions they raise across global communities, cities, territories, and ecologies.

The third edition of the Chicago Architecture Biennial, ...and other such stories invites practitioners and the public to engage with architecture and the built environment as prisms through which to reflect upon social, geopolitical, and ecological processes that affect our collective past, present, and future. The exhibition is structured by a series of curatorial frames:

No Land Beyond: Reflects on landscapes of belonging and sovereignty that challenge narrow definitions of land as property and commodity. Taking inspiration from indigenous cosmologies and considering social ecologies as comprising multi-species networks and constituencies, the Biennial thinks through alternative designs and relationships between nature, society, and the built environment.

Appearances and Erasures: Explores sites of memory and the politics of remembering and/or forgetting in contested spaces, considering space as a marker of past and present social imaginaries, visible or otherwise.

Rights and Reclamations: Interprets space—urban, territorial, environmental—as a site of advocacy and civic participation, investigating spatial practices that foreground the rights of humans and nature.

Common Ground: Engages and addresses a constituency of actors and agents invested in developing tactics and methodologies for producing and intervening in public space—both within and beyond the field of architecture.

Presenting practices and projects that include building, design, planning, visual art, policymaking, pedagogy, research, and activism, among others, ...and other such storiesembraces architecture as an expansive practice that crosses disciplines and scales; engages a broad spectrum of spatial practitioners and publics; and functions across diverse sociopolitical and cultural registers. Extending its reach into the city and across neighborhoods, this project also features collaborations with Chicago-based organizations and communities aimed at fostering conversations that resonate simultaneously at local and global registers. In our current moment of shifting geopolitical alliances, rapid environmental change, and renegotiations of rights and civic life, ...and other such storiesdraws out multiple narratives, perspectives, and positions, opening up arenas of speculation that imagine space and the built environment anew.

The Curators

The curatorial team for the 2019 Chicago Architecture Biennial consists of Artistic Director Yesomi Umolu, a contemporary art curator, and co-curators Sepake Angiama, a curator whose work centers on education, and Paulo Tavares, a Brazil-based architect and academic.