

Lynn Osmond

Lynn Osmond assumed the position of President and CEO of the Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) formerly Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) in 1996. Osmond is responsible for overseeing CAC's comprehensive program of architecture tours, exhibitions, public programs and youth education. In the summer of 2018, CAF launched the new Chicago Architecture Center centrally located at the river in a Mies-designed building which features the Skyscraper Exhibition, Building Tall and an expansive Chicago City Model. Today CAC serves more than 680,000 people each year.

During Osmond's tenure, CAC has expanded its docent tour program which now has 450 volunteers that give 85 different tours, totaling more than 7,000 tour departures annually and recognized internationally as one of the leading programs of its kind. Osmond initiated Open House Chicago, a free citywide annual architecture festival that attracts 100,000 people annually. CAF reaches more than 44,000 students annually through its youth education programs. Other education initiatives include three curricular resources for K-12 teachers and students—Schoolyards to Skylines (K-8), The Architecture Handbook (high school) and DiscoverDesign.org, a digital learning program—that are all used throughout the county, all of which have been recognized with an AIA Honor Award.

Since opening its doors to the public, the CAC has received the 2019 "Business Impact of the Year" award from The Magnificent Mile Association; the 2018 "Best New Attraction" award from Friends of Downtown; and Osmond was awarded the 2018 AIA Illinois Richard Nickel Award for (non-architect) citizens who lift up architecture and the profession. In recognition of CAC's contributions over the years, CAC received the 2017 John Baird Award for Stewardship in recognition of "No Small Plans" and also in recognition of CAF's 50th anniversary and Meet Your City initiative. The American Architectural Foundation presented CAC with its 2014 Keystone Award that honors an individual or organization from outside the field of architecture for exemplary leadership that has increased the value of architecture and design in our culture. In 2014 Osmond received the Design Futures Council Honors as Senior Fellow award; and was recognized as an Honorary Member of the American Institute of Architects in 2005. In 2002, she was awarded the Paul Berger Arts Entrepreneurship Award presented by Columbia College, and in 2009 she received the Chicago Woman Achievement Award from Chicago Real Estate Women (CREW).

Osmond is the founding chair of the Association of Architecture Organizations and serves on the boards of Choose Chicago, the Magnificent Mile and the International Women's Forum. She is a member of the Commercial Club, the Chicago Network, the Economic Club of Chicago, among others. She is a certified docent for the Chicago Architecture Center and is a regular speaker on architecture and design. Osmond holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Queens University, Ontario, Canada. She is a Certified Association Executive (CAE) and a graduate of the Advanced Executive Program at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.