

# Chicago Architecture Biennial

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RELEASE

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Photo: Iwan Baan, *Chicago*, 2014

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE BIENNIAL  
THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF CONTEMPORARY  
ARCHITECTURE IN NORTH AMERICA

“THE STATE OF THE ART OF ARCHITECTURE”  
2015 INAUGURAL EDITION  
ARTISTIC DIRECTED BY JOSEPH GRIMA AND SARAH HERDA

PHOTOGRAPHER IWAN BAAN ANNOUNCED AS THE FIRST PARTICIPANT  
CREATING NEW WORK FOR THE BIENNIAL

Chicago, October 31, 2014—The Chicago Architecture Biennial, the largest international survey of contemporary architecture in North America, will launch its inaugural edition in October 2015, entitled *The State of the Art of Architecture*. In addition, the Biennial has announced its first project, a commission of photographer Iwan Baan who is producing a new series of photographs exploring the city of Chicago.

## **The State of the Art of Architecture**

The Biennial will be a platform for groundbreaking architectural projects and spatial experiments that demonstrate how creativity and innovation can radically transform our lived experience. Through its constellation of exhibitions, full-scale installations, and program of events, *The State of the Art of Architecture* will invite the public to engage with and think about architecture in new and unexpected ways, and to take part in a global discussion on the future of the field.

More than a profession or a repertoire of built artifacts, architecture is a dynamic cultural practice that manifests at different scales and through various media: buildings and cities, but also art, performance, film, landscape and new

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technologies. It permeates fundamental registers of everyday life—from housing to education, from environmental awareness to economic growth, from local communities to global networks. *The State of the Art of Architecture* will take stock of the extraordinary ways that architects, artists, designers, planners, activists, and policy makers from around the world are tackling such challenges today.

Selected by Co-Artistic Directors **Joseph Grima** and **Sarah Herda**, the title *The State of the Art of Architecture* takes its name from a 1977 conference organized by architect Stanley Tigerman, which invited leading American designers to Chicago to present and discuss the current state of the field. The Biennial will expand the spirit and scope of this event, inviting an international and intergenerational architectural network to Chicago to explore how visionary design can take on the most pressing issues of today. In this way it will advance Chicago's unique place in history as a site of architectural innovation. Chicago will operate as a nexus for the ideas and practices that are driving global architectural culture in the 21st century.

The Biennial's main exhibition venue, the Chicago Cultural Center, will present new and commissioned work by established and emerging architects. Using the city as a canvas, installations will be created in Millennium Park and other Chicago neighborhoods, including new projects and public programs developed by renowned artist **Theaster Gates** on Chicago's south side. The Biennial will also feature collateral exhibitions and events with partner institutions throughout the city, and will offer educational programming for local and international students.

Grima and Herda will consult with an International Advisory Committee that includes acclaimed architects **David Adjaye** (London), **Elizabeth Diller** (New York), **Jeanne Gang** (Chicago), **Frank Gehry** (Los Angeles), and **Stanley Tigerman** (Chicago), along with critic **Sylvia Lavin** (Los Angeles), **Lord Peter Palumbo** (London), Chairman of the Pritzker Prize for Architecture, and **Hans Ulrich Obrist**, Co-Director, Exhibitions and Programs, and Director of International Projects at the Serpentine Gallery (London).

## Commission by Iwan Baan

The Chicago Architecture Biennial's first commission for *The State of the Art of Architecture* is a photo essay on Chicago by world-renowned photographer Iwan Baan to be exhibited as a part of the biennial and featured in the exhibition's catalog. Over the past decade, Baan has transformed the practice of architecture photography, challenging the long-standing habit of magazines and architects themselves of representing architecture in a staged condition, devoid of its inhabitants. His work investigates architecture as a stage for everyday life, capturing the details and momentary encounters that shape our perception of buildings. He has worked with today's leading architects across all five continents, and perhaps better than anyone else he embodies the globalized nature of architecture in the 21st century: he travels incessantly, rarely spending more than a few days in any country and a fortnight on any continent.

Much as with his architectural work, Baan's photographs of Chicago capture the city during a moment of its daily routine. Shooting from the air, he emphasizes

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key landmarks of the city's architectural history, including the Hancock Tower (designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in the late 1960s) or the Office for Metropolitan Architecture's interventions on the historic Illinois Institute of Technology campus designed by Mies van der Rohe, contextualizing them within the broader cityscape. He also emphasizes Chicago's ongoing role as an industrial center, as well as its defining relationship with Lake Michigan. Like the Biennial itself, Baan's expansive photographs interpret Chicago as a realm of architectural possibility, past and future.

With no formal training in architecture, his perspective mirrors the questions and perspectives of the everyday individuals who give meaning and context to the architecture and spaces that surround us, and this artistic approach has given matters of architecture an approachable and accessible voice. As the inaugural recipient of the Julius Shulman Institute Award for Architectural Photography, today, architects such as Rem Koolhaas, Herzog & de Meuron, Zaha Hadid, Diller Scofidio & Renfro, Toyo Ito, SANAA and Morphosis turn to Baan to give their work a sense of place and narrative.

## Partners

BP is the Presenting Sponsor of the 2015 Chicago Architecture Biennial. BP, which sponsored the Gehry-designed bridge in Millennium Park, has a long history of supporting programs, events, and institutions that make Chicago great.

The Biennial's Presenting Partners are the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events of the City of Chicago (DCASE) and the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts. The Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) is dedicated to enriching Chicago's artistic vitality and cultural vibrancy. Founded in 1956, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts makes project-based grants to individuals and organizations and produces public programs to foster the development and exchange of diverse and challenging ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society.

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Chicago Architecture Biennial Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit corporation charged with executing the inaugural 2015 Biennial and subsequent biennials. CAB Inc. is dedicated to creating an international forum on architecture and urbanism through the production of exhibitions and public programs. CAB Inc. seeks to convene the world's leading practitioners, theorists and commentators in the field of architecture and urbanism to explore, debate and demonstrate the significance of architecture to contemporary society.

CAB Inc., under the leadership of Executive Director Ty Tabing, works with the Artistic Directors to execute their vision for the Biennial's program and exhibits and also oversees the administration, marketing, and development of community partnerships for the Biennial.



City of Chicago  
Mayor Rahm Emanuel  
Department of Cultural  
Affairs and Special Events



GRAHAM FOUNDATION

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CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS  
BIOGRAPHIES

## JOSEPH GRIMA

Joseph Grima is an architect, writer, curator, and researcher based in Genoa, Italy. From 2011 to 2013 he was editor-in-chief of *Domus*, a monthly magazine of architecture, design, and art. Grima recently curated the 2014 Biennale Interieur in Kortrijk, Belgium, one of Europe's oldest design biennials, and was co-curator of the first edition of the Istanbul Design Biennial, a major international exhibition inaugurated in 2012. He is the 2015 Director of IDEAS CITY, an ideas festival organized by the New Museum in New York and dedicated to exploring the future of cities. As Artistic Director for 'Matera 2019,' he is developing a cultural program that will prepare the Italian city of Matera for its role as Europe's Capital City of Culture in 2019.

From 2007 to 2011 he served as Director of Storefront for Art and Architecture, a renowned non-profit gallery and exhibition space in New York, where he curated numerous exhibitions, symposia, conferences, and publications. He has also curated or participated in exhibitions in the Venice Architecture Biennale, Milan Triennale, New Museum in New York, Experimenta Design in Lisbon, Shenzhen-Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism, and many others. He was a member of the official jury for the 2010 Venice Architecture Biennale directed by Kazuyo Sejima.

He is the author of several books including *Instant Asia* (Skira, 2007), a critical overview of the recent work of young and emerging architecture practices across the Asian continent, and co-editor of *Shift: SANAA and the New Museum* (Lars Mueller, 2008), and has contributed to numerous other books and publications. *Open Source Architecture*, co-authored with Carlo Ratti, is forthcoming. Over the past 10 years, he has written for a wide range of international magazines including *Icon*, *AD*, *Abitare*, *Tank*, *Volume*, *An Arkitektur*, *ID* and *Urban China*.

He has taught and lectured widely in Europe, Asia, and America, and was previously a professor at the Strelka Institute of Media, Architecture and Design in Moscow, Russia under the direction of Rem Koolhaas.

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CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS  
BIOGRAPHIES

## SARAH HERDA

Since 2006, Sarah Herda has been Director of the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts. Founded in 1956, the Graham Foundation is the largest foundation in the United States committed to awarding project-based grants to individuals and institutions working at the forefront of architecture, and its role in the arts, culture and society. Herda is credited with transforming the Foundation's headquarters, the historic Madlener House, into a world-class public venue for architecture exhibitions and building one of Chicago's most celebrated public programs. In addition to hosting internationally renowned architects, artists, historians, and critics to present their work, Herda has produced an exhibition program featuring the work of Cecil Balmond, Thomas Demand, Bjarke Ingels, Nancy Holt, Judy Ledgerwood, Stanley Tigerman, Anne Tyng, Denise Scott Brown and Robert Venturi, among others.

From 1998 until 2006, Herda was Director and Curator at Storefront for Art and Architecture, an experimental exhibition space founded in New York City in 1982 that is recognized internationally as a vital platform for emerging ideas. While at Storefront, Herda collaborated with hundreds of architects and artists on a variety of projects, including more than 40 exhibitions.

Before being named Director of Storefront, Herda was the Director of the Center for Critical Architecture / Art and Architecture Exhibition Space in San Francisco, and she also worked in architectural publishing at The Monacelli Press.

Herda teaches at the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and she has frequently been an invited critic and speaker at institutions such as the Architectural Association, London; Arkitekturmuseet, Stockholm; Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal; Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture and Planning, New York; Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, Cambridge; IIT, School of Architecture, Chicago; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Princeton University, Graduate School of Architecture; and University of Michigan, School of Architecture, Ann Arbor, among others.

Currently, she serves on the board of directors of the Association of Architecture Organizations, and she serves on advisory boards for The Architect's Newspaper, LAXART, the Mills College Art Museum, and Storefront for Art and Architecture. Herda is an Emerging Leader, class of 2015, at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. In 2009, Herda was named one of *Icon* magazine's 20/20—a list of 20 architects and 20 designers who are changing the way we work and think.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BIOGRAPHY

## TYRONE TABING

Ty Tabling became the executive director of the Chicago Architecture Biennial in September 2014. Prior to this, Tabling lived in Singapore where he launched a start-up place management and promotion organization in partnership with the Singapore government. At Singapore River One, Tabling created events, marketing platforms and a master plan to improve the built environment along the Singapore River.

Before Singapore, Tabling was the executive director of the Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA), a business association that promotes and develops downtown Chicago. At CLA, Tabling created events and public art installations that received significant world-wide media attention including 2010's three-story "EYE" sculpture [Tony Tasset] that received 200 million media impressions, 2011's GO DO GOOD mural [Kay Rosen] that led to Chicagoans performing 100,000 good deeds and 2012's "Color Jam" [Jessica Stockholder] which saturated an intersection with color by painting the street, sidewalk and buildings with bold colors.

At CLA, Tabling also created Pop-Up Art Loop which transforms vacant storefronts into public art galleries that enhance a vacant space's "curb appeal" while providing artists with high-profile downtown visibility. Tabling's leadership resulted in many unique programs that attract people to the Loop including Open Streets on State Street (a 'ciclovias' event) and Looptopia which is a *White Night* event that brought 500,000 people to celebrate culture all-night in downtown Chicago.

Prior to leading CLA, Tabling worked at the Chicago Department of Planning & Development where he managed development projects downtown including the successful recruitment of the Boeing Corporation and many other economic development initiatives involving zoning, financial incentives and urban planning. Prior to employment with the City of Chicago, Tabling worked in a number of public policy positions including legislative assistant for a U.S. congressman.

The *Chicago Tribune* named Tabling one of 2010's "Chicagoans of the Year" for his leadership in visual arts programming. He has been regularly selected to *Crain's Chicago Business* "Who's Who" in Chicago business and served on Mayor Rahm Emanuel's 2011 Transition Committee.