

# Hyde Park & South Side

HYDE PARK | BRIDGEPORT | BRONZEVILLE

## Neighborhood Top Five

**1 Robie House** (p194) Gawping at the eye-popping stained glass and horizontal design of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie-style masterpiece.

**2 Museum of Science & Industry** (p193) Exploring the U-boat, dollhouse and mock tornado at the larg-

est science museum in the Western Hemisphere.

**3 Stony Island Arts Bank** (p195) Seeing how creativity can reshape a downtrodden building at this one-of-a-kind cultural center.

**4 Meyers Ace Hardware Store** (p200) Seeking out the stage where greats

like Louis Armstrong and Benny Goodman played at this unassuming, landmark building.

**5 57th Street Books** (p204) Losing yourself in the labyrinth of low-slung rooms at this old-fashioned, basement-level bookstore.



For more detail of this area see Maps p317 and p318 ➔

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Don't be put off by the distance of these southern neighborhoods from downtown. They're all easy to reach by public transportation, especially Hyde Park, and the sights, bookstores, bars and restaurants offer a true, exceptional slice of Chicago. Really, where else are you going to see DJ Frankie Knuckles' 5000-album vinyl trove?



### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Duck Inn (p203)
- ➔ Nana (p203)
- ➔ Valois Cafeteria (p202)
- ➔ Soul Vegetarian East (p203)
- ➔ Medici (p202)

For reviews, see p202 ➔



### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Maria's Packaged Goods & Community Bar (p203)
- ➔ Jimmy's Woodlawn Tap (p203)
- ➔ Bernice's Tavern (p203)
- ➔ Schaller's Pump (p203)

For reviews, see p203 ➔



### Best Museums

- ➔ Museum of Science & Industry (p193)
- ➔ Robie House (p194)
- ➔ Smart Museum of Art (p195)
- ➔ Oriental Institute (p195)
- ➔ DuSable Museum of African American History (p195)

For reviews, see p193 ➔

## Explore Hyde Park & South Side

The South Side is huge, but most of the sights are concentrated in three areas: Hyde Park, home to the crowd-favorite Museum of Science & Industry (p193) and gargoyle-cluttered University of Chicago (p195); Bridgeport, a traditional Irish neighborhood that has become a pocket of cool; and Bronzeville, the historic heart of Chicago's African American arts and cultural scene.

In Hyde Park, the intersection of 57th St and S University Ave is a great place to start exploring the neighborhood. That'll put you close to the brainy bookstores, Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House (p194) and the site (p197) where the atomic age began. You could spend a day here easily. Architecture buffs and African American-history enthusiasts should block out an afternoon for Bronzeville. Bridgeport's bars and White Sox (p204) baseball games make it ideal for an evening visit.

Beyond these areas, explorers will find neighborhoods that are slowly piecing things together in the shadow of some of the country's bleakest housing projects. Stony Island Arts Bank (p195) is a good example of positive transformation. Around 74th and 75th Sts you'll find a stretch of soul-food and barbecue spots, but you'll need a car to reach them.

## Local Life

➔ **Third Fridays** The monthly open studios night that side-by-side Bridgeport Art Center (p200) and Zhou B Art Center (p200) sponsor has become one of the city's coolest soirees.

➔ **Community bars** The name doesn't lie at Maria's Packaged Goods & Community Bar (p203): it really is a communal watering hole. Schaller's Pump (p203) is the old-school version down the road.

➔ **Neighborhood news** For years neighborhood folks – including a gent named Barack Obama – have gathered to gossip while forking into Southern-style biscuits, bacon and pot pies at Valois Cafeteria (p202).

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** Number 6 runs from State St in the Loop to Hyde Park and beyond (express between 11th and 47th Sts). The Museum of Science & Industry has its own bus – number 10 – during museum hours (daily in summer, weekends only the rest of the year). Departs from Michigan Ave in the Loop. Bus 8 motors along Hasted St for Bridgeport.

➔ **Metra** Electric Line trains go from the Loop's Millennium Station to 51st-53rd or 55th-56th-57th stops in Hyde Park.

➔ **El** Green Line to 35th-Bronzeville-IIT for Bronzeville. Red Line to Sox-35th for the ballpark.

➔ **Car** Hyde Park can be tight for parking. Bridgeport and Bronzeville usually aren't a problem.