

LIBRARIANS' GUIDE to some of ALTERNATIVE CHICAGO

prepared by LIS students & www.thirdcoastpress.com staffers for Radical Reference www.radicalreference.info / ALA Conference 2005

directions mostly courtesy of CTA's trip planner: <http://tripsweb.rtachicago.com--for> itinerary by phone, call (312) 836-7000

Getting around: Chicago is laid out on a grid. 0-0 is the corner of State and Madison. 8 blocks=1 mile, and there are major streets every 8 blocks. If you're renting a bike, that's probably the best way to get around. There are usually several ways to get somewhere via public transit. The options listed below will get you within a half mile or less. **Money:** You can eat at most of these restaurants for \$8-10 if you eat on the low end.

FOOD FOOD FOOD FOOD FOOD

Heartland Café 7000 North Glenwood • (773) 465-8005 • www.heartlandcafe.com

Way up north in Rogers Park, founded by an SDS member. Out of the way and a little pricey, but a great hangout; some vegan food. Be sure to check out the attached General Store for radical books, magazines, various goodies, and the B&W photo booth.

Red Line to Morse, walk N

Mon-Thu: 7am -10pm • Fri: 7am -11pm • Sat: 8am - 11pm • Sun: 8am - 10pm

Kopi Café • 5317 N. Clark between Berwyn & Balmoral • (773) 989-5674

Excellent coffee and a largely vegetarian (and vegan friendly) menu of breakfast food, sandwiches, and desserts. Also sells some clothing, crafts, etc.

Brown Line to Damen, bus #50 N to Balmoral & Ashland, walk E

Mon-Thu: 8am-11pm • Fri: 8am-12 midnight • Sat: 9am-12midnight • Sun: 10am-11pm

Uncommon Ground 3800 N Clark @ Grace • (773) 929-3680 • www.uncommonground.com

"loud coffee, caffeinated music" Breakfast, lunch, and dinner, omnivore/vegetarian friendly (with some vegan options). Live music regularly.

Red Line to Addison, bus #152 W to Addison & Clark, walk NW

Daily 9am-2am • kitchen open Sun-Thu: 9am-11pm • Fri-Sat: 9am-12 midnight.

Chicago Diner 3411 N. Halsted @ Roscoe • (773) 935-6696 • www.veggiediner.com

"meat free since '83" vegetarian/vegan diner food in the heart of Boystown.

Brown/Red Line to Belmont, walk or take #77 E to Halsted, walk N

Mon-Thu: 11am to 10pm • Fri: 11am to 11pm • Sat: 10am to 11pm • Sun: 10am to 10pm

Pick-Me-Up 3408 N Clark St @ Roscoe • (773) 248-6613

Lots of coffee, sandwiches, pizza, etc., veg/vegan friendly, open late.

Brown/Red Line to Belmont, walk N

Sun-Thu: 5pm-3am • Fri-Mon 3pm-3am

Toast 746 W Webster • 2046 N Damen

Brunch. Where one of this guide's contributors works. Owned by a very nice woman.

Webster location: Brown Line to Fullerton, bus #37 S to Webster & Halsted, walk E

Damen location: Blue Line to Damen, #50 bus N to Dickens & Damen, walk S

Handlebar 2311 W North Ave @ Oakley Avenue • (773) 384-9546
Veg/vegan restaurant & bar in Bucktown with lots of free bike parking.
Blue Line to Damen, walk W
Mon-Wed: 4pm-12am • Thu-Fri: 4pm-2am • Sat: 1pm-2am • Sun: 1pm-11pm

Indian Garden 247 E. Ontario St between Columbus & St. Clair • (312) 280-4910
Indian food (duh) in the Near North Side, veg/vegan friendly, a little pricey, but there's a \$9.95 buffet every day. Great 2nd floor view. Delivers to downtown hotels.
Lunch: 11am-2:30pm; Dinner 5:00pm-10:00pm

Gourmand 728 S. Dearborn between Harrison & Polk • (312) 427-2610
Non-corporate coffee in the Loop. Breakfast, sandwiches, soups, beer/wine, etc., outdoor seating, wi-fi access available for a small fee. Veg/vegan friendly. Often noisy/smoky.
Near Harrison stop on the Red Line
Mon-Fri: 7am-11pm • Sat: 8am-11pm • Sun: 8am-7pm

Soul Vegetarian East 205 E 75th St @ Indiana Ave. • (773) 224-0104
Vegan soul food on the south side, with a burger named for Marcus Garvey. Be sure to try the BBQ protein tidbits.
Red Line S to 79th St., bus #75 to 75th & Prairie, walk .1 W
Mon-Thu: 7am-10pm • Fri-Sat: 7am-11pm • Sun: 8am-9pm

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Women & Children First 5233 N. Clark @ Farrugut • (773) 769-9299
www.womenandchildrenfirst.com
Feminist bookstore founded in 1979; 30,000 titles in stock. Great neighborhood for hanging out.
Brown Line to to Damen, bus #50 N to Balmoral & Ashland, walk SE
Mon-Tue: 11am-7pm • Wed-Fri: 11am-9pm • Sat 10am-7pm • Sun 11am-6pm

New World Resource Center 1300 N Western @ Potomac • (773) 227-4011 •
www.newworldresourcecenter.com
"Chicago's oldest independent left-wing & labor bookstore and meeting center, providing books, periodicals, t-shirts, etc. to progressives and activists. Founded in 1971, NWRC is owned and operated by a not-for-profit collective." Large selection of periodicals.
Blue Line to Western, bus #CX49 S to Division & Western, walk N and look for the groovy sign
Tues-Fri: 3-9pm • Sat-Sun 12-7pm

Quimby's 1854 W. North Ave. @ Wolcott • (773) 392-0910 • www.quimbys.com
Books, magazines, comics, and Chicago's best zine collection.
Blue Line to Damen, walk W on North Ave.
Mon-Fri: 12noon-10pm • Sat: 11am-10pm • Sun: 12noon-6pm

Heritage Books & Music 1135 W. Granville Ave • 773-262-1566 • www.heritagebooksmusic.com
Red Line to Granville, walk W
Mon-Sat: 10am-9pm • Sun: 12-6pm

Left of Center Books 1043 W. Granville (773) 338-1512 • www.leftofcenterbookstore.com

“an eclectic selection of socially progressive forward thinking books on politics, cultural theory/criticism, philosophy, environmental studies, sciences, literature, poetry, art, graphic novels”

Red Line to Granville, walk E

Tue-Fri: 12 noon-8pm • Sat-Sun: 10am-6pm

Newberry Library Bookstore 60 W. Walton St. • (312) 255-3520 •

<http://www.newberry.org/general/L3abookstore.html>

“The Newberry's A.C. McClurg Bookstore specializes in books which complement the holdings of the Library. Its specialties include American Studies, Medieval and Renaissance History, Literature, Native American Studies, Genealogy, Cartography, and books about Chicago and the Midwest. In addition, the bookstore offers a thoughtful selection of general interest titles, book-related gifts, and a wide selection of greeting cards and stationery.” Part of Seminary Coop, Inc.

Red Line to Chicago, walk .3 NW • or take bus #22 to Walton & Dearborn

Tue-Thu: 10am-6pm • Fri-Sat: 9am-5pm

Powell's www.powellschicago.com

Portland's finest has three sister locations in Chicago, including one near the Hilton in the South Loop.

Powell's North/Lakeview • 2850 North Lincoln @ Diversey • (773) 248-1444

“In the heart of the North Side. This store offers our best selection of Art, Architecture and Photography, and is host to our largest rare book room. Lots of fiction, a large children's section and a coffee bar.”

Brown/Purple Line to Diversey, walk .4 W

Sun-Fri: 11am-9pm • Sat: 10am-10pm

Powell's Burnham Park • 828 South Wabash between 8th & 9th • (312) 341-0748

“Near the Hilton Chicago in the South loop and convenient cab ride from any downtown Hotel or the Museum Campus. Our retail warehouse, this store has a little bit of everything.”

Mon-Fri: 10:30am-6pm • Sat: 10am-6pm • Sun: 12-5pm

Powell's Hyde Park • 1501 East 57th St @ RR tracks • (773) 955-7780

“In the University of Chicago neighborhood, the most scholarly of the three stores with a good selection in most academic disciplines. Located near the Museum of Science and Industry in picturesque Hyde Park, take an afternoon to come browse.”

#6 bus to 57th & Stony Island or Metra to 55th-56th-57th St. station

9am-11pm 7 days a week

Other Hyde Park area bookstores, from the Hyde Park Bookseller's Association. . . . *Once you're in Hyde Park, you can walk pretty much everywhere. There are a bunch of restaurants; Cedars of Lebanon and the Nile are good for Middle Eastern food.*

DuSable Trading Post 740 East 56th Place at the DuSable Museum • (773) 947-0600, ext. 236

“This store carries books for adults and children alike, many focused on African-American history, and also fictional works. Signed copies are available at and after author appearances.”

Mon-Sat: 10am-5pm • Sun: 12 noon-5pm • Free Admission day is Sunday

57th Street Books 1301 East 57th St @ Kimbark • (773) 684-1300

“A branch of the Seminary Co-op Bookstore, 57th Street Books is a community bookstore carrying a wide variety of titles in a congenial, well-lighted space, perfect for browsing. Specialties include: literature, children's books, mysteries, computer books, African-American interest and cookbooks. Poetry readings, story hours for children, and frequent author events help make this store a center for literary life in Chicago.”

Mon-Sat: 10am-10pm • Sun 10am-8 pm

Seminary Co-op Bookstores, Inc. • 5757 S. University Ave. @ 57th St.

(773) 752-4381 • (800) 777-1456 • www.semcoop.com

Founded in 1961 by a small group of book lovers, now probably the largest bookstore you will ever find that does not sell Idiot's Guides. Huge selection of scholarly titles in the humanities and social sciences, plus fiction, poetry, and more. The cornerstone of the Sem Coop troika.

Mon-Fri: 8:30am-9pm • Saturday 10am-6pm • Sun: 12 noon-6pm

The Robie House Bookshop 5757 South Woodlawn Avenue • (773) 834-1847

"Formerly the three-car garage of this Frank Lloyd Wright prairie style house/museum, the Robie House Bookshop offers a collection of FLW and architecture-related titles as well as an assortment of unique gift items."

Daily 10am-5pm

The Suq • 1155 East 58th Street at the Oriental Institute • (773) 702-9509

"The Suq (Arabic for "market") is the gift shop of the Oriental Institute. The store specializes in books on the history, art, and archaeology of the ancient Near East including the cultures of ancient Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Syria, and Turkey."

Tue-Sat: 10am-4 pm • Wed: 10am-8:30pm • Sun: 12noon-4pm

The Museum of Science and Industry Stores • 57th St. & Lake Shore Drive • 800-GO-TO-MSI or (773) 684-1414 • www.msichicago.org

"As one of the nation's premier science and technology museums, its over 3,200 sq. ft store carries over 1,000 titles, specializing in the physical sciences, life sciences, earth sciences, and technology. Books about various museum exhibits are also available, as are books on Chicago's history and for sightseers. The store carries books for all ages, emphasizing science books for all learning levels."

Mon-Fri: 10am-4pm • Sat-Sun: 10am-5:30pm

O'Gara and Wilson Booksellers, Ltd. • 1448 East 57th Street • (773) 363-0993

www.whereverbooksaresold.com

"Established in 1937 by Joseph O'Gara, this shop offers a wide selection of used, out-of-print, rare and unusual books in both hardcover and paperback. Strong in the humanities, they maintain an ever-changing stock of books in literature, history, philosophy, religion and the arts. Browsing is a pleasant experience for the scholar/collector, as well as the casual reader."

Mon-Thu: 10am-9pm • Fri-Sat 10am-10pm • Sun: 12 noon-8pm

OTHER STUFF OTHER STUFF OTHER STUFF OTHER STUFF

Chicago Filmmakers 5243 N. Clark @ Farragut • (773) 293-1447 • www.chicagofilmmakers.org

"Our mission is to provide an opportunity for artists to make films outside the mainstream marketplace, to distribute and exhibit this work, as well as to build audiences and to increase media attention for it." Call or check web site for schedule of screenings.

Brown Line to to Damen, bus #50 N to Balmoral & Ashland, walk SE

Early to Bed 5232 N. Sheridan @ Foster • (773) 271-1219 • (866) 585-2BED • www.early2bed.com

"We are a retail and web store providing people with high quality sex toys at fair prices in a women-oriented, boy-friendly atmosphere."

Red Line to Berwyn, walk E

The Brown Elephant thrift stores at “two fabulous locations”

“The first resale store in the country designed to specifically raise funds for HIV/AIDS care.”

5228 N. Clark @ Farragut • (773) 271-9382 (see directions for Chicago Filmmakers)

3651 N. Halsted @ Addison • (773) 549-5943 • Red Line to Addison, walk E

Neo-Futurarium 5153 N. Ashland @ Foster (773) 275-5255 www.neofuturists.org

The Neo-Futurists present Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind (as heard on This American Life) Fridays and Saturdays at 11:30 pm and Sundays at 7 pm. Get there early; there’s usually a line. Hard to describe, but worth the wait.

Red Line to Berwyn, walk S

Old Town School of Folk Music 4544 N. Lincoln between Sunnyside and Wilson • (773) 728-6000

www.oldtownschool.org

“The Old Town School of Folk Music teaches and celebrates music and cultural expressions rooted in the traditions of diverse American and global communities.” Check web/call for concert schedule.

Brown Line to Western, walk SE

Music Box Theatre 3733 N Southport @ Grace • (773) 871-6604 • www.musicboxtheatre.com

Independent and old movies in an old theater with an organ. Midnight shows every Fri-Sat.

El: Red line to Addison, walk 5 blocks W • Brown Line to Southport, walk 4 blocks N

Schubas 3159 N Southport @ Belmont • (773) 525-2508 • www.schubas.com

“Presents a diverse line-up of live music seven nights a week. Visit our Harmony Grill for the best American regional cuisine.”

Brown Line to Southport, walk S

Empty Bottle 1035 N Western • (773) 276-3600 • www.emptybottle.com

“Music, food, and drink.” Offers live music 7 days a week for 21 year olds and older.

Blue Line to Damen, bus #49 S to Augusta & Western, walk N

The Hideout 1354 W. Wabansia • (773) 227 4433 • www.hideoutchicago.com

Famous insurgent country nightclub.

Brown Line to Armitage, bus #73 W to Cortland & Elston, walk SE

Gene Siskel Film Center 164 North State @ Randolph • 312-846-2600 • www.siskelfilmcenter.org

“The Film Center selects and presents significant world cinema in a non-commercial context that sets aesthetic, critical and entertainment standards.”