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**Author Talk | *Chicago's West Loop: Then and Now* with
Connie Fairbanks and Geoffrey Baer**



Connie Fairbanks and Geoffrey Baer take questions from the audience.

Thanks for joining us at our Author Talk on *Chicago's West Loop: Then and Now* with Connie Fairbanks and Geoffrey Baer. We had a wonderful time learning the stories of Chicago's West Loop neighborhood and hearing about Connie's research!

Want to purchase your own copy of *Chicago's West Loop: Then and Now*? Visit the Museum Store* or buy a copy online at the link below!

Purchase Your Copy

***Museum Store hours are as follows:
Monday-Saturday: 9:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.
Sunday: 12:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.**

Want to learn more about Chicago's West Loop?



Join Tommy Henry, *Chicago History Podcast* Host and CHM member, as he interviews Connie Fairbanks about *Chicago's West Loop: Then and Now* and her research. Listen at the link below or on your preferred podcast platform.

[Listen Here](#)

Thank you to our Speakers!



Left: Connie Fairbanks; Right: Geoffrey Baer

Connie Fairbanks began her love affair with reading and history as a child in rural Kansas where she used to browse books on the traveling bookmobile. Connie's credits her lifelong love of history for her fascination with the history of Chicago's West Loop. Connie is known to be an engaging storyteller and always wanted to chronicle the stories all around her. Connie and her

husband have lived in The West Loop since the mid 1990's so she has plenty of stories to share.

Connie is an accomplished professional who is also known for her culinary flair and has published *Scratch That™ Seasonal Menus and Perfect Pairings* cookbook and has written various travel and food articles.

Connie's professional background includes launching the first nicotine patch in the U.S. and helped remove smoking from airplanes with a team. She also helped develop some of the first direct to consumer ads on TV for smoking cessation, incontinence and helped start a medical device company in Boston and take it public. In Chicago, Connie has collaborated as an actor on stage, and worked with television crews on cooking segments and commercials throughout the Midwest.

As a lover of the arts and education for everyone, Connie believes in giving back to her community. She's been a volunteer tutor at Partners in Education at the 4th Presbyterian Church for more than 25 years, works the Book Fair at The Newberry Library, leads architectural tours for the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust at the Rookery, and she has loved being a regular piano accompanist for Skinner West Elementary School. During the summer, she volunteers for Green City Market/West Loop, and you'll find her sprucing up her beloved Mary Bartelme Park with her cleaning buddies. (Connie strives to use all the letters of the Spelling Bee in The New York Times Sunday Magazine for the three-point bonus.)

Geoffrey Baer is a seven-time Emmy-winning Public Television writer, producer, and program host. He has been a fixture on Chicago's PBS station WTTW for 30 years, best known as the host and writer of WTTW's popular specials about the architecture and history of Chicago and its suburban areas. His work includes more than 20 feature-length "television tours" of the city and suburbs, including Chicago by 'L', The Chicago River Tour, and Chicago on Vacation. Geoffrey also hosts the WTTW series The Great Chicago Quiz Show and appears regularly on WTTW's flagship nightly public affairs program Chicago Tonight answering viewers' questions about Chicago architecture and history in a segment called "Ask Geoffrey." Nationally he hosted the PBS primetime series 10 that Changed America about the built environment across the country. He hosted and co-wrote the PBS primetime special Weekend in Havana.

Geoffrey has been a docent for the Chicago Architecture Center since 1987. In addition to his Emmy Awards, he has been honored by the American Institute of Architects Chicago, the Society of Architectural Historians, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and the Chicago Headline Club.

He holds a B.A. in Radio/TV/Film from Miami University, Ohio, and a M.A. in Theatre from Northwestern University.

**From walking tours to bus excursions to family events,
there's always something interesting going on with the
Chicago History Museum! Make your winter historic and
view our full event calendar below.**

[View Our Full Event Calendar](#)

Questions? Contact Hannah Johnson at (312) 799-2113 or
hjohnson@chicagohistory.org.

Chicago History Museum visitors are no longer required to show proof of vaccination. While masks are recommended and appreciated, they are no longer required. Learn more about the [Museum's safety policies and procedures](#).



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