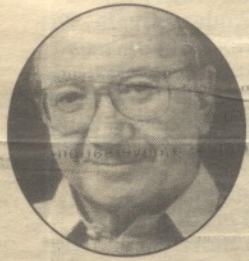


Museums ■ Festivals ■ Day trips ■ Outings



# on the go

**SIMON SAYS:** Playwright Neil Simon will discuss and autograph his most recent memoir, "THE PLAY GOES ON," at 6 p.m. in the auditorium of the Chicago Public Library's Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St.; free admission.

## Beyond the landmarks

### Chicago offers treasure trove of small museums

By Frank Fitzgerald  
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

**W**hat would you rather have? A one hundred carat rock worth millions of dollars or a cache of small stones with the same total value?

Why not take both?

That's an analogy you can use when it comes to Chicago's largesse of culture. Chicago boasts several large and well-known museums that are sparkling gems of untold value. Yet their excellence and glitter shouldn't blind us to the worth of our cache of small museums.

Too often, small museums remain "hidden treasures," says Dr. Howard A. Sulkin, president of the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies which runs the Spertus Museum. Just because small museums specialize in particular topics doesn't mean they are suitable only for specialized audiences. Offering his own organization as an example, Sulkin quips, "Like bagels, we're not just for Jews."

Virginia Albaneseo, executive director of the Peace Museum, laments that small museums find it so difficult to let the public know that they even exist. "We can — and do



Tribune photo by Charles Osgood

"Snorkel," by Ron and Bernadette Olsen, is one of the pieces of holographic art on display at the Museum of Holography.

— match the quality of the big museums," Albaneseo says, "but we can't match their ability to plaster the city with billboards."

So if you've never before heard of a particular small museum, don't let that stop you from checking it out. Among their other facets, small museums exhibit things

that seldom, if ever, are seen elsewhere. Consider these examples:

Chicago has many memorials to past wars and warriors, but perhaps none that requires gazing so intently at the horror of war as the Vietnam War Museum and the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum. Equally unique is



A an early 20th Century Torah Ark from Jerusalem is featured at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies' Spertus Museum.

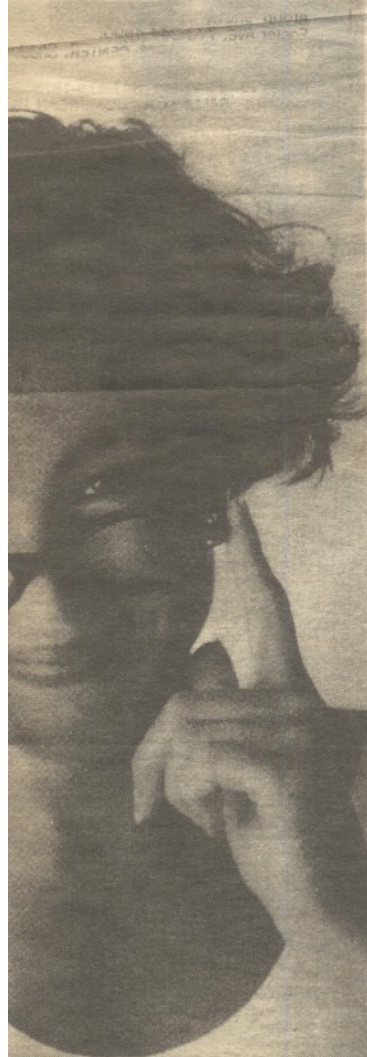
our Peace Museum, whose exhibits explore ways to avoid conflict and war.

Fully understanding what's displayed at the Museum of Holography requires an advanced degree in physics. But anyone can enjoy the museum's astounding array of holographic images, some of

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466-6830 ext. 75W

# Museums

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them more than two-thousand times larger than the credit card variety. They range from a pint-sized Michael Jordan who seems to spin in the air to a massive dinosaur head that seems to leap off the wall.

And although everyone knows people who act like they have holes in their heads, the only place anyone is likely to see a head with an actual hole in it is the International Museum of Surgical Science. The museum traces surgery back to its hole-in-the-head beginnings with a permanent display of three 4,000-year-old human skulls. Each skull sports an extra hole that early surgeons put there to let out evil spirits.

At the other anatomical extreme, the "Feet First" exhibit at the Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine teaches a great deal about feet and displays the world's largest existing shoe. A man's size 35, it belonged to a young Robert Wadlow of Alton, Ill., who was featured in the Guinness Book of World Records. When full grown, big Bob sported a size 44, but that whopper somehow got away from Dr. Scholl and his fellow foot archivists.

Small museums often sell interesting items: Excellent gifts can be found at several of our small ethnic museums, from the DuSable Museum of African

American History in Hyde Park to the Swedish American Museum in Andersonville. The Museum of Holography sells holograms, and Intuit: The Center for Outsider Art sells a variety of unique products, including jewelry made from bottle caps.

Small museums are, of course, small enough to be viewed in no more than a couple of hours, and although they sometimes host crowds of visitors, they are never crushed with the thousands of guests that the largest museums accommodate on an average day. Finally, small museums are a bargain: Admission to the most expensive on this list costs \$5 a person; the majority cost less, and many are free.

Here is a guide to the Chicago area's cache of small museums:

A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum, 10406 S. Maryland, 773-928-3935. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and every other Saturday; \$2. A museum devoted to the first African-American labor union.

American Bar Association Museum of Law, 750 N. Lake Shore Drive, 312-988-6222. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; free. Modest exhibits that pay homage to lawyers and the law.

American Police Center and Museum, 1717 S. State St., 312-431-0005. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; \$4, \$3 seniors, \$2.50 children 3-11. An electric chair, captured weaponry and drug paraphernalia are on display.

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Rd., 773-582-6500. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily; \$4, \$3 seniors and students, \$1 children. An extensive collection of amber, armor and folk drawings, with a good children's section.

Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Archi-

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David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art, 5550 S. Greenwood Ave., 773-702-0200. All but the outdoor sculpture garden closed for expansion until November; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday, noon-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday; free. The University of Chicago's museum of 7,000 pieces of fine art from five centuries and multiple cultures.

DuSable Museum of African American History, 740 E. 56th Pl., 773-947-0600. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday; \$3, \$2 seniors and students, \$1 children; free on Sundays. A vibrant museum of struggle and achievement named after Chicago's first settler, the Haitian Jean Baptiste Point DuSable.

Feet First: The Scholl Story, 1001 N. Dearborn St., 312-280-2880. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Friday; 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday; free. The Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine's permanent tribute to the human foot.

Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, 168 N. Michigan Ave., 312-726-1234. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; \$5. Rotating exhibits on Greek culture and history.

Hyde Park Historical Society, 5529 S. Lake Park; 773-493-1893. 2-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday; free. Rotating exhibits of neighborhood memorabilia.

International Museum of Surgical Science, 1524 N. Lake Shore Drive; 312-642-6502. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; \$5, \$2 seniors and children. An elegant mansion (worth a visit itself) with four floors dedicated to the history of surgery.

Intuit: The Center for Outsider Art, 1926 N. Halsted St., 773-929-7122. Noon-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; free. Changing exhibits of non-traditional, often quirky, art.

Jane Addams' Hull House, 800 S. Halsted St., 312-413-5353. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

SEE MUSEUMS, PAGE 66

## Turn Music Into Miracles!



the 22nd Annual  
Music Mart  
October 10, 1999

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\$5 Admission

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Saturday, Oct. 2\*  
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Sunday, Oct. 3\*  
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### Weekday Hours

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25% Off

Saturday, Oct. 9  
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Free Admission  
for children under 12  
50% Off

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## Family

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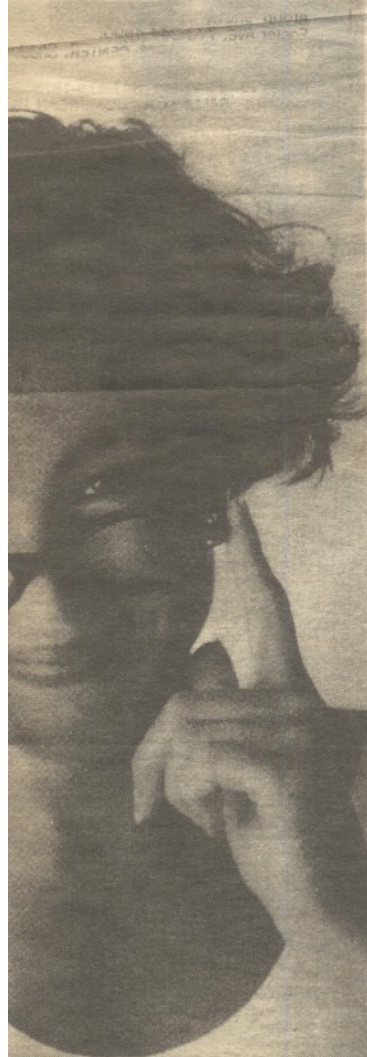
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