



CHICAGO 2016: AN OLYMPIC VISION

INTRODUCTION

“Chicago 2016: An Olympic Vision” was a featured session at the seventh annual National Directors Institute hosted by Foley & Lardner LLP on March 6, 2008, in Chicago. The session was presented by Bill Scherr, Chairman of the Board of World Sport Chicago, a board member of the Chicago 2016 Committee, a Vice President at Goldman Sachs, and an Olympic bronze medalist in freestyle wrestling. Mr. Scherr discussed the significant efforts of the Chicago 2016 Committee, a group dedicated to bringing the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games to the City of Chicago.

VENUES

Make no little plans. This crisp phrase has long been considered Chicago’s unofficial mantra. Daniel Burnham, the quintessential Chicago architect and director of the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair, is credited with coining this saying, which has inspired generations of Chicagoans. Burnham’s phrase now inspires members of the Chicago 2016 Committee, who are in charge of planning the venues for the Games. And rest assured — they are not little plans.

The 2016 Olympic Games in Chicago would feature a compact design. Ninety-one percent of the athletes would stay within 15 kilometers of the venue at which they would compete. The Committee plans to divide the Olympic areas into four clusters: the North Cluster, the Central Cluster, the West Cluster, and the South Cluster. These clusters are centrally located, which is one of the main benefits of the Chicago application. The venue sites offer another major advantage: if the Games come to Chicago, it will be the first time the Summer Olympics are held on the shores of a lake.

POLITICAL HELP

As home to a number of influential politicians, Chicago is flexing its political muscle in making its bid. Chicago Mayor Richard Daley is popular even outside of Chicago, where he has won his last three elections with more than 70 percent of the vote. The senior U.S. Senator for Illinois, Dick Durbin, is the Senate’s Assistant Majority Leader. The state’s junior U.S. Senator, Barack Obama, is a frontrunner for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States. His only challenger for the Democratic nomination as of the publishing of this article is New York’s junior U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton, who was born and raised in the Chicago area. President George W. Bush also has been supportive of Chicago’s bid.



THE TIMELINE

There are currently seven applicant cities still in the running. In the summer of 2008, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will narrow the field, perhaps to as few as two or three cities. And by October 2009, the IOC will select the site of the 2016 Summer Games.

THE LOGO

Chicago 2016's logo is rife with symbolism. Most obvious is the official six-sided star of Chicago, which is featured prominently in the logo. There are four such stars on the City of Chicago's flag. Each point of the star stands for a different quality that is emblematic of the city: hope, respect, harmony, friendship, celebration, and excellence.

The blue at the base of the logo symbolizes Chicago's access to great waters, including Lake Michigan and the Chicago River. The red serves as a reminder of the 1871 Great Fire, which scorched thousands of acres within the city — a tragedy that allowed a new and improved Chicago to rise from the ashes. And the orange rising above the star represents the city's great architecture.

View the logo and read more about Chicago 2016 at www.chicago2016.org.