

My Visit to Chicago – Kale Hicks, 5th Year BLA

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I recently visited Chicago, Illinois during spring break. It's an amazing city that anyone would want to visit, but one an aspiring landscape architect needs to see! I had one place in particular that I wanted to see while I was there and it was Millennium Park. A public green space located in the loop area of the city and originally intended to celebrate the millennium. It is a prominent civic center located near Lake Michigan's shoreline. The project was a little behind schedule but opened in July of 2004. It was conceived by several architects and artists, one of the most famous being Frank Gehry. Gehry's main contribution was the Jay Pritzker Pavilion. His signature style can be found in the design of the band shell. Another iconic element of the park is Cloud Gate (The Bean). It is a public sculpture by Indian-born British artist Anish Kapoor, which is the centerpiece of AT&T Plaza within the park. To me it is one of the most powerful examples of successful public art! It draws thousands of tourists each year and generates big money for the city. When I was there in person it honestly left me speechless. If you have never been to Chi town, I would recommend that you go and check it out. Be sure to see Millennium Park and grab some deep dish pizza while you're at it!

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