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**FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL RETURNS TO MILLENNIUM PARK
WITH HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES, PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS
JUNE 10—SEPTEMBER 4, 2009 PRESENTED BY TARGET**

**Special Events Include SHELebration: A Tribute to Shel Silverstein on July 13,
A China Spectacle July 19 and Robbert Bobbert & the Bubble Machine on Aug. 31**

The Family Fun Festival returns to Millennium Park this summer, making the Park the place to be for kids of all ages. Every day, from June 10 through September 4 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., family performances and hands-on activities will take place in the Family Fun Tent, located on the Park's Chase Promenade North. The Family Fun Festival is sponsored by Target and presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs.

Three Family Fun special presentations will round out the summer programming for families—including a tribute performance to the poet, author, illustrator, songwriter and performer, Shel Silverstein on July 13 at 6:30 p.m.; an interactive China Spectacle on July 19 at 2:30 p.m. and a family concert by Robbert Bobbert and the Bubble Machine on August 31 at 6:30 p.m.

"Now in its fifth season, Millennium Park has become a favorite destination for families from near and far," said Lois Weisberg, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. "Visitors with children can come to enjoy the art and architecture of the Park, then stay to take part in all of the free hands-on activities and performances that the Family Fun Festival has to offer."

"Target believes that the arts bring communities together by creating experiences that cross cultures, inspire ideas for the future, and enrich life today," said Laysha Ward, president, community relations, Target. "Our continued partnership with Millennium Park and its summer-long festival of free performances, concerts and activities helps to make the arts more affordable and accessible to families in the Chicago area."

Activities in the Family Fun tent every day include Wiggleworms at 10 a.m., when instructors from the Old Town School of Folk Music lead activities for very young children, such as singing, finger games, circle dances and play with rhythmic instruments. The reading circle follows at 11 a.m., and concerts by some of the most notable names in local and regional entertainment will take place at 1:00 and 1:45 p.m.

Throughout the day, the Family Fun tent's Activity Zone will include hands-on craft projects and garden, science and environmental activities led by some of the region's popular museums and cultural institutions.

One of the highlights of summer will be **SHELebration: A Tribute to Shel Silverstein**, the Family Fun Festival special presentation on July 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion. Frequent Silverstein musical collaborators and friends, including musicians Bobby Bare, Sr., Bobby Bare Jr., Pat Dailey, Chicagoans Jon Langford and Sally Timms, plus an all-star band from the worlds of indie-rock and country, and surprise guest poetry readers will bring this great artist's work to life.

The Family Fun Festival will celebrate Chinese Cultural Week in Chicago with its interactive **China Spectacle** on July 19 at 2:30 p.m. Visitors will meet at Cloud Gate and make their way through the Park, following the ancient Chinese love story of *Qi Xi—The Story of Niulang and Zhinu, the Cowherd and the Weaver Fairy*. Complete with a lion dragon, opera singers, drummers, martial artists and a lantern parade, the China Spectacle is adapted by Nina Chen and the Chinese Fine Arts Society especially for Millennium Park.

Summer draws to a close on August 31 at 6:30 p.m. at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion with the final Family Fun Festival special presentation when **Robbert Bobbert** (*the alter ego of Robert Schneider from 'The Apples in Stereo'*) brings his raucously infectious musical mayhem to Millennium Park for an end-of-summer concert, entertaining kids and parents alike with his Beach Boys-inspired indie-rock songbook. The Bunny Clogs will kick off the evening with their own brand of funky dance rock for kids.

Millennium Park is located in the heart of downtown Chicago. It is bordered by Michigan Ave. to the west, Columbus Dr. to the east, Randolph St. to the north and Monroe St. to the south. Convenient parking is located in the Millennium Park Garage (entrance on Columbus at Monroe or Randolph) and at the Grant Park North and East Monroe Garages, all located within a short walking distance of Millennium Park.

Millennium Park is an award-winning center for art, music, architecture and landscape design. The result of a unique partnership between the City of Chicago and the philanthropic community, the 24.5-acre park features the work of world-renowned architects, planners, artists and designers. Among Millennium Park's prominent features are the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; the contemporary Lurie Garden designed by the team of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture. Since its opening in July 2004, Millennium Park has welcomed more than 16 million people, making it one of the most popular destinations in Chicago.

For more information about the Family Fun Festival in Millennium Park, visit www.millenniumpark.org or call 312.742.1168.

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MILLENNIUM PARK FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL 2009

ACTIVITY ZONE

June 10 - 14

WILD IN THE CITY WEEK

Lurie Garden and Chicago Wilderness

Plant a seed or touch a turtle shell, and explore the wonders of nature with hands-on activities using native plants, bugs, birds, and critters all week long.

June 15 -21

GARDEN EXTRAVAGANZA WEEK

Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance

Discover your own green thumb when you dig for vegetables and plant pretend flowers, then design a living necklace using soils and seeds.

June 22 – 28

BURNHAM WEEK: BUILDING THE CITY

Chicago Architecture Foundation

Celebrate Chicago's past, present, and future with hands-on building and architectural activities in honor of the 100th anniversary of Daniel Burnham's great Plan of Chicago.

June 29 - July 5

TASTE WEEK

Museum of Contemporary Art and Purple Asparagus

Learn about herbs and healthy eating choices with craft-based activities that provide food for thought, as well as fun!

July 6 – 12

CIRCUS CARNIVAL WEEK

The Art Institute of Chicago and Museums of Springfield, Illinois

Juggle, be a stilt walker or paint your face like a clown. Over the weekend, take part in the Great Performers of Illinois Festival, meet Abraham Lincoln and celebrate all things Illinois!

July 13 – 19

MILLENNIUM PARK'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION WEEK

Chicago Office of Tourism

Join in the birthday fun with a host of activities that salute the many different neighborhoods that make Chicago special.

July 20 – 26

CHINA WEEK

Chinese-American Museum of Chicago

Discover the playful side of Chinese culture with arts and crafts, board games and games of chance—all part of the Chinese Cultural Week in Chicago.

July 27 - Aug 2

HEALTH AND SAFETY WEEK

Chicago Children's Museum

Enjoy fitness and health-awareness activities, take part in an art project and performances by After School Matters.

August 3 – 9

ROCK 'N ROLL WEEK

Chicago Children's Museum

Rock out to great music in the tent all week long when you create a beautiful musical instrument out of recycled materials.

August 10 – 16
TROPICAL WEEK

Museum of Contemporary Art

Spend the week at the Family Fun Tropical Island, full of seashell crafts and luau dancing. Then, make your own lei as a souvenir for the trip back home.

August 17 – 23
DANCE WEEK

Chicago Park District

Dance to the beat and learn some new moves at a week-long dance party, led by some of Chicago's coolest dance troupes.

August 24 - September 4
SCIENCE AND EXPLORATION WEEK

Museum of Science and Industry

Take a scientific and fun look at how you can improve your own health in ways that make sense to you.

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