

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
NEWS RELEASE

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**FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL RETURNS TO MILLENNIUM PARK
WITH HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES, PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS
JUNE 3—SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 PRESENTED BY TARGET**

**Special Events Include the Acclaimed Chicago Children's Choir June 12,
Spectacular Performing Artists "Australia's Strange Fruit" July 10-14
And Justin Roberts & the Not Ready for Naptime Players July 20**

This summer, there will be more fun than ever in Millennium Park, making the Park the place to be for kids of all ages. The free Family Fun Festival, sponsored by Target and presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, Millennium Park, will take place June 3 through September 1, 2008, and will include kids and family performances, hands-on activities and theatrical special events.

"Millennium Park is the perfect 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 cultural programming that the Family Fun Festival has to offer."

"Target strives to make the arts more affordable and accessible to families across the country," said Laysha Ward, vice president, community relations, Target. "Our continued partnership with Millennium Park and its summer-long festival of performances, concerts and events gives the Chicago area community the opportunity to experience different cultures, traditions, and points of view for free."

The Family Fun Festival will include Mainstage concerts at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, including the acclaimed Chicago Children's Choir on Thursday, June 12 at 6:30 p.m. and Chicago favorite, Justin Roberts & the Not Ready for Naptime Players on Sunday, July 20 at 3 p.m. A third end-of-summer concert extravaganza will close out the season on Monday, September 1 (Labor Day), at 3 pm. (Details on this concert will be announced at the end of June).

Another highlight of the summer will be appearances July 10-14 by the world-renowned performers, *Australia's Strange Fruit*, a company that fuses theater, dance and circus in their work. Perched atop tall, flexible poles measuring sixteen feet high that bend and sway in the air, *Australia's Strange Fruit* will perform several times each day on the Chase Promenade.

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The Family Fun Tent is located on the Park's Chase Promenade North and will include an Activity Zone and a Performance Stage. There will be two sessions of programming this year, with the first running June 3 through July 12 and the second session taking place July 16 through September 1, 2008. The tent will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All day long, the Family Fun Activity Zone will feature hands-on craft projects, garden, science and environmental activities with some of the region's popular museums and institutions, including the Chicago Architecture Foundation, Chicago Children's Museum, Chicago Wilderness, Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, Lurie Garden, Museum of Contemporary Art, Museum of Science and Industry and Shedd Aquarium.

The Family Fun Performance Stage will kick off each morning at 10 a.m. with Wiggleworms®, when instructors from the Old Town School of Folk Music lead activities for very young children, including singing, finger games, circle dances and play with rhythm instruments.

New in the tent this year will be a Reading Circle, an area where books will be available for reading pleasure. At 11 a.m. featured guests, including cast members from Broadway in Chicago and Chicago Children's Theater productions, will read aloud to the young people in the tent.

At 12 noon and 2 p.m., the Performance Stage will present concerts for kids by some of the most notable names in local, regional and national entertainment, including Chic-A-Go-Go (June 3 and July 8), Kaotic Drumline (June 16 and August 10), Trinity Irish Dancers (June 22), Paul Green School of Rock (July 21 and August 18), and Sarah Zimmerman (August 4). A complete schedule will be available in mid-May.

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

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MILLENNIUM PARK FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL 2008 ACTIVITY ZONE

Lurie Garden and Chicago Wilderness

Monarch Mania

June 3 - 8

Discover the wonderful relationship between pollinators and plants. Then, learn more about the butterflies and other winged creatures that visit the Lurie Garden.

Lurie Garden and the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance

Garden Party

June 9 - 15

It's a garden extravaganza! Explore the amazing world of seeds, make crafts and learn about the unique plants in the Lurie Garden.

Museum of Contemporary Art

Dismantle and Create

June 16 - 22

Let your imagination go wild as you trace, draw and paint futuristic worlds, robots and monster contraptions using everyday dismantled appliances.

Museum of Contemporary Art

Toys as Art

June 23 - 29

Tell a visual story with your favorite iconic American toy. Create a collage with a variety of mixed media materials using your favorite toy as inspiration!

Chicago Children's Museum

Cool Sun Visors

June 30 - July 6

Learn how to protect yourself from the sun by designing and decorating a wearable sun visor.

Chicago Children's Museum

Funky Hats

July 7 - 12

Transform a brown paper bag into a work of wearable art to suit your own unique style!

Chicago Office of Tourism

Puppet Adventures

July 16-17

Create your very own Chicago urban adventure! With help from expert puppeteers, design and construct a puppet that is ready to explore the City. Then, take it on an adventure to one of several live puppet stages, representing some of Chicago's most exciting destinations.

Chicago Architecture Foundation

Construction Junction

July 18

Help construct a colossal kid-sized structure out of recycled newspapers. Then, discover the beauty and brawn of columns as you design one of your own!

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**The Museums of Springfield Illinois
Lincoln and So Much More
July 19 - 20**

Learn about the history and culture of the state of Illinois in a host of special activities all weekend long.

**Chicago Children's Museum
Glove Gardens
July 21 - 27**

Plant a seed in a unique see-through container; then take it home to watch it grow!

**Chicago Children's Museum
Playful Puppets
July 28 – August 3**

Make your favorite character come to life by creating your own puppet. Play with new puppet friends when you share your story with others.

**Shedd Aquarium
Discover How Scientists Play
August 4 – 10**

Identify the basic features of a sea jelly and explore how sea jellies' shape and color help it survive.

**Museum of Science and Industry
Green Science
August 11 – September 1**

Make your own paper and crayons, ride a blender bike, create a solar gadget and test a "green" house, using environmentally friendly materials for good green fun!