



**MIND • ART • EXPERIENCE**

4652 Maryland Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63108 | (314)367-WCHF (9243) | [worldchesshof.org](http://worldchesshof.org)

# ABOUT THE WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME

The World Chess Hall of Fame creates engaging exhibitions celebrating the game of chess, its history, and its impact on art and culture. Through these exhibitions and innovative educational programming, the WCHOF hopes to popularize chess among a new and diverse audience. The WCHOF also seeks to serve as a repository for artifacts related to the rich history of the game of chess.

## MISSION

The mission of the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) is to educate visitors, fans, players, and scholars by preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting the game of chess and its continuing cultural and artistic significance.

## HISTORY & IMPACT

The World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) was created in 1986 by the United States Chess Federation in New Windsor, New York. Originally known as the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame, the small museum contained a modest collection that included a book of chess openings signed by Bobby Fischer, the Paul Morphy silver set, and plaques honoring past grandmasters.

The institution and its contents moved twice during the 1990s and early 2000s, first to Washington, D.C., and then to Miami. It found a permanent home in 2011 when it was decided to relocate to Saint Louis' Central West End neighborhood due to the city's renown as international center for the game.

The World Chess Hall of Fame has an outstanding reputation for its displays of artifacts from the permanent collection as well as temporary exhibitions highlighting the great players, historic matches, and rich cultural history of chess. Of special acclaim are mind-boosting art exhibitions that demonstrate how the game has inspired creative thought from ancient to modern times.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Andrew Walker**, Chairman, Amon Carter Museum of American Art

**Paul Ha**, Secretary, MIT List Visual Arts Center

**Sheila Manion**, Treasurer, Saint Louis University

**Jennifer Shahade**, Director, 9 Queens

**Marc Thayer**, Director, American Voices



## NOTABLE EXHIBITED ARTISTS, DESIGNERS & COLLECTORS 2011-2015

This illustrious list represents individuals whose work is in private and public collections around the world, includes one of *TIME*'s *Most Important People* in the world and is characterized by artists whose achievements are numerous and prestigious.

Ruben Aguirre

Harry Benson

Christopher Burch

Daniel Burnett

Sarah Burton

John Cage

Orlando Campbell

Stan Chisholm

Jon Crumiller

Dr. George & Vivian Dean

Anne Deniau

Marcel Dzama

Tom Friedman

Nicholas Gates

Jean Paul Gaultier

Michael Graves

Sofia Hedman

Glenn Kaino

Benjamin Kaplan

Karolina Kling

Barbara Kruger

Liliya Lifanova

Alexander McQueen

Nice-One & Lucx

Yoko Ono

Benjamin Pierce

Bernice & Floyd Sarisohn

The Screwed Arts Collective

Bill Smith

Dr. Jeanne & Rex Sinquefeld

Diana Thater

Gavin Turk

Gucci

Guido van der Werve

Viktor & Rolf

Adrian O. Walker

John G. White Collection

Peat "EYEZ" Wollaeger

# PRESS

Chess is very good looking. You don't have to know anything about chess – you just have to enjoy the way it looks.

– DIANA THATER, QUOTED BY IVY COOPER, *ARTNEWS*

Powerful...thought-provoking...

– ANN BINLOT, *FORBES*

The WCHOF provides an appropriate setting for budding curiosity, home to the ever-climbable World's Largest Chess Piece – as well as the young-fan-favorite oversized chess set. Just try to keep your kid from hugging a chess piece.

– BRIAN JERAULD, NPR/KWMU

The queen is often considered the most powerful piece. “A Queen Within” brings this idea to life.

– GINA CURRY, HIGHER EDUCATION CHANNEL

We've never seen a fashion exhibit quite like this!

– FAWNIA SOO HOO, *GLAMOUR*

Equal parts logic and beauty...

– ALLYSON SHIFFMAN, *INTERVIEW MAGAZINE*

Working with the World Chess Hall of Fame was the perfect way to celebrate some of the most playful pieces our studio has produced. The exhibition we created was visually stunning, highly educational, and most of all ... fun.

– LINDA KINSEY, PRINCIPAL, MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT,  
MICHAEL GRAVES ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

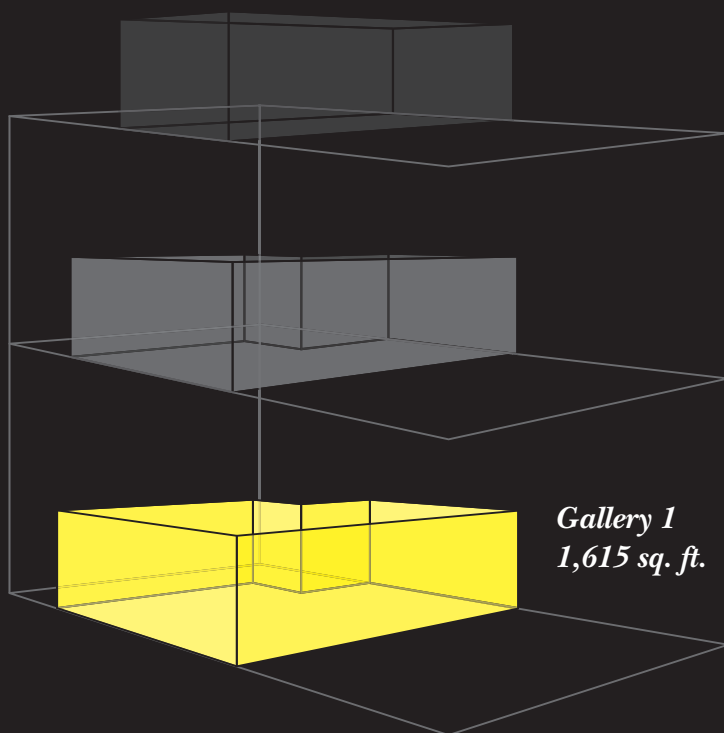
# INTERSECTION OF ART AND CHESS

Inventive art inspired by the game of chess occupies exhibitions in our first floor gallery. Generally, this gallery showcases works by artists who explore how chess influences contemporary art and culture.

**Select exhibitions shown on the following pages:**

*A Queen Within: Adorned Archetypes, Fashion & Chess*

*Living Like Kings*



# A QUEEN WITHIN

## *Adorned Archetypes, Fashion & Chess*

OCTOBER 19, 2013 – APRIL 19, 2014

In the game of chess, the queen is considered the most powerful and often the most unpredictable piece. She embodies tradition whilst simultaneously redefining rules established by a patriarchal system. This intriguing dichotomy was the inspiration behind *A Queen Within: Adorned Archetypes, Fashion and Chess*. Produced by an international team of thought-leaders, curators, artists, fashion insiders, and chess players, the exhibition focused on how storytelling, as well as various archetypes of the queen, have captured the imagination of innovative fashion designers.

**CURATOR:**

**SOFIA HEDMAN, INDEPENDENT CURATOR**

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A QUEEN WITHIN: ADORNED ARCHETYPES, FASHION & CHESS



**October 9, 2014 – April 26, 2015**

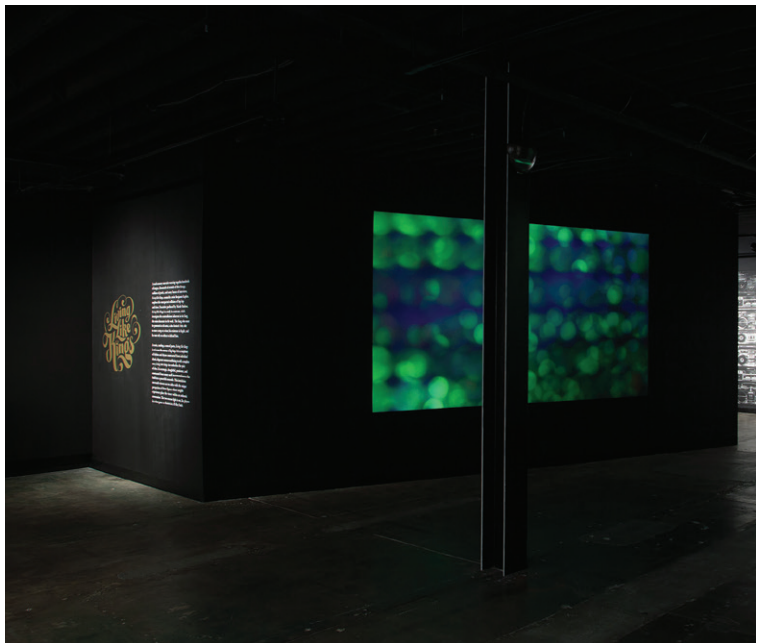
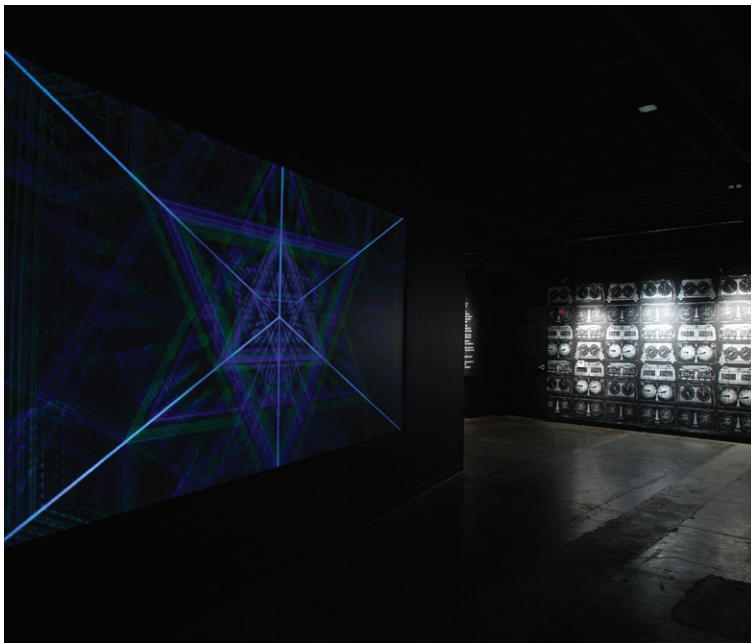
*Living Like Kings* examines the unexpected but vibrant intersections between chess and hip hop culture. Inspired by the work of Adisa Banjoko and the Bay Area-based peace and knowledge-promoting Hip-Hop Chess Federation, the exhibition is centered on an immersive, multimedia experience created by Saint Louis artist Benjamin Kaplan. The piece incorporates archival footage and original videos, music, photography, custom-designed type and illustrations, and a series of interviews with figures from both the hip hop and chess worlds. The video is complemented by murals created by Peat “EYEZ” Wollaeger. With an emphasis on the experiences of Saint Louis talent and experts, *Living Like Kings* celebrates themes that the two communities share: history, strategy, spirituality, process, creativity, education, and symbolism.

**CURATORS:**

**SHANNON BAILEY, CHIEF CURATOR, WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME**

**EMILY ALLRED, ASSISTANT CURATOR, WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME**

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# CHESS AND CULTURE

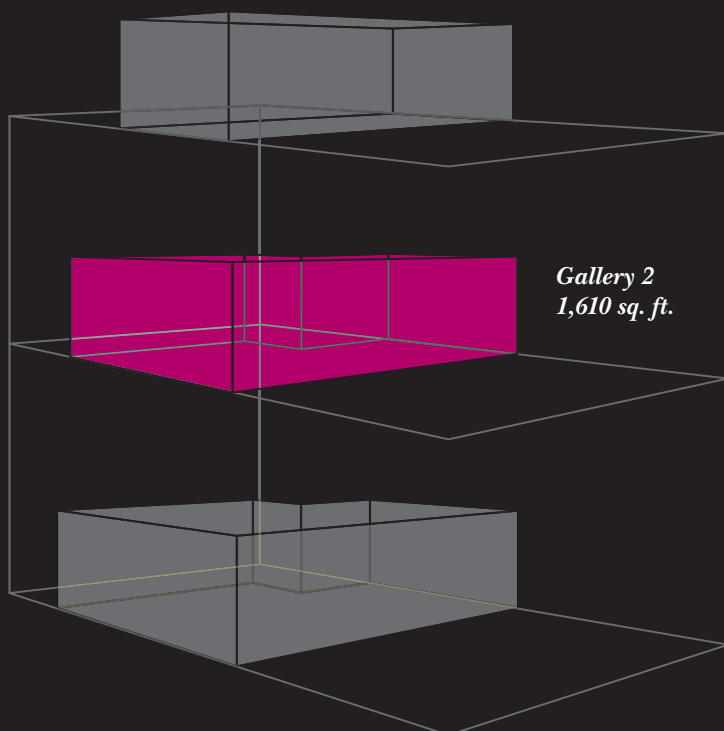
Featuring items as varied as beautiful artistic chess sets and contemporary advertisements with chess themes, exhibitions in the second floor gallery illuminate the impact that chess has had on cultures around the globe.

**Select exhibitions shown on the following pages:**

*Bobby Fischer: Icon Among Icons, Photographs by Harry Benson CBE*

*Everybody's Game: Chess in Popular Culture*

*Strategy by Design: Games by Michael Graves*



BOBBY FISCHER:

# Icon Among Icons

*Photographs by Harry Benson CBE*

===== MARCH 9 - AUGUST 12, 2012 =====

World-renowned photographer Harry Benson was the only person to have private access to Bobby Fischer during the entire 1972 World Chess Championship match in Reykjavík, Iceland. Benson captured intimate images of this time with Fischer and was the first person to deliver the news to Fischer that he had won the match. Benson's photography captures a side of the elusive and controversial chess genius that is rarely seen, and offers a window into the private world of the man Benson calls "the most eccentric and most fascinating person I have ever photographed." In addition to the photographs of Bobby Fischer, this exhibition explored the concept of the icon and Harry Benson's impact on American culture with his choice of celebrity subjects. Fischer is shown in context with other celebrities photographed by Benson, allowing today's contemporary viewer to see his cultural significance as virtually equal to that of presidents, movie stars, artists, designers, and leaders, whose impact has made them objects of great attention and devotion in society.

**CURATORS:**  
**HARRY AND GIGI BENSON**

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BOBBY FISCHER: ICON AMONG ICONS, PHOTOGRAPHS BY HARRY BENSON CBE

# EVERYBODY'S GAME

CHESS IN POPULAR CULTURE

OCTOBER 18, 2012 – APRIL 14, 2013

Everybody knows that queens, kings, bishops, and pawns are chess pieces, but what happens when cultural icons like Miss Piggy, Homer Simpson, Darth Vader, and Piglet take their place? *Everybody's Game: Chess in Popular Culture* took a playful look at how the ancient sport is represented in our contemporary culture by showcasing the game of chess as it has been featured in such mass media as magazine advertisements, rock music and movie posters, and other popular venues. These examples demonstrate that while chess is a serious game, there is more to it than just the competition—chess is everybody's game.

**CURATOR:**

**SHANNON BAILEY, CHIEF CURATOR, WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME**

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EVERYBODY'S GAME: CHESS IN POPULAR CULTURE

# STRATEGY BY DESIGN

## GAMES BY MICHAEL GRAVES

MAY 8 - SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

*Strategy by Design: Games by Michael Graves* focused on the games designed by the Michael Graves Design Group. Part of the line of housewares, decorative accessories, and furnishings created for the Target Corporation (now sold exclusively by JCPenney), these games bear the inimitable Graves stamp in their sleek and sophisticated design. While the exhibition featured a wide array of games including Scrabble®, Monopoly®, poker, and Stratego®, the central elements are Graves' unique chess sets. Loaned materials from the Michael Graves Design Group, including a drawing made during the creation of the chess set, provided insight into the career of one of the greatest twentieth-century designers.

**CURATOR:**

**BRADLEY BAILEY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART HISTORY, SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY**

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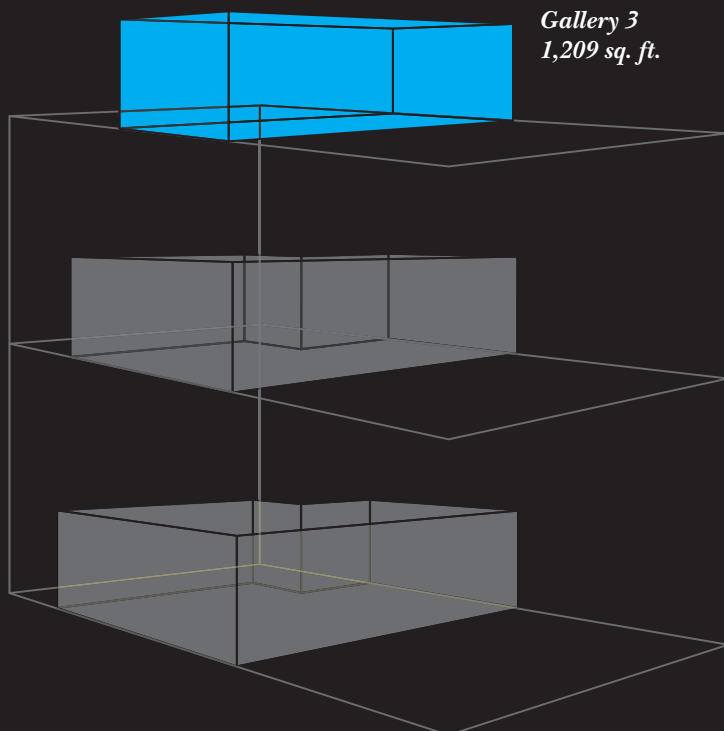


# HISTORY OF THE GAME

The third floor gallery houses the U.S. and World Chess Halls of Fame. Exhibitions on this floor typically include historically important chess artifacts and memorabilia pertaining to Hall of Fame inductees, as well as the history of chess.

**Select exhibition shown on the following pages:**

*Power in Check: Chess and the American Presidency*



# POWER IN CHECK:

## *Chess and the American Presidency*

**OCTOBER 18, 2012 – APRIL 21, 2013**

Chess has influenced the American presidency since the administration of George Washington. While a game replete with kings and queens might at first seem antithetical to democratic leadership, commanders-in-chief have continually appreciated chess' practical benefits and cultural significance, playing to escape the pressures of a stressful job, hosting successful players from around the world, and utilizing the game as a metaphor for larger national and international issues. Through the study of their personal possessions, correspondence, and memorabilia, discover how the so-called "Royal Game" has fascinated American presidents for over two hundred years.

**CURATOR:**

**SHANNON BAILEY, CHIEF CURATOR, WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME**

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POWER IN CHECK: CHESS AND THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY

# PROGRAMMING

# EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

## **FAMILY DAYS**

Family Workshops provide visitors with opportunities to learn more about exhibitions by engaging in hands-on activities inspired by the objects and ideas presented in the galleries. The weekly program begins with a “kid-friendly” tour of the WCHOF galleries, followed by a thematic activity designed to be appropriate for five- through twelve-year-olds and to address a range of learning styles. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate.

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS**

Early Childhood and Preschool Programs are designed for children ages birth through five, and provide a stimulating learning environment for children and their caregivers. Breakfasts with Baby (birth through two years old) focuses on developing motor and language skills through games and activities led by an early childhood educator. Each weekly session includes light refreshments and an opportunity to socialize. ROOKie Readers (for ages two through five) is an early childhood literacy program designed to promote learning and listening skills. Each week a new story is introduced, accompanied by theater, games, art, and movement activities.

## **PUBLIC PROGRAMMING**

Public Programs explore the issues and ideas at the core of the exhibitions at WCHOF. These include gallery tours, informal talks, and panel discussions presented by curators, collectors, and artists. Public Programs also make connections between chess, art, and life through activities such as book discussions, dance demonstrations, and instruction and food tastings.

## **LECTURE AND PERFORMANCE SERIES**

Presented in conjunction with the WCHOF’s current exhibitions, the Lecture and Performance Series features presentations by curators, scholars, and artists on topics relevant to chess’ enduring cultural context. The series explores a variety of subjects including but not limited to art, history, chess, and popular culture.

## **MONTHLY MUSIC SERIES**

The WCHOF Music Series takes place on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The WCHOF Music Series appeals to a broad audience that is looking for an intimate music experience.

## **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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