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 \textit{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 Lifánova  
Alexander McQueen  
Nice-One & Lucx  
Yoko Ono  
Benjamin Pierce  
Bernice & Floyd Sarisohn  
The Screwed Arts Collective  
Bill Smith  
Dr. Jeanne & Rex Sinquefield  
Diana Thater  
Gavin Turk  
Gucci  
Guido van der Werve  
Viktor & Rolf  
Adrian O. Walker  
John G. White Collection  
Peat “EYEZ” Wollaeger
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
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
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
LIVING LIKE KINGS
The Unexpected Collision of Chess and Hip Hop Culture
October 9, 2014 - April 30, 2015

LIVING LIKE KINGS

[Information about the exhibition and its focus on the unexpected collision of chess and hip hop 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
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 Reykjavik, 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
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**
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
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*
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
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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