The World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) celebrates one of the world’s oldest and best-loved games through vibrant, engaging exhibitions and creative programming. The organization presents exhibitions that explore the history of the game, as well as its remarkable impact on arts and culture. These unique shows—and related programs—are designed to appeal to both the chess novice and expert, defying expectations and enhancing knowledge of the game.

Along with its sister organization, the Saint Louis Chess Club, the WCHOF has distinguished Saint Louis as the Chess Capital of the United States, a national and international destination for chess, art, and history lovers alike.

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

Opening Reception for The Imagery of Chess: Saint Louis Artists
March 23, 2017
Photo by Austin Fuller
OUR HISTORY

In 1986, the United States Chess Federation (now US Chess) founded the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF). Originally known as the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame, the small museum opened in 1988 in the basement of the Federation’s then-headquarters in New Windsor, New York. The institution contained a modest collection, which included a book of chess openings signed by Bobby Fischer, the Paul Morphy silver set, and cardboard plaques honoring Hall of Fame inductees. In 1992, the U.S. Chess Trust purchased the museum and moved its contents to Washington, D.C. From 1992 to 2001, the collection grew to include the World Team Chess Championship trophy won by the U.S. team in 1993, numerous chess sets and boards, and the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductee plaques.

In 2001, the institution moved into a new facility at the Excalibur Electronics headquarters in Miami, Florida, and was renamed the World Chess Hall of Fame and Sidney Samole Museum. The Museum began inductions in 2001, and continued collecting chess sets, books, memorabilia, advertisements, photographs, furniture, medals, trophies, and journals until it closed in 2009.

Due to the vibrancy of the chess scene in Saint Louis, Missouri, and the success and growing international reputation of the Saint Louis Chess Club (which opened July 17, 2008), it was then proposed that the contents of the Miami institution be moved to Saint Louis. Realizing the potential to provide area youth with a vital educational resource, Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield, the founders of the Saint Louis Chess Club, provided funding to relocate the institution to Saint Louis.

The World Chess Hall of Fame opened on September 8, 2011, with Saint Louis’ first Hall of Fame inductions and opened to the public on September 9, in Saint Louis’ bustling Central West End neighborhood, directly across the street from the Saint Louis Chess Club. Housed in a renovated, historic 15,900 square-foot residence-turned-business, the WCHOF features the U.S. and World Chess Halls of Fame, displays of artifacts from the permanent collection, and temporary exhibitions highlighting the great players, historic games, and cultural and artistic impact of chess. The WCHOF partners with the Saint Louis Chess Club to provide innovative programming and outreach to local, national, and international audiences. Since opening, the organization has welcomed over 75,000 visitors.
EXHIBITIONS & PROGRAMMING

An important aspect of the mission of the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) is to provide world-class educational and cultural programming to the community. Programs are designed to target a wide range of audiences including chess, art, and music lovers as well as families and children.

The WCHOF frequently hosts tours; artist and educator lectures; and panel discussions presented by curators, collectors, and artists. It also has Craft & Cocktails and Sip, Sketch & Socialize events, in which guests participate in art activities inspired by the museum’s current exhibitions. All of these programs aim to bring the connections between chess, art, and life through interactive activities such as book discussions, art workshops, and food tastings.

The WCHOF hosts programming for children and adults. Family outreach brings crafts to the community, while Toddler Tuesdays include activities that develop motor skills, build language, and support socialization for children 0-3 years old.

The Monthly Music Series has grown significantly in recent years, and celebrates the vast musical talent in the Saint Louis region through intimate concerts designed to appeal to a broad audience. The WCHOF’s Composer Series presents music by the foremost composers throughout history, often performed by members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

Above:

Monthly Music Series: Brian Owens
July 26, 2017
Photo by Austin Fuller

Top to bottom:

Visitors to POW! Capturing Superheroes, Chess & Comics
March 23, 2017
Photo by Carmody Creative

Artist Talk with Crystal Fischetti
March 9, 2016
Photo by Austin Fuller

A Taste of The Imagery of Chess
Exhibition Opening
September 29, 2016
Photo by Carmody Creative
**THE PERMANENT COLLECTION**

The World Chess Hall of Fame’s permanent collection honors the history of the game by preserving artifacts related to significant players and important historical events including trophies, photographs, scoresheets, periodicals, chess sets, and other items. Objects from the permanent collection appear in the WCHOF’s rotating exhibitions. Collection highlights include:

- Paul Morphy silver set, presented to the legendary player after his 1857 victory in the First American Chess Congress.

- George Sturgis Trophy, which is inscribed with the names of the 1945-1963 winners of the U.S. Open Chess Championship.

- Perpetual trophy for the Piatigorsky Cup, one of the strongest tournaments ever held on American soil.

- Artifacts related to contemporary milestones in international and American chess, including the 2013-2018 Sinquefield Cups and the U.S. and U.S. Women’s Chess Championships.

- Hundreds of exquisite chess sets, including one designed by artist Emil Pott for Tiffany & Co.

- Archives donated by U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductees or their families, including GM Hans Berliner, GM Arthur Bisguier, GM Walter Browne, GM Isaac Kashdan, Jacqueline Piatigorsky, and GM Yasser Seirawan.

- Mass-produced chess sets with themes taken from television, cartoons, comics, and movies, which demonstrate chess’ influence on popular culture.

Opposite, from top:
Paul Morphy Silver Set, 1857
Collection of the U.S. Chess Trust
Photo by Michael DeFilippo

Austro-Hungarian Mint Silver and Copper Enamel Chess Set and Board,
Early to mid-20th century
Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame,
gift of Traci L. and Arthur B. Laffer family
Photo by Michael DeFilippo
EXHIBITIONS
2011–2019

OUT OF THE BOX:
ARTISTS PLAY CHESS
9/9/2011–2/12/2012

CHESS MASTERPIECES:
HIGHLIGHTS FROM
THE DR. GEORGE AND VIVIAN
DEAN COLLECTION
9/9/2011–2/12/2012

U.S. AND WORLD CHESS
HALLS OF FAME AND
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
PERMANENT COLLECTION
9/9/2011–2/12/2012

MARCEL DZAMA:
THE END GAME
3/9/2012–8/12/2012

BOBBY FISCHER: ICON
AMONG ICONS, PHOTOGRAPH
BY HARRY BENSON CBE
3/9/2012–10/7/2012

U.S. AND WORLD CHESS
HALLS OF FAME AND
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
PERMANENT COLLECTION,
PART II
3/9/2012–10/7/2012

SCREWED MOVES
9/13/2012–10/7/2012

EVERYBODY’S GAME:
CHESS IN POPULAR CULTURE
10/18/2012–4/14/2013

POWER IN CHECK:
CHESS AND THE
AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
10/18/2012–4/21/2013

BILL SMITH:
BEYOND THE HUMANITIES

PRIZED AND PLAYED:
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
JON CRUMILLER COLLECTION
Herman Steiner
Jackson Showalter
Diane Savereide
2010
Andrew Soltis
Boris Gulko
2013
Jacqueline Piatigorsky
2015
Gata Kamsky
Edward Lasker
2018
U.S. Hall of Fame Inductees
U.S. Women's Chess Championships.
the opening ceremonies for the U.S. and the inductions have been held during held in Saint Louis since 2011. Since 2012, in an annual ceremony, which has been honored New inductees are honored World Chess Halls of Fame, which as of April 2018 counted 60 and 33 members respectively. New inductees are honored U.S. Chess Trust or the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee. the U.S. Chess Trust vote on who should be included by the Chairman of the U.S. Chess Trust each year. The trustees of the U.S. Chess Trust vote on who should be inducted. The induction itself takes place either at the U.S. Chess Federation Awards Luncheon during the U.S. Open or at the World Chess Hall of Fame. Induction are almost always performed by either the Chairman of the U.S. Chess Trust or the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee. How are induction candidates chosen?
Representatives of the World Chess Federation (Fédération internationale des Échecs, or FIDE) nominate and select new candidates for induction into the World Chess Hall of Fame. Members of the World Chess Hall of Fame are chosen for their total contribution to the sport. Players as well as others who have made an impact as authors, journalists, organizers, and in other ways are eligible for induction. The U.S. Chess Federation Hall of Fame Committee considers candidates for the U.S. Hall of Fame and sends its nominations to the U.S. Chess Trust each year. The trustees of the U.S. Chess Trust vote on who should be inducted. The induction itself takes place either at the U.S. Chess Federation Awards Luncheon during the U.S. Open or at the World Chess Hall of Fame. Induction are almost always performed by either the Chairman of the U.S. Chess Trust or the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee. How are Induction Candidates Chosen?
U.S. Committee
Harold Winston (Chairman)
GM Joel Benjamin
Frank Cammellia
IM John Donaldson
John Hribert
Al Horvitz

World Committee
Nigel Freeman
Professor Kurt Jungwirth
SM Burton Marinello
Richard Réti (1899-1929) Richard Réti was one of the fathers of hypermodern chess, which he promoted through his play and writing. His publications included Modern Ideas in Chess (1923) and the posthumous Masters of the Chess Board (1930). Réti was also a world-class player who defeated World Chess Champion José Capablanca at New York 1924, ending the latter’s eight-year, 63-game unbeaten streak. A one-time world blindfold record holder for most chess games played simultaneously 100 at São Paulo, Brazil, in 1925. Réti was also a renowned endgame composer. The Réti Opening, which is characterized by the fianchetto of both white bishops and the move c4, is named after him. Kira Zvorykina (1929-2014) Kira Zvorykina was one of the strongest female players in the world during the 1950s and early 1960s. She won the Soviet Women’s Chess Championship three times (1951, 1953, 1956) and tied twice but lost in playoffs (1957, 1958). Her greatest triumph was winning the 1959 Women’s Candidates Tournament, which qualified her to play a match for the Women’s World Chess Championship against Elizabeth Bykova. Zvorykina lost the match 4½-½. She twice represented the Soviet Union in Chess Olympiads, winning bronze gold on both occasions while scoring an undefeated 17½ from 20. Zvorykina’s book Inside the Chess Mind (1984) recounts highlights from her career.
A HISTORY OF CHESS IN SAINT LOUIS

The city of Saint Louis has long been known for its rich chess heritage. In fact, the U.S. Chess Federation named Saint Louis “Chess City of the Year” in 2009 and 2011. In 2014, the activities of the Chess Campus led the U.S. Senate and Congress to declare Saint Louis the Chess Capital of the nation.

As far back as 1886, Saint Louis hosted a segment of the first official World Chess Championship, which culminated with Wilhelm Steinitz defeating Johannes Zukertort to become the first world chess champion. The 1904 World’s Fair drew national and international visitors to Saint Louis. It also served as an occasion to hold the Seventh Annual Chess Congress in the city. Frank J. Marshall, founder of the Marshall Chess Club in New York City, was named tournament champion. Saint Louis resident and founder of the original Saint Louis Chess Club, Max Judd, was awarded second prize.

Another Saint Louis chess notable was Mrs. Eveline Allen Burgess, named Woman’s Champion of the United States in 1907. Samuel Burgess, Eveline’s husband, was also actively involved in the local chess community. He served as the vice president and later president of the original Saint Louis Chess Club, of which Eveline was an honorary member. Eveline was also an active member of the West End Chess Club while Samuel served as its president.

From the 1940s through the 1970s, Robert Steinmeyer was Missouri’s premiere chess talent, consistently winning the Saint Louis District Championship. During that time, Saint Louis repeatedly drew grandmasters to the city for simultaneous exhibitions. In the 1960s and 1970s, Grandmasters like Reuben Fine, Larry Evans, Viktor Korchnoi, and former World Chess Champion Tigran Petrosian visited Saint Louis to challenge local players.

2018 U.S. HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Bill Goichberg (b. 1942)
A great innovator in American chess, Bill Goichberg pioneered in holding rated scholastic tournaments (1966) and originated the National High School Championship (1969), the National Junior High School Championship (1973), and the National High School Championship (1990). Goichberg originated non-smoking events (1973), the Grand Prix (1978), and Raked Beginner Opens (1990). He also ran many GM/IM Swiss Norm events to help American players earn FIDE titles and popularized sudden death time controls and the Quad format.

Alex Onischuk (b. 1975)

A HISTORY OF CHESS IN SAINT LOUIS

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PART OF A CHESS LEGACY

The Saint Louis Chess Campus, comprised of the Saint Louis Chess Club, the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF), Q Boutique, and Kingside Diner, has quickly become a main attraction for chess and art lovers, families, children, and the general public. The campus represents a unique destination where visitors can play chess, experience art, dine, shop, and take a selfie with our landmark giant chess piece.
Q Boutique, the gift store for the Saint Louis Chess Campus, offers quality chess merchandise, all-occasion gifts, and thoughtfully-designed collectibles perfect for chess fans of all ages. Q Boutique is also the official online retailer of the Campus, specializing in WCHOF souvenirs, autographed memorabilia, and tournament collectibles. Proceeds from Q Boutique support the exhibitions and educational programs at the WCHOF. Shop online at qboutiquestl.com.

THE CHESS CAMPUS TODAY

The Saint Louis Chess Club (STLCC), which opened in 2008, is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2018. Together the STLCC and the World Chess Hall of Fame, which opened in Saint Louis in 2011, form the Saint Louis Chess Campus.

Soon after its founding, the Saint Louis Chess Club became the home of the U.S. and U.S. Women’s Chess Championships. The Saint Louis Chess Club has hosted the U.S. Junior Chess Championship since 2010 and recently hosted the U.S. Junior Girls’ Championship for the first time in 2017.

In 2013, the Saint Louis Chess Club established itself as an international chess hotspot by organizing the Sinquefield Cup. The 2014 Sinquefield Cup was the highest-rated tournament in the game’s 1500 year history.

The Saint Louis Chess Club broke new ground in 2015 by partnering with existing tournaments around the world to form the Grand Chess Tour. In 2017, the WCHOF organized a traveling exhibition titled Grand Chess Tour: The Art of Chess, which contained highlights from the collection of the WCHOF as well as loans of important artifacts and appeared at each of the stops in the 2017 Tour.

O Boutique, the gift store for the Saint Louis Chess Campus, offers quality chess merchandise, all-occasion gifts, and thoughtfully-designed collectibles perfect for chess fans of all ages. O Boutique is also the official online retailer of the Campus, specializing in WCHOF souvenirs, autographed memorabilia, and tournament collectibles. Proceeds from O Boutique support the exhibitions and educational programs at the WCHOF. Shop online at qboutiquestl.com.
GIVING AT THE WCHOF

Philanthropists Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield reopened the World Chess Hall of Fame in Saint Louis. Thanks to the Sinquefields’ generosity, the WCHOF thrives on a strong foundation. The WCHOF continues to cultivate support from the community through philanthropic individuals, foundations, and corporations who support its mission.

Caissa Club
The Caissa Club, named after a goddess of chess, was established in 2016 as a joint gift program for the World Chess Hall of Fame and Saint Louis Chess Club, which honors those individuals who donate an annual gift of $1,000 or more. By supporting the Caissa Club, you are helping sustain chess through education, the arts, culture, and sport in the city of Saint Louis and beyond.

Tribute Donation
Honor someone close to you with a donation that will help the World Chess Hall of Fame continue to provide educational programming for children and families along with bringing extraordinary art and exhibitions to our visitors. Tributes will be engraved on the concrete chess tables located at the Saint Louis Chess Club. Tribute recipients and their families will receive a customized acknowledgement card to notify them of your gift.

For more information about giving programs at the WCHOF, please contact our development department at (314) 604-7998, or email development@worldchesshof.org.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
The World Chess Hall of Fame acknowledges Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield, whose generous support makes our exhibitions possible.

World and U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductee images courtesy of the Saint Louis Chess Club, US Chess, New In Chess, the John G. White Chess Collection at the Cleveland Public Library, and the World Chess Hall of Fame.

Related programming and a PDF of this brochure are available for download at worldchesshof.org.

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Top: Marcel Dzama
The Fatal Sister (detail), 2014
Courtesy of David Zwirner, New York

Bottom: Tom Hackney
Chess Painting No. 54 (Michel vs. Duchamp, Strasbourg, 1924), 2015
Collection of Andrew Molyneux