

# AGG and The Windy City Will Blow You Away



by Tony Glander

The American Glass Guild (AGG) is pleased to announce plans for its July 8–11, 2016, annual conference. This year's conference, which will take place on the campus of the University of Chicago, marks the organization's 11th anniversary. A great line up of speakers, tours, and workshops are all in the works.

## Creative Connections

Chicago, Illinois, and the university provide the ideal backdrop for this year's conference. The planning committee has been hard at work to keep the conference affordable for the membership, and as always, there will be ample time for camaraderie and networking.

The AGG found the perfect partner with the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, located on the campus of the University of Chicago. The Center believes in "Creative Connections"—connecting the community with contemporary art, connecting art with the individual, and connecting the conventional with the unfamiliar. The Center will be used for presentations, workshops, and most of the events.

The university has stained glass throughout its many campus buildings, including the Rockefeller Chapel and other locations. Just steps away from the campus is the famous Frederick C. Robie House, a U.S. National Historic Landmark and part of the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust. The Chicago downtown area is a vast collection of architectural stained glass. Highlights include the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Cultural Center, and the Richard H. Dreihaus Museum at Navy Pier, as well as area churches and synagogues. Edgar Miller, a very interesting artist and considered Chicago's Renaissance man, has a number of stained glass sites throughout Chicago.

There will also be great options for conference housing. Rooms on campus will be available from \$27 to \$40 per person per night, depending on accommodations. A dining plan will also be available as an option at a daily rate of \$31 that includes three meals! Hotel accommodations are also available close to campus. Also helping with costs, Chicago O'Hare and Chicago Midway airports are hubs for a number of airlines.

## Opportunities for Learning

Proposed talks for the 2016 conference cover an appealing variety of subjects. From historic glass artists and kiln formed glass to modern marketing, talks will be presented by some of today's best speakers in the glass industry.

*Kenneth von Roenn, KvR Studio, The Stream of Life Entry Wall at the Chicago Theological Seminary, University of Chicago. Seven panels 7' tall, laminated interlayer wall 27' x 8.5', 2012.*

This year's keynote speaker, glass artist Kenneth von Roenn, has more than four decades of creative experience in glass and architecture. As if his incredible glass talents aren't enough, he is also accomplished at public art and its many intricacies. Recently von Roenn made the move to academia as Creative Director of FSU's Master Craftsman Studio at Florida State University. He will be presenting his keynote address on Saturday evening and leading a full-day design workshop on Monday. With his vast experience in so many realms of the glass industry, these would be two events that you won't want to miss.

This year's conference has been well thought out on many levels. The conference will provide the best stained glass sites of Chicago, great education, and the opportunity to meet or reconnect with friends.

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*Visit [americanglassguild.org](http://americanglassguild.org) for more information on American Glass Guild programs and upcoming events and how to become an AGG member. Check [agg2016.blogspot.com](http://agg2016.blogspot.com) for a list of Chicago-area tour sites plus updates and specific information on the upcoming 2016 AGG conference.*

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