Public Tours Have Resumed!
We are delighted to have officially reopened for public tour on March 2, after a closure of two months to undertake work on our new geothermal system.

Tours are offered Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, at 11:30am, 1:00pm, and 2:30pm. The length of the tour has returned to 75 minutes, group size has increased to eight people, and a few rooms closed off since the start of the pandemic have reopened. Advance ticket required. We hope to see you soon!

Thank you Donors!
We wish to express our deepest thanks to all of individuals and organizations who made donations to Glessner House during the fourth quarter of 2021, including all of the gifts directed to our Annual Fund. Thank you!

To view the list of donors, please visit: www.glessnerhouse.org/2021-donors

Chipstone Curatorial Fellow
My name is Jordan Quarles Johnson, I am a 23-year-old artist and aspiring curator from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In August of 2021, I graduated from DePaul University with a bachelor’s degree in the history of art and architecture, and a minor in African and Black diaspora studies with a focus on museum studies. Here is where I continue to pursue my master’s degree in critical ethnic studies.

I began working in the museum field during the summer after my junior year of high school (2016) when I became a curatorial apprentice at the Chipstone Foundation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. My experience in museum collections and curatorial work has fueled my ambition to make drastic changes in the ways that museums develop exhibitions, execute community outreach, and approach the issues behind racial equity, access, and inclusion.

As a curatorial fellow with the Glessner House, my ultimate goal is to recontextualize items in its collection by telling their hidden stories as they connect to Chicago’s Black community. I hope to discover and even uncover parts of Chicago’s history that have never been shared before and perhaps further my knowledge of it along the way.

(Editor’s Note: Jordan began her work on March 3, and is already exploring a number of fascinating topics. We are extremely grateful to the Chipstone Foundation for providing the grant to support Jordan's work. Stay tuned for updates on her discoveries!)
UPCOMING PROGRAMS
See a full listing and register online at GlessnerHouse.org or call 312-326-1480

A Walk Through Time - Annual Tour of Prairie Avenue Mansions
Sunday, June 12 from 1:00 to 4:00pm with reception following

This very special tour provides attendees with the rare opportunity to visit the interiors of several landmarked homes in the Prairie Avenue Historic District. See beautifully carved wood moldings, leaded glass windows, fireplaces in elaborate tile, mosaic, and marble, and much more!

Homes included on this year's tour:
-William Kimball house, 1801 S. Prairie Avenue (Solon S. Beman, architect; 1890-1892)
-Joseph Coleman house, 1811 S. Prairie Avenue (Cobb & Frost, architects; 1886)
-Marshall Field Jr. house, 1919 S. Prairie Avenue (Solon S. Beman, architect; 1883; remodeling by D. H. Burnham & Co., 1902)
-Charles Purdy house, 213 E. Cullerton Street (Thomas & Rapp, architects; 1891)
-William Reid house, 2013 S. Prairie Avenue (Beers, Clay & Dutton, architects; 1894)
-Harriet Rees house, 2017 S. Prairie Avenue (Cobb & Frost, architects; 1888)

An abbreviated tour of Glessner House is included as well as historic Second Presbyterian Church with its landmarked Arts and Crafts interior and collection of Tiffany windows.

Following the tour, attendees are invited to return to the Glessner House courtyard for a reception featuring food and beverages, live jazz music, and a silent auction that includes theatre tickets, Chicago memorabilia, collectibles, and other items of interest.

$60 per person / $48 for members

William Morris Tours - new in 2022!
Saturday, April 23, June 25, August 27, and October 22, from 9:30 to 11:30am

Frances Glessner and architect Henry Hobson Richardson were both deeply interested in the English Arts and Crafts movement and the work of William Morris. The results are clearly seen at Glessner House, which possesses what is believed to be the largest representation of Morris wallpapers, textiles, and rugs of any publicly-accessible residence in the United States.

This new tour, developed in 2022, will explore Morris’s design philosophy and how it was employed at the house. Participants will see original items by William Morris, William De Morgan, and their contemporaries, including a Sussex chair, embroideries, tiles, and a pair of Cross Twigs drapery panels not normally on display. A variety of faithfully reproduced wallpapers, textiles, and rugs will also be examined, with background into the meticulous process of research and reproduction.

$30 per person / $24 for members (Tour is limited to eight participants)
VISIT THE GLENNER HOUSE CHANNEL ON YOUTUBE!
Go to YouTube.com and search for the Glessner House channel to see all our videos

Secrets of Glessner House
Part 25: The Cold Closet
In Part 25 of our series, “Secrets of Glessner House,” we venture inside the cold closet, one of the few unrestored spaces in the house, to reveal its original design and to talk a bit about how the Glessners would have obtained their ice.

Secrets of Glessner House
Part 26: Richardson’s Portrait
For Part 26, we explore the history of the large portrait of architect Henry Hobson Richardson displayed in the main hall – one of the few items that has remained in the house continuously since it was first installed by the Glessners.

Secrets of Glessner House
Part 27: The Servants Passage
In our most recent installment of Secrets, we delve into what is perhaps the most unusual aspect of the plan of the house - the long servants’ passage that runs along the north side of the building.
Burley & Tyrrell: Chicago’s Forgotten Retailers
Among the decorative objects in the Glessner House collection is a large majolica vase with a label on the base reading BURLEY & CO., CHICAGO, identifying the store from which the Glessners acquired their item. This discovery started a journey to learn more about the business and resulted in uncovering a story of one of the most prominent retailers in 19th century Chicago, and one of its most prominent families. In this article, we will share the story of Arthur G. Burley, his business, his family, and their interactions with the Glessners.

Charles H. Smiley: Chicago’s Society Caterer
During the last two decades of the 19th century, Charles H. Smiley secured a position as one of Chicago’s most prosperous and successful African-American businessmen. Born into humble beginnings, he built a business which served Chicago’s wealthiest families, earning him their patronage and deep respect. In this article, we will explore his origins, how he built his business, and his commitment to providing business and educational opportunities for members of Chicago’s growing African-American community.

Minna Schmidt and Costumology: An American Success Story
Tucked in amongst the shelves in the Glessner library is a book entitled 400 Outstanding Women of the World and Costumology of Their Time, written and published by Minna M. Schmidt in 1933. The book was prepared to accompany an exhibition of 400 figurines of important women from nearly four dozen countries, which were crafted by Schmidt and displayed at the Century of Progress World’s Fair in Chicago. In honor of Women’s History Month, we share this rags-to-riches story of a German immigrant who came to Chicago in 1886 and turned her passion and talent for costuming into a million-dollar business.
Focus on Collections
Be sure to check out our “Object of the Month” posted at the beginning of the month on “The Collection” page of our website, under the Explore tab. Recent postings include:

- January: Painting of the bee house at The Rocks
- February: Lace dresser scarf from the Pullman Mansion
- March: Business card for Lizzie J. Benson

When Little Boys Sing by John and Rue Carpenter

This charming, oversized book, published in 1904, contains twelve original songs by the Chicago-based composer John Alden Carpenter, accompanied by illustrations drawn by his wife, Rue Winterbotham Carpenter. It was published by A. C. McClurg & Company in Chicago, and acquired at its bookstore on Wabash Avenue, a favorite destination of the Glessners.

John and Frances Glessner would no doubt have purchased the book for use with their seven grandchildren, born between 1898 and 1906. Many years later, grandson John Glessner Lee recalled with great fondness that Sunday morning was the designated time for the grandchildren to travel the one block from their adjoining homes at 1700 and 1706 S. Prairie Avenue to spend time with their grandparents. Frances Glessner kept a large toybox in the alcove of the library from which the two boys and five girls would select their favorites to play with in front of the fireplace while their grandparents worked at the large partners desk nearby. One can well imagine the grandchildren being entertained by the book – their grandmother sitting at the piano teaching the songs, or their grandfather sitting on the library sofa pointing out details in the charming illustrations.

John Alden Carpenter (1876-1951) was born in Park Ridge, Illinois, and studied music under John Knowles Paine at Harvard University. He later traveled to Europe to study with Edward Elgar. His “day job” was as vice president of the family’s shipping supply company, but he actively pursued composing throughout his adult life. His music reflected the age in which he lived, being described as “mildly modernistic and impressionistic” with many compositions clearly reflecting the influence of jazz. Among his best known works is the orchestral suite, *Adventures in a Perambulator*, which premiered with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in March 1914. The Glessners attended the performance, noting it was well received, and had earlier in the month welcomed Carpenter and his wife to their home for supper.

Rue Carpenter (1876-1931), born Lurita Winterbotham, was the daughter of Joseph Humphrey Winterbotham, a Michigan senator, Chicago manufacturer, and major benefactor of the Art Institute. She came to Chicago from her native Joliet as a young girl and married John Alden Carpenter in 1900. Rue had an abiding interest in art from an early age, with a particular passion for modern art – she was once described as being “avant-garde when the word was unknown in Chicago.” Among her more memorable interior design commissions were the striking interiors of the Casino Club, Racquet Club, and The Fortnightly in Chicago and the Double Six Club and Elizabeth Arden’s Fifth Avenue Salon in New York. In 1916, she helped found the Arts Club of Chicago, which introduced the work of Picasso, Braque, Brancusi and others to the city. She served as its second president from 1918 until her untimely death in 1931.
Fragments of Kimball House copper roof cresting

The home of William and Evaline Kimball, located directly across the street from Glessner House at 1801 S. Prairie Avenue, was one of the most imposing residences ever constructed on the "sunny street that held the sifted few." Completed in 1892, it was the last of the mansion-sized houses built on Prairie Avenue, which less than a decade later started a slow and steady decline that, in the end, resulted in the Kimball house being one of just seven houses to survive on a street originally lined with nearly 90.

William W. Kimball, born on March 22, 1828 in Rumford, Maine, came to Chicago in 1857 where he quickly established a flourishing business selling pianos. By the 1880s, he was manufacturing his own, and he was the first piano merchant to offer a written warranty on all of his instruments. At the time, he and his wife were residing in a residence at 1641 S. Michigan Avenue, but his good friend George Pullman convinced him to buy the lot at the southeast corner of Prairie Avenue and 18th Street. As the story goes, Pullman even suggested the architect - Solon S. Beman - who had designed the Town of Pullman south of Chicago a decade earlier.

Beman's design for the Kimball house was inspired by the early 16th century Chateau de Josselin in France, incorporating detailing from various periods of French design including the Renaissance, most clearly seen in the stonework and the elaborate copper cresting, featuring urns, swags, and acanthus leaves, set atop the slate roof.

A grand housewarming party in January 1893 introduced the Kimballs' friends to their sumptuous home with beautiful wood moldings, costly fireplaces, and custom-designed built-in cabinetry for Mrs. Kimball's collections of Oriental porcelains and antique silver. The wood paneled, two-story stair hall provided the perfect backdrop for her collection of Old Master paintings that included Turner, Gainsborough, and one of only two Rembrandts in private hands in the U.S. The collection also featured works by Pre-Raphaelite artists and two Monets.

By the time Mrs. Kimball died in 1921, Prairie Avenue was a shell of its former self, and after a period of time in which the house was used as the Architects Club, it was sold to the Hull School in 1943 for just $8,000, a fraction of what the Kimballs paid to build it a half century before. Printing companies, including R. R. Donnelley, occupied the building for decades until it was sold (along with the neighboring Coleman house) to the U.S. Soccer Federation in the 1990s for use as its headquarters. The Federation has been an excellent caretaker, including a major restoration of the complex roof including slate replacement, recreating the copper finials, and restoring the elaborate roof cresting, at which time deteriorated elements (such as those shown above, donated to Glessner House by Eric Nordstrom of Urban Remains) were removed and replaced with accurate copies.

Fun fact: The Kimball house served as the archbishop's residence in the 1996 Hollywood thriller *Primal Fear* starring Richard Gere and Ed Norton.

The Kimball House will be open for tours during our annual A Walk Through Time on Sunday, June 12. See page 2 for more information!
The City of Chicago was incorporated on March 4, 1837, when the State of Illinois legislature enacted the city charter. It was the same day that Martin Van Buren was inaugurated as the 8th president of the United States. The boundaries of the new city were North Avenue on the north, Wood Street (between Ashland and Damen avenues) on the west, and 22nd Street (now Cermak Road) on the south. A census taken a few months after incorporation showed a population of 4,170, consisting of 2,570 males and 1,600 females. There were 398 dwellings, 5 churches, 19 groceries, 17 law offices, 3 drug stores, and 10 taverns.

The design of the city seal was contained within the charter for the city, and it was officially adopted in June 1837:

“Be it Ordained by the Common Council of the City of Chicago, that the seal heretofore provided and used by and for the city of Chicago, the impression on which is a representation of a shield, with a sheaf of wheat in the centre; a ship in full sail on the right; a sleeping infant on the top; an Indian with bow and arrow on the left; and with the motto, ‘Urbs in Horto’, at the bottom of the shield; with the inscription, ‘City of Chicago: Incorporated 4th March, 1837,’ around the edge of said seal, shall be, and is hereby established and declared to have been and now to be, the seal of the city of Chicago.”

The design has been refined over the years, although the elements described have all remained, as seen above in the comparison of an early seal on the left with the current seal on the right. The sheaf of wheat represents the bountiful prairie, the ship Lake Michigan, and the Indian the original settlers of the region. The infant is generally believed to represent peace and purity. “Urbs in Horto,” which translates to “Garden City,” was an aspirational concept embraced by the city’s founding fathers.
Ongoing ways to support and engage with Glessner House

Face masks are still required on public transportation and in other locations. For a donation of $25 or more to the Glessner House COVID-19 Relief Fund, you will receive your own **Morris face mask**, which combines safety and style into one. To make your donation and receive your face mask (many new designs available), simply mail a check made payable to “Glessner House” or make your donation online. Your mask will ship within 24 hours of the receipt of your donation.

Although public tours have resumed, you are always welcome to take a virtual tour of the house online! The link is permanently posted at the top of our home page.

Make a gift to our annual fund to provide ongoing operating support. Or become a member or renew your membership to receive valuable benefits and show your support for Glessner House.

Our online store offers a variety of publications that provide perfect reading material to learn more about Glessner House. Browse our shop online today.

Select Glessner House as your charity of choice while shopping on Amazon. Select Glessner House on the AmazonSmile page, and then continue shopping as you normally would.

We hope everyone is off to a great start in 2022, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Bill Tyre, Executive Director & Curator