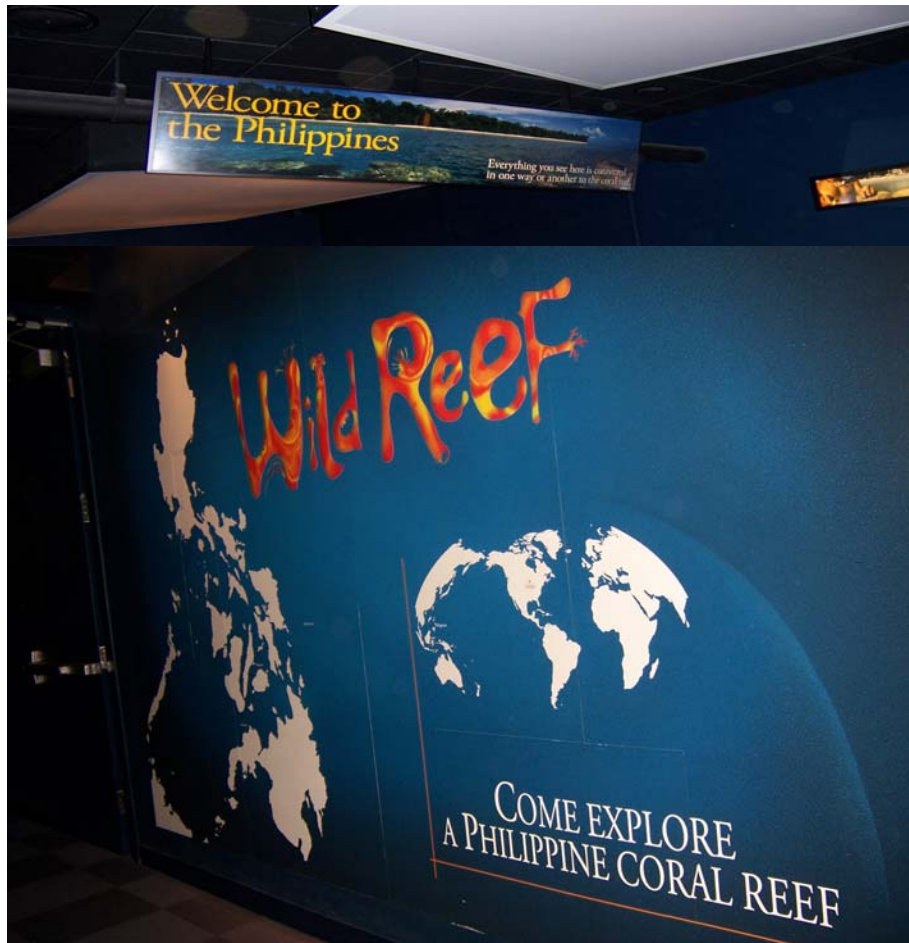


The Philippines in Chicago

Chicago is best known, as the **Windy City** is the largest city in U.S. state of Illinois and the third most populous city in the United States, with nearly 2.7 million residents. It is the home of the Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower) the tallest skyscraper in the United States. Unknown to everyone, Chicago houses some of the precious Philippine collections outside the Philippines and host to Philippine permanent exhibits at the following prestigious institutions in Chicago:

Apo Island's Reef at the Shedd Aquarium



Built in 1930, the John G. Shedd Aquarium is one of the oldest operating aquariums in the world. It is home to a large and diverse animal collection with exhibits that feature aquatic environments ranging from the Pacific Northwest to the Amazon River and from the Philippines to the Great Lakes.

Shedd Aquarium brings to Chicago the coral reefs of the Philippines, an epicenter of marine diversity and home to more than 40 species of sharks. The *Philippine Coral Reef Exhibit*, simply called *Wild Reef Exhibit* at the Shedd costs \$45 million, and it entailed the construction of a building that houses an immense reef exhibit. The Coral Reef Exhibit

that opened in 2003 is billed as one of the largest and most diverse shark exhibits in North America. Guests begin their journey at the surging shores of a recreated Apo Island, and then surface to the mangroves and beaches of this Visayan coast. The coral reefs of Apo Island not only represent one of the sea's most distinct environments but also an ecosystem at risk due to human interference. To create an environment where the fish will feel comfortable with their surroundings. Shedd Aquarium imported from the Philippines, among others, 17.5 tons of sand and a fisherman's house. Visitors of the exhibit will experience firsthand the awesome beauty of these endangered reefs and learn about the world's ocean habitats.

The aquarium has 2 million annual visitors; it was the most visited aquarium in the U.S. in 2005, and in 2007, it surpassed the Field Museum as the most popular cultural attraction in Chicago.

The Golden Tara at the Field Museum



The Field Museum is much more than a place to see exhibitions. It is also a world-renowned research institution. The Field Museum has global, active research programs in anthropology, botany, geology and zoology; and it support active conservation programs throughout the world, including the Philippines. The collections (nearly 25 million specimens) document the history of life and provide important clues about how different organisms adapted to environmental challenges. In the coming years, Field Museum will use these clues to help develop practical responses to modern day issues such as global warming, deforestation, and diminishing natural resources.

The Museum is the house of the famous *Golden Tara* figurine, which was said to have been discovered in Southern Agusan, Mindanao in 1917 during the time when the Philippines was under US territory. Said figurine was brought to the US by General Leonard Wood and eventually donated to the Chicago Field Museum.

The Golden Tara is a 10th century solid gold statue weighing four pounds is one of the most important and significantly archaeological discoveries in the Philippines in the 20th

Century. In the Hindu-Tibetan religion, it is considered the “*Goddess of Compassion*”, while the word *Tara* means a “star” or “she who saves.”

The Field Museum is also holding a vast of Philippine artifacts in its collection waiting to be displayed.

Filipiniana Collection at the Newberry Library

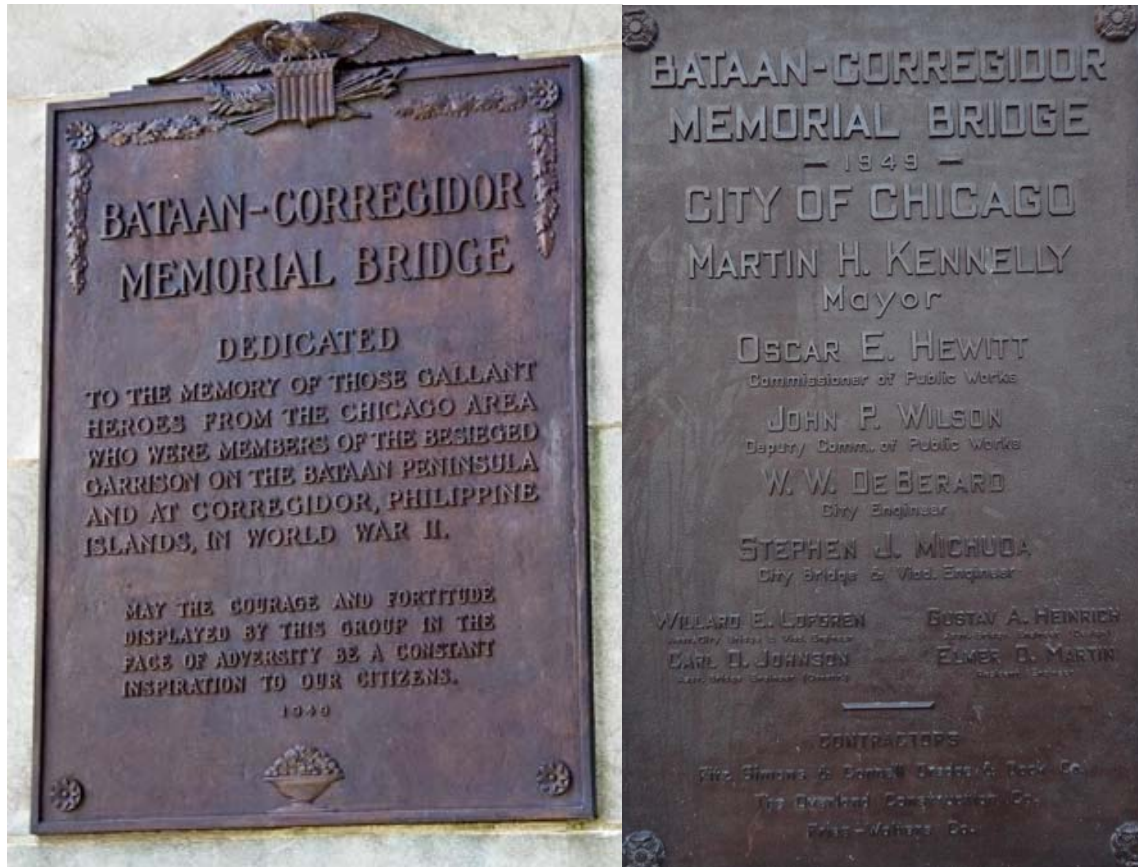


The Newberry Library, a pre-eminent humanities research and reference institution, is home to a world-class collection of books, manuscripts, maps, music, and other printed materials. Since its founding, the Newberry has been a beacon for the study of the humanities in Chicago. Today, the Library’s evolving collections focus on Western Europe and the Americas and include more than 1.5 million books, 5 million manuscript pages, and 500,000 historic maps.

The Newberry Library was founded in 1887 by a bequest of Chicago Land developer and city leader Walter L. Newberry, who believed strongly in libraries, cultural activity, and civic engagement.

Today, the Newberry houses more than 500 Philippine Manuscripts that are included in the Ayer Collection, including a large number of manuscripts and publications from the Spanish period in the Philippines, notebooks and correspondence of Dr. Jose Rizal, Damian Domingo costume album, over 8,000 early 20th Century ethnographic photographs, Philippine linguistics and travel literature and maps of the Islands.

Bataan-Corregidor Memorial Bridge in Chicago



The Bataan-Corregidor Memorial Bridge (State Street Bridge) was first dedicated in 1948 and then rededicated by Mayor Richard M. Daley on the 100th anniversary of Philippine Independence, and on the occasion of Bataan Day, April 9, 1998.

The bridge located at the corner of State Street and Wacker Drive in Chicago was dedicated as a memorial to those World War II veterans who fought in the Philippines. A plaque on the south end of the bridge reads: "*Dedicated to the memory of those gallant heroes from the Chicago area who were members of the besieged garrison on the Bataan peninsula and at Corregidor, Philippine Islands in World War II. May the courage and fortitude displayed by this group in the face of adversity be a constant inspiration to our citizens.*"

The Bataan-Corregidor Memorial Bridge is an example of the unique Chicago's design which raised the position of the deck truss up just far enough so that the top chord is above the deck like a pony truss, where it can act as a guardrail and also increase both the clearance under the bridge and the streamlined aesthetics of the bridge.

This bridge is one of the widest Chicago bascule bridges and serves an impressive eight lanes of traffic. To accommodate and support this width, the bridge is designed with three truss lines.

Dr. Jose Rizal Monument in Chicago



The Dr. Jose Rizal monument located along Lake Shore Drive and Marine Drive between Lawrence and Wilson Avenue in front of Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago came about through the courtesy of the Philippine Government during the commemoration of the Centennial of Philippine Independence in 1998. The unveiling of Dr. Jose Rizal monument was held on June 19, 1999. The project was the initiative and efforts of the Order of the Knights of Rizal and the Filipino-American community organizations. A plaque recognizing the project's major benefactors was installed and displayed in nearby Margate Park Fieldhouse.

Dr. Jose Rizal visited Chicago, Illinois on May 11, 1888 enroute to New York City. He arrived in Chicago at 8:14 a.m. and left the City on the same day at 8:25 p.m.

The monument of our national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal in Chicago is one of only two life size monuments in Continental U.S.A., and one of the six outside the Philippines. The other five locations are in Madrid, Spain; Wilhelmsfeld, Germany; Cherry Hill, New Jersey; Honolulu, Hawaii and Jinjiang, China.