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**February 18, 2014**

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**THE AMERICAN WRITERS MUSEUM MAKES CHICAGO ITS SWEET HOME:  
INDEPENDENT WRITERS OF CHICAGO (IWOC) GET A SNEAK PREVIEW**

Quoth the legendary Chicago architect and City Planner Daniel Burnham, “Make no little plans.”

As they say in Chicago-ese, “He got dat right.” Because here we are over a century later, still making no little plans. The latest: Chicago is about to become home to the American Writers Museum, the *first* national museum in the United States dedicated to American writers. That’s big. Big-shoulder big. Here to give you the inside story about the Museum’s plans – and how you can get involved – will be AWM’s Executive Director Nike (pronounced Nicky) Whitcomb and the Chair of the Chicago Literary Council, Reginald Gibbons. It’s all taking place at the next IWOC meeting on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Whitcomb is a highly-regarded advocate for nonprofits and consultant / fundraiser for many arts and cultural institutions. Gibbons has authored nine poetry books to date, including *Creatures of a Day* and *Slow Trains Overhead*. He also happens to be the recipient of literary honors and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and National Endowment for the Arts, to name a few. Both speakers are exuberant at the prospect of having this unique and prestigious museum, representing all genres of writing, right here in the heart of Chi-town.

“Dependent on fundraising, we’re hoping to open late 2015 or early 2016,” says Whitcomb. When it does, it will be a reader’s and writer’s paradise of dynamic, state-of-the-art exhibits, theater space and meeting rooms. Chicago writing clubs and organizations (hello IWOC!) will be welcome to hold author readings, book signings and other events. At this very meeting, IWOC will not only learn about the plans for the Museum, but how to get involved as an AWM member, volunteer or fund raiser, as well as learn about the ample freelance writing opportunities inherent in the philanthropic field.

So drop all your little plans. Get to the meeting. And be one of the privileged few to get a first-hand peek into a monumental enterprise sure to do Chicago – and Mr. Burnham, very proud.

The IWOC meeting will take place Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> in the Page Smith Room, off the lobby of the Gratz Center at 126 E. Chestnut St., Chicago / 115 E. Delaware. We’re just west of Michigan Ave., adjacent to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Discounted parking (after 5 pm, with validation) is located at the 900 N. Michigan Avenue garage. Networking begins at 5 p.m. Main program, 6 p.m. Free admission to IWOC members. Nonmembers, \$15. (\$10 if pre-registered at <http://www.iwoc.org/calendar>. Click on “March 11<sup>th</sup> IWOC Meeting.”) Following the meeting, attendees are invited to go to a nearby restaurant for a buy-your-own dinner to further discuss writing-related topics or to continue networking. For more information, call 800-804-IWOC (800-804-4962) or visit [www.iwoc.org](http://www.iwoc.org).

IWOC is a nonprofit professional association of freelance writers living in the Chicago metropolitan area whose clients range from local to global. Together, IWOC members represent a broad spectrum of writing talents, consultation services, and specialties serving large corporations, small businesses, and not-for-profit organizations.

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