



ASPEN IDEAS  
**Climate**  
CHICAGO

# ATTENTION

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INFORMATION GUIDE 2026



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From where to pick up your event pass and how to get around campus, to where to eat and what to wear, this guide is your go-to resource for answers about attending [Aspen Ideas: Climate](#). We can't wait to see you there!

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## VENUES

Aspen Ideas: Climate Chicago is taking place at three different locations:

- July 20 only: [David Rubenstein Forum at the University of Chicago](#), 1201 E 60th St, Chicago, 60637
- July 21 and 22: [Convene Willis Tower](#), 233 S Wacker Dr, Chicago, 60606
- July 21 only for Evenings at Ideas: [Shedd Aquarium](#), 1200 S DuSable Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, 60605

## SCHEDULE BY DAY (all times CDT)

### Monday, July 20 (Sign Up Required)

- Venue: [University of Chicago, David Rubenstein Forum](#)
- Registration: 12:30pm-8:00pm
- Programming: 2:00pm-5:30pm (reception to follow, optional)

### Tuesday, July 21 (Day)

- Venue: [Convene Willis Tower](#)
- Registration: 7:30am-4:30pm
- Programming: 9:00am-4:45pm

### Tuesday, July 21 (Evening) (Sign Up Required)

- Venue: [Shedd Aquarium](#)
- Registration: 5:00pm-8:30pm
- Programming: 5:30pm-8:30pm

### Wednesday, July 22

- Venue: [Convene Willis Tower](#)
- Registration: 7:30am-4:30pm
- Programming: 9:00am-5:45pm

## LODGING

Hotels in Chicago book quickly, so we encourage attendees to make their reservations early to secure a space that best meets their needs. Registered attendees will have access to a list of preferred hotels with special rates at:

- Hyatt Place Chicago Downtown - the Loop
- Cambria Hotel Chicago Loop - Theatre District
- Canopy Chicago Central Loop
- Palmer House
- Royal Sonesta Chicago Downtown

These discounted blocks are available on a first-come, first-serve basis and fill up quickly so we strongly encourage attendees to book early.



## TRAVELING TO CHICAGO

Chicago is served by two airports: Chicago O'Hare International Airport ([ORD](#)) and Midway International Airport ([MDW](#)). These airports offer various direct flights from cities such as Orlando, Atlanta, Dallas, Boston, Washington DC, Los Angeles, and Seattle on most commercial flights. ORD and MDW feature various services to help passengers reach their final destinations and move around the city. Chicago continues to grow and extend its parameters to provide efficient and greener transportation methods.

## GETTING AROUND

The following transportation options are available to help you access event activities and explore town.

**Courtesy Shuttles:** We are providing shuttle service between the Convene Willis Tower and the University of Chicago David Rubenstein Forum as well as the Convene Willis Tower to the Shedd Aquarium at the following times. Shuttles will arrive every 15 minutes.

### Convene Willis Tower to/from University of Chicago David Rubenstein Forum

- Monday, July 20, Noon-9pm
- Willis Tower pickup location: S Wacker Drive entrance

### Convene Willis Tower to the Shedd Aquarium

- Tuesday, July 21, 4:30pm-9:30pm
- Willis Tower pickup location: S Wacker Drive entrance

**Bike Sharing:** [Divvy Bike Share Program](#) is a fast and convenient way to get around. Stations are located throughout downtown.

**Bus Service:** The City of Chicago has a city-wide bus system. For more details about public transportation, visit the [Chicago Transit Authority's Website](#).

**Parking:** There is limited paid parking at the University of Chicago and Shedd Aquarium. Attendees are encouraged to utilize the courtesy shuttles from Convene Willis Tower during the event.



# REGISTRATION & PASSES

## ONSITE REGISTRATION

Depending on your arrival date and time, you will check-in at the David Rubenstein Forum at University of Chicago, Convene Willis Tower, or the Shedd Aquarium to receive your pass and additional event information.

Registration hours:

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>July 20</b> | Noon-8:00pm* (University of Chicago David Rubenstein Forum)             |
| <b>July 21</b> | 7:30am-4:30pm (Convene Willis Tower)<br>5:00pm-8:00pm* (Shedd Aquarium) |
| <b>July 22</b> | 8:00am-4:00pm (Convene Willis Tower)                                    |

*\*Additional Sign Up Required*

## ACCESS

**Your pass must be worn at all times** when you are attending Aspen Ideas: Climate programming, excursions, receptions, and special events. Attendees will have access to the programming for their designated event segment, including general assemblies, breakouts, book talks, evening sessions, special activities, and more. Seating in the venues is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please plan to arrive early to sessions as seats fill up quickly.



# PROGRAMMING

## PROGRAM TRACKS

Aspen Ideas: Climate is organized around four compelling themes that speak to this unique moment in history:

- **Adaption**
- **Health**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Trust**

Attendees are encouraged to explore sessions across all the program tracks.

## SPEAKERS

Aspen Ideas: Climate is known for bringing together an exceptional mix of visionary thinkers and innovative doers across a range of disciplines and viewpoints. Our 2026 speaker line-ups are live [here](#) or on the Aspen Ideas mobile app.

## AGENDA

The full agenda will be released by early July. Attendees will receive the agenda via email and you'll be able to access the agenda on our mobile app. Attendees will be able to choose from dozens of sessions, including one-on-one interviews, panel discussions, workshops, live podcast recordings, and book talks, covering a range of compelling topics.

## SIGN UPS

Sign-ups are required for some off-campus excursions, select workshops and roundtables, as well as the Opening Reception. Sign-ups open on a date to be announced in early July. You will receive an email with instructions on how to sign up, and sign-up may also be available onsite at registration. Space is limited, so we encourage you to sign up early to reserve your spot.



STAY CONNECTED

### MOBILE APP

The Aspen Ideas: Climate mobile app is the digital hub for the event, providing attendees with information on our program tracks, speakers, agenda, and sessions. The app will be released in early-July. Available on iOS and Android, it will be your go-to guide for your on-the-ground experience, including agenda updates, speaker information, maps, and much more. We will send instructions to attendees via email when the app is ready to download and recommend doing so before arriving in Chicago. Please allow push notifications, as we will use these to give real-time schedule and programming updates.

### WEBSITE

Within one week of Aspen Ideas: Climate, sessions recordings will be available on our website and YouTube channel. We encourage you to watch sessions you may have missed in-person and share links to your favorites via social media.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Help extend the reach of your favorite big ideas from the Aspen Ideas stages to social media! To join the virtual conversation around the events, we encourage you to follow our primary accounts for Aspen Ideas: Climate below and post your own reflections using the event hashtags.

- Instagram: @AspenIdeasClimate
- LinkedIn: Aspen Ideas Climate

**Event Hashtags:** In addition to tagging the account above in your social messages, please use the hashtags #AspenIdeasClimate



# DINING & ATTIRE

## DINING

A variety of snacks and beverages will also be available throughout the event. Lunch will be provided on both full conference days, Tuesday, July 21 and Wednesday, July 22. Beverages and light hors d'oeuvres will be served during each of our evening receptions. Additional food options can be found at the Food Court located on the first floor of Convene Willis Tower.

If you have any dietary restrictions, please email us at [aspenideasclimate@aspeninstitute.org](mailto:aspenideasclimate@aspeninstitute.org).

## WEATHER & ATTIRE

Chicago is a vibrant, walkable city known for its stunning lakefront and diverse neighborhoods. While it's not at a high elevation (just about 600 feet above sea level), it's still important to stay hydrated and wear sunscreen, especially if you'll be spending time outdoors. In late July, the weather is typically warm and humid, with daytime highs in the mid-80s to low 90s, cooler evenings in the 60s, and the occasional afternoon thunderstorm. Light, breathable clothing is ideal, but it's a good idea to bring a light jacket or sweater. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for getting around the city and event venues.



# FIRST-TIMER TIPS

## PLAN YOUR SCHEDULE

- Step outside of your comfort zone and take full advantage of Aspen Ideas: Climate's multi-disciplinary programming. In addition to attending sessions related to your work, branch out and join sessions on topics that expand your thinking into new fields.
- Download the mobile app in early July; it's easy to use and always the most up-to-date source of information.
- Don't miss the interactive workshops, breakouts, and roundtables on the agenda. These offerings allow attendees to dive deeper on select topics and take part in hands-on learning in more intimate settings. Some may require advance sign-up, so keep an eye on your inbox for details.

## MAKE CONNECTIONS

- Aspen Ideas: Climate is an unparalleled networking opportunity, so come eager and ready to meet fellow changemakers working across disciplines. Introduce yourself and feel empowered to start a conversation with anyone, from fellow attendees to speakers. Embrace the formal and informal opportunities to connect with others. Attend the opening reception. Sit with someone new during meals. Meet a new contact on the excursion shuttles.
- What happens in Chicago, shouldn't stay in Chicago. Commit to staying in touch with your new connections after you return home. Through collaboration, we can find new ways to turn ideas into action.

## KEEP AN OPEN MIND

Lead with curiosity as you attend sessions. Come with an open mind and collaborative spirit. Don't be afraid to ask hard questions during Q&As and challenge your own thinking by exploring new topics and perspectives.



## COMMUNITY AGREEMENT

The Aspen Institute is dedicated to advancing a free, just, and equitable society. Consistent with that mission, the Institute is committed to creating a safe and vibrant community that is respectful, inclusive, and welcoming to people from all different backgrounds and across the world. We recognize people will have different viewpoints and perspectives. However, only when we treat people with mutual respect and dignity can we truly come together to share a free and open exchange of ideas. So we created [this Community Agreement](#) as a code of conduct to help stakeholders understand what we expect for them when they are engaging with the Institute community, as well as to guide them on what does not belong. If we all follow this Community Agreement, we can ensure everyone feels empowered to participate and further promote intellectual growth and curiosity.

## PRINCIPLES OF THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Our founding commitment to a humanistic outlook remains at our core and reflects our belief that the dignity of every person is paramount, that social progress is imperative and attainable, that we can achieve breakthroughs by engaging with humanity's accumulated wisdom, and that the inner life and values-based leadership require nurturing. As we have gained new insights and understanding over the years, our conception of these points has changed. But our commitment to this humanistic outlook endures.

Our programs today reflect our foundational belief that dialogue among diverse people and across diverse perspectives is essential both to improving our understanding and to finding solutions to modern challenges. This enduring commitment has enabled the Institute to make unique contributions in the search for understanding and solutions.

We seek to engage [people of integrity and outstanding character](#) from an ever more diverse cross-section of society. Read more about the [Principles of the Aspen Institute](#).



# QUESTIONS?

## HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have additional questions about attending Aspen Ideas: Climate, we are available to help. Please contact us via email [aspenideasclimate@aspeninstitute.org](mailto:aspenideasclimate@aspeninstitute.org) and someone from our team will get back to you.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Passes are transferable but not refundable. To request a substitution, please email us [here](#).