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**President and Mrs. Obama Announce Conceptual Vision for Design of  
Obama Presidential Center**

*Campus Setting Will Include Presidential Museum, Public Plaza and Space that Features a 'Working Center for Citizenship;' Plan Revitalizes Jackson Park to Re-Establish Connection to Lake Michigan and Provide Open Community Gathering Space*

Chicago, IL – Today, at a community event hosted by President and Mrs. Obama, the Obama Foundation released the conceptual vision and site map for the Obama Presidential Center. More than a building or museum, the Obama Presidential Center will be a living, working center for engagement – an ongoing project for the community and world to shape what it means to be an active citizen in the 21st century. The Center will include a state of the art museum, classrooms, labs, and outdoor spaces, and it will conduct programs that will give visitors not just memories, but real tools to create change in their own communities. It will be based on the South Side of Chicago but, via partnerships, programs, and digital initiatives, have projects all over the city, the country, and the world.

The Center will be integrated into Jackson Park, a historic park in the heart of the South Side of Chicago, the community the Obamas call home. The Center will strengthen the economic climate of the community by bringing hundreds of thousands of visitors to the South Side every year, creating new jobs and opportunities on the South Side, and revitalizing historic Jackson Park.

The design concept released today envisions three buildings – the Museum, Forum, and Library – forming a campus surrounding a public plaza. Honoring the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, the Center is designed as a campus in historic Jackson Park to help unlock the full potential of the park as a recreational destination and center for gathering on the South Side for families, community members and visitors alike and to re-establish the South Side's connection to the Lagoon and Lake Michigan. The campus will be open to the public and the Center will include indoor and outdoor spaces to gather, learn, create and collaborate.

The Museum, the tallest of the three buildings, will hold exhibition space, public spaces, offices, and education and meeting rooms. The Forum and Library buildings will be community resources for study and Foundation programming. The Foundation is currently exploring the possibility of locating a Chicago Public Library branch on the site, but as always will continue to solicit input from the community as to how the Library building can best be used to meet community needs. The Forum will contain Foundation offices, an auditorium, restaurant, and public garden. The Forum and Library will be single story structures with planted roof terraces.

The buildings will be connected below grade and clad in a lively, warm and variegated stone while glass openings are deliberately placed to form courtyards, mark entries, frame views, and bring in natural light. The Center will be a real-life symbol of President and Mrs. Obama's commitment to sustainability; the project will be certified at a minimum LEED v4 Platinum. The total size of the Center will range between 200-225,000 gross square feet, but the concept site plan imagines a re-shaping of the Park that will result in a total net increase in green space for Jackson Park.

"The Obamas want to create a safe, warm, inviting place that brings people in, teaches them something new, and inspires them to create change in their own communities. The Center will be a place for doing, not just looking or listening," said **Marty Nesbitt, Chair of the Obama Foundation**. "The place we are developing will be integrally a part of Jackson Park. Our team's approach is to weave the project into the park and use the Center to unlock the full potential of the park and engage the community in the Foundation's work."

**David Simas, Chief Executive Officer of the Obama Foundation**, "The Obamas charged the Foundation with developing an engaging and welcoming Center that will inspire people globally to 'show up' for the most important office: citizen. The Center is designed as a campus to integrate into historic Jackson Park and to encourage local residents and visitors alike to explore the community and bring people together for events, recreation, and programming. We are pleased to be working with community leaders, local institutions including the Museum of Science and Industry and DuSable Museum, the University of Chicago, and City of Chicago on the vision for the Center and Jackson Park, and look forward to receiving feedback from the community in the coming weeks and months."

"I am thrilled to join President Obama and Mrs. Obama as we outline the vision for both the Obama Presidential Center and Jackson Park as a whole," said **Mayor Rahm Emanuel**. "This vision will enhance the historic landscape of Jackson Park as originally envisioned by Frederick Olmsted, and we all look forward to engaging with residents as we begin the community process to turn this vision into reality in a way that maximizes economic development and opportunity in Woodlawn, South Shore and Washington Park."

"The design for the Obama Presidential Center promises to bring a beautiful new addition to Jackson Park and the South Side community," said **Robert J. Zimmer, President of the University of Chicago**. "The Center will benefit the entire Chicago region as a catalyst for economic development, cultural enrichment and community programming."

The design team for the OPC is led by Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects | Partners and Interactive Design Architects. The landscape design team is comprised of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Site Design Group, and Living Habitats. Ralph Appelbaum Associates will lead the exhibition design team for the OPC, in partnership with Civic Projects and Normal, and artists and educators Amanda Williams, Andres Hernandez, and Norman Teague. The Center Consortium, a tri-venture comprised of Jones Lang LaSalle, McKissack & McKissack and Ardmore Associates, is leading the project management of the design and construction of the OPC. To ensure that the work of the Foundation is informed by a diverse set of viewpoints and is in line with its values of diversity and inclusion, the Obama Foundation announced the formation of an Inclusion Council in October 2016.

“The design approach for the Center is guided by the goal of creating a true community asset that seeks to inspire and empower the public to take on the greatest challenges of our time. The Obamas were clear that they wanted the Center to seamlessly integrate into the Park and the community, and include diverse public spaces. Our hope is that this design for the Center interspersed with Jackson Park honors the legacy of Olmsted and Vaux and unlocks potential and opportunity for Jackson Park, the South Side, and the City of Chicago,” said **Tod Williams, Billie Tsien and Dina Griffin of Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects | Partners and Interactive Design Architects.**

For more information on the design of the Obama Presidential Center, including the site plan, site context plan, rendering image and photo of the design model, please click [here](#). For more information on the Obama Foundation, please visit [Obama.org](http://Obama.org).

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