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Coordinates: 41.88393°N 87.63020°W﻿ / ﻿﻿ / ﻿

# Richard J. Daley Center

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia  
(Redirected from Daley Plaza)

The **Richard J. Daley Center**, also known by its courtyard **Daley Plaza** and named after longtime mayor Richard J. Daley, is the premier civic center of the City of Chicago in Illinois. Situated on Randolph and Washington Streets between Dearborn and Clark Streets, the Richard J. Daley Center is considered one of Chicago's architectural highlights. The main building was designed in the international architectural style by Jacques Brownson of the firm C. F. Murphy Associates and completed in 1965. At the time it was the tallest building in Chicago, but only held this title for four years until the John Hancock Center was completed. Originally known as the **Chicago Civic Center**, the building was renamed for Mayor Daley on December 27, 1976, seven days after his death.<sup>[1]</sup> The 648-foot (198 m), thirty-one story building features Cor-Ten, a self-weathering steel. Cor-Ten was designed to rust, actually strengthening the structure and giving the building its distinctive red and brown color. The Daley Center has 30 floors, and is the tallest building in the world with fewer than 40 stories (a typical 648-foot (198 m) building would have 50-60 stories).

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## Building features

The Richard J. Daley Center houses more than 120 court and hearing rooms as well as the Cook County Law Library, offices of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, and certain court-related divisions of the Sheriff's Department. The building also houses office space for both the city and Cook County, of which the City of Chicago is its seat of government.

## Daley Plaza

Daley Plaza is the courtyard adjacent to the building, occupying the southern half of the block occupied by the building.

The plaza is dominated by an untitled Cor-ten steel 50-foot (15 m) sculpture

### Richard J. Daley Center



Richard J. Daley Center is Chicago's premier civic center and features a massive sculpture by Pablo Picasso.



A view of the plaza at night.

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Chief of Staff of the United States Army Gen. George W. Casey, Jr. and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley recite the Pledge of Allegiance during May 24, 2008 Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony at Daley Plaza.

by Pablo Picasso (usually called "The Picasso"). Completed in 1967, it was a gift to the City of Chicago from the artist. Though controversial for its abstract form, it quickly became a Chicago landmark. The plaza also features an in-ground fountain and an eternal flame memorial to the dead from World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

The plaza serves as a location for many civic functions including weekly farmers' markets in the summer, regular ethnic festivals, and

the meeting place for Chicago's Critical Mass ride.

The plaza was used extensively in the climactic scenes of the 1980 film *The Blues Brothers*. The interior of the building, as well as the plaza, the Picasso, and the neighboring James R. Thompson Center are also featured in the 1993 film *The Fugitive*. While filming the movie *The Dark Knight*, instead of using the Chicago Board of Trade Building as the location for the headquarters of Wayne Enterprises as in *Batman Begins*, film director Christopher Nolan used the Richard J. Daley Center.

Farhad Khoiee-Abbasi, a public protester, is a frequent fixture at the northwest corner of the plaza, near City Hall. Khoiee-Abbasi has been photographed here many times, with his well-dressed appearance, his odd signs, and his general refusal to speak or acknowledge those around him making him a minor celebrity.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

## Adjacent buildings

Adjacent to the Richard J. Daley Plaza is the landmark Chicago City Hall. Declared a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it houses offices for the Mayor of Chicago, aldermen of Chicago's various wards and chambers for the Chicago City Council. Directly south of the Daley Center is the Cook County Administration Building which is full of office space for County employees. Block 37 containing 108 North State Street is to the east.



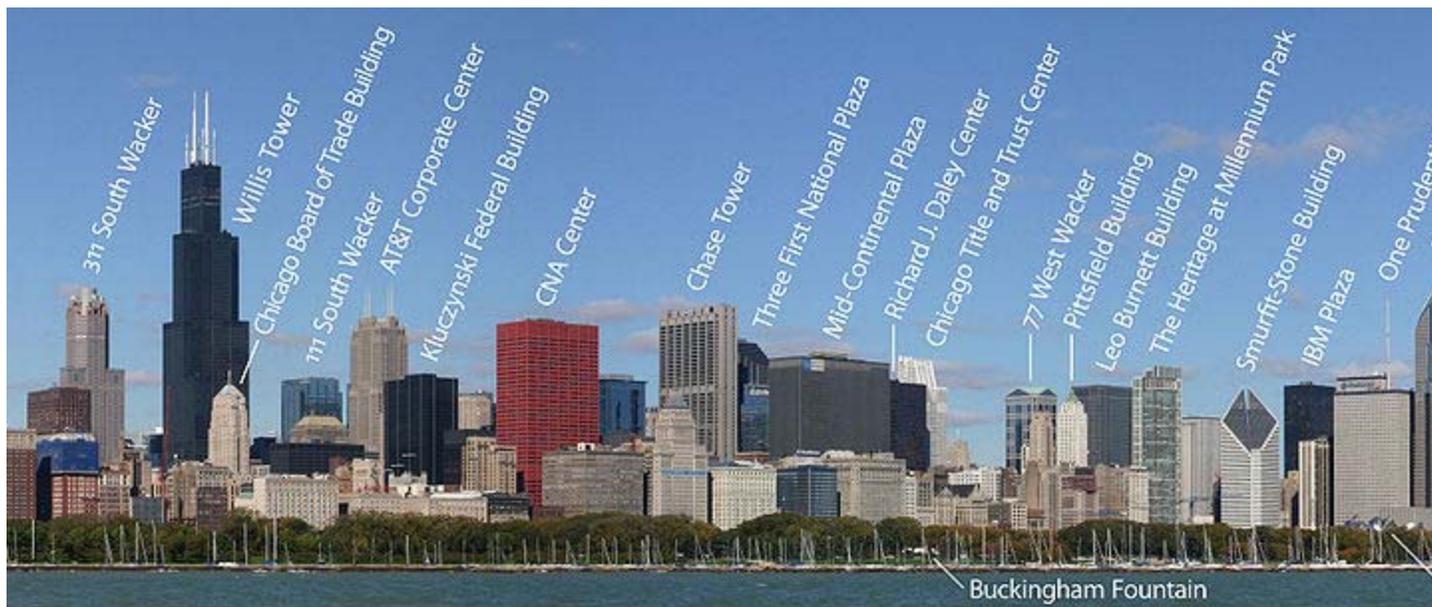
June 8, 2006 Richard J. Daley Center behind Block 37 construction site and signage. (Also in background left to right: Chicago City Hall, Chicago Title & Trust Center & James R. Thompson Center)



The water in the fountain was dyed red in honor the Chicago Blackhawks Stanley Cup run in 2010.

## Position in skyline

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## See also

- Chicago architecture
- List of buildings
- List of skyscrapers
- List of tallest buildings in Chicago
- List of tallest buildings in the United States
- World's tallest structures

## References

1. ^ "Daley Center" ([http://www.pbcchicago.com/content/projects/daley\\_center.asp](http://www.pbcchicago.com/content/projects/daley_center.asp)) . Public Building Commission of Chicago. [http://www.pbcchicago.com/content/projects/daley\\_center.asp](http://www.pbcchicago.com/content/projects/daley_center.asp). Retrieved 2009-09-11.
2. ^ Selecman, D.L.. "Dan's people: One-on-one with the FBI sign guy". *Reservoir Magazine*.
3. ^ Boose, Greg (17 April 2009). "The Sign Guy Goes on Hunger Strike" ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/greg-boose/the-sign-guy-goes-on-hung\\_b\\_187190.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/greg-boose/the-sign-guy-goes-on-hung_b_187190.html)) . *The Huffington Post*. Retrieved 12 July 2010.

## External links

- City of Chicago (<http://egov.cityofchicago.org/city/webportal/home.do>)
- Cook County (<http://www.co.cook.il.us/>)
- Richard J. Daley Center on Emporis (<http://www.emporis.com/en/wm/bu/?id=116757>)
- Daley Plaza Eternal Flame ([http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/webportal/portalContentItemAction.do?blockName=Chicago+War+Memorials%2fKorean+War%2fI+Want+To&deptMainCategoryOID=-536899670&channelId=0&entityName=Chicago+War+Memorials&topChannelName=SubAgency&contentOID=536960480&Failed\\_Reason=Invalid+timestamp,+engine+has+been+restarted&contentTypeName=COC\\_EDITORIAL&com.broadvision.session.new=Yes&Failed\\_Page=%2fwebportal%2fportalContentItemAction.do](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/webportal/portalContentItemAction.do?blockName=Chicago+War+Memorials%2fKorean+War%2fI+Want+To&deptMainCategoryOID=-536899670&channelId=0&entityName=Chicago+War+Memorials&topChannelName=SubAgency&contentOID=536960480&Failed_Reason=Invalid+timestamp,+engine+has+been+restarted&contentTypeName=COC_EDITORIAL&com.broadvision.session.new=Yes&Failed_Page=%2fwebportal%2fportalContentItemAction.do))

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Preceded by <b>Chicago Board of Trade Building</b>	<b>Tallest building in Chicago</b> 1965—1969 648 feet (198 m)	Succeeded by <b>John Hancock Center</b>
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Categories: Skyscrapers in Chicago, Illinois | Buildings and structures completed in 1965

| Landmarks in Chicago, Illinois | Skyscrapers between 150 and 199 meters

| Office buildings in Chicago, Illinois | County courthouses in Illinois

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