

MUSIC, MAGIC, AND MURDER

A STORYTELLING TOUR OF CHICAGO'S MOST FASCINATING BUILDING

Presented by Author Keir Graff

In the 127 years since its dedication, Chicago's Fine Arts Building has witnessed the creation of countless works of art—and even a murder or two.

In his new book, *Chicago's Fine Arts Building: Music, Magic, and Murder* (Trope Publishing, 2025), Keir Graff tells the story of a place that time forgot—but that it's still possible to visit. Standing proudly at 410 South Michigan Avenue, the Fine Arts Building is home to musicians, painters, violin makers, dancers, singers, architects, filmmakers, writers, and an endlessly surprising assortment of other creatives. It's a place where the halls reverberate with music, punctuated by the slamming doors of manually operated elevators. Accompanied by a dynamic multimedia presentation featuring contemporary photographs and rare historic images, Graff shares the building's most memorable stories while explaining how this unique cultural treasure has defied the odds. The Fine Arts Building remains Chicago's most vibrant and diverse home for artists while touching the lives of countless thousands of art lovers. It's a story Graff is uniquely situated to tell—he's a building tenant, too.

For bookings, contact Keir Graff at keir@keirgraff.com

To learn more about the book, visit keirgraff.com; view images at Trope.com.



FINALIST for Chicago Review of Books Award and Chicago Writers Association Book of the Year!

“Chock-full of fascinating anecdotes and striking photography.” —*Chicago*

“A stunning coffee table book of images and history” —*Windy City Reviews*

“Keir Graff—a fiction writer first—has created a fresh and exciting book that was a pleasure to read.”
—*Chicago History Podcast*

“Music, Magic, and Murder” Program Details

Cost: \$350–\$1,000

Length: 60–90 minutes

Tech requirements:

- Venue-provided projector and screen (I have a Mac laptop with an adapter)
- Microphone (hands-free preferred) and PA

Book sales:

- Please let me know if your organization plans to purchase books or whether I can make my own arrangements for sales.

“Keir Graff is a storyteller. He presented facts in an enjoyable and captivating talk. The audience was intrigued and receptive. Highly recommended.”

— Maria Hrycelak, President, Kalo Foundation (Chicago, IL)

I offer other programs, too. Contact me if you are interested in:

FOR ADULT WRITERS

Capture Readers with Conflict (craft talk for intermediate to advanced authors)

Secrets of a Working Writer (for all aspiring authors)

Tales of a Fifth Grade Hero (for aspiring authors of children’s books)

FOR YOUNG READERS & WRITERS

From Kid Author to Author For Kids (keynote address for young authors and readers)

Six-Sentence Stories (one-hour classroom workshop for young authors)

Crash Course for Young Authors (week-long half-day workshop, ideal for summer camps)