



Photos by Kevin Zheng

# Chicago Auto Show changes gears for 2016

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The Chicago Auto Show comes back once again for another exciting year. Being the largest automotive show in North America, all the top manufacturers are here in Chicago to show off their new advancements in technology and aesthetics. The Auto Show is in town this year from February 13 to the 21. Whether you're interested in something modest from Ford, Chevrolet, Toyota, GMC, and the like, or want to get your blood pumping with Audi,

Maserati, and the Super Car Gallery, the floor is packed wall to wall with experiences. Tickets are still only \$12 for an all-day pass for adults and \$7 for children and seniors. To travel to McCormick Place from IIT just use the Green Line's newly completed Cermak-McCormick Place station.

This year, the layout has changed and there are some new sights to be seen. Even for the experienced Auto Show goer, it will be a breath of fresh air to see the floor again. The super car showcase has many newer cars this year as well. There is even a brand new test

track! Toyota has a test track inside and they're showing off their new Rav4. The coolest feature is the four cameras all around the perimeter of the car whose images are stitched together in real time to give a top down augmented view of the car.

Not all of the newness of the show adds to the excitement. The Dodge Charger racing simulator, which I proclaimed to be the best of the show last year, has been upgraded to a Viper. All of the dials and knobs still work and the experience is very convincing, except for the driving. Many of the simulators this year

feel much weaker with extremely heavy driver assists. The Ford simulator even automatically brakes if you lift off the gas.

The funniest change comes from Chrysler. They've placed their best and more exciting offering front and center on a rotating platform. Are you as excited for the new Pacifica, their minivan to replace the Town and Country, as they are? Maserati is showing off their new designer packages. Change isn't always for the best, but on the whole, the show promises to be exciting whether it's your first, or your third time.