

# Los Campesinos! electrifies Taste of Randolph festival

By Ryan Kamphuis  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It's not that often that a band like Los Campesinos! comes through Chicago. With shows that feel more like dance parties because of the many crazy fans clapping and singing along, Los Campesinos! is known for playing sad, angsty songs shrouded in slick, addictive pop melodies. Fans came to the Taste of Randolph on June 15 to be part of this dance party and to take part in the blissful melancholy that only Los Camp can provide.

A seven-piece indie-pop group, Los Campesinos! was formed in 2006 in Cardiff, and has since gone on to release 4 albums and several EPs. Their English roots were reflected in the England soccer jerseys that they were wearing on stage. Before the concert, the band was spotted watching the England/Sweden Eurocup match in a Chicago pub. Last in Chicago in January touring to support their Hello Sadness album, Los Camp were now in town to kick off their next American tour.

The band's set focused on tracks from Hello Sadness, but also made sure to touch on classic hits like Romance is Boring and You! Me! Dancing! Despite having been on break for

several weeks, the band played their songs very well with few mistakes, and with the chemistry of a band who has been touring together for months. Lead singer Gareth Campesinos! also played the crowd well between songs, making them laugh and feel comfortable. A good example of this was Gareth once asking, "how 'bout 'dem Cubs?" only to remark seconds later, "I have no idea what that means!"

Despite their well-played and raucous show the band drew some boos from their adoring crowd when they left the stage after only playing for 50 minutes. They returned minutes later to close with an anthemic version of Sweet Dreams, Sweet Cheeks, which brought their concert to an hour long - a respectable time for a show at a block festival, but still shorter than many fans were expecting.

Despite the length, Los Campesinos! still put on a show that entertained their fans, instigated a fevered dance party, and left many feeling awesome. Even with the hopelessness of the lyrics they sang, the humor and wit of the band always shone through and gave their fans a good time. Los Campesinos! was an excellent end to the first night of the Taste of Randolph, and if their first show is any indication, they are going to be playing one of their best tours yet over the coming weeks.



Photo by Ryan Kamphuis

## Chicago 'hoods: best places to eat, chill, & explore

By Ryan Kamphuis  
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Chicago. The third largest city in the United States. The cultural epicenter of the Midwest. Home to some of the most storied sports franchises in the country, both for being good and bad. Site of the Sears Tower, the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere.

Chicago has many claims to fame, and because of that, many things to see. The big things to see are known by any person who visits the city: Navy Pier, the Mag Mile, the Sears Tower, Wrigley Field, the many fantastic museums. But for someone new to living in the city it can be difficult to find out about the many awesome, off the beaten path attractions that the city has to offer. The longer one lives in the city, the more one realizes that the big attractions of the city are its neighborhoods. Chicago is home to 77 distinct neighborhoods, each offering a different culture, vibe, and feel. As a new Chicago local, here are a few neighborhoods you should definitely visit. This is by no means an extensive guide. The neighborhoods mentioned have so many more things to check out other than what is mentioned here; these are just intended as places to start at before exploring. There are also many other fantastic neighborhoods to check out, all it takes is a U-Pass and the yearning to explore!

Bridgeport

IIT's neighbor to the West, Bridgeport is an often overlooked Chicago neighborhood. Home to the city's Irish, the White Sox, and the Daley family that ruled Chicago for over 50 years, Bridgeport is a quickly up-and-coming neighborhood. Many IIT students call Bridgeport home, and it's home to many fantastic restaurants and stores.

Make sure to check out Pleasant House Bakery on 31st and Morgan. An English-style bakery, Pleasant House serves up many different kinds of meat pies, and is known as being one of the best cheap-eats restaurants in the city. Pleasant House is actually considered the second best restaurant in Chicago on Yelp.com.

Just a few doors down from Pleasant House is the home of Bridgeport Coffee. Bridgeport is a cozy coffee shop open since 2004. Considered the best coffee shop in Chicago by many, Bridgeport Coffee roasts its own beans and works hard to support the community it calls home. If you're a coffee fan, you'll love Bridgeport Coffee.

Wicker Park

Once an ethnic neighborhood overlooked by tourists and locals alike, Wicker Park has grown into a trendy neighborhood that can now be called the center of indie culture in the city. While some parts of the neighborhood take the indie culture a step too far and turn it into snobby-hipster culture, the neighborhood is home to many unique shops and restaurants unlike any other in the city. Wicker Park is lo-

cated just off of the Damen Blue Line stop.

Book lovers will enjoy Myopic Books, a used bookstore on Milwaukee Avenue just east of the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue, Damen Avenue, and North Avenue. Upon stepping into Myopic, you are greeted with a labyrinth of books. Everything has been done to cram as many books into the store as possible, which results in a store full of nooks, crannies, odd hallways, and secluded reading areas. It's an exciting place to find a book, read, and relax. The books are also reasonably priced, and the staff is knowledgeable, making Myopic a great bookstore for someone looking for a new book to read but not sure where to start.

Wicker Park is also home to The Wormhole, a 1980s themed coffee shop. The Wormhole is just a few blocks Southeast from Myopic. Decked out with everything from movie posters to lunchboxes to a full size replica of the DeLorean time machine from Back to the Future, The Wormhole is an excellent place to enjoy a cup of coffee. Not only do they serve a great cup of joe, the Wormhole has several TVs with Nintendo hooked up so you can play all the video games you played when you were a kid. They also have plenty of table space and fast, free wireless internet for anyone looking to work on some homework while they sip their coffee.

Pilsen

Located on the lower West Side of Chicago, Pilsen is considered by many to be the center of the Latino population in

Chicago. Because of this, there are many restaurants and stores that are excellent purveyors of the Latino culture to the entire city. It's quite easy to get to Pilsen from the Loop, one only needs to take the Pink Line to 18th, or the Orange Line to Halsted.

Pilsen is home to the National Museum of Mexican Art. A small gallery that focuses on teaching visitors about Mexican and Mexican-American culture and history through art, the museum is a very interesting place to visit. Its collection is quite vibrant and is fascinating to those who both know Mexican art well and those who don't. The collection is well-curated, and all of the pieces serve a purpose in advancing the goal of the museum to educate. The museum is free to get into, and is located a few doors East of the intersection of Wolcott Avenue and 19th Street. The museum is just a few blocks away from the 18th Pink Line stop.

Being home to such a strong Latino community, it is no surprise that Pilsen has a large assortment of Mexican restaurants and taquerias. An excellent restaurant to check out is the Restaurante Nuevo Leon on 18th Street between Ashland Avenue and Laflin Street, which is just a few blocks east of the 18th Pink Line stop. Nuevo Leon is a family-run Mexican restaurant that has been open for over 40 years. Dishing up authentic Mexican dishes that are both delicious and affordable, the restaurant is very popular and viewed as one of the best in Pilsen. Make sure to get a glass of the horchada - it is to die for!

## IIT, Museum of Science & Industry's chemical bond

By Harshita Iyer  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Of the many attractions and things to see in Chicago, the Museum of Science and Industry holds a special place in the hearts and minds of many IIT students. In the words of Brett Nicholas, Manager of Guest Programs at MSI, "IIT and MSI have very similar aims, ultimately. Both organizations care about encouraging the study of science and engineering and to inspire the creative genius in people."

MSI is more than just a regular attraction to IIT students, though. The IIT-MSI relationship goes much further than that. In 2007, the two organizations started a very special collaborative internship program. MSI selects 24 IIT students to volunteer at the museum either in the fall or spring semester, and then 8 of these volunteers are selected for an internship the following summer. During a student's volunteer semester, they get to go into MSI for four days on the weekend throughout

the semester and spend a day talking to guests about specific science topics. Once they complete their four volunteer days they are eligible to apply for the summer internship. The internship is a full time job that lasts the entire summer. The work performed during this internship involves doing some of the Museum's Guest Experience programs. These include performing shows like "Happy Brrrthday" a show about liquid nitrogen, "Poop Happens" a skit that talks about the process of digestion in a light hearted manner, and "Dissect an Eye at MSI," where guests learn about vision by dissection a cow eyeball. Though this may seem like a lot of work, any MSI-IIT intern could tell you that it is an amazing way to spend one's summer.

Both IIT and MSI enjoy many benefits as a result of this program. On IIT's side, it helps students gain a sense of how to communicate about topics in science, while helping them heighten their confidence levels with public speaking in general. Students who have gone through the volunteer process and the

internship often talk about how it completely transformed their whole outlook on what they wanted to do with their lives, and about how it made them go from being shy and self-conscious on stage to treating the stage like a second home.

On MSI's side, the museum gets to see college students make connections with guests and inspire them to explore the world of science and technology. The MSI-IIT program is also open to undergraduates of all majors, not just those majoring in a STEM field.

Nicholas has seen dramatic changes in people during the internship; he talked about how students came in quiet and introverted, and by the time the summer ended, they were bursting with enthusiasm for science, and its propagation.

This enthusiasm continued on past the internship, which led many previous IIT interns to become employees at MSI. In many ways, the IIT-MSI relationship has been a blessing to both the university and the museum.

Visit the  
Museum of Science  
& Industry

Summer Hours:

9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Directions:

CTA: Green Line to Garfield, transfer to Eastbound 55 bus

Bike: Lakeshore Bike Path, left to 57th St. underpass