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**CLOUD GATE SCULPTURE IN MILLENNIUM PARK  
TO BE COMPLETELY UNTENTED BY SUNDAY, AUGUST 28**

Anish Kapoor's monumental sculpture is now more than 70% complete;  
the project's final stage will begin in October

Millennium Park officials today announced the removal of the tent surrounding Anish Kapoor's monumental Cloud Gate sculpture. Weather permitting, the sculpture will be completely untented and open to the public by Sunday, August 28, at which time it will be more than 70% complete. The welding, grinding, sanding and polishing of all the seams have been finished on both the top and sides of the popular piece of public art.

Cloud Gate will remain uncovered and completely accessible to the public throughout the month of September. On Monday, October 3, workers will return to finish the final phase of work – grinding and polishing the seams inside the “omphalos,” the 27-foot high vortex underneath the sculpture. This stage of work will not require the re-tenting of Cloud Gate; however, the archway entrances to the omphalos will be enclosed in clear plastic and will not be accessible during this time. The entire exterior of the piece will remain open except for a small construction staging area on the west side.

“People will be amazed when they see the difference between what Cloud Gate looked like when it opened last summer and how it looks today,” said Millennium Park Executive Director Helen Doria. “Visitors to Millennium Park will be able to see the seamless reflection of the Chicago skyline as Anish Kapoor intended. We are extremely grateful for the continuing hard work, dedication and creativity of all the people who have been a part of this process, in particular those who have been working on site, and especially for the patience and support of the people of Chicago and visitors to the park.”

“As we learned this summer, people appreciate the opportunity to watch these artisans at work. By erecting a clear plastic wall around the openings to the omphalos, we will offer that same opportunity to people visiting the park later this fall,” said Robert Wislow, Chairman and CEO of U.S. Equities Realty, the firm retained by the Millennium Park, Inc. to manage the project. “Although it is difficult to determine an exact completion date due to the winter weather and unique nature of the project, we anticipate that this final phase of the work will be finished by the end of the winter.”

Cloud Gate is one of the world's largest outdoor sculptures, at 110 tons, 66 feet long, 42 feet wide and 33 feet high. Its surface is forged of a series of 168 highly polished, stainless steel 3/8” “plates” which have been welded together, ground, sanded and polished to a seamless mirror-smooth finish.

**Approximate Schedule:**

***(please note that all dates are approximate and all work is weather permitting – updated schedule will be sent the week of 8/22)***

- Saturday, August 20  
South wall and viewing areas along the west wall of the tent are removed

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## **Cloud Gate Update/ADD ONE**

- Monday, August 22 – Tuesday, August 23  
Crane arrives to remove the tent's fabric covering and aluminum "ribs"
- Tuesday, August 23 – Wednesday, August 24  
Ribs of the tent are disassembled and removed and stacked on trucks
- Thursday, August 25 – Saturday, August 27  
Pavement reinstalled, debris removed, area cleaned
- Sunday, August 28  
Cloud Gate opened to the public (exact time TBD)
- August 28 – October 3  
Cloud Gate is open to the public and available for unobstructed viewing
- Monday, October 3 – Wednesday, October 5  
Workers erect the plastic covering in the archway beneath the sculpture and install construction equipment in an enclosed staging area
- Winter 2005-2006  
Grinding and polishing are completed in the omphalos. The entire exterior of the piece, except for the small construction staging area, will remain open to the public.

## **About Millennium Park**

Located in downtown Chicago on Michigan Avenue between Randolph and Monroe Streets, the 24.5-acre Millennium Park is an unprecedented center for world-class art, music, architecture and landscape design. Among the park's prominent features are the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; the contemporary Lurie Garden designed by the team of Gustafson Guthrie Nichols, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture.

Millennium Park will be partially closed for a private event on Thursday, September 8.

For more information about Millennium Park, please visit [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org) or call 312-742-1168.

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