



HISTORIC CHICAGO
BUNGALOW ASSOCIATION

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Expo 2009 Presents Financing Resources

Visitors can access grants, loans and one-on-one advice

CHICAGO (September 28, 2009) – Homeowners looking for smart and thrifty ways to make their homes more livable and affordable will find both great ideas and ways to finance them at this year's **Historic Chicago Bungalow and Green Home Expo 2009**, to be held Saturday, October 17 from 10am to 4pm at the Merchandise Mart.

With more than 130 exhibitors, 21 workshops and one-on-one consultations with AIA architects and area lenders, both homeowners and home buyers will find what they need. Homeowners can not only learn how to improve their home and make it more energy efficient, but they'll also find out about the loans and grants available to help them do it. Home buyers will find realtors who specialize in bungalows as well as green and historic homes, get a 'mortgage check-up' and visit the booths of a number of reliable City of Chicago partner lenders.

For those interested in energy efficiency there will be many programs to choose from. Owners of certified Historic Chicago Bungalows will learn about HCBA Energy Savers grants which provide owners up to \$4,000 to make their homes more energy efficient. Information and guidelines will be available at the Expo, and those who bring their Tax I.D. number and a photo of their Bungalow can get certified by HCBA on the spot.

Owners of other Chicago homes can learn about and sign up for a number of energy-efficiency programs supported by the Department of Environment such as Chicago Greencorps, which helps families with low to moderate incomes weatherize their homes, and the upcoming Healthy Southeast Chicago program scheduled to begin in the spring, which will help homeowners in southeast neighborhoods increase their energy efficiency in partnership with the Spanish Coalition for Housing and Centro Comunitario Juan Diego.

Also at the Expo, visitors will find exhibitors like the Community and Economic Development Association, which offers a Weatherization Program and Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and ComEd and Peoples Energy, which offer a number of programs to help families save on their utilities.

Other programs that owners and buyers will want to learn about include the TaxSmart mortgages and rehabilitation/improvement loans available to owners of Bungalows, single-family homes and small apartment buildings alike. Offered by the City of Chicago in partnership with dozens of Chicago's finest lenders, TaxSmart Mortgages provide federal income tax credits to qualified homebuyers equal to 20% of the interest paid on the mortgage.

Workshops on financing home buying, home improvements and home energy saving systems will be held throughout the day and housing counselors and loan officers from NHS, Bank of America and Harris Bank will be available at the "Mortgage Check-Up" station to answer questions and discuss the needs of home buyers and homeowners and how best to meet them.

Of course attendees will also gain inspiration and knowledge from the wide variety of workshops and exhibitors who will be showcasing everything from arts and crafts furniture and tiles to energy efficient appliances, from restoration services to great deals on financing renovations or fundamental repairs.

Admission to the Expo is free, street and lot parking are available, and the Merchandise Mart can be easily reached by public transportation, with a Brown Line CTA stop immediately in front of the building.

Presenting sponsors of the 2009 Expo include Abt Electronics, Bank of America, Comcast, the Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust and Peoples Gas. Other sponsors include Chicago Association of Realtors, DNR Construction, Inc., Harris Bank, Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, Illinois Housing Development Authority, JL Construction and Park National Bank.

For more information on the 2009 Expo, please visit the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association at www.chicagobungalow.org.

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