

773.472.1865,
theleighgallery.com

Matthew Rahman Gallery

The well-appointed Wicker Park/Bucktown space features a carefully curated collection of midcentury-modern furnishings and urban contemporary art, in addition to a changing collection of rare vintage finds and curiosities. 1659 W. Chicago Ave., 773.245.3182, matthewrahmangallery.com

Monique Meloche

Gallery Young emerging artists take center stage in this malleable Bucktown gallery that hosts large- and small-scale installations exploring patterns found in nature, recycled objects, mixed media and conceptual art that does not fit neatly into a category. 2154

W. Division St., 773.252.0299,
moniquemeloche.com

Primitive Art Works

More than a showroom, the West Loop business prides itself in an immersive global experience, as it showcases one-of-a-kind African art, antique Chinese furniture, Japanese woodblocks, and tribal textiles and jewelry. 130 N. Jefferson St., 312.575.9600, beprimitive.com

Rhona Hoffman Gallery

Rooted in minimal and conceptual art, this longtime gallery in the West Loop specializes in international contemporary sociopolitical art in all media, including photography, sculpture and works on paper. 118 N. Peoria St., 312.455.1990, rhoffmangallery.com

Zolla/Lieberman

Gallery The River North institution, which jump-started the career of Deborah Butterfield (known for her expressive found-object equine sculptures), hosts contemporary exhibits by sculptors, installation artists and painters. 325 W. Huron St., 312.944.1990, zollaliebermangallery.com

MUSIC

Andy's Jazz Club & Restaurant

Listen to some of the most innovative jazz musicians nightly at this cozy lounge with an American dinner menu. 11 E. Hubbard St., 312.642.6805, andysjazzclub.com

B.L.U.E.S. Live electric blues plays every night at this intimate space, where fans can

see musicians up close. 2519 N. Halsted St., 773.528.1012, chicagobluesbar.com

Blue Chicago At this casual late-night blues club, guests enjoy music and drinks into the wee hours. 536 N. Clark St., 312.661.0100, bluechicago.com

Buddy Guy's Legends

The classic blues club, founded by multi-Grammy winner Buddy Guy, hosts seasoned and up-and-coming acts seven nights a week. It also serves Louisiana-style Cajun and soul food. 700 S. Wabash Ave., 312.427.1190, buddyguy.com

Chicago Opera Theater

Under the direction of Andreas Mitisek, the adventurous mid-sized opera company specializes in early opera by Henry Purcell and Claudio Monteverdi, as well as



FUNNY PEOPLE
With a roster of star-status alums (Tina Fey, Bill Murray and Amy Poehler are just a few), Second City's shows are a must-do on your itinerary.

OFF SCRIPT

The art of improv is alive and well here, as these three spots prove. We dare you not to laugh. —Lisa Shames

The iO Theater (1501 N. Kingsbury St., 312.929.2401, ioimprov.com) has earned a reputation as one of the city's top spots for long-form improvisational performances. In its newest and largest home, it features four theaters, two bars and an expanded training center. >>> For more than 50 years, **The Second City** (1616 N. Wells St., 312.337.3992, secondcity.com) has grown to become the world's premier comedy club, theater and school of improvisation, dishing all kinds of laughter from performers such as Dan Aykroyd, Steve Carell, John Belushi, Bill Murray and Jane Lynch, to name-drop a few. The company offers different shows, including *The Best of The Second City*, which features some of the best sketches and songs. >>> At **CSZ Theater Chicago** (929 W. Belmont Ave., 888.440.6403, cszchicago.com), you'll find family comedy performances, including *ComedySportz*. The very funny 90-minute improv comedy show features two teams creating comedy scenes, songs and games based on audience suggestions. Look for special holiday-inspired shows as well during the year.

PHOTO BY KIRSTEN NICCOLI