

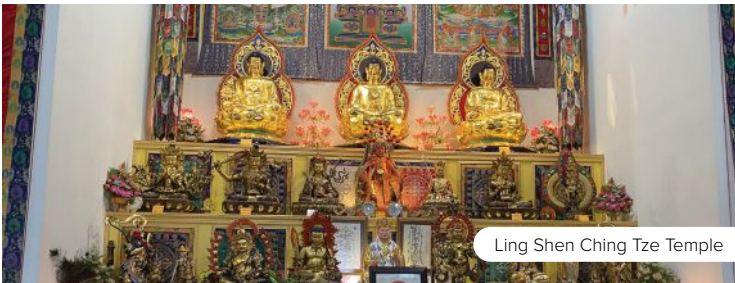
Bridgeport

Get to know this near South Side neighborhood known for its art, culture and politics

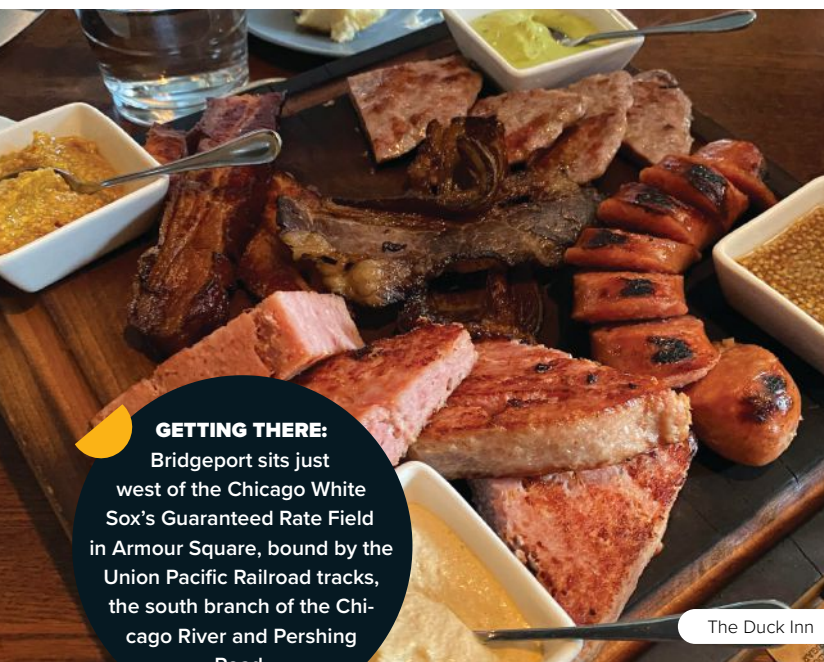
BY **DAWN REISS**

If you want to see where Chicago's past mayors have called home, there's no better place than Bridgeport. This near-South Side neighborhood has ties to five Chicago mayors — Edward Kelly, Martin Kennelly, Richard J. Daley, Michael Bilandic and Richard M. Daley. (There's a reason Bridgeport Coffee offers the "Mayors Blend"). The neighborhood is known for its "machine politics" and has grown more diverse in recent years with 63% identifying as either Asian or Latinx.

"Bridgeport is closer to downtown than Logan Square or Wicker Park," says Kevin Hickey, chef-owner of The Duck Inn and a sixth-generation resident in Bridgeport. "And it's just as cool."



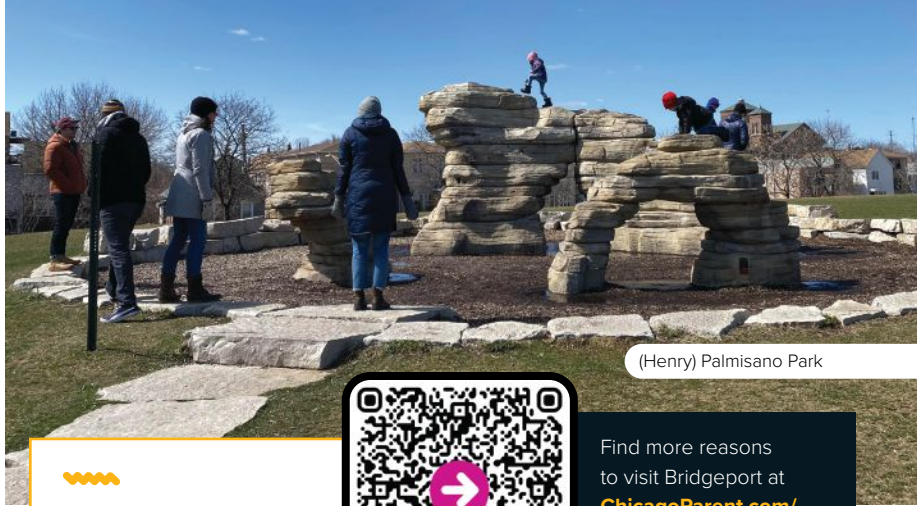
Ling Shen Ching Tze Temple



The Duck Inn

GETTING THERE:

Bridgeport sits just west of the Chicago White Sox's Guaranteed Rate Field in Armour Square, bound by the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, the south branch of the Chicago River and Pershing Road.



(Henry) Palmisano Park



Find more reasons to visit Bridgeport at [ChicagoParent.com/LatestIssue](https://chicagoparent.com/latestissue).



EAT

THE DUCK INN

2701 S. Eleanor St., Chicago

Although it's known as a dinner destination spot, try the Sunday brunch. This gastro pub offers up a host of sweet and savory options, including delicious sweet potato French toast, an egg mcduckinn made with a duck-infused sausage patty, and a rotisserie duck hash. Make a reservation and go early to avoid the crowd. (And, yes, it has high chairs.)

PIZZA FRIED CHICKEN ICE CREAM

964 W. 31st St., Chicago

This kid-friendly joint offers tavern-style pizza, buttermilk fried chicken sandwiches and tenders, and ice cream. There's an outdoor patio and it's a part of delicious trifecta with Kimski and Maria's Packaged Goods and Community Bar next to each other. "It's a favorite of mine with my niece and nephews," says Megan Delurey of Bridgeport.



SHOP

TANGIBLE BOOKS

3324 S. Halsted St., Chicago

With more than 50,000 books, this recently opened second-hand book store offers a wealth of resources. It's run by the former owners of Wicker Park-based Myopic Books, Joe Judd and his wife Lisa. Wind through to the back of the store to a "kids' room" where children flop on the floor and read after digging through bins of board books and storybooks, or browsing the extensive young adult collection. "We want kids to find it fun to read books," Judd says. Check out the local authors section, where the owners give 100% of the proceeds to the writers.



PLAY

(HENRY) PALMISANO PARK

2700 S. Halsted St., Chicago

Better known as "Mount Bridgeport" or Stearns Quarry, this once privately-owned limestone quarry turned nature park offers 26.5 acres to roam. There's a pier for catch-and-release fishing, a 380-foot hole formed by mining more than 130 years ago. Climb up winding hills by stepping on gigantic stones or wander around on metal pathways that offer breathtaking views of the city skyline. It's filled with prairie grasses and wetlands. Kids will love "climbing the mound" and the places to picnic.



EXPLORE

LING SHEN CHING TZE TEMPLE

1035 W. 31st St., Chicago

This former Presbyterian church turned Buddhist temple is filled with golden statues and spots to meditate. Be prepared to remove your shoes and keep voices low. Wander past bodhisattvas and Buddhas alters with offerings dedicated to the teachings of Taoism, Sutrayana and Tantric philosophies.

CHICAGO MARITIME MUSEUM

1200 W. 35th St., Chicago

Learn about the shipping and naval history of Chicago at this hidden gem. Located at the river level of the Bridgeport Art Center, this 10,000-square-foot museum walks visitors through the French fur traders, and steam and sail-powered vessels and frigates.