

FAQ 2018 ARCHITECTURAL FINDS TENT SALE

Sponsored by The Frank Lloyd Wright Trust, Oak Park River Forest Museum, and ReUse Depot

What is the Architectural Finds Tent Sale?

The Architectural Finds Tent Sale is the first-ever sale of donated materials gathered from historic homes in Oak Park and River Forest. The event will be donor, staff, and volunteer-driven. All proceeds will benefit the two nonprofit sponsors. This “popup market” will elevate awareness of the importance of historic preservation, reuse, and “upcycling,” while providing a fun experience for participants. All items will be of historical interest, but will not include materials that can be re-installed or reused in the owner’s homes or are at a level of significance such that they belong in museums. The inaugural event is being planned with the intention that it would be conducted annually, with potential to become a large-scale “destination draw” and signature event for the Oak Park and River Forest Communities.

Where and when?

The Architectural Finds Tent Sale will be conducted under tents on the property of the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio October 14, 2018 to coincide with Open House Chicago 2018, which will include the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio and the Oak Park River Forest Museum (last year Open House Chicago drew a total of nearly 2,000 visitors to the two venues).

Where will the merchandise come from?

Homeowners, architects, and restoration contractors who live in or serve clients in Oak Park and River Forest will be solicited to donate items via each organization’s prospect and customer database, via postings on partner organizations’ websites, social media channels, and direct phone and email requests sent to known historic home owners, such as those whose homes are local landmarks or designed by important architects. The items sought for sale will be selective, based on desirability (e.g., commonly sought items) and historic significance (e.g., from homes at least 50 years old). Examples of items could include fireplace mantles, doors, windows, decorative elements, hardware, tile, light fixtures, plumbing fixtures, and building materials such as flooring and trim pieces.

How will the Architectural Finds Tent Sale be promoted?

Publicity, such as a feature stories in area newspapers, TV, and other media outlets will be sought. To the extent possible, the event will be co-marketed with Open House Chicago. Civic leaders will be asked to participate as donors and promoters to their contacts. Social media posts and emails will be sent to members of the three sponsoring organizations’ databases who have opted-in to receive promotional communications.

How will the artifacts be merchandised?

Stories about the items will be collected at the point of donation and written-up to accompany the items for sale. The item's price tag would include information such as the name and year the home it came from was built, the name of the architect (if known), the name of the historic district in which the home is located (if applicable), the name of the person who donated the item (unless the person wants to remain anonymous) and the asking price. Prices will be non-negotiable.

Are donations tax deductible?

Yes. Because ReUse Depot is a certified partner of The Reuse People Of America, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, they will provide tax deduction forms at the time of donation. The donor will determine the value of their donation at an amount of up to \$4,999 (for items valued at \$5,000 or more, a professional appraisal is required).

What will happen to unsold items?

ReUse Depot will transport all unsold items back to its store at 50 Madison Street in Maywood and sell them on consignment, with all net proceeds to be divided by the two nonprofit partners.

I am interested. How do I donate items? Who do I contact?

During September, donors will drop off their items at the ReUse Depot located in Maywood, just one block west of River Forest on Madison Street. Specifics on dropoff dates, times, and a list of acceptable items, to come. For heavy, delicate, or difficult to transport items, ReUse Depot may be able to assist with pickup for a nominal charge.

If you or someone you know are interested in donating items, email the event Chair Tom Abrahamson at tom.d.abrahamson@gmail.com to let him know that you would like follow-up instructions. For questions of any kind regarding the Architectural Finds Tent Sale, phone or text Tom Abrahamson at 312-714-3593.