

# WCA World Championship 2023

McCormick Place Convention Center  
Chicago, Illinois, USA  
July 27th-30th, 2023



# CHICAGO

## Organizing Team

**CubingUSA**, including core members of the Worlds 2023 team- Kian Barry, Tim Reynolds, Saransh Grover, Michael Young, Shelley Chang, Adam Walker, James Hildreth, Matthew Dickman, Calvin Nielson, Walker Welch



CubingUSA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization run by a seasoned board of directors. Our organization has been formally responsible for US Nationals since 2016 and informally for a decade more. We hosted the 2013 World Championship in Las Vegas, which was at the time the largest and one of the most successful tournaments in WCA history. In the eight years since that event, we have hosted multiple successful large events at our US Nationals events, as well as expanded our reach into regional championships. Having CubingUSA as the host of Worlds 2023 will provide the manpower, experience, organizational infrastructure and resources necessary to support the WCA's flagship event.

## Core Roles for Organizational Team

### **Kian Barry- Task Manager**

Kian is in charge of managing our master list of tasks to accomplish in order to successfully run Worlds 2023. He has served in this role as chairman of the board of directors of CubingUSA since its inception. Kian's tasks will include making sure jobs are all assigned and that organizers/staff members meet deadlines which are necessary for the success of the event. He has served in a supervisory role at US Nationals for the last 10 years.

### **Tim Reynolds- Scheduling and Software**

Tim has been the software and scheduling lead for US Nationals for many years, as well as Worlds 2013. Tim will be responsible for building and maintaining the public website, as well as the software to automatically build the detailed schedule including group and staff assignments.

### **James Hildreth- Venue Coordinator**

James is our primary point of contact for the venue, and is located nearby in Michigan. He has been the lead in negotiations with McCormick Place, contacting outside vendors, and visiting the site when necessary. James previously filled this role for CubingUSA Nationals 2017. He will be the person to work with the venue, visit the site at times, and provide advice on supporting the competition.

### **Shelley Chang- Treasurer**

Shelley will be in charge of budget and accounting for the event and reporting it to the CubingUSA treasurer. She has handled the finances of US Nationals events (and Worlds 2013) for over 10 years and acted as CubingUSA treasurer from 2016 to 2020.

### **Matthew Dickman- Competitor Experience**

Matthew will be responsible for the competitor experience throughout the 4-day competition. He has previously organized the unofficial events for CubingUSA Nationals 2019, which included seminars, regions relay, mosaics, and unofficial events. His main tasks will include organizing similar activities to that of CubingUSA Nationals 2019 and more (reflected later in this proposal) to keep competitors and spectators entertained throughout the full course of the competition.

### **Calvin Nielson- Technology and Streaming**

Calvin will continue to serve as the lead for our streaming and tech needs. He has worked with the Cubing at Home team this year and is well versed in our needs for streaming and other tech more generally. Calvin has been the contact within our organizing team for these categories since 2018.

## Venue- McCormick Place Convention Center



### Proposed Dates

Our proposal is for **Thursday, July 27 to Sunday, July 30, 2023**, with Wednesday, July 26 used for setup. The competition will last for four days. The dates coincide with the international holiday period for schools in most of the Northern Hemisphere.

### Venue City

Chicago, Illinois, USA.

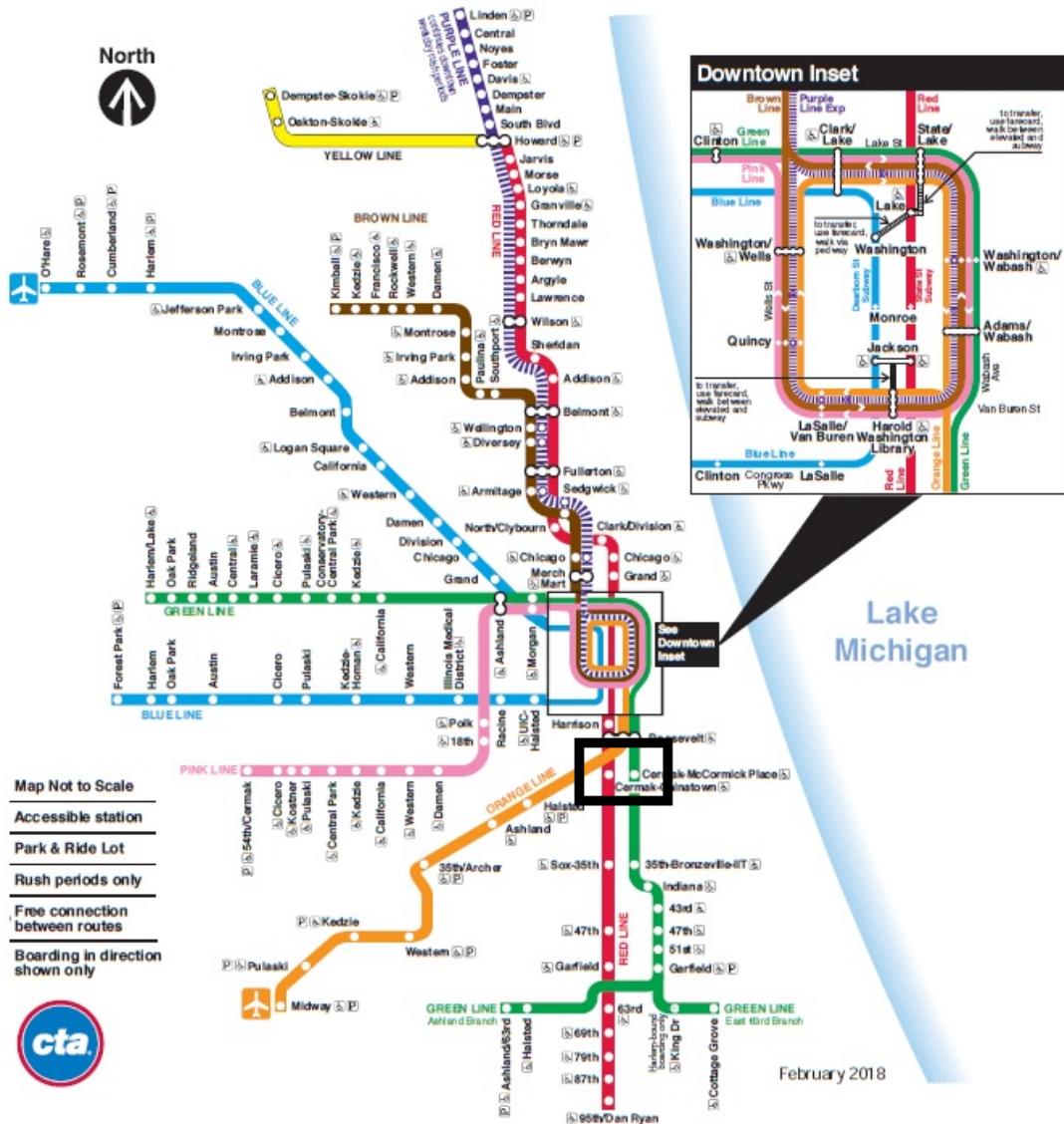
### Tourism

Chicago, the United States' "Second City" is a premier destination for international travel. The city sits on the shore of Lake Michigan, one of North America's "Great Lakes", which provides ample outdoor activities along its 26 miles of lakefront beach to complement the urban attractions of the city of 2.5 million. Chicago is home to hundreds of museums, including the world famous Field Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, and others. The city is also home to major sports teams in all American professional sports, 600+ parks, a vibrant food scene, high-end shopping and a thriving theatre/improv culture. Our venue is centrally located within downtown Chicago, providing easy access to [Chicago's sights](#).



## Travel

Chicago is served by two international airports, O'Hare (ORD) and Midway (MDW), with O'Hare (ORD) being the sixth largest airport by number of travelers in the world. Both airports have extensive connections throughout the United States and O'Hare has direct connections with most major international destinations ([list here](#)). O'Hare is 20 miles from McCormick Place and connected to downtown Chicago via the city's extensive train network ([CTA](#)).



## Lodging

McCormick Place has three hotels attached to the convention center via skybridge, two of which have offered us a combined 1400 rooms per night, with rates starting at \$229 USD/night.

In addition to the hotels attached to the venue, there are a wide range of options throughout the city at a variety of costs, accommodating competitors on a tighter budget as well as those seeking luxury options. Due to our location downtown, the options are extensive.



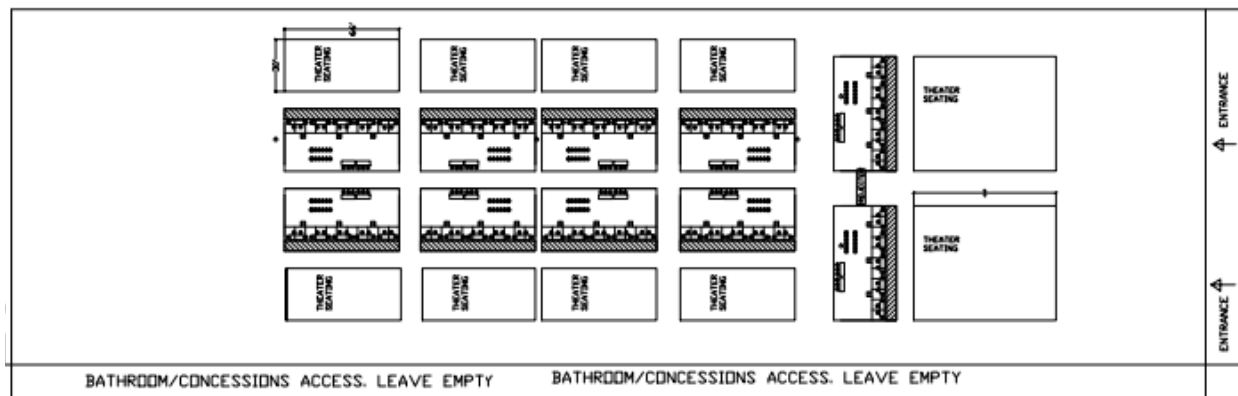
## Venue Layout

See a full virtual tour of the venue [here](#).



*Hall D. We plan to use the left half of this space.*

McCormick Place has offered us most of the Great Lakes Center wing of the convention center. This is a 583,000 square feet/54,000 square meters building, with a mix of public space and rental rooms. We will use one half of the main convention hall (Hall D1), measuring 150,000 square feet/ 14,000 square meters (707'x225').



The venue stages will be arranged so that all competitors are solving in the front row, and their friends and family will be able to watch their solves. Empty space in the convention hall floor plan will be occupied by a mix of booths, food vendors, streaming and staff spaces.

Directly outside the convention hall is the Lakeside Ballroom, a 44,000 square ft (4100 square meters) atrium, with a lake view and terrace access on one side and a skybridge to the rest of the convention center and hotels on the other. We'll use this as competitor social space, mostly filling the space with banquet round tables.

We also have several rooms totalling approximately 50,000 sq ft for things such as long events, competitor experiences, puzzle vending, registration, and storage:

- Three 12,000-15,000 sq ft rooms
- Four 5,000 sq ft rooms
- A variety of 1,000 sq ft rooms

### **Safety and Security**

Safety and security are critical for a competition of this size. Our venue security team will include a minimum of three security guards and two paramedics dedicated to our event throughout the entire course of the competition.

### **Internet**

We will have private, high speed access for live streaming and data entry for a limited number of devices, in addition to free, low speed connections for up to 65,000 concurrent devices.

### **Streaming**

As with 2017 and 2019, streaming will be an important part of the competition, and will allow us to include the global cubing community in the event, including cubers who aren't able to travel to the competition. We hope to build on the experience that CubingUSA developed over the past year of producing streams for Cubing at Home, to provide a polished stream for viewers at home to enjoy.

We are evaluating options for either hiring a professional production company, or investing in the equipment to produce the stream for this and future CubingUSA competitions in-house. More discussion of the options are in the "Budget" section.

# Competitor Experience

## Exhibition Area

We want to focus on the whole competitor experience: both while competing and not. Similar to the most recent World Championships, we will have dedicated space to feature promotional tables, exhibits, and hands-on experiences for competitors and spectators to enjoy in their free time. This space will be used dynamically and will highlight features which could include:

- Booths for the WCA, sponsors, and other partners with information to share;
- Exhibits of puzzle collectors, cube artists, and other creators in the “twisty puzzle” space who are interested in collaborating with us;
- A hands-on area which may include a do-it-yourself activity or a community collaborative art project;
- An unofficial event competing area;
- A mosaic with the World Championship logo;
- A backdrop wall for commemorative photos and autograph sessions with well-known cubers; or
- A meeting space for afternoon/evening events.

## Featured Events

Based on our organization team’s experience with previous CubingUSA National Championships, we have seen great success with activities that happen outside of the main competition, including seminars, unofficial competitions, and contests. For the World Championship 2023, we plan to take these ideas to the next level and incorporate them into the competition experience during the day. This will give competitors and their families/friends other activities to participate in outside of competing, especially for those who will only compete in the first rounds of a few events. Examples of these featured events could include:

- Seminars on cubing-related topics;
- Panels that incorporate more audience interactions;
- Podcast/livestream recordings from prominent cubing influencers;
- Group games (e.g., Kahoot!, GeoGuesser, Jackbox, etc.); and
- The Nations Cup.

These events would not only happen in the evening (as has been done in previous Championships) but would be spread out throughout the day, even being incorporated into lunch breaks or while competing is taking place. We believe this would increase participation in the events and would give attendees some alternative ways to have fun when competitors are not competing themselves. By implementing this change, we would be making a large move



forward for World Championships away from just being “another competition” to creating a convention-like experience for attendees to celebrate cubing.

### Opening/Closing Ceremonies

We would like to elevate our opening/closing ceremonies to fully capture the excitement and amazing achievement of the community at a World Championship. This would incorporate many of the ideas that have already been implemented by previous World Championship competitions (such as the flag ceremony and award ceremony) but would also build the atmosphere of the competition to begin and end the event with new ideas. For the opening ceremony, we believe working with independent creators and well-known community members to help introduce the happenings of the next few days through an opening video, sketch, or by simply MC-ing along with the organizers would create an excitement from community members who would like to see the people they follow on stage. For the closing ceremony, recognition of community achievements in the Exhibition area (winners of games, unveiling of the art piece, etc.) could be included with the recognition of podium winners to again allow the community to feel more involved with the event as a whole.

### Software

For registration, we plan to use the WCA website’s registration system. The major missing feature in the past for large competitions was support for qualification times; we plan to add support for that before we open registration.

We plan to have two components to our website:

- A static, public-facing website, with information about the venue, travel, events, schedule, spectators, and cubing.
- A new competition management system, similar to MyWorlds/MyEuros, which will allow competitors to see their schedule and groups, and apply to be on staff. Group assignments (both for Round 1 and during the competition) will be done automatically in this system. It will be designed to be reusable for other championships, though the group assignment algorithm will depend heavily on the system we described above.

# Scheduling and Staffing

## Staff

Our organization has continued to succeed due to the efforts of a large group of volunteers in the leadup to and especially during the events themselves. We staff our large tournaments with trusted volunteers who are either WCA Delegates or recommended by Delegates. We have had no trouble building a team of over 100 staff members for previous CubingUSA Nationals competitions, and are confident that with the support of the international community we'll be able to fully staff the competition. Based on our experience organizing previous CubingUSA Nationals competitions, with a proposed cap of 2000 competitors, we expect a staff of 250-300 to fulfill our requirements. We will schedule every judging, scrambling, and running tasks before the competition, as we have for our major events in the past.

In addition to the core judging, scrambling, and running staff, we plan to have separate jobs for a number of other roles, such as registration, MCs, streaming, and running non-competition events.

## Scheduling

In order to scale to 2000 competitors, we plan to divide the competition into ten separate stages of ten timers each.

- Each competitor will be assigned to one stage for each day of the competition. They will do all their solves on that stage, except for finals.
- Each stage will operate independently whenever first rounds are in progress. When a stage is ready to proceed to the next group, the delegate on that stage will call the next group, even if other stages are running behind.
- Each stage may have a slightly different schedule. A stage with fewer 4x4 competitors would have a shorter time allotted for 4x4, however the order of events will be consistent and all schedules will be roughly the same. Some smaller, less popular events may be skipped on some stages -- for example, Clock may only take place on 4-5 stages, while other events are in progress on the others.
- Round 2 (and, where applicable, 3) of each event will be synchronized across all stages, and use the same scrambles. These will be at the beginning and end of the day, to minimize the number of times per day that stages are waiting for each other.
- Finals will take place on the two main stages, so that they can be featured on the live stream. All potential finalists will be scheduled in groups that don't conflict with finals; any unexpected finalists will have their schedule adjusted to accommodate.

This system will prevent delays on one stage from affecting other stages' schedules. With twice as many competitors as previous Worlds, we expect to have twice as many incidents; this could cause significant delays over the course of the competition if every incident blocks the entire competition.

Each stage will have **25** staff members assigned per day. Jobs will rotate, but this will roughly consist of:

- 10 judges
- 3 scramblers
- 4 runners
- 2 delegates
- 6 people competing or on break

We will aim to use staff rounds only when necessary -- when there are more than 6 competing staff members per group. If that happens, we may have a group at the beginning of a round to allow staff to compete.

We will wait to set qualification times until **July 1, 2022**, so that we can attempt to assess the impact of COVID on solving times and interest in cubing. However, we expect that our times will be similar to those set for WC2021. We would also set a limit of **50** competitors in Multi Blind, and **250** competitors in Fewest Moves.

### Number of Competitors

Based on WC2021 qualifying times, we expect the following number of competitors in main-stage events, and the following number of competitors advancing:

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
3x3x3 Cube	2000	400	100	16
2x2x2 Cube	1900	400	100	20
4x4x4 Cube	1400	160	20	
3x3x3 One-Handed	1250	160	20	
Pyraminx	1250	160	20	
5x5x5 Cube	1100	160	20	
Skewb	1000	160	20	
Megaminx	900	80	20	
6x6x6 Cube	700	20		
7x7x7 Cube	500	20		
3x3x3 Blindfolded	500	80	20	
Square-1	500	80	20	
Clock	250	20		
4x4x4 Blindfolded	150			



## Schedule

## Thursday

Main Stages	Side Stages	Long Room
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Clock Round 1, Megaminx Round 1		
		10:00 AM: Multi Cubes Due
12:00 PM: Lunch		12:00 PM: Multi Attempt 1
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Skewb Round 1, 5x5 Round 1		
5:00 PM: Clock Final	5:00 PM: Continue 5x5	
5:30 PM: Megaminx Round 2		
		6:15 PM: FMC Attempt 1

## Friday

Main Stages	Side Stages	Long Room
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM: 3x3 BLD Round 1, Skewb Round 2		
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: 7x7 Round 1, Pyraminx Round 1		10:00 AM: Multi Cubes Due
12:00 PM: Lunch, Opening Ceremony		12:00 PM: Multi Attempt 2
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Square-1 Round 1, 4x4 Round 1		
3:00 PM: Skewb Final	3:00 PM - 4:30 PM: Continue 4x4	
3:30 PM: Megaminx Final		
4:00 PM: 7x7 Final		
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM: 5x5 Round 2, Pyraminx Round 2, Square-1 Round 2		

## Saturday

Main Stages	Side Stages	Long Room
9:00 AM: 3x3 BLD Round 2		
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM: 2x2 Round 1, 6x6 Round 1		
12:00 PM: Lunch		12:00 PM: 5x5 Blindfolded
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM: 3x3 OH Round 1, 3x3 Round 1		
4:00 PM: Square-1 Final	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Continue 3x3 Round 1	
4:30 PM: 6x6 Final		
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: 2x2 Round 2, 3x3 OH Round 2		
		6:15 PM: FMC Attempt 3
8:30 PM: Nations Cup		

## Sunday

Main Stages	Side Stages
<b>9:00 AM:</b> 4x4x4 Blindfolded Final	
<b>9:30 AM - 12:00 PM:</b> 3x3 Round 2, 2x2 Round 3, 4x4 Round 2, 3x3 Round 3	
<b>12:00 PM:</b> Lunch	
<b>12:45 PM:</b> 5x5 Final	
<b>1:10 PM:</b> 3x3 One-Handed Final	
<b>1:30 PM:</b> Pyraminx Final	
<b>1:50 PM:</b> 4x4 Final	
<b>2:15 PM:</b> 2x2 Final	
<b>2:30 PM:</b> 3x3 Blindfolded Final	
<b>3:15 PM - 4:30 PM:</b> 3x3 Final	

## Summary

Our proposal for Worlds 2023 includes a nearly complete picture of our event. We have a detailed explanation of how finances will be handled, what our venue looks like, and who will be running the event. We can offer the competition and organizational experience of CubingUSA, which has hosted many of the largest events in WCA history, a top-tier world travel destination, and the largest convention center in North America. We have considered many venues across the United States and selected this option because we feel strongly that it will provide an elite experience for the WCA World Championship 2023.