



2025 **Openlands Annual Luncheon** **Honoring Blair Kamin**

Join Openlands for the 2025 Annual Luncheon, where we unite the conservation community. Last year, we celebrated with 800+ influential individuals, including elected officials, civic and environmental leaders, and community partners. The 2025 event lineup assures another inspiring gathering you will not want to miss. *Bring your colleagues and friends.*

Friday, October 17, 2025

Hilton Chicago

720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago

11:00 am to Noon: Networking Reception

Noon to 1:30 pm: Lunch and Openlands Program

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm: Post-luncheon Networking



BLAIR KAMIN
HONOREE



CAROL ROSS BARNEY
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

About Openlands

Founded in 1963, Openlands is one of the nation's oldest and most successful metropolitan conservation organizations. Openlands protects the natural and open spaces of northeastern Illinois and the surrounding region to ensure cleaner air and water, protect natural habitats and wildlife, and help balance and enrich our lives.

**For information on sponsorship opportunities,
please contact Laura Mueller at lmueller@openlands.org
Openlands.org/AL2025**



2025 **Openlands Annual Luncheon**

About our Honoree and our Speaker



2025 GERALD W. ADELMANN CONSERVATION
LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Blair Kamin

Pulitzer Prize winner Blair Kamin will receive the 2025 Gerald W. Adelman Conservation Leadership Award. For 28 years, Kamin used his platform as the *Chicago Tribune* architecture critic to shape civic debate and advocate for the public good through “activist criticism.” His work influenced the built environment at every scale—from skyscrapers and museums to parks and public housing—always with an eye toward the commons.

In his 1998 Pulitzer Prize-winning series on the Chicago lakefront, Kamin courageously contrasted its often-dismal state with its sterling reputation, envisioning a revitalized public space that would serve all citizens equally, adapt to shifting demographics, and promote a more vital democracy. Kamin has earned nearly 50 awards and honorary doctorates and has authored five books, including the recent *Who Is the City For?*, a critical look at how the built environment can unite or divide communities. His work embodies the spirit of the Gerald W. Adelman Conservation Leadership Award, which honors those whose advocacy and vision help protect nature and ensure its access for all.



2025 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Carol Ross Barney

Carol Ross Barney, the distinguished 2023 American Institute of Architects Gold Medal recipient, is a visionary architect, urbanist, educator, and mentor who has long championed the belief that excellent design is a right, not a privilege. Through her dedication to crafting public buildings and spaces that elevate our daily lives, she has produced distinctive structures and spaces that have become cultural icons. Her thoughtful, community-centered approach—including projects like the Chicago Riverwalk and the design of DuSable Park—offers a compelling vision for inclusive, civic-minded design in the 21st century.

Carol has earned more than 200 major design awards, including the Cooper Hewitt National Design Award and 14 National AIA Honor Awards spanning architecture, interior architecture, and urban planning. Her leadership in sustainable and environmental design has been recognized with numerous honors at both the national and local levels. A graduate of the University of Illinois and a former U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica, where she helped plan national parks, Carol has also shaped future generations through more than three decades of teaching at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

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2025 **Openlands Annual Luncheon** **Sponsorship Opportunities**

Table Sponsorship Opportunities

Celebrate and support conservation through our table sponsorships for the 2025 Annual Luncheon. Each sponsorship reflects Openlands' mission and our commitment as an accredited land trust to protect and advocate for the landscapes that sustain us all. Choose Nature's Guardian, Trail Blazer, Tree Planter, Green Grower, Seed Sower, or Show Stopper sponsorships. Each is a meaningful way to contribute to the future of conservation.

NATURE'S GUARDIAN SPONSORSHIP (\$50,000) Enjoy two premium tables and a private, behind-the-scenes tour of an Openlands project for up to 10 guests (at a later date). Your sponsorship will be prominently recognized at the event and in pre- and post-event promotions, showcasing your essential role in advancing our mission.

TRAIL BLAZER SPONSORSHIP (\$25,000) Enjoy one premium table for your guests, with your commitment highlighted in multiple formats during and after the event.

TREE PLANTER SPONSORSHIP (\$12,000) Enjoy one table for your guests, with recognition throughout the event and in Openlands' program materials.

GREEN GROWER SPONSORSHIP (\$6,000) Enjoy one table for your guests, with your support recognized in multiple formats during the event.

SEED SOWER SPONSORSHIP (\$4,000) Enjoy one table for your guests, with your name prominently featured in our digital and print program booklets.

SHOW STOPPER SPONSORSHIP (\$8,000) Enjoy premier recognition throughout the event and in Openlands' program materials and digital promotions, supporting our stage program and featured speakers.

These sponsorship opportunities not only support Openlands' work as an accredited land trust but also highlight the integral role of education and advocacy in preserving the landscapes that connect us to nature. For a complete list of benefits, please refer to the sponsorship chart.

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2025 Openlands Annual Luncheon Sponsorship Opportunities



	Nature's Guardian \$50,000	Trail Blazer \$25,000	Tree Planter \$12,000	Green Grower \$6,000	Seed Sower \$4,000	Show Stopper \$8,000
ACCESS:						
Reserved table for 10 guests	2 HIGH-VISIBILITY TABLES	1 HIGH-VISIBILITY TABLE	1 TABLE	1 TABLE	1 TABLE	
Private tour of Openlands project	GROUP OF 10					
RECOGNITION:						
Stage recognition	VERBAL & LOGO	VERBAL & LOGO	LOGO	LOGO		VERBAL & LOGO
Vertical banner at welcome table	LOGO	LOGO				
Recognition in 2025 annual report	LOGO	LOGO				
Recognition in digital and print program book	FEATURED LOGO	PROMINENT LOGO	LOGO	LOGO	NAME	LOGO
Ad space in digital and print program book	TWO-PAGE SPREAD	FULL PAGE	FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE		HALF PAGE
Logo recognition in print and digital Fall/Winter issue of Openlander	LOGO	LOGO	LOGO			
Recognition in digital event materials (website and e-blasts)	LOGO	LOGO	LOGO			

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2025 Openlands Annual Luncheon Sponsorship Confirmation

To confirm your sponsorship, please email a completed form to Laura Mueller at lmuel@openlands.org or mail to Openlands' office at 25 E Washington St, Suite 1650, Chicago, IL 60602.

PROGRAM LISTING

CONTACT PERSON

ORGANIZATION OR COMPANY (IF APPLICABLE)

MAILING ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL

Sponsorship opportunities (please check box)

- ☐ **Nature's Guardian Sponsor / \$50,000**
- ☐ **Trail Blazer Sponsor / \$25,000**
- ☐ **Tree Planter Sponsor / \$12,000**
- ☐ **Green Grower Sponsor / \$6,000**

- ☐ **Seed Sower Sponsor / \$4,000**
- ☐ **Show Stopper Sponsor / \$8,000**
- ☐ **Individual Ticket(s) / \$200 x _____**
- ☐ **Additional Donation / \$ _____**

TOTAL \$ _____

Please charge my ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

ACCOUNT NUMBER

SIGNATURE

CV CODE

EXPIRATION DATE

- ☐ My check, made payable to Openlands, is enclosed. ☐ Please invoice me.

You are welcome to use your donor-advised fund to support the event. However, please make note of the following IRS rules: 1) The full ticket price, including the tax deductible and non-tax-deductible portions, must be paid out of pocket and separate from any grants from your donor-advised fund; and 2) Bifurcated or split gifts (where a donor pays for the non-tax-deductible portion of the ticket out of pocket and then recommends the tax-deductible portion from their DAF) also are not permitted.

Next steps

You will receive a confirmation, information on ad specifications (if applicable), a request for your guest list, and acknowledgment of your tax-deductible donation.

Openlands is a 501(c)(3) organization. Openlands Tax ID: 36-2649603
\$75 per ticket is not tax-deductible.

**For questions, please contact Laura Mueller
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