

FINDING THE RIGHT PLACE.



PHOTOS BY JO ATKINSON

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO
RELOCATION GUIDE 2011



WELCOME TO COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO'S RELOCATION GUIDE:

In this guide, you'll find ways to decipher the language of Chicago classifieds, important details about the different neighborhoods that make up this big-shouldered city, things to have in mind when reading apartment leases, as well as a raft of contacts for South Loop apartment buildings and free apartment-finding services.

Quite simply, you have in your hands a very helpful guide for navigating Chicago and finding yourself a home here.

But indulge us for one moment longer, if you would, while we talk about Columbia's amazing on-campus housing. We understand that you want to jump into this experience feet first, starting your studies in the field of your dreams while also setting up your very own "city apartment," however we think that you just might benefit from first spending a year in Columbia's on-campus housing and we'd like to tell you why...

YOU WANT A CITY APARTMENT? WHY NOT LIVE IN ONE OF OURS?

Out of the over 1,800 spaces available in Columbia's residence life facilities, more than 75% of them are in apartment-style spaces.

And we're not talking about the kind of apartment you're going to find west of the city, a train ride from campus in a building where you won't have anything in common with your neighbors. We're talking about fully furnished apartments in the heart of the South Loop, where you'll live with your peers—other artists who get what you do, who love what you love—so close to campus that when you roll out of bed in the morning you'll already be half way to class. Apartments with full kitchens and all utilities included. Buildings with all the amenities you could need—including possibly (depending on the building!) a computer lab, music practice rooms, an art studio, a fitness center, lounges and sun decks.

So before you start the challenging process of finding your own city apartment, why not first take the time to get to know Chicago better from a home on Columbia's campus!

VISIT COLUM.EDU/RESIDENCELIFE WHERE YOU'LL FIND VIDEO TOURS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF EACH OF OUR BUILDINGS AND ALL OF OUR DIFFERENT ROOM TYPES.

CONTENTS:

Moving to Chicago	Pg. 2
An Overview of Chicago	Pg. 2
Rent Ranges	Pg. 3
Chicago Neighborhoods	Pg. 4–7
Deciphering the Classifieds	Pg. 8
Viewing an Apartment	Pg. 9
Fair Housing	Pg. 10
Renter's Insurance	Pg. 11–12
South Loop Apartments	Pg. 13
Apartment Location Resources	Pg. 14

MOVING TO CHICAGO

Depending on what you're looking for, it can take anywhere from three days to several weeks to find an apartment. We recommend that students who are moving to Chicago visit for a weekend of apartment hunting. We know this can be quite expensive with airfare, lodging and car rental, but it's worth the effort. Renting by phone can be risky. It is important to check out things like building security, distance to transportation, neighborhood safety, etc. Not to mention the fact that some of the best apartments in the city (coolest locale, best economic deal) aren't even advertised in the paper or on the web. One of the best ways to find an apartment in Chicago is to scope out signs posted on buildings in neighborhoods you like the look of, and then to call landlords to set up viewings (you can easily look at 10-15 apartments a day just by driving around and putting your cell phone to good use!).

Some students will pack everything they own and move here before finding apartments. This is an option as some apartments are immediately available, but not recommended. If you must move down here and bring everything with you, we recommend making temporary housing arrangements whether in a hotel or bed and breakfast, until you find a permanent location.

AN OVERVIEW OF CHICAGO

The city of Chicago is divided into north, south, east, and west sections. The main building of Columbia College Chicago is located at 200 East and 600 South (600 South Michigan Ave.). One of our Residence Centers is located at 731 S. Plymouth Court—therefore it is one block south and three blocks west of the main building. Madison Ave. is considered Zero North/South and State St. is considered Zero East/West. Both of these streets are located in the Chicago Loop downtown area.

Every eight blocks is approximately one mile. So the higher the address is from 600 South and 200 East, the further away you will be from campus. Columbia is located just a few blocks from the lake, so you will likely be moving to the west of campus. The campus is readily served by the L (elevated train) and bus systems. The "Red Line" Harrison stop is only two blocks from the main building. The Orange, Purple, Green and Brown lines stop at Adams and Wabash approximately four blocks from the main building.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRANSIT SYSTEM VISIT THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY WEBSITE AT WWW.TRANSITCHICAGO.COM

RENT RANGES *

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Studio</i>	<i>1br</i>	<i>2br</i>
SOUTH LOOP			
	\$1100	\$1400	\$1900
NEAR NORTH SIDE			
Gold Coast/Streeterville	\$1200	\$1500	\$2500
River North	\$1300	\$1700	\$2200
Old Town	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800
NORTH			
Lincoln Park	\$1200	\$1300	\$2000
Lakeview/Wrigleyville	\$750	\$950	\$1400
FAR NORTH			
Andersonville	\$600	\$900	\$1200
Rogers Park	\$600	\$800	\$1000
Edgewater	\$700	\$900	\$1400
NEAR WEST			
Ukrainian Village	\$700	\$800	\$1300
Wicker Park	\$700	\$1000	\$1500
Bucktown	\$800	\$1000	\$1500
Logan Square	\$600	\$800	\$1000
NORTHWEST			
Roscoe Village	\$800	\$1000	\$1500
Ravenswood/Lincoln Square	\$700	\$900	\$1100
SOUTH			
Hyde Park	\$750	\$900	\$1400
SOUTHWEST			
Pilsen	\$850	\$1000	\$1200
Bronzeville	\$600	\$900	\$1300
Bridgeport	\$600	\$900	\$1300

*RENT RANGES QUOTED FROM WWW.APARTMENTPEOPLE.COM

CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS

Chicago is a very “neighborhoody city”. Most Chicago locals consider themselves Chicagoans, but then they might also tell you what neighborhood they live in as a way of further identifying themselves. Different neighborhoods have decidedly different characters and before living in Chicago long, you may well feel a pull towards different areas of town that you believe suit your personality best. There are ethnic neighborhoods. There are neighborhoods that are defined by their nightlife. There are neighborhoods that cater to the younger or to the older, more settled set. There are artsy neighborhoods, working class neighborhoods, wealthy neighborhoods, GLBT neighborhoods, Chinese, Polish, Ukrainian, Swedish neighborhoods and all of them have something different to offer the people who move in and decide to call them home.

So here's the lowdown on some of the larger neighborhoods of Chicago divided by general geographical location:

SOUTH LOOP : *Columbia College Chicago Campus*

Home to Columbia College Chicago, the South Loop is hard to beat as a home base for Columbia students both for the convenience of being so close to classroom buildings and also for its nearness to the theater district, the retail heart of Chicago, the museum campus, and the lake. The apartments located in this area are mainly high rises with high rent due to their locations on or near Michigan Avenue. It has become home to many successful professionals due to its close proximity to the Loop and the financial district. The South Loop has also seen a boom of development in the past few years, with a huge number of condos popping up around the southern edges of its reaches—bringing with them a number of excellent restaurants, an improved night life and higher rental costs.

NEAR NORTH SIDE : *Red Line to campus—10-15 minute ride*

The poshest neighborhoods of Chicago (not including Lincoln Park) are to be found in this area stretching along the lake into downtown just above the Loop, from as far north as (you guessed it!) North Avenue to as far west as LaSalle Street. This is where you'll find the Magnificent Mile, Navy Pier, the Gold Coast, and the famed “Rush and Division Street” district. The neighborhoods found in this area are overflowing with the most elegant dining and retail establishments to be found in Chicago as well as some of the best walking to be had in the city—soaring highrises and marble storefronts butting up against tree-lined boulevards strewn with seasonal gardens always changing with the extreme weather changes of Chicagoland. And at the edges of this area where the Near North Side starts to blend with the Lincoln Park and the West Loop artist's district, you'll find trendy boutiques and galleries

and storefront theaters (as well as the renowned Steppenwolf and Second City theaters!) As you might imagine, the cost of living in this area can be a bit prohibitive to the average student budget, but for the cost of a train ride, you could certainly visit as much as you like!

NORTH : *Red Line and Brown Line to campus—20-30 minute ride*

Located just North of “Near North”, Lincoln Park is home to the Lincoln Park Zoo, 4 of the city's beaches, a botanical conservatory, a brand-new nature museum, and Café Brauer with its view of the city skyline across a jewel of a lake that you could decide to investigate from a rented swan-shaped paddle boat.

Just north of Lincoln Park, still hugging the lake, you'll find Lakeview and Wrigleyville. Thought of as something akin to the “funville” of Chicago, these neighborhoods are just as hopping as Lincoln Park, but are more affordable and cater to a slightly younger set. You'll find Wrigley Field—home of the Cubs!—there and all of the attendant bars, pubs, and restaurants that you would expect to surround a major league baseball field. Also, the hipster area (around the Clark/Belmont intersection)—where you'll find shoe stores, sushi shops, and arty boutiques galore—shouldn't be missed. And we'd be remiss not to mention that East Lakeview includes the neighborhood known as “Boys Town”—Chicago's gay district, and the alternative lifestyle is strongly embraced by the area's inhabitants and businesses.

FAR NORTH : *Red Line to campus—35-45 minute ride*

The next step north along the lake from Wrigleyville, is the ethnically diverse Andersonville/Rogers Park area. There's much to do in this neighborhood and though most of that involves eating at the wide selection of ethnic eateries (a don't miss is little Saigon on nearby Argyle Street—the L stop rooftop is shaped like a pagoda!), this neighborhood is also home to the Neo-futurarium (birthplace of Tony nominated Urinetown) with midnight improv shows that young folk wait in line for hours to see.

Rogers Park is just north of Andersonville where large courtyard apartment buildings dominate the scene and most of them are steps from the lake. Loyola's campus is at the heart of the community and with Northwestern's campus not too far away in nearby Evanston. And west on Devon, you can find little India and the best curry in town. It's a bit of a haul from Columbia's campus nestled in the South Loop, but the reasonable rents help to ease the blow of the long commute.

NEAR WEST : *Blue Line to campus—15-20 minute ride*

A straight shot west of the city on Chicago Avenue is the Ukrainian Village. Pockets of Ukrainian communities still exist there, but it is now a predominantly Latino neighborhood filled with three and four floor walk-ups. While not the most obviously picturesque neighborhood of Chicago, it more than makes up for it with very affordable rental rates, being a stone's throw from downtown and by having a very tightly knit community that organizes street fairs and parades regularly throughout the summer. It's also a cheaper alternative to its near northern neighbors—Wicker Park and Bucktown—while still being close to the nightlife and artsy atmosphere to be found next door.

Wicker Park and Bucktown are often difficult to delineate as separate entities. Bucktown can be slightly pricier, while Wicker Park can be slightly more Bohemian in flavor, but both converge in the popular North Ave./Damen Ave./Milwaukee Ave. intersection where there are more bars, coffee houses, eateries, hipster clothing stores and used book stores than you can shake a stick at. This is the neighborhood where *High Fidelity* was filmed and you can expect to find just those kinds of characters moseying down the neighborhood streets.

A short jog north and west of Wicker Park and Bucktown is Logan Square, a rapidly developing neighborhood that is home to a goodly number of students thanks to the reasonable rent to be found there. The area surrounds the Milwaukee Ave./Logan/Kedzie intersection and is famous for its prime example of both Chicago's 28 mile landscaped boulevard system and its historical graystones that harken back to a Chicago that time has otherwise forgotten.

NORTH WEST : *Blue/Brown/Red Line to campus—35-45 minute ride*

East of the Chicago River, west of Lakeview and north of Bucktown, Roscoe Village attracts young professionals who want the Lincoln Park/Lakeview look minus the traffic and the bustling nightlife. It exudes a quiet old world charm with its completely rehabbed two-flats and three-flats—the kind of neighborhood where you could expect to see lots of dogwalkers, strollers and kids on bikes. College students and recent grads flock here for the cheaper rent.

North of Roscoe Village is Ravenswood with the tiny neighborhood of Lincoln Square smack dab in its center. Both neighborhoods are low-key and predominantly residential, though a rollicking nightlife has been growing steadily along the length of Lincoln Avenue. Both neighborhoods were historically German and that flavor lingers still in the brau houses, cafes, and German delis/butchers that are sprinkled throughout the neighborhoods.

SOUTH : *Red Line to campus—25-35 minute ride*

Hyde Park is located between 47th Street south to 61st Street and from the Lakefront west to Cottage Grove. This neighborhood boasts not only The Museum of Science and Industry and the University of Chicago, but also some of the most beautiful family homes and mansions in the city of Chicago. Quite often you will see U of C students walking down Hyde Park Boulevard or gathering on street corners off University Avenue or at coffee shops on 57th. This neighborhood exudes a classic collegiate atmosphere.

SOUTHWEST : *Pink Line to campus—15-20 minute ride*

If there's one word to describe Pilsen, it's "vibrant." This working-class neighborhood has the highest concentration of anything and everything Latino in the city, and it shows. From the jingling bells on the tamale guy's cart, to bustling 18th street, Pilsen is lively, colorful and authentic. Pilsen apartments are classic duplexes and single-family homes in a predominantly industrial area. The sense of community is strong. Youngsters running around and young adults hanging out on the corners are ubiquitous.

DECIPHERING THE CLASSIFIEDS

Here is an example of a newspaper apartment listing and how to decipher its meaning:

1BR LINCOLN PARK, HIGH CEILINGS, WD. FLOORS, GARDEN 2-FLAT. REF. REQ. 1MO DEPOSIT. NO PETS. WA/HEAT INCL. 1234 WRIGHTWOOD. CALL 555-312-1773

This is a one bedroom garden apartment in a Lincoln Park two-flat. The apartment has wood flooring and ceilings likely higher than 10 feet. The landlord requires at least one reference from a previous landlord and one month's rent paid upfront as a deposit. Pets are not allowed, and water and heat are included in the monthly rental price of the apartment. Having the address of the unit allows you the opportunity to drive past the property to check out the building and the neighborhood.

HERE ARE SOME HINTS ABOUT TERMS USED IN RENTAL ADS:

2-FLAT OR 3-FLAT

smaller buildings that are 2 or 3 stories tall and usually all of the apartments in the building take up a full floor.

COURTYARD BUILDING

medium sized buildings shaped in a U surrounding a courtyard. Larger than 2 or 3 flats but likely to have the same kind of charm to be found in flats.

GARDEN APARTMENT

an apartment that is mostly below ground level so that your windows have an ant's eye view of the garden. Less bright than above ground apartments, but these are also usually cheaper because they're slightly less desirable.

HEAT INCL.

Heat included. Whenever possible, especially if you're moving to Chicago on a tight budget, you should be placing heat-included apartments at the top of your viewing list. Heating an apartment can become a huge cost during Chicago's often 6-month long winter and it can easily increase your living costs by \$200 a month. If you have to choose between a heat included apartment for \$1250 and an unheated apartment for \$1200, the heated-apartment may be a much better deal even though it looks more expensive on paper.

CLOSE TO TRANSPORTATION

This is a subjective term and you should take it upon yourself to figure out what this means. How close is close? 1 block? 8 blocks? What kind of transportation? Bus? Train? Or does this mean so close that it literally sounds like the L train is rumbling through your living room?

WATER OR APPLIANCES INCL.

Water or appliances are included here. In general, these things are included with every Chicago apartment.

VIEWING AN APARTMENT

Once you find apartments to view, there are certain questions you should ask and certain situations you should consider before signing a lease.

LEASES

Most landlords require that you sign a lease, and most of those leases are at least 12 months in length (if you don't need an apartment for 12 months, you should either be considering on-campus housing at Columbia College or you should dust off your haggling skills to talk down the lease term length). Read over the lease very carefully because it contains many different rules and regulations. If you do not understand any of the stipulations of the lease, ask about it. If you're still not sure, ask to consider the lease overnight—know, though, that the landlord does have the right to lease the apartment to another renter during your thinking-it-over time. Contact your current landlord, parents or someone who deals with contracts and ask them to explain it to you. It's always best to know exactly what your responsibilities are before moving into a new place.

Make sure you get any agreements between you and your landlord in writing. To protect yourself, inspect the apartment with the landlord prior to moving in to check for damage and have this list of damages added to your lease. This way you both acknowledge that these problems existed before you moved in and you are not responsible for them. Ask about making repairs, painting, re-decorating, or other improvements. Who will be financially responsible? Some landlords may want you to pay for improvements upfront and then they will be willing to "reimburse" you that month with a lower rent totaling the difference of the costs. Make sure you get that in writing, however, so that everyone understands the costs of the improvements before they are begun.

UTILITIES

Remember when looking for an apartment, that unless otherwise stated, payment of all utilities is the responsibility of the person renting the apartment. These bills can add up and make a difference in the affordability of an apartment. It is important that you know the estimated costs of these bills before signing the lease. Local utility companies, if given an address, should be able to provide you with an estimate of how much the bills run for a particular apartment. If heat and water are included, however, your bills for cooking gas and electricity aren't likely to be more than \$80 a month combined. Most apartments include water, garbage pickup and appliances at no additional cost to the renter.

ROOMMATES

Having roommates can make living in Chicago far more affordable (and a bit less lonely when you've first arrived!). There are roommate finding services listed in this brochure to help you find roommates if you don't already know folks who live in Chicago. Most services charge a fee, but can give you more specific information about the type of roommate you are looking for. No matter how you find a roommate or even if you know them prior to signing a lease on an apartment with them, it's very important to come to an agreement on such issues as cleaning, quiet times, privacy, guest visitation, shared items and bills before they become a problem later. Before hanging a single poster, sit down and talk—that may well help you avoid a whole world of tension later.

We also recommend you look for potential roommates on our Columbia's on Facebook application, which will let you get to know other Columbia students. They may still be strangers (and might well by strange) but you'll have the common bond of sharing similar classes, schools, social commitments, etc.

FAIR HOUSING

Fair housing is a right protected by federal and state law. Fair housing means you may freely choose a place to live, limited only by what you can afford and by what you desire. Your choice should not be limited by your race, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (presence of minor children in the family), or disability. It is a violation of the law when a landlord or his/her agents or employees do any of the following AND when his/her conduct is based on your race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or disability:

- > Refuses to rent an available apartment to you if you are otherwise qualified.
- > Tells you untruthfully that an apartment is not for rent. Watch lines like, "I rented just after you called."
- > Sets or enforces lease terms, privileges or conditions that are not required of other tenants. Watch out for tactics like having to pay a larger security deposit.
- > Sexually harasses you.
- > Refuses to make reasonable accommodation for your disability. Watch out for excuses like "My insurance will go up."
- > Tells you that the building has a policy of "adults only" or "no teenagers" or that families with children can occupy only certain apartments. Watch out for rules like "only one person per bedroom".
- > Intimidates you or retaliates in any way against you for exercising your fair housing rights or assisting another in doing so.

RENTER'S INSURANCE

It's wise, the moment you move out of your guardian's home (even if you're moving into the residence halls instead of an apartment), to obtain renter's insurance. Most people are not covered by their landlord's policy, so it's in your best interest to get your own. Most policies for students are for unfurnished properties and cover high-theft items like televisions, stereos, computers, bikes and jewelry. Policies will vary according to the insurance company, so it's best to contact several insurance agencies to get different quotes. **Contact the Insurance Information Institute at 800.331.9146 for nonspecific consumer information and helpful brochures on renter's insurance.**

There are many specific safety items to look for when renting that could lower your rates for renter's insurance (though typically, this is one of the cheapest kinds of insurance available and you could easily find a policy for \$15-\$20 a month):

- > *Upstairs apartments are usually considered to be the safest, as it is more difficult for a thief to enter.*
- > *Bars on the windows add to the security of your apartment (but don't expect to find that in a lot of apartments in Chicago).*
- > *Knowing the crime statistics for the neighborhood—you can find that out by calling the Chicago Police Department.*
- > *Off-street parking is considered a safety feature, as well as a huge convenience—though expect to pay more for this feature.*
- > *Safety doors, door buzzers, a door man, a security system—any of these increase the safety of a building.*
- > *And though this won't affect your insurance rates in any way, it's a good idea for your own safety to check out the apartment's neighborhood both by day and night before signing a lease. Some neighborhoods could feel perfectly fine by day, but their character may change after dark. Know where you're moving as thoroughly as possible.*

SOUTH LOOP APARTMENTS

Other Questions to ask yourself before falling head over heels in love with the first apartment you see:

- > Is the apartment walking distance from campus? If not, is it within safe and easy walking distance to transportation and how long is the commute to campus?
- > If you plan to ride a bike to school (plenty of people do, this is one of the most bike friendly cities in the country), how long will that ride take and does the apartment provide a place for you to store your bike securely?
- > How is the water pressure in the bathroom? The kitchen? Turn the water on while walking through. This isn't rude. No one will be offended.
- > Is there enough storage space? Closets? Any secure storage space in the basement provided for tenants?
- > What kind of security does the building have? Door buzzers? Security doors?
- > Do you see a fire extinguisher anywhere in the apartment? Fire alarms? If you don't, ask. Both should be provided for you and be in good working condition.
- > Have you read Ed Sacks's *Chicago Tenant's Handbook* published by ProSe Press? Maybe you should if you have further questions about renting in Chicago, because it goes into far more detail than we are able to here.

Note: All information listed below is as current as possible, but it is subject to change. This information is provided by the Columbia College Residence Life Office, but we neither endorse nor have any special arrangement or relationship with the buildings and businesses listed below. We do not recommend these housing options over ones that are not listed. All dealings with these businesses occur strictly between the apartment/business/service and the individual.

<p>Terminals Building Printers Row 537 S. Dearborn Pkwy Chicago, IL 60605 773 281 4464</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 1 & 2 bedrooms > Heat & AC included with rent > Located in the South Loop > 3 blocks from main campus 	<p>1130 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, IL 60605 312 939 4900</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > MUST BE 21 AND OVER TO RENT > Studios, 1 & 2 bedrooms > 24 hr doorman > Dry cleaners & mini-market > Fitness Center > Heated indoor pool > Located in the South Loop > 5 blocks from main campus 	<p>River City 800 S. Wells St. Chicago, IL 60607 312 431 2828</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 24 hr security > Complimentary shuttle service throughout the loop > Dry cleaners > Health Club > Full Service Grocery store > Located in the South Loop > 8 blocks from main campus
<p>Old Franklin Building Printers Row 525 S. Dearborn Pkwy Chicago, IL 60605 773 281 4464</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Studios, 1 & 2 bedrooms > Loft style apartments > Heat & AC included in rent > Located in the South Loop > 3 blocks from campus 	<p>1212 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, IL 60605 312 461 1110</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Studios, 1 & 2 bedrooms > 24 hr door staff > Fitness Center > Indoor pool & spa > On-site convenience store > Dry cleaners > Located in the South Loop > 6 blocks from main campus 	<p>Presidential Towers 555 W. Madison St. Chicago, IL 60661 312 902 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Studios, Convertibles, 1 & 2 bedrooms > 24 hr security > Full service market > 5 restaurants > Medical clinic > Health club > Dry cleaners plus on-site stores > Across the street from Northwestern Train Station > Located in the West Loop
<p>Printers Square 700 S. Federal Chicago, IL 60605 312 427 0200</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Studios, 1 & 2 bedrooms > 24 hr security > Dry cleaners > Fitness Center > Located in the South Loop > 4 blocks from main campus 		

RESOURCES

APARTMENT LOCATION SERVICES

Apartment locating services differ in the type of service they offer. Some are free; some provide transportation to apartments; some focus on a certain area of the city; some own the apartments they are offering; others just keep a listing of apartments. Be sure to ask questions to find out if these services meet your needs.

The Apartment People

3121 N. Broadway
Chicago, IL 60657
773 248 8800
1 800 44RENT4
OR
619 Grove St.
Evanston, IL 60201
847 733 8800
www.apartmentpeople.com

Apartment Zone

2402 N. Lincoln Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614
773 871 RENT ext.232
www.ApartmentZone.com

Oak Park Regional Housing Center

1041 South Blvd.
Oak Park, IL 60302
708 848 7150

Relcon Apartment Finders

21 W. Elm St.
Chicago, IL 60610
312 255 9920
www.relconapartments.com

Simply Roommates

2438 N. Clark St. (Clark & Fullerton)
Chicago, IL 60614
773 755 4400
www.simplyroommates.com
Also a roommate locating service

Trans-Coastal Group, Inc.

2438 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60614
773 755 4411
www.transcoastalgroup.com

NEWSPAPER RESOURCES

Chicago Reader www.chireader.com

The Chicago Tribune www.chicagotribune.com

The Chicago Sun-Times www.suntimes.com

DOMU www.domu.com

Craigslist www.craigslist.org



create...
change

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