



Chicago Cultural Alliance
Core Member Education and Youth Programs
Winter 2010

Prepared by Lyndsi Barboza, Cara Pickett, and Rebeccah Sanders

Chicago Cultural Alliance
4626 N. Knox Ave., Ste. 301
Chicago, IL 60630
(773) 283-1958
www.chicagoculturalalliance.org

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Chicago Cultural Alliance Organizational Background

The Chicago Cultural Alliance (Alliance) is a growing consortium of 28 community-based ethnic museums, cultural centers, and historical societies. Our mission is to effect social change and public understanding of cultural diversity through first voice perspectives. We increase the visibility and impact of Chicago's ethnic assets by leveraging partnerships between member organizations and major institutions. We also assure the long-term efficacy of our public education, marketing, preservation, and social service programs by providing organizational development assistance to our Core Members.

Alliance membership comprises three categories: Core Members, Associates, and Partner Institutions. Core Members are small (most with budgets under \$1 million) ethnic museums, cultural centers, and historical societies located throughout the metropolitan Chicago area. Most are geographically located in the neighborhoods in which their ethnic groups originally settled when they arrived in Chicago, and they represent populations that range from 3,000 to three million members. Associates are small to mid-sized organizations that collaborate with Core Members through the Alliance. Partner Institutions are large cultural, educational, and governmental organizations that bring resources and programs that grow the capacity and visibility of Core Members.

Core Members, which represent over 20 ethnicities, are more than traditional museums, also serving as touchstones of ethnic identity and as spaces devoted to community gathering and dialogue. The Alliance works to strengthen these organizations and build their capacity to fulfill their unique missions. Through the Alliance, Core Members work together to present cross-cultural programming that highlights the enormous diversity of the Chicago area and represents ethnic communities' perspectives on relevant contemporary issues, such as immigration, ethnic identity, health care, and the environment. Our vision is to use the strength of our constituents' *first voice* to make a regional and national impact on cultural and civic policy in order to increase public access to diverse cultural perspectives.

As a sustainable vehicle for collaboration, the Alliance maintains ongoing relationships with Core Members and Partner Institutions and provides valuable services, programs, and partnerships that strengthen the Core Members' infrastructure. Partnering with mainstream institutions through the Alliance allows Core Members to have a voice in the development of policies and in how their ethnicity and neighborhoods are portrayed within the city. The Alliance is creating a new and exciting model of collaboration between ethnic communities with the goal of preserving their cultural heritage and linking this heritage to contemporary issues.

The Alliance is the first organization of its kind and has promise to serve as a national model. Individually, Core Members may have limited capacity, but by working together as the Alliance, they have strengthened their presence and influence in the Chicago metropolitan area. The Alliance is also unique in that it operates completely via the first voice perspectives of its members; all programming is designed by and for Core Members, which is important since their voices and concerns are traditionally diminished or dismissed.

The Alliance partners with the University of Chicago's Center for International Studies.

Chicago Cultural Alliance Public Programs

Talking About... Series

This series brings together Chicago area's ethnic communities to discuss significant contemporary issues, such as immigration, ethnic identity, climate change, and health care, from the perspectives and experiences of the community members. The program includes training for Core Members about how to organize, deliver, and facilitate community discussions. The series currently consists of two types of programs: dialogue sessions and comparative presentations.

- **Dialogue sessions:** Core Members host facilitated community conversations about contemporary topics. Small groups of 2-10 people engage in moderated discussion about a specific topic; these sessions may be community specific (hosted by a single Core Member) or cross-cultural.
- **Comparative presentations:** two to six groups of Core Members present their communities' perspectives on a contemporary topic.

In both types of program, Core Members use their ethnographic collections and artwork as a starting point for discussion.

Cross-Cultural Panel Discussions

Related to the *Talking About...* dialogues, these programs bring together leaders from 4-5 different Core Member communities to engage in moderated discussion, which is followed by a question-and-answer session with the audience. These public programs provide a platform for experts from within Chicago's diverse ethnic communities to share their perspectives and experiences about relevant contemporary issues.

Cultural Café

Cultural Café is a multi-cultural public arts/humanities program centered on a particular subject or cultural tradition, e.g. poetry, cuisine, song, etc. Multiple performers/experts from different Core Member communities will present their culturally-informed version of the topic at hand.

Asset Mapping

In conjunction with the Field Museum, the Alliance is working with Core Members to map the cultural and neighborhood assets in order to help them become more involved in issues affecting their communities and to identify ways to broaden their constituent and audience bases. This project will emphasize storytelling as a method for eliciting community narratives about heritage-related values and practices that can be revived, reinvented, validated, and encouraged.

American Indian Center

www.aic-chicago.org

About

To promote the fellowship among Indian people of all Tribes living in metropolitan Chicago, and to create bonds of understanding and communication between Indians and non-Indians in this city; to advance the general welfare of American Indians into the metropolitan community life; to foster the economic and educational advancement of Indian people; to sustain cultural, artistic and avocational pursuits; and to perpetuate Indian cultural values.

Programs

Positive Paths: free after-school tutor/mentor program for American Indian students, K-12.

- Positive Paths has collaborated with Kumbaa Lynx, a Chicago-based performing arts organization, to launch its very own poetry slam team- Native Lynx. Participants demonstrated their lyrical skills in the citywide Louder Than a Bomb competition. In March 2005, Native Lynx took 8th place in this all-city competition.
- Participants have worked with community to make their own dance regalia. The Enter the Circle program culminated at the AIC Graduation Powwow where participants were honored and entered the powwow circle.

School Tours

The School Tour program presents and disseminates first-voice information to Chicago students and educators. During the tour, the AIC staff leads a hands-on arts activity and cultural presentation of contemporary Native American practices, traditions and regalia with a focus on dispelling stereotypes and raising awareness about "who we are today."

Topics Addressed

Culture, arts, folk art, dance, environment, history, cultural diversity

Languages Spoken/Taught

English, various Native American languages

Contact

1630 W. Wilson Ave.
Chicago, IL 60640
(773) 275-5871

Arab American Action Network

www.aaan.org

About

The Arab American Action Network (AAAN) strives to strengthen the Arab community in the Chicago area by building its capacity to be an active agent for positive social change. As a grassroots nonprofit, its strategies include community organizing, advocacy, education, providing social services, leadership development, cultural outreach and forging productive relationships with other communities.

Programs

- **Family Literacy Project** promotes literacy among the Arab community through five components: Library Services, Adult Literacy, Children's Literacy, Parent Education and Parent-Child Together Activities. Children's literacy offers free tutoring/homework help at the Green Hill Public Library once a week and conducts a bilingual story time at the library once a month.
- **After School Program** provides a positive environment for youth ages 6 to 12 where they meet role models who strongly encourage them and enjoy a myriad of activities such as science experiments, field trips and arts and crafts. AAAN staff builds relationships with parents, teachers, and schools to help with support and provide comprehensive youth development.
- **Summer Youth Camp** offers educational and structured recreational activities for youth ages 6 -12. It also develops and enhances leadership and social skills by engaging students in community projects and youth-led discussions, workshops and activities. Throughout the summer children participate in literacy projects, field trips, compete in sports and complete art and science projects.
- **Silent Echoes** is a hip-hop and spoken word program designed for high school youth to encourage and strengthen writing, creativity, performance, and civic engagement. It offers a safe space to better understand local and global issues that affect their lives, from war and occupation to the criminalization of youth of color. Youth engage in discussions, watch documentaries, take trips, attend conferences and forums, share their personal experiences, and address these issues through writing and performance. Youth play a crucial role in program development and often serve as the facilitators of activities.
- **Research and Organization** is a program for youth to design and execute their own research projects around issues that affect their lives. Youth decide on a topic of their choice and design the project, complete field work, and analyze data. They present findings and conclusions to their peer and adult allies. It is open to all Chicago youth ages 14-21; it meets three days a week for three hours per session.

School Visits

AAAN provides presentations for schools, faith institutions, corporations, universities, and other community organizations on a range of topics including the Arab World, Arab Americans, Arab Culture, Islam and communication between cultures.

Topics Addressed

Geography, culture, art, cultural diversity, history, religion, geography, communication

Languages Spoken/Taught

English, Arabic

Contact

3148 W. 63rd St.
Chicago, IL 60629
(773) 436-6060

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture

www.balzekasmuseum.org

About

Founded in 1966 in Chicago, the Balzekas Museum is dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of Lithuanian culture. The Museum celebrates the notable achievements of Lithuanian Americans, the Lithuanian nation, and Lithuanian communities world wide. Culture is a synthesis of the arts, beliefs, customs and institutions created by human work and thought at a particular time. Promoting the study and appreciation of America's diverse ethnic cultural heritage, seeking to foster greater understanding among all people, the Museum works cooperatively with numerous ethnic groups; cultural, arts and educational organizations; museum; fraternal orders; religious entities; and governmental institutions.

Museum and Collections

The Balzekas Museum holds an extensive collection of artifacts from Lithuania dating from the Medieval period through modern day. Items include coins, folk costume, tools, and maps.

Children's Museum

The Balzekas Museum also contains a richly decorated children's museum that can be used for school tour groups.

Field Trips

The Museum offers extensive educational outreach to area schools whose classes take field trips to the Museum to supplement lessons in history and culture with tours of the Museum's collection and hands-on activities.

Topics Covered

Maps, medieval history, the World Wars, immigration, ancient history, Roman trade routes, agrarian society, textiles, folk art

Languages Spoken/Taught

Lithuanian, English

Contact

6500 S. Pulaski Rd.
Chicago, IL 60629
(773) 582-6500

Bronzeville Children's Museum

www.bronzevillechildrensmuseum.com

About

The Bronzeville Children's Museum is the first and only African-American Children's Museum in the county. The museum is named after Bronzeville, where African-Americans settled in Chicago after coming from the South. In this area, they created a booming business, cultural, political and residential center known at first as *Black Metropolis* and later as *Bronzeville*.

Exhibits and Collections

Recent exhibits:

- ***From Motherland to Chicago Land*** gives children a tour of the African continent as they take a trip from Africa to North America, learning about the journey African-Americans faced when making their way to Chicago.
- ***It's Easy Being Green*** teaches children how to conserve energy, plant a garden, and understand their own carbon footprint. Children will have the chance to make an eco-friendly craft, and watch a film that will teach them the importance of waste management.
- ***Bronzeville*** gives children the opportunity to learn about the history of Bronzeville through songs, crafts and stories.

Field Trips

Exhibits are designed for children ages 3 to 9

- Tours are one hour, Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- \$5 per person

Topics Covered

Geography, African-American history, Chicago history, environment, healthy lifestyle, arts, culture, Africa

Languages Spoken/Taught

English

Contact

9301 S. Stony Island Ave.
Chicago, IL 60617
(773) 721-9301

Bronzeville/Black Chicagoan Historical Society

www.bronzevillehistoricalsociety.com

About

Bronzeville/Black Chicagoan Historical Society's purpose is to preserve, protect, collect, and perpetuate the records of African Americans whom live or lived in Chicago; to recognize the contribution of African Americans who participated in the establishment of Chicago and the surrounding communities, to stimulate interest in black history research, and to publish genealogical and historical materials for online access and free use.

Exhibits and Collections

Exhibits are viewable by appointment only and showcase artifacts, documents, photographs, and quilts brought to Chicago by black migrants from the southern United States, namely Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Georgia.

- ***The Great Migration***, an all-ages exhibit, will run through March 2010 at the Hotel Florence in the Pullman Historic District.
- **Interpretive tours** are given upon request between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Upcoming Programs

- **Black History Month** book reading by Natasha Tarpley. Stories to be told are written by Tarpley and are geared toward children ages 5 to 12. Admission is free.
- ***Separated At Birth***, directed by Arman Scott, is a film about the choices youth face. This film will be shown on February 27, 2010 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Appropriate for ages 12 to 18; families are welcome. There will be a discussion after the film. Admission is free.
- **Johnson Oasis** birding visit. Identify Calumet region birds and learn conservation practices. The first trip is scheduled for April 18, 2010 from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Ages 6 and up welcome. Admission is free.

Topics Covered

African-American history, Chicago history, migration, immigration, slavery, labor, environment, the Great Migration, art, culture, family histories

Languages Spoken/Taught

English

Contact

11111 S. Forrestville Ave.
Chicago, IL 60628
(773) 291-9115

Cambodian American Heritage Museum & Killing Fields Memorial

www.cambodian-association.org

About

The Cambodian American Heritage Museum & Killing Fields Memorial (CAHM) raises awareness of the Cambodian genocide and celebrates the renewal of Cambodian community and culture in the United States. It provides an unforgettable educational experience and offers a place for reflection, healing, and celebration of the human spirit. In addition, the museum embraces partnerships with other groups affected by war and genocide to promote healing among all survivors and to share awareness initiatives.

Museum and Collections

CAHM is an expansion of the Cambodian Association of Illinois and was completed in 2004. The collection features revolving exhibits that explore the history and culture of Cambodia, the Killing Fields genocide, and the journey of Cambodian-Americans. The Killing Fields Memorial, adjacent to the museum, contains an 80-panel Wall of Remembrance, which honors the names of victims and survivors of the Killing Fields. A virtual tour is also available on the website, enabling educators and students to take a field trip to the museum without leaving the classroom.

Programs

- **Cambodian Cultural Dance Troupe** enables Chicago youth to serve as cultural ambassadors and learn intricate Cambodian folk dance. Participants do not have to be of Cambodian heritage to participate.
- **Reach for the Stars** tutoring program pairs youth with volunteer tutors for homework help and positive interaction with adults.
- **Summer Day Camp** for 25 children, as well as a **summer internship program** for high school students.

Curriculum

CAHM offers a curriculum-building guide (developed with Chicago's Northside College Prep High School) to assist educators in teaching about the Cambodian genocide. Contact the museum to obtain a copy.

School Visits

Khmer Spirit Arts Education introduces school-age children to a broader ethnic and cultural understanding about Cambodian life and creative output. This arts program includes:

- Teacher Training
- Arts Learning Capsules relating to Cambodian sculpture, music, dance and folklore and consisting of such hands-on activities as role play, drama, journaling, drawing, and storytelling.

Khmer Spirit meets Illinois state standards in English language, visual, and performing arts and social and emotional learning. While the program is free, schools are responsible for cost of materials and incidentals. This is an overview of core Cambodian arts instruction; no lesson plans are provided. Instructors are Cambodian artisans.

Topics Covered

Genocide, arts, culture, history, Cambodia, dance, sculpture, music, ethnic identity, refugees

Languages Spoken/Taught

Khmer, English

Contact

2831 W Lawrence Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625
(773) 878-7090

Chicago Japanese American Historical Society

www.cjahs.org

About

The mission of the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society (CJAHS) is to preserve, promote, and present the history of Japanese Americans in the Chicagoland area.

Programs

CJAHS hosts several types of programs. The organization hosts facilitated discussions on topics such as immigration and ethnic identity that can be adapted for adolescents. In April 2010, CJAHS will bring artist Kip Fulbeck to the Field Museum to present *kip fulbeck: part asian, 100% hapa*, which will run at the Field Museum from April 2—September 6. The exhibit explores the concept of ethnic identity through photographic portraits of people of mixed ancestry (called “hapa”) and their written answers to the question “what are you?”

School Visits

CJAHS makes visits to all grade levels ranging from 4th grade to college level. The price is dependent on the school but generally ranges from free to \$75. Programs can incorporate any aspect of Japanese culture, but they are dependent on the availability of a presenter and may include an additional fee. Example courses include language instruction, origami making, and dance classes. The CJAHS has received training from the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience to conduct facilitated small-groups dialogues about a variety of contemporary topics pertaining to their culture and collections.

Curriculum

CJAHS offers a curriculum which covers internment camps and WWII-specific occurrences and can be incorporated into teachers’ lesson plans. Cost is \$20.

Topics Covered

History, geography, art, culture, language, dance, World War II, ethnic identity, Internment Camps, pre and post WWII subject matter, immigration

Languages Spoken/Taught

English, Japanese

Contact

Please visit www.cjahs.org for more information
4626 N. Knox Ave.
Chicago, IL 60630

Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago

www.ecachicago.org

About

The Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago (ECAC) is a non-profit organization committed to serving the cultural, psychological, and socio-economic needs of refugees and immigrants in and around metropolitan Chicago. In addition to assisting native Ethiopians, ECAC also supports members of other refugee populations. Established in 1984, ECAC assists in the promotion of personal growth, financial stability, positive family and community relations, and community empowerment. The adjustment and development of all of ECAC's constituents is facilitated with programs in the areas of advocacy, education, employment, healthcare, and community outreach.

Museum and Collections

ECAC expects to establish a museum within the next year. There will be an open house on April 10, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m, which will include workshops, a showing of the movie "Live and Become," a speaker who will discuss the Ethiopian diaspora, a catered dinner, and celebratory music and dance.

Programs

ECAC works with students from Loyola University to serve all youth, with session for ages of **6-13** and **14 and up**. The goals of the program are to promote academic achievements, to encourage youth involvement in community activities and issues, to help them further the idea of creating positive social change, to give them cultural education.

- **After School Programs** are held every Monday through Thursday from 2 to 5 p.m. and include homework assistance and tutoring.
- **Cultural Education Classes** and **Arts and Crafts** are held Fridays from 2 to 5 p.m.
- **Saturday Sports** include soccer every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- High school students can complete their community service hours by volunteering with ECAC's Youth Development Program.
- **Multicultural Youth Project:** ECAC participates in this program with six different ethnic agencies in the Uptown, Edgewater, and Roger's Park neighborhoods. The aim is to bring together young individuals from various backgrounds in a safe and healthy environment. This encourages their participation in learning about and educating one another about their unique cultures and experiences. Components of MCYP include: a youth leadership council, sports leagues, community service programs, field trips and outings, retreats, fundraisers, career development training, and cultural celebrations.

Special Programs

ECAC is a delegate agency for Chicago's Region 1 Youth Net Program. Through this affiliation, cultural classes are conducted on Fridays from 2 to 5 p.m. Topics include native language, traditional dance, and games.

Topics Covered

Immigration, refugee rights, African diaspora, arts, culture, language, sports, community involvement

Languages Spoken/Taught

English, Ethiopian

Contact

1730 W. Greenleaf
Chicago, IL 60626
(773) 508-0303

Indo-American Center

www.indoamerican.org

Indo-American Heritage Museum

www.iahmuseum.org

About

The mission of the Indo-American Center (IAC) is to promote the well being of South Asian immigrants through services that facilitate their adjustment, integration, and friendship with wider society, nurture their sense of community, and foster appreciation for their heritage and culture. The mission of the Indo-American Heritage Museum (IAHM) is to promote understanding of the diversity, history, and culture of India- Americans and to showcase their contributions and achievements. Their programs use a rich collection of artifacts, oral histories, and cultural resources to tell the immigration story of Indo-Americans.

Programs

IAC offers a variety of programs for children and teens, including leadership and mentoring opportunities for teens, standardized test preparation, college guidance, and a Sunday academic tutoring program for children.

- **After School Programs** for children ages 6 to 14, Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m.
- **Annual Summer Camp**: this year's theme is health and wellness.

Special Programs

IAHM's educational programs include presentations to school and university students, credit workshops for teachers, and educational seminars for universities, tour groups, and corporations. Programs are tailored to the interests of the groups and are held at the Indo-American Center (address below).

- **CPDU workshops**: IAHM's Teacher Workshops offer educators of all grade levels exciting and stimulating ways to fulfill curriculum requirements while immersing themselves in another culture. Contact IAHM to schedule a workshop. Past workshops include Battling Bigotry, India: A Heritage of Diversity, India: Diversity & Democracy, and Exploring South Asia.

Tours

IAHM has developed a tour that highlights the contributions and culture of Indo-Americans in Chicago and makes use of cultural resources on Devon Avenue as a 'living museum.'

Topics Covered

History, culture, India, cultural diversity, arts, culture, Chicago history, immigration, ethnic identity

Languages Spoken/Taught

English, Urdu, Hindi

Contact

6328 N. California Ave.
Chicago, IL 60659
(773) 973-0157

Institute of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture

www.iprac.org

About

The Institute of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture (IPRAC) is devoted to the promotion, integration, and advancement of Puerto Rican arts and culture by presenting exhibitions and programming created to enhance the visibility and importance of the rich Puerto Rican arts tradition. IPRAC includes a large exhibition space, and theater and performance space, classrooms for studio arts and workshops, café, museum store, courtyard, photography classroom with lab, and a curatorial department. It is located in the former Humboldt Park Stables and Receptory.

Programs

IPRAC present arts education and cultural outreach programs designed to provide relevant and quality arts experiences to the local Chicago community with emphasis on the youth and adult/senior population.

- **Artist Sessions:** IPRAC offers student workshops with visiting and/or exhibiting artists; times are arranged with IPRAC's Programming Coordinator. The next series will be offered between April 2 and April 9 with Puerto Rican artist Richard Santiago.
- **Summer Program:** For summer 2010, IPRAC will offer a summer long session focusing on the history and traditions of Taino culture. See website for more details as they become available.

Field Trips

Classes can arrange a tour or other visit at IPRAC. Admission is free.

Topics Covered

Puerto Rican history and culture, visual and performing arts

Languages Spoken/Taught

English, Spanish

Contact

3015 W. Division St.
Chicago, IL 60622
(773) 486-8345

Irish American Heritage Center

www.irish-american.org

About

The Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC) is one of the premiere Irish cultural organizations in the United States. It is a destination for people of Irish descent as well as those who wish to learn more about the Irish heritage.

Museum and Collections

IAHC includes a small museum which features a collection of pottery, textiles, maps, and historical artifacts from the Irish community in Chicago.

Programs

- **Saturday Classes:** appropriate for children ages 5 to 17. Classes are from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Cost is \$45 per semester for IAHC members, \$60 per semester for general public. To register children for classes, just show up at the first class and be ready for your children to have a great time while learning about all things Irish. Topics include Irish (Gaelic) Language studies, Teen Theatre Workshop, and Celtic Mythology.
- **Summer Program:** In this fun-filled program, children explore Chicago's cultural offerings, attend sporting events, take architectural tours, visit museums and take nature hikes. Tuition is \$325 per child and includes art materials, field trips, and lunch; discounts are available for families with more than one child. After-program childcare is available from 3 to 5 p.m. for an additional \$150; children will have arts activities and snacks.

Field Trips

Classes may arrange a visit by appointment. Cost is \$1 per child.

Topics Covered

Irish heritage, culture, customs, art, and music

Languages Spoken/Taught

English, Gaelic

Contact

4626 N. Knox Ave.
Chicago, IL 60630
(773) 282-7035

Korean American Resource and Cultural Center

www.chicagokrcc.org

About

Korean American Resource and Cultural Center's mission is to empower the Korean American community through education, social service, organizing/advocacy and culture. KRCC serves the Korean American community of greater Chicago, now estimated at 100,000.

Programs

- **Fighting Youth Shouting out for Humanity:** The Center's Youth Council, FYSH empowers youth to work on issues facing themselves, their peers and other communities of color. Every year, members choose an issue, then plan and organize around it to educate the community and gain support for the cause.
- **Building Sisterhood:** This young women-only program focuses on promoting a better understanding of women's issues in the community. By discussing critical women's issues and designing their own public awareness campaign, young women learn to develop leadership skills and understand what it means to advocate for reproductive justice.
- **After School Program:** As the proud grantee of After School Matters (ASM) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), any high school students residing in the city can become involved in the following programs free of cost, throughout the year: Fan dancing classes, Poongmul (Korean traditional drumming) workshops, homework assistance, mentoring.
- **College Assistance Services:** The Center also offers other assistance for students and parents such as FAFSA workshops, college library, Gates Millennium Scholarship info sessions, college application/scholarship search assistance, and publication of school system guides in English and in Korean.

Topics Covered

Immigration, art, culture, civic engagement

Languages Spoken/Taught

English, Korean

Contact

6146 N. Lincoln Ave.
Chicago, IL 60659
(773) 588-9158

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

www.mitchellmuseum.org

About

The Mitchell Museum's mission is to promote and share a deeper understanding of Native American Indian peoples through the collection, preservation and interpretation of traditional and contemporary art and material culture.

Museum and Collections

The Mitchell Museum is the only museum in the Chicagoland area that focuses exclusively on the history, culture, and arts of the North American native people. The museum's collections range from the Paleo-Indian period through the present day. Permanent exhibitions depict the Native American cultures of the Woodlands, Plains, Southwest, Northwest Coast, and Arctic.

Children's Museum

The Mitchell Museum Children's Museum focuses on regions of American Indian culture through visual learning, hands-on activities, traditional craft making, and games. School groups should be booked in advance and can be scheduled Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rates are \$2.50 per person. Teachers are free.

Programs

- **Weekend Programs:** The Mitchell Museum hosts interactive learning programs on selected weekends. Past programs have included American Indian story tellers and traditional drumming and flute playing.

Special Programs

Loan Box Program: Teachers can reserve the Mitchell Museum loan box for hands on learning in the classroom. There are a number of boxes that contain American Indian cultural objects that can be passed around the classroom. Boxes can be rented for \$40 by calling the Mitchell Museum.

Topics Covered

Midwestern history, American history, art, culture, cultural diversity, music, dance, sports, economic systems

Languages/Taught

English

Contact

3001 Central St.
Evanston, IL 60201
(847) 475-1030

Polish Museum of America

www.polishmuseumofamerica.org

About

The mission of the Polish Museum of America (PMA), an integral part of the dynamic mosaic of Polish life in Chicago, is to promulgate the rich cultural history of the Polish people by collecting, preserving, interpreting, and displaying materials related to this heritage; and to integrate these resources into appropriate programs, activities, and exhibitions that enrich the intellectual and artistic lives of all members of society.

Museum and Collections

PMA, one of the oldest and largest ethnic museums in the United States, offers visitors a range of exhibits, resources and activities related to Polish history, culture and heritage, as well as Polish American history. Tour guides are available to assist visitors and provide additional information.

In the Museum, you will find on permanent display:

- Polish folk art in wood, textiles, leather and needlework
- Authentic regional Polish folk dress
- Paintings and sculptures by 18th, 19th and 20th century Polish and Polish American artists
- Polish coins, medals, books and photographs
- Exhibits from the Polish Pavilion at the 1939 New York World's Fair
- Examples of szopkas (nativity scenes) and Polish Christmas and Easter traditions
- Wycinanki – traditional Polish paper-cutting art
- Polish military uniforms and winged Hussar armor
- Exhibits on famous Poles: Pope John Paul II, General Casimir Pulaski, General Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Shakespearean actress Helena Modrzejewska (Modjeska)
- Paderewski Room exhibit dedicated to Ignacy Jan Paderewski, pianist, composer and statesman, including his piano and personal belongings
- Stations of the Cross from Panna Maria, Texas, the first permanent Polish settlement in the United States (1854)

Special temporary exhibits, which change periodically, are also on view. These exhibits focus on a specific artistic or historical topic. Museum hours are Friday through Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Topics Covered

History, Europe, Poland, folk costumes and traditions, music, Chicago history, religion, art, culture, immigration, World War II

Languages Spoken/Taught

English, Polish

Contact

984 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60642
(773) 384-3352

Swahili Institute of Chicago

www.swahiliinstitute.org

About

The Swahili Institute of Chicago (SWITCH) was established in December of 1988 as a not-for-profit organization. The purpose of SWITCH is to promote African language, culture and history.

Programs

- **Classes** for all levels from pre-school through college.
- **Private tutoring** is provided upon request and tailored to the client's needs.
- **African drumming** classes are offered at the institute or on-site at suitable facilities.

Special Programs

Performances/Cultural Presentations: SWITCH has cultural performing artists available for dance, drumming performances, storytelling, poetry, and dramatic practices. Performances are interactive with the audience. Lectures, presentations and demonstrations are given on historical, cultural, and current events relating to Africa.

Curriculum

SWITCH develops curriculum and provides instructors for African languages, cultural enrichment, and cultural awareness.

Topics Covered

Africa, African languages, art, culture, folk culture, drumming, music, dance, poetry, drama

Languages Spoken/Taught

English, Swahili

Contact

10707 S. Hale Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643
(773) 785-1430

Swedish American Museum

www.swedishamericanmuseum.org

About

The Swedish American Museum is a nonprofit educational activity center for the celebration and interpretation of Swedish American history and culture.

Museum and Collections

The Swedish American Museum includes a temporary exhibit gallery with four exhibits each year and a permanent exhibit about immigration to Chicago at the end of the 1800s. The permanent exhibit tells a fascinating story that starts in the mid-1800s in Sweden and takes the visitor on a journey to the New World. This story can be compared to the immigration experiences of other ethnic groups.

Children's Museum

The Brunk Children's Museum covers Swedish immigration, daily life, 1870s Sweden, and Vikings. It is a fully interactive museum in which children are encouraged to don historical clothing, enter a Swedish farmhouse, take a trip to America on a large 'boat,' and explore life as a Swedish pioneer in the Midwest. The museum is aimed at ages 3 to 12. Cost of admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Programs

- **Hejsan After School Program** is designed for children ages 5 to 10 and focuses on Swedish holidays and traditions specific to the time of year. Sessions are held the first and third Thursday of the month from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

School Visits

The Swedish American Museum visits Chicago-area schools to present *Johanna Unpacks Her Trunk*, an immigration journey. The fee for school visits start at \$75; price varies depending on location and duration.

Curriculum

The curriculum developed by the Swedish American Museum is meant to prepare student for their trip to the museum. This educator pack is geared toward 3rd graders and is free with tour booking.

Topics Covered

Immigration, Sweden, pioneer life, Chicago history, art, culture, music, environment, folk art

Languages Spoken/Taught

English, Swedish

Contact

5211 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60640
(773) 728-8111

Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art

www.uima-chicago.org

About

The permanent collection of the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA) traces the Ukrainian artist's experience. It highlights work by artists whose careers extend far beyond today's Ukraine to global capitals of modern and contemporary art like Paris, New York, and Chicago. Included in the collection is the work of Europe's first cubist sculptor, Alexander Archipenko, and avant-garde artists Alexis Gritchenko and Mychajlo Andreenko, who fled Ukraine for France during the 1917 Bolshevik revolution. These and other artists rented a Ukrainian Village store to hold their first exhibition in 1959 and helped found UIMA in 1971.

Museum and Collections

UIMA features pieces from its permanent collection alongside a series of special exhibits that change every one to four months. These exhibits often feature cross-cultural art and artists from different cultures. Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free

Field Trips

UIMA hosts schools for field trips. It is conveniently located within walking distance from the Ukrainian National Museum so field trips can be combined.

Curriculum

UIMA offers three curricula appropriate for grades K-12; topics include the Ukrainian genocide, countries and cultures around the world, and Ukrainian art. They are available for free at <http://cis.uchicago.edu/outreach/workshops/2009-2010/100113-ukraine.shtml>.

Topics Covered

Art, culture, special collection on genocide, contemporary art, contemporary issues (depending on special exhibit)

Languages Spoken/Taught

English, Ukrainian

Contact

2320 W. Chicago Ave.
Chicago, IL 60622
(773) 227-5522

Ukrainian National Museum

www.ukrainsnationalmuseum.org

About

The primary mission of the Ukrainian National Museum (UNM) of Chicago is to collect, preserve, develop, catalog and exhibit, as a resource for research, information and enjoyment, the documents artifacts, and records of the Ukrainian Immigration in America in general and Chicago in particular. The secondary mission is to preserve the existing museum collection and make it accessible and user friendly.

Museum and Collections

The collection at UNM consists of over 1,140 artifacts including those related to traditional folk arts, agricultural tools, artwork, musical instruments, trophies, and more. In addition, the archive houses material about Ukrainian communities, particularly in Chicago, as well as 1933 World's Fair memorabilia, personal manuscripts of civic leaders, and an extensive photographic collection. There is also a library on site, which boasts over 20,000 titles, many in Ukrainian, and over 600 periodicals and newspapers. UNM's permanent exhibit features sections about folk arts, pysanky (traditional decorated Easter eggs), religion, and famine and genocide in the Ukraine. The largest exhibit area in the museum is reserved for visiting exhibitions from around the world.

Programs

The Ukrainian National Museum offers programming for grades 5 through 12 in the following areas:

- **Pysanka Writing**
- **Gerdany Bead Work**
- **Embroidery Lessons**

Programs must be scheduled one month in advance. Each lesson is \$25 per student.

Field Trips

A UNM curator leads museum tours, providing a brief history about the various artifacts on display. The students can partake in a scavenger hunt upon completion of the tour. The museum is conveniently within walking distance of the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art for a combined field trip. General admission is free. Field trips are appropriate for grades 5 through 12. There must be 1 chaperone for every 5 students present. Application is required prior to the field trip.

Curriculum

UNM offers three curricula appropriate for grades K-12; topics include the Ukrainian genocide, countries and cultures around the world, and Ukrainian art. They are available for free at <http://cis.uchicago.edu/outreach/workshops/2009-2010/100113-ukraine.shtml>.

Topics Covered

History, Ukraine, genocide, Holodomor, folk art, art, culture, religion, geography, traditional dress

Languages Spoken/Taught

English, Ukrainian

Contact

2249 W. Superior St.
Chicago, IL 60612
(312) 421-8020

Additional Alliance Core Members

The following Core Members either do not have established or ongoing education or youth programs, or else they lack a physical space for exhibits and programs. Some of these organizations offer ad hoc programming or instructional opportunities. For more information, visit their websites or contact the Alliance (info@chicagoculturalalliance.org).

[Brazilian Cultural Center](#)

www.brazilianculturalcenter.org

[Casa Aztlán](#)

www.casaaztlan.org

[Casa Michoacan](#)

[Chinese American Museum of Chicago](#)

www.ccamuseum.org

[Filipino American Historical Society](#)

[Illinois St. Andrews Society](#)

www.chicago-scots.org

[Italian Cultural Center](#)

www.casaitaliachicago.net

[Latvian Folk Art Museum](#)

[Serbian Cultural & Arts Center St. Sava](#)

www.stsavachicago.org

Alliance Partner Institutions

[Changing Worlds](#)

www.changingworlds.org

[Chicago History Museum](#)

www.chicagohistory.org

[Chicago Zoological Society—Brookfield Zoo](#)

www.czs.org

[Children’s Memorial Hospital](#)

[Chinese Mutual Aid Association](#)

www.chinesemutualaid.org

[Jane Addams Hull-House Museum](#)

www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull/

[North Park University](#)

www.northpark.edu

[Pullman State Historic Site](#)

www.pullman-museum.org

[The Field Museum](#)

www.fieldmuseum.org

[The University of Chicago—Center for International Studies](#)

<http://cis/uchicago.edu/>

[United African Organization](#)

www.uniteafricans.org