



# Membership Information

## Chicago Cultural Alliance's Mission

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The Chicago Cultural Alliance (CCA) is a membership organization whose mission is to connect, promote and support centers of cultural heritage for a more inclusive Chicago.

Our vision is a city where every community has a voice in the cultural landscape and cross-cultural collaboration is a vital part of the city's civic fabric.

## The Benefits of Being a Core Member

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- **AN EXPANSIVE CHICAGO NETWORK**
  - Our network of Core Member and Partner Institutions represent a large and powerful cohort of Chicago's cultural leaders. Within this packet you'll find the contact information for our entire Membership. In addition, by participating in our Annual Meetings, Leadership Council and program offerings you'll expand your network and your learning to Chicago area funders, experts in the field and more!
- **INCLUSION IN EXCITING CONVERSATIONS AND PROGRAMMING**
  - From collaborative citywide exhibits like Chicago's Families, to dialogues around heritage, equality, and cultural tradition, the Alliance brings members together to platform important issues effecting Chicago's ethnic communities. Opportunities for members to host or participate in these discussions enrich your organizations' own community and create long-lasting partnerships between other institutional partners and members.
- **OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE SUCCESS**
  - Through capacity building workshops, networking events and one-to-one mentoring, shared services and partnerships, the Alliance and its partners work with members on organizational and professional development. As an active part of the Alliance, members gain knowledge on best practices in the field and capacity building programs like the Alliance's shared services, all included in your membership.
- **MORE EXPOSURE TO WIDE AUDIENCES**
  - The Alliance markets Core Member events, exhibits and special programs through *Culture Around the City*, our bi-weekly newsletter, on our website, and other digital marketing, focusing predominately on social media outlets- Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Broadcasting our members to an audience of 9,000+ - and growing - Chicagoans and tourists active in the museum community.

## CCA Programs and Workshops

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- **Conservations and Collections Program**
  - The Alliance supports and assists in the item level cataloging of thousands of items at participating member sites, creating a systematized way of preserving Chicago's cultural heritage. Members can sign up for conservation consulting from professional conservators in Chicago as well as utilize the Alliance's Shared Conservation and Collections Manager to help implement your conservation plan.
- **Collaborative Programming and Marketing**
  - Through programs like Heritage Matters and Chicago's Families, the Alliance creates programming that brings together Core Members for large-scale projects that receive wide new audiences, and varied marketing opportunities. Our last citywide intercultural collaboration engaged 9,000 attendees in our cultural heritage and our member orgs.
- **Activating Heritage Annual Member Conference**
  - The Activating Heritage Conference is an annual member conference developed and delivered by the Alliance, in cooperation with Partners and Core Members. It aims to build knowledge across diverse administrative and museum topics for our membership and other cultural heritage professionals. By reviewing best practices in organizational management areas, including financial management, developing an online presence, grant writing, and board development, the Alliance strengthens our members' capacity to fulfill their significant and unique missions.

## Meetings and Awards

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The Chicago Cultural Alliance has full membership meetings twice annually one as a stand-alone Annual Meeting and the other as part of our Annual Conference.

**Annual Member Meeting:** The Alliance holds its annual meeting at the Alliance's offices located at 100 S. State St in Chicago, IL. The meeting allows the CCA to report on the previous year to membership, vote in new board members to the Alliance's Board of Directors, hear nominations for the Outstanding Community Leader Awards and talk in more depth about the plans for the coming year.

**Activating Heritage Annual Member Conference:** In addition, the Alliance holds a second Membership meeting as part of our Annual Membership Conference, the second Friday of November annually.

**Leadership Council Meetings:** The Alliance holds two annual meetings with Alliance member leaders (ie: Executive Directors, Executive Officers) to discuss future initiatives and collaborations for Alliance members.

**Outstanding Community Leader Award:** Each year at MOSAIC, we recognize two *Outstanding Community Leaders*. Often unsung heroes, these individuals are dedicated to serving their community, enriching its social, civic, and cultural health, and forging links to other communities. Awardees are selected at the Alliance's Annual Member Meeting by the Alliance Membership.

The Alliance is proud to call itself an active consortium of Civic & Arts Leaders. We encourage you to connect and network with each other by scheduling casual coffee meetings to share and receive feedback and advice.

- **For General Member Resources such as workshops, event submissions, or signing up for our MemberWire please access this website available only to Members:**
  - <https://www.chicagoculturalalliance.org/membership/member-resources/>

However, there are questions that the Alliance staff in particular can best help with. We hope that you will contact us when you know exactly what you need and when you don't!

- **Contact Peter Vega, Community Programs Manager, at [pvega@chicagoculturalalliance.org](mailto:pvega@chicagoculturalalliance.org)**
  - Member to member connection for possible collaborations or external partners
  - Tours and programming around tours
  - Audience Development Best Practices
  - Professional Development
- **Contact Teresita Avilés Bailey, Membership & Development Associate, at [taviles@chicagoculturalalliance.org](mailto:taviles@chicagoculturalalliance.org)**
  - Membership Benefits and Dues
  - Member News updates for our MemberWire
  - MOSAIC Annual Gala Fundraising
  - Database Management
- **Contact Andrew Leith, Conservation and Collections Manager, at [aleith@chicagoculturalalliance.org](mailto:aleith@chicagoculturalalliance.org)**
  - Collections Management
  - Conservation Assessments
  - Digitization questions
  - Putting collections online
  - Helping to find interns/volunteers in conservation and collections
  - Collections professional development resources
  - Connections to storage facilities for collections around Chicagoland
- **Contact Emily Reusswig, Executive Director, at [ereusswig@chicagoculturalalliance.org](mailto:ereusswig@chicagoculturalalliance.org)**
  - Strategic Planning resources and best practices
  - Fundraising and Board Development Questions
  - Human Resources Issues
  - Finance and Auditing resources
  - Grant writing prospect research questions
  - To receive letters of recommendation