



An Evening Celebrating Chicago's
Cultures and Communities
&
Annual Fundraiser for the
Chicago Cultural Alliance

May 20, 2025
6.00 - 9.00PM

The Field Museum
1400 S Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, IL 60605





Black Hawk Performance Company

The Black Hawk Performance Company seeks to honor the ground they dance on, Mother Earth, and the many tribes who have made Illinois their home. Many tribes like the Ojibwe have been here for thousands of years. The most famous American Indian leader of historic times was the great Sauk Chief Black Hawk. His name comes from the great black hawks that we see all over the state. We honor both his name and our brother the hawk when we say these words. The performance company has performed for thousands of Illinois children and families since they were founded in 1984, by the incredible Zuni/Isleta singer, dancer and award-winning artist, the late Carlos Peynetsa.



Mae Ya Carter Ryan

Mae Ya Carter Ryan has a singing voice unlike any other for a 23-year-old. She is a self-taught vocal and musical prodigy, producing unique arrangements and often ingenious versions of most songs she performs. Be it jazz, gospel, R&B, pop, blues or classical, Mae

Ya's signature soulful tone and talent are undeniable. Mae Ya has been featured on WGN's Morning Show, CBS's Someone You Should Know segment, WTTW PBS, Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Tribune, and the Chicago Reader. Mae Ya is a Berklee College of Music Alum.

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Dr. Mónica Félix Executive Director Chicago Cultural Alliance

Welcome to the Chicago Cultural Alliance's annual MOSAIC gala! We are thrilled to welcome new supporters and friends for an evening celebrating Chicago's cultural communities.

Tonight we honor three amazing individuals who have gone above and beyond in their work to foster deeper cross-cultural understanding in Chicago and contributed significantly to the infrastructure of arts programs in the region. We will recognize this year's Cultural Champion, John McCarter, a Life Trustee and President Emeritus of the Field Museum. We are honored to recognize two Outstanding Community Leaders as well who were nominated by their peers: Dr. Peggy Montes (Founder of the Bronzeville Children's Museum) and Dr. Dorene Wiese (President of the American Indian Association of Illinois).

As we join for an evening of celebration, we recognize that we are convening during a critical time. The Chicago Cultural Alliance's mission to "support, promote, and advocate for Chicago's centers of cultural heritage" takes on new importance during a time in which arts, cultural, and humanities organizations are facing significant obstacles. It is in times like these that we invite our supporters to reflect on the importance of networks. The Chicago Cultural Alliance works to build powerful mutual aid networks, opportunities for cultural leaders to collaborate, new ways to reach wider audiences, and build a growing community of cultural allies.

In response to the challenges of these times, we present a very special addition to this year's gala: the Core Members (cultural partners) of the CCA were invited to represent their respective organizations at cultural activation tables that you will find positioned along Stanley Field Hall this evening. These cultural partners decided to unify around the theme "Resilience". We invite you to visit each cultural activation station during the cocktail hour as well as after the awards program. We hope that you will learn about a new ethnic museum or cultural center in Chicago; hear about their community and programs; and finally we hope that you will get involved in supporting their work.

We thank you for joining us in celebration for this unique gathering of Chicago's cultural leaders, supporters of the arts, and cultural allies. Thank you for standing with us as we advance our vision for a more diverse and inclusive Chicago.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mónica Félix".

EVENT PROGRAM



5:00pm

VIP Reception

(SUE exhibit)

6:00pm

Cocktail Reception for General Admission

(bar & hors d'oeuvres)

Cultural Activation Tables for CCA Cultural Organizations

7:00pm

Opening Performance: Black Hawk Performance Company

*

Awards Program and Dinner

Master of Ceremonies Jasmine Minor (ABC 7)

CCA President John Russick

CCA Executive Director Dr. Mónica Félix

*

Cultural Champion Award: John McCarter

Outstanding Community Leader Award: Dr. Peggy A. Montes

Outstanding Community Leader Award: Dr. Dorene Wiese

*

Closing Performance: Mae Ya Carter Ryan

8:00pm

Cultural Activation Tables & New Connections



CHICAGO CULTURAL ALLIANCE



The Chicago Cultural Alliance's mission is to connect, promote, and support centers of cultural heritage for a more inclusive Chicago.

We are an active consortium of close to 50 cultural heritage museums, centers, and historical societies that span 23 neighborhoods and 11 suburbs in the Chicago area and represent over 30 different cultures.

Our vision is a city where all communities have a voice, and cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration are an integral part of Chicago's civic fabric.



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- Jane Addams Hull-House Museum
- Joel Hall Dancers & Center
- Kohl Children's Museum
- Lincoln Park Zoo
- Media Burn
- National Public Housing Museum
- Newberry Library
- The Peace School
- Timeline Theatre Company
- University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC):
Centers for Cultural Understanding and
Social Change

The Chicago Cultural Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Illinois.

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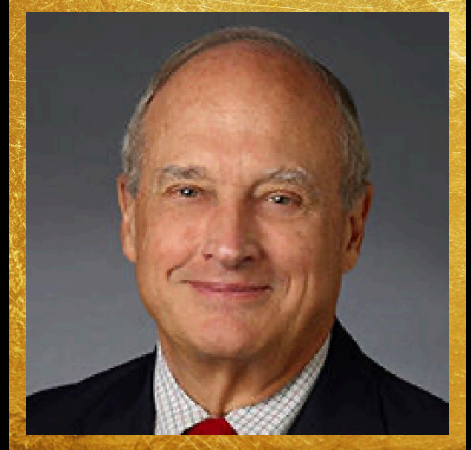
Pick up your free Core & Partner Member List from the Welcome Desk today or visit our core member map below



OUR HONOREES

2025 CULTURAL CHAMPION: JOHN McCARTER

Mr. John W. McCarter is a Life Trustee and President Emeritus of The Field Museum, where he served as President and CEO from 1996 to 2012. A native Chicagoan, he has held leadership roles in business, government, and academia, including serving as Budget Director of Illinois, a White House Fellow, Chair of the Board of Regents at the Smithsonian, Emeritus Trustee of the University of Chicago, former Trustee of Princeton University, and Chair of the Board of Trustees at WTTW.



PAST CULTURAL CHAMPIONS:

- 2024 | David Hiller
- 2023 | Gary T. Johnson
- 2022 | Joseph Seliga & Vanessa B M. Vergara
- 2021 | Claire Rice
- 2020 | Angel Ysaguirre
- 2019 | Michelle Boone
- 2018 | Rosa Cabrera and Alaka Wali
- 2017 | Amina Dickerson
- 2016 | Elissa Efromymson and Adnaan Hamid
- 2015 | Ra and Falona Joy
- 2014 | Janet Carl Smith
- 2013 | Martin Castro
- 2012 | Sunny Fischer

2025 OUSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER: **Dr. PEGGY MONTES**



Dr. Montes's journey started as a teacher, counselor, and interim assistant principal in several Chicago Public Schools. She was later appointed a cabinet member in Chicago City government. She created the first Chicago Women's History Month in 1986. Dr. Montes is also the Founder of the Bronzeville Children's Museum, the first and only African American children's museum in America.

2025 OUSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER: **Dr. DORENE WIESE**



Dr. Wiese is the founding President of the American Indian Association of Illinois and President of Native American Educational Services. She has served as an urban American Indian educator in Chicago for 58 years, providing a lifetime of service in teaching and preserving Chicago Native history, music, photography, film, dance, and art through a variety of programs. She is an enrolled member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe-White Earth and dreams that through the training of Native youth, Native Chicago culture and history will live on.

PAST OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADERS:

2024 Billy Ocasio	2018 Jean Mishima	2014 Joe Yazzie
2024 Dr. Ramón García	2018 Lydia Tkaczuk	2013 Kerstin Lane
2022 Melodi Serna	2017 Ruben Salazar	2013 Rasmea Yousef
2022 Byoung Sug Kim	2017 Kwangmin Jang	2012 Jose Luis Gutierrez
2021 Fritzie Fritzshall	2016 Dorothie Shah	2012 Raymond Lee
2021 Sherry Williams	2016 Jan Lorys	2011 Lakshmi Menon
2020 Soo Lon Moy	2016 Erku Yimer	2011 Alex Gonzales
2020 Kathleen McDonald	2015 Marie Ciesla	2010 Angie DeCorah
2019 Ron Salazar	2015 Hector Duarte	2010 Frank Gleeson
2019 Emil Aldaddah	2014 Jose Lopez	

CHICAGO CULTURAL ALLIANCE



The Chicago Cultural Alliance
relies on donations and
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chicago
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Behind the Scenes in Science at the Chicago Botanic Garden: Kayri Havens, the Garden's Negaanee Vice President of Science and Chief Scientist, will give a personal, in-depth tour of the Plant Conservation Science Center. Learn about what happens in our labs, our seed bank, and better understand our programs to save both plants and the planet! By appointment: M-Th late afternoons in May-October only, 1-6 people.



Private Tour of the National Public Housing Museum .

The National Public Housing Museum is the first cultural institution dedicated to telling the story of public housing in America.

The full experience will last approximately two hours at a mutually agreed upon time subject to Dr. Lee's availability. Please use by August 20, 2025.

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