

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



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June 9th, 2026

EPIPHANY CENTER
FOR THE ARTS
201 S Ashland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60607

OPENING PERFORMANCE

HO ETSU TAIKO



Ho Etsu Taiko is a collective of musicians with a fresh take on the art of Japanese drumming. They blend the deep-rooted culture of Japanese-American taiko with influences that inspire and celebrate the diversity of their performing members. Their mission is to spread joy through each and every drumbeat by creating music that is true to who they are.

CLOSING PERFORMANCE

YIN HE DANCE



Yin He Dance is a nonprofit dance organization rooted in Chicago's Chinese American community. Their goal is to contribute to and empower their community through art. Through their programs – a professional Chinese dance company and a school of dance, they hope to build new avenues of cultural dialogue and most importantly, share the joy of dance with all communities.



PROGRAM

5:30pm

Cocktail Hour with Hors d'oeuvres
in Catacombs

Cultural Activation Tables - CCA Core Members

Casa Michoacán

Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum

Kalapriya

ROCO Chicago

6:30pm

Start of Awards Program & Seated
Dinner in Epiphany Hall

Master of Ceremonies Jasmine Minor (ABC 7)

Opening Performance: Ho Etsu Taiko

CCA Executive Director Dr. Mónica Félix

**Outstanding Community Leader Award:
Michael Takada**

CCA President John Russick

**Cultural Investment Award: MacArthur Foundation
Accepted by Tara Magner**

Cultural Champion Award: Lisa Yun Lee

Paddle Raise

**Outstanding Community Leader Award:
CW Chan**

8:10pm

Closing Performance: Yin He Dance

9:00pm

Silent Auction Closes. End of Program

2026 SPONSORS

CULTURAL LEADER

MacArthur
Foundation

CULTURAL COLLABORATOR



CULTURAL ADVOCATE

Vanessa Vergara & Joseph Seliga

CULTURAL ALLY



Anonymous



Culture City



exelonSM



David Hiller

Lisa Yun Lee



Josey Nieto



CULTURAL ASSOCIATE

Ginger Farley

Bon French

Gary Johnson

Patrick J. Murphy

MEDIA SPONSOR





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 will recognize four amazing honorees 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, Lisa Yun Lee, a cultural activist and the executive director and chief curator of the National Public Housing Museum. We are also honored to recognize two Outstanding Community Leaders: Michael Takada (Japanese American Service Committee) and CW Chan (Chinese American Museum of Chicago). This year also brings our Cultural Investment Award to The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation which has focused on funding community-based organizations over the years through their Chicago Commitment Team.

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 downstairs in the Catacombs this evening. We hope that you learned about a new museum or cultural center in Chicago and heard about their community and programs. Finally, we hope that you will get involved in supporting their work as well.

Throughout the evening we invite you to bid in the silent auction filled with a selection of cultural experiences, gift baskets, and other items that highlight what makes Chicago unique. We are incredibly grateful to the CCA Members and Chicago businesses who donated items to support this major fundraising event for the CCA.

We thank you for joining us in celebration at 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.



Mónica Félix



CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE CHICAGO CULTURAL
ALLIANCE AND ALL THE MOSAIC
HONOREES.

BEST WISHES FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUCCESS AND IMPACT!

Vanessa Vergara and Joseph Seliga

CAMOC
Congratulates
Chicago Cultural Alliance
Honorees And



CW Chan
2026 Outstanding
Community Leader

博 Chinese American
Museum of Chicago
Raymond B. & Jean T. Lee Center



JASC
Japanese American
Service Committee

Serving the greater Chicago community since 1946

- Adult Day Services
- Home Support Services
- Legacy Center
- Cultural & Educational Programs

Congratulations Michael Takada



5700 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, IL 60659
773-275-0097 www.jasc-chicago.org

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 30 neighborhoods and 11 suburbs in the Chicago area and represent over 40 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CULTURE AROUND 
CHICAGO CULTURAL ALLIANCE **THE CITY**

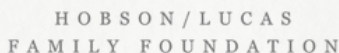


CCA CORE MEMBERS

Abrahamic Center for Cultural Education
American Indian Association of Illinois
American Indian Center of Chicago
Asian American Arts Chicago
Assyrian Cultural Foundation
Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture
Bronzeville Children's Museum
Bronzeville Historical Society
Casa Michoacán
Center for Native Futures
Center of Peruvian Arts
Chicago Japanese American Historical Society
Chicago Latvian Association
Chicago Scots
Chinese American Museum of Chicago
DANK Haus German American Cultural Center
Dominican-American Midwest Association
Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago
Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago
Friends of the Gamelan
Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum
Haitian American Museum of Chicago
Heritage Museum of Asian Art
Hibernian Media
Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago
Irish American Heritage Center
Japanese American Service Committee
Kalapriya Center for Indian Performing Arts
Korean Cultural Center of Chicago
Magura Cultural Center
National Cambodian Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial
National Hellenic Museum
National Indo-American Museum
National Museum of Mexican Art
National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture
OPEN Center for the Arts
The Polish Museum of America
Puerto Rican Arts Alliance
ROCO Chicago: The Romanian Community Foundation
Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center
South Asia Institute
South Side Community Art Center
Swedish American Museum
T. G. Masaryk Czech School
Trickster Cultural Center
Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art
Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago

THE CHICAGO CULTURAL ALLIANCE IS SUPPORTED BY



CCA PARTNER MEMBERS

American Writers Museum
ART WORKS Projects
Borderless Magazine
BRIDGE Chicago
Brookfield Zoo
Chicago Architecture Center
Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago History Museum
Chicago Public Media
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Association
Choose Chicago
Cook County Archives
Crossing Borders Music
DuSable Heritage Association
Field Museum
Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance

Illinois Humanities
Instituto Cervantes of Chicago
Intuit Art Museum
Jane Addams Hull-House Museum
Joel Hall Dancers & Center
Kohl Children's Museum
Lawndale Pop-Up Spot
Lincoln Park Zoo
Media Burn
National Public Housing Museum
Newberry Library
The Peace School
Timeline Theatre
UIC: Centers for Cultural Understanding
and Social Change
UIC: Special Collections and University
Archives



SPECIAL THANKS

Tonight's floral centerpieces were designed and created by Yuri Yatsuda, owner of De Bloemen Flower Design.

In addition to her work as a floral designer, Yuri serves as the Children's Program Event Coordinator at the Japanese American Service Committee (JASC). Through the Donguri Kai program, she teaches Japanese language and culture and organizes various initiatives, including kids' day camps, fundraising projects, and cultural classes. Yuri is dedicated to creating meaningful activities that help children explore their heritage and connect with the community.



CHICAGO CULTURAL ALLIANCE PROGRAMS



An annual capacity-building conference and workshop series for Members of the Chicago Cultural Alliance and other arts & culture professionals throughout the region.



The CCA facilitates regular Archives Crawls, where members of our Alliance open their archives to colleagues from various member cultural museums and archives.



Culture Around the City is the bi-monthly newsletter published by the CCA with a readership of over 8,000 subscribers. Each newsletter is carefully curated to help promote the unique cultural events of the cultural partners of the Chicago Cultural Alliance.



A month-long cross-cultural festival facilitated by the Chicago Cultural Alliance. Events encourage attendees to visit a new neighborhood and learn about another cultural community throughout the month of October.



A dynamic free workshop series designed to equip cultural and heritage nonprofits with practical tools and strategic insights to navigate today's challenging landscape for arts and community organizations.



A monthly meeting focusing on topics beneficial to our members.



A celebration of Chicago's diverse cultural communities through musical performances, art, and dumplings!

DONATE



Donate today to support another year of strengthening Chicago's cultural landscape and facilitating cross-cultural public programs.



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CULTURAL CHAMPION

LISA YUN LEE

Lisa Yun Lee is a cultural activist and the executive director and chief curator of the National Public Housing Museum. She is also an associate professor of museum and exhibition studies and gender and women's studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a member of Chicago Torture Justice Memorials. As the former director of the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, she oversaw renovation of the house and reinvigorated public programming.

PAST CULTURAL CHAMPIONS

2025 | John W. McCarter
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 Efroymson and Adnaan Hamid
2015 | Ra and Falona Joy
2014 | Janet Carl Smith
2013 | Martin Castro
2012 | Sunny Fischer



OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER

CW CHAN



CW Chan, a retired entrepreneur and mental health consultant, has dedicated over fifty years to community service, significantly benefiting the Asian and Chinese American communities in Chicago. He has held various leadership roles, including founder and president of the Chinese American Service League (CASL) and president of the Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce. In 1998, he established the Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community, which focused on civic engagement and political empowerment.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER

MICHAEL TAKADA



Michael Takada served as CEO of the Japanese American Service Committee from 2014 to 2024 and as President of the Board from 2005 to 2008. During his tenure, he led the organization through a period of significant growth and initiated the Serve, Preserve, Grow Campaign. Takada has held leadership roles in various organizations, including the Chicago Japanese American Council and the Chicago Commission for Human Relations. In recognition of his contributions, he received the Japan Foreign Minister's Commendation in 2022 and the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays.

PAST OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADERS

2025 | Dr. Dorene Wiese
2025 | Dr. Peggy Montes
2024 | Billy Ocasio
2024 | Dr. Ramón García
2022 | Melodi Serna
2022 | Byoung Sug Kim
2021 | Fritzie Fritzshall
2021 | Sherry Williams
2020 | Soo Lon Moy
2020 | Kathleen McDonald
2019 | Ron Salazar

2019 | Emil Aldaddah
2018 | Jean Mishima
2018 | Lydia Tkaczuk
2017 | Ruben Salazar
2017 | Kwangmin Jang
2016 | Dorothie Shah
2016 | Jan Lorys
2016 | Erku Yimer
2015 | Marie Ciesla
2015 | Hector Duarte
2014 | Jose Lopez

2014 | Joe Yazzie
2013 | Kerstin Lane
2013 | Rasmea Yousef
2012 | Jose Luis Gutierrez
2012 | Raymond Lee
2011 | Lakshmi Menon
2011 | Alex Gonzales
2010 | Angie DeCorah
2010 | Frank Gleeson

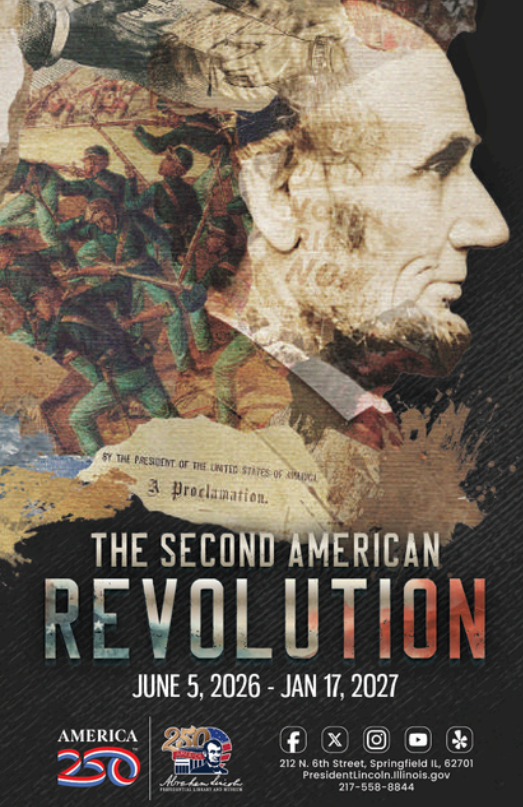
CULTURAL INVESTMENT AWARD

THE JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION



MacArthur Foundation

The MacArthur Foundation supports creative people, effective institutions, and influential networks building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. MacArthur strives toward transformative change on some of the world's most pressing social issues, including the existential threats of climate change, criminal justice reform, revitalizing local news in the U.S., expanding who creates, uses, and benefits from artificial intelligence, strengthening the well-being of Native communities, and empowering young people in Nigeria. In addition to its award programs MacArthur Fellows and 100&Change, the Foundation continues its historic commitments to the role of journalism in a responsible and responsive democracy and to the strength and vitality of our headquarters city, Chicago.



THE SECOND AMERICAN REVOLUTION

JUNE 5, 2026 - JAN 17, 2027








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 PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov
 217-558-8844



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We understand that rising energy costs are creating real strain for working families and small businesses.

That's why we're working every day to rein in costs while delivering the safe, reliable energy you depend on. That's the Exelon Promise —taking action to support our communities today and into the future.



To learn more, visit [exeloncorp.com/company/exelon-promise](https://www.exeloncorp.com/company/exelon-promise)

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH CULTURE

Culture City supports cultural visibility, dialogue, and shared experiences across Chicago through storytelling, partnerships, and immersive cultural engagement.



EXPLORE CULTURE.
Discover arts, events and experiences from every community.



BUILD CONNECTION.
Create meaningful partnerships and cross-cultural dialogue.



CREATE BELONGING.
Strengthen our shared identity and imagine a more vibrant future.







LEARN MORE. GET INVOLVED.
cultureinyourcity.com





cultureinyourcity

Dedicated to the promise of Chicago



Field Foundation

fieldfoundation.org

Supporting cultural visibility, dialogue, and shared experiences across communities.

BID IN THE SILENT AUCTION!



Dinner for Four at AVEC

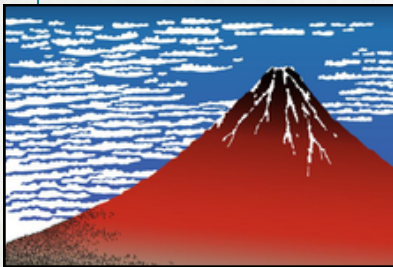
Value \$500.00

Dinner for four at Chicago's AVEC River North restaurant to include a prix fixe menu.

Chicago Fire FC Tickets

Value \$400.00

Four Club Level Tickets to One Home Match during the 2026 Regular MLS Season



Private Ukiyo-e Workshop

Value \$1000.00

Japanese woodblock printmaking, focusing on inking & printing techniques.

Pride Night at CSO

Value \$1,196.00

Kick off Pride Month at Symphony Center with Four VIP Box Level tickets to Pride Night!



BID IN THE SILENT AUCTION!

THANK YOU TO OUR SILENT AUCTION DONORS



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Donate today to support another year of strengthening Chicago's cultural landscape and facilitating cross-cultural public programs.

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A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES FOR CULTURAL NONPROFITS



This Series is Made Possible with Support From



Meeting the Moment Webinar Series Calendar

- Jan 15 ● Documenting the Moment
- Jan 22 ● The 4 Rs of Fundraising: Basics for Beginners
- Jan 29 ● Best Practices for the Small Team
- Feb 5 ● Telling Your Story: Building a Brand Narrative
- Feb 26 ● Securing Your Building and Your Collection
- March 10 ● The Illinois Arts & Culture Policy Landscape
- March 12 ● Organizing Programs for Strategic Grant Writing: The Umbrella Approach
- March 26 ● Financial Storytelling
- April 9 ● Social Media Strategy: Less Content, More Impact
- April 15-16 ● Data Security - Protecting Your Digital Information
- May 14 ● Crafting a Common Narrative
- May 28 ● Budgeting for Grants
- June 11 ● Crisis Communications 101: Planning Before You Need It
- June 25 ● Getting Started with Fundraising: Software and Procedures
- July 16 ● Using a Simple Grant Strategy
- July 30 ● Crafting Cash Flows and Budgets
- August 13 ● Media Relations for Mission-Driven Organizations
- August 27 ● Diversifying Revenue



2027 Sessions Coming Soon



World Dumpling Fest

Join us at

WRIGHTWOOD PARK
September 19-20, 2026

**JOIN US FOR A
WEEKEND OF
FOOD & CULTURE**

World Dumpling Fest celebrates diverse cultures throughout Chicago and the world with music, dance, and of course dumplings! The Chicago Cultural Alliance is excited to host our fifth World Dumpling Fest at a brand-new location

