



Accelerate Culture

CHICAGO

Priority Actions

Building on the significant progress and momentum of Chicago's Cultural Plan, Accelerate Culture is advocating for policy reforms and investments needed to broaden cultural participation citywide, and further the work of our city's artists and creative enterprises. These priority actions are grouped in four overarching categories: People, Places, Policies, and Planning Culturally.

PEOPLE

Chicago's strongest cultural assets are its people. This category of the Plan addresses the need to foster arts education and create new opportunities for lifelong learning. It also focuses on attracting and retaining artists and creative professionals.

Policy priorities

- ★ **Creative Workforce:** Position Chicago's artists and creative professionals as central to the city's workforce development efforts with additional fellowships, mentoring opportunities, incubator spaces, and residency programs within the cultural sector and larger community
- ★ **K-12 Arts Education:** Ensure each CPS school has an appropriate number of certified arts instructors, a minimum of two hours per week of arts instruction, and at least one cultural partner that engages teaching artists
- ★ **Lifelong Learning:** Increase the accessibility and number of programs for adults to participate in the arts both formally and informally

PLACES

Chicago is a city of neighborhoods, each distinctive and beloved. This category of the Plan focuses on deepening and expanding unique cultural assets and strengthening the role of Chicagoans in the planning of local cultural activities.

Policy priorities

- ★ **Neighborhood Cultural Planning:** Support neighborhood cultural councils in every region and encourage local community development organizations to facilitate cultural programming and infrastructure. These groups are critical to advancing key policy actions, including:
 - **Optimize Underutilized Spaces:** Advocate for use of vacant land and underutilized spaces for arts and cultural activities
 - **Art in Public Places:** Ensure neighborhood involvement is the accepted standard (best) practice in the selection and installation process for public art
 - **Vibrant Cultural Districts:** Establish criteria and policies for neighborhood areas to be designated as cultural districts

POLICIES

In Chicago, efficient permitting systems and appropriate funding strategies can help facilitate cultural initiatives. This category of the Plan addresses City policies and regulations that impact the arts and creative industries fostering a robust, healthy arts community.

Policy priorities

- ★ **Simplify Government Processes:** Create efficiencies in City zoning, permitting, and licensing rules for creative initiatives
- ★ **Tools for Navigating Regulations:** Design arts-specific briefing tools and training sessions to help artists and creative entrepreneurs navigate City approval processes
- ★ **Funding and Incentives:** Increase investment in culture and the arts by the private sector, public sector, and individuals
 - Fund the Plan: Additional resources for Chicago Cultural Plan implementation;
 - Fund the Art Makers: Expansion of grants and incentives to cultural institutions and artists; and
 - Fund Arts Education: Dedicated public funding for the arts in the schools

PLANNING CULTURALLY

For Chicago to thrive it must embrace a model of government that integrates culture into all that the City does and how it does it. This category of the Plan describes a commitment to realize the impacts of culture as indispensable tools for achieving broad civic objectives.

Policy priorities

- ★ **Cultural Liaisons:** Designate cultural point-person in city departments and sister agencies who can connect and refer queries and opportunities
- ★ **Alignment of the Chicago Cultural Plan:** Integrate the priorities of the Cultural Plan into the work of City departments and agencies, measured by collaborations and the allocation of resources
- ★ **Cultural Sector Representatives:** Increase cultural sector representatives serving on advisory boards and commissions across key departments and agencies

Accelerate Culture Chicago – Stewardship Committee Members

Michael Dorf (Chairman) – Adducci, Dorf, Lehner, Mitchell, & Blankenship, P.C.
Keri Blackwell – Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Janice Bond – Inner-city Muslim Action Network
Paul Botts – The Gift Theatre
Marshall Brown – Marshall Brown Projects & IIT College of Architecture
Craig Carlson – The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
Deb Clapp – League of Chicago Theatres
Paul Coffey – School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Baraka de Soleil – Creative Peoples Caucus
Joyce Fernandes – Architresures
Bau Graves – Old Town School of Folk Music
Esther Grimm – 3Arts
Peter Handler – Reva and David Logan Foundation
Mary Ittelson – Ittelson Consulting
Dave Jennings – Music Box Films
Mark Kelly – Columbia College Chicago
Lisa Lee – University of Illinois at Chicago
Jeff Malehorn – World Business Chicago
Patric McCoy – Diasporal Rhythms
Andrew Micheli – Arts & Business Council
Lauren Pacheco – Chicago Urban Art Society
Troy Peters – Chicago Cultural Alliance
Jon Pounds – Chicago Public Art Group
Kara Riggio – Metropolitan Planning Council
Jane Saks – Project&
Roche Schulfer – Goodman Theatre
Joe Shanahan – Metro and Smart Bar
Sydney Sidwell – Ingenuity
Sara Slawnik – Chicago Artists Coalition
Phil Thomas
Carlos Tortolero – National Museum of Mexican Art