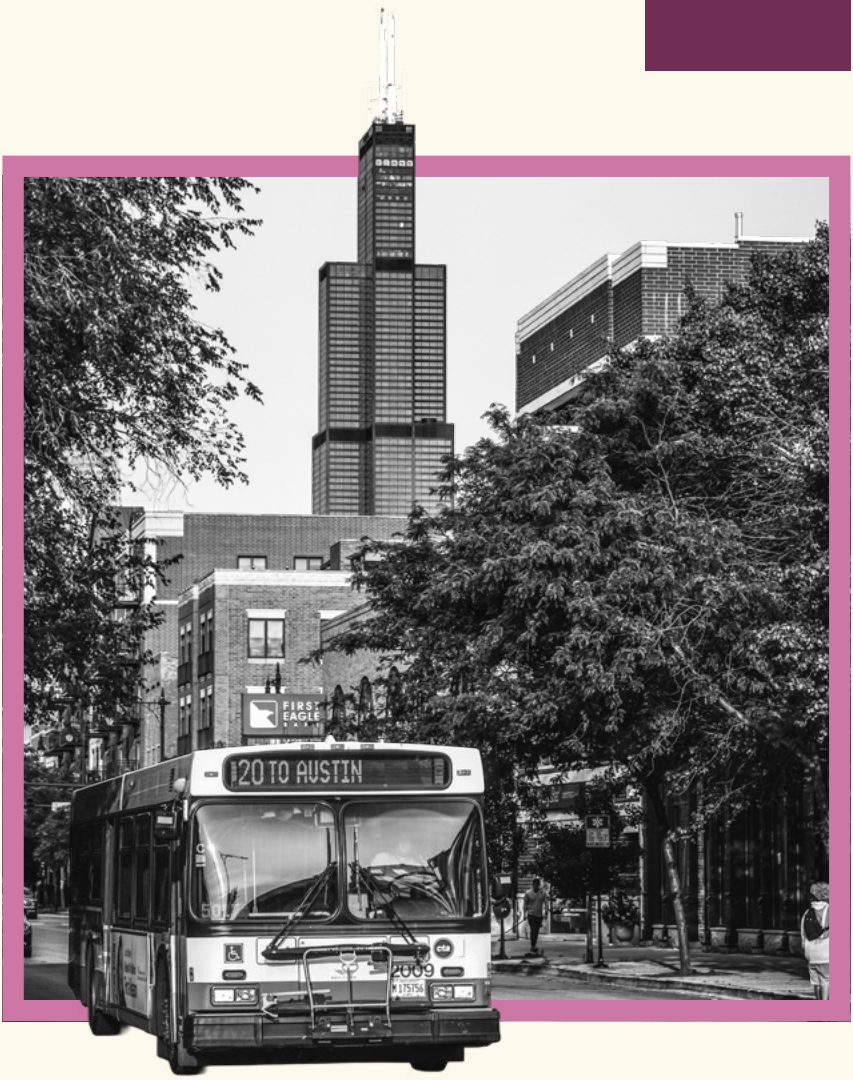
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2026 CHICAGO SITE GUIDE

PLACES TO VISIT BY NEIGHBORHOOD

Click titles of organizations to visit their websites. We hope you enjoy your time in Chicago!

THE LOOP & NEAR NORTH

Art Institute of Chicago

Address: 111 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60603

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 11:00 AM–5:00 PM · Thursday 11:00 AM–8:00 PM

Phone: (312) 443-3600

Admission: General admission $32, with discounts for locals. Free for children under 14, Chicago teens under 18, Link and WIC cardholders, Illinois educators, and active-duty military.

About: Founded in 1879, the Art Institute holds a permanent collection of nearly 300,000 works spanning five millennia, including one of the most significant collections of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painting outside France, alongside major collections of African art, Arts of the Americas, Asian art, photography, textiles, and architecture and design.

Center for Native Futures



Address: 56 W. Adams St, Suite 102, Chicago, IL 60603

Hours: Wednesday–Friday 11:00 AM–4:00 PM. Gallery hours move with exhibition schedules.

Phone: (773) 519-3238

Gallery Admission: Free.

About: The only Indigenous artist-run arts organization in Chicago, presenting gallery exhibitions, artist residencies, and community events year-round. The center recognizes Zhegagoynak (Chicago) as Indigenous land and centers artists, curators, and writers of the Great Lakes region.

Chicago Cultural Center

Address: 78 E. Washington St, Chicago, IL 60602

Hours: Daily 10:00 AM–5:00 PM. Exhibition galleries begin closing 15 minutes before the building.

Phone: (312) 744-5000

Admission: Free.

About: Opened in 1897 as Chicago's first central library and established in 1991 as the nation's first free municipal cultural venue, the Chicago Cultural Center holds two stained-glass domes, including the Tiffany dome in Preston Bradley Hall, plus galleries, the Claudia Cassidy Theater, and a Welcome Center. It is also the public home of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

Chicago Public Library

Address: Harold Washington Library Center (central library): 400 S. State St, Chicago, IL 60605. Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection, at Carter G. Woodson Regional Library: 9525 S. Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60628.

Hours: Harold Washington: Monday–Thursday 9:00 AM–8:00 PM · Friday–Saturday 9:00 AM–5:00 PM · Sunday 1:00–5:00 PM. Harsh Research Collection: by appointment — Tuesday through Thursday 1:00–5:00 PM and the third Saturday of each month 1:00–4:00 PM. Call ahead; without an appointment, confirm availability before traveling. Special Collections, on the 9th floor at Harold Washington, is also by appointment.

Phone: Harold Washington (312) 747-4300 · Harsh Collection (312) 745-2080

Admission: Free.

About: Harold Washington Library Center is a South Loop landmark holding over 1.2 million items, with a Maker Lab, the YOUmedia teen space, music practice rooms, rotating gallery exhibits, and the ninth-floor Winter Garden. The Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection, founded in 1932 by the first Black librarian to head a CPL branch, is the largest African American history and literature collection in the Midwest, holding more than 200 archival and manuscript collections including the Timuel D. Black and Abbott–Sengstacke family papers, plus its own exhibit gallery. The library's archival holdings also include the Chicago Loop Alliance collection, consulted by appointment.



The Newberry Library

Address: 60 W. Walton St, Chicago, IL 60610

Hours: Exhibition galleries: Tuesday–Thursday 10:00 AM–7:00 PM · Friday and Saturday 10:00 AM–5:00 PM. Reading rooms: Tuesday–Saturday 10:00 AM–4:00 PM, with items requested until 3:00 PM. Bookshop: Wednesday–Saturday 10:00 AM–12:30 PM and 1:30–4:00 PM. Free guided tours run Tuesdays at 11:30 AM, Thursdays at 1:00 PM, and Saturdays at 10:30 AM.

Phone: (312) 943-9090

Admission: Free. Exhibitions and public programs are open to all. Research in the reading rooms is free for anyone 14 or older with a reader's card, issued on the spot with photo ID and proof of address.

About: An independent research library for the humanities, free and open to the public since 1887, holding more than 1.5 million books, five million manuscript pages, and hundreds of thousands of historic maps. The library mounts exhibitions in its Trienens Galleries and runs a steady program of talks, performances, and seminars. Its Indigenous Chicago initiative, developed with Chicago Native community members, the Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative, and Carleton College, produced an exhibition, new oral histories, digital maps, and high school curriculum.

NEAR WEST SIDE & UIC CAMPUS

Jane Addams Hull-House Museum

Address: 800 S. Halsted St (MC 051), Chicago, IL 60607 (on UIC campus)

Hours: Tuesday–Friday 10:00 AM–4:00 PM · Sunday 12:00–4:00 PM.

Phone: (312) 413-5353

Admission: Free; small donation suggested.

About: A National Historic Landmark occupying two original buildings of the Hull-House settlement, the Hull Home and the Residents' Dining Hall. Exhibitions and public programs connect the settlement's history to present-day questions about democracy, immigration, and social reform.

National Public Housing Museum



Address: 919 S. Ada St, Chicago, IL 60607

Hours: Wednesday–Sunday 10:00 AM–5:00 PM.

Phone: (773) 635-9919

Admission: General admission free. Guided Historic Apartment tours are ticketed, run about 75 minutes, and are offered at timed slots — book in advance. Group tours and field trips available.

About: Opened in 2025 in the last remaining building of the Jane Addams Homes, the National Public Housing Museum is the first U.S. cultural institution dedicated to the American experience of public housing. Three restored apartments tell the stories of families who lived there between 1938 and 1976, alongside exhibitions, a sculpture garden, and the REC Room.

Special Apartment Tours for ASA Members: Timed tickets, several times daily, October 22–25 (for Friday through Sunday, choose "Other dates" on the ticket page). Click here for tickets!

UIC Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change (CCUSC)

Visiting: No single location — an umbrella for seven centers, each with its own address. Black Cultural Center, 209 Addams Hall, (312) 996-9554 · Arab American Cultural Center, 101 Taft Hall, (312) 413-3253 · Asian American Resource and Cultural Center, 723 W. Maxwell St, (312) 413-9569 · Disability Cultural Center, 235 Behavioral Sciences Building, (312) 355-7050 · Gender and Sexuality Center, 1180 Behavioral Sciences Building, (312) 413-8619 · Latino Cultural Center, Lecture Center B2, (312) 996-3095 · Women's Leadership and Resource Center, 1700 Student Services Building, (312) 413-1025.

About: Seven centers under UIC's Office for Engagement, founded as a result of campus activism, supporting students, faculty, and staff through cultural programming, mentorship, advocacy, collaborative research, and community partnerships.

UIC Heritage Garden

Address: Nine satellite garden sites across UIC's east campus: the Monarch Butterfly Habitat in front of the Latino Cultural Center; LCC North, a garden beside Lecture Center E; the Shikaakwa Native American plants garden; gardens at the African American and Asian American cultural centers; a bioswale; Quad West by the library; Quad East by Student Center East; and a native garden demonstration site.

Hours: Outdoor and always visible, best in the growing season.

Phone: (312) 996-3095

Admission: Free.

About: A hands-on learning project of the seven CCUSC centers, running since 2013 on a paid student internship model. The gardens hold native and culturally significant plants with plaques explaining each plant's significance, and the program extends through a seed library, a tea apothecary, an annual Fall Harvest Festival, and a Spring Seed Swap. The Shikaakwa garden was developed with the American Indian Center of Chicago.



PILSEN

National Museum of Mexican Art

Address: 1852 W. 19th St, Chicago, IL 60608

Hours: Tuesday–Sunday 10:00 AM–5:00 PM

Phone: (312) 738-1503

Admission: Free.

About: Founded in 1982, the National Museum of Mexican Art is one of the largest Latino cultural institutions in the country and the first accredited Latino museum, with a permanent collection spanning ancient Mexico to the present, plus performing arts and education programming.

Neighborhood Mural Walk

Address: A self-guided route through Pilsen, published as a guide by the National Museum of Mexican Art.

Phone: (312) 738-1503

Hours: Any time in daylight.

Admission: Free.

About: A printed and downloadable walking guide to Pilsen's murals, produced by the museum. Pairs naturally with a museum visit since both start in the same few blocks.

Pilsen Arts & Community House (PACH)

Address: 1637 W. 18th St, Chicago, IL 60608. A second space sits on 21st Street, on the second floor of Giron Books.

Hours: Wednesday–Sunday 12:00–6:00 PM. Co-Working Day: Monday 9:00

AM–6:00 PM. Open Studio Night: Tuesday 4:00–9:00 PM.

Contact: (312) 468-9046 · info@pilsenartscommunityhouse.org

Admission: Free. Artwork and prints for sale. Most classes and events are low-cost or free.

About: A nonprofit gallery and community art space co-founded by Chicago artist Teresa Magaña, celebrating Pilsen's Latino community. A new gallery show opens each month, alongside affordable weekly art classes, Tuesday open studio with free materials, Wellness Wednesdays, and a third-Thursday open mic. The flex space can be rented for gatherings, with tables, chairs, and a projector on site.

Pilsen Public Art Tours

Address: Guided walking tours through Pilsen; meeting points set at booking.

Phone: (773) 787-6847

Hours: By booking; visit website for more information.

About: The Pilsen Mural Tour is a walk through some of the neighborhoods' most iconic pieces of public art. Travel through 60 years of murals that colorfully express the history, struggles, and culture of the Mexican community in Pilsen.

BRONZEVILLE, WASHINGTON PARK & HYDE PARK

The DuSable Black History Museum & Education Center



Address: 740 E. 56th Pl, Chicago, IL 60637

Hours: Wednesday–Sunday 11:00 AM–4:00 PM, last admission 3:30 PM.

Phone: (773) 947-0600

Admission: Roughly $12.50 adults / $9 students and seniors / $4 children 6–11 for Chicago residents, with higher non-resident rates; under 6 free.

About: Founded in 1961, the nation's first independent museum dedicated to the collection, preservation, and study of African American history and culture. Permanent exhibitions include the Harold Washington story and a history of Black service in the armed forces.

South Side Community Art Center

Address: 3831 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60653

Hours: Currently closed for a major rehabilitation and expansion of the historic house. Check the website for the reopening date and future hours.

Contact: (773) 373-1026

About: Founded in 1940 with WPA support, the oldest Black American art center in the United States and a Chicago Historic Landmark — the only WPA-

era African American art center to remain continuously operating. Nearly every major Bronzeville artist has passed through it.



HUMBOLDT PARK

National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture (NMPRAC)

Address: 3015 W. Division St, Chicago, IL 60622

Hours: Tuesday–Thursday 10:00 AM–5:00 PM · Friday 10:00 AM–4:00 PM · Saturday 10:00 AM–2:00 PM. Last entry is 30 minutes before closing.

Phone: (773) 486-8345

Admission: Free.

About: Founded in 2001 and formerly the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, NMPRAC is the only freestanding cultural institution in the country devoted to Puerto Rican arts and culture. It occupies a landmark 1890s stables and receptory building in Humboldt Park, at the heart of one of the largest Puerto Rican communities in the United States, and programs year-round visual art exhibitions, community arts workshops, films in the park, and an annual outdoor fine arts and crafts festival.

SOUTH SHORE & FAR SOUTH SIDE

Sisters in Cinema Media Arts Center

Address: 2310 E. 75th St, Chicago, IL 60649.

Hours: Hybrid hours. For a tour, please contact the Center directly.

Phone: 773-359-2842

About: Founded in 1997 as an online resource for and about Black women filmmakers, now a nonprofit centering Black girls, women, and gender nonconforming media makers. The center opened in March 2024 with gallery space, a 45-seat theater, an editing and computer lab, and classroom and conference space, with much of its programming free.

NORTH SIDE

Chicago History Museum, featuring Aquí en Chicago

Address: 1601 N. Clark St, Chicago, IL 60614

Hours: Museum: Tuesday–Saturday 9:30 AM–4:30 PM · Sunday 12:00–5:00 PM. Abakanowicz Research Center: Tuesday–Friday 1:00–4:30 PM · Saturday 10:00 AM–4:30 PM.

Phone: (312) 642-4600

Admission: $16 adults, $14 seniors and students; children 12 and under free.

Research center free with no reservation, but children under 6 are not admitted. Illinois residents get free days through the year.

About: Founded in 1856 and housed in Lincoln Park since the 1930s, the Chicago History Museum holds more than 20 million artifacts, documents, and images tracing the city's past, and serves as a major research center alongside its exhibition galleries. Aquí en Chicago is a museum initiative documenting Latino life in Chicago.

Special Tours for ASA Members: Thursday, 10:00-10:45 am and 11:00-11:45 am. Click the times for tickets!

Gerber/Hart Library & Archives

Address: 6500 N. Clark St, 2nd Floor, Chicago, IL 60626 (inside the Howard Brown Health Clark building.)

Hours: Wednesday 6:00–9:00 PM · Thursday 6:00–9:00 PM · Friday 12:00–4:00 PM · Saturday 10:00 AM–4:00 PM. Researchers using archives, periodicals, or special collections should email ahead.

Contact: (773) 381-8030 · info@gerberhart.org

Admission: Free.

About: Founded in 1981, one of the largest independent LGBTQ+ libraries and archives in the country, with a circulating collection of over 22,000 volumes, 600 periodicals, roughly 150 archival collections, and four exhibition venues, focused on Chicago and the Midwest.

The Legacy Walk



Address: Along N. Halsted St between Belmont Ave and Grace St, Northalsted / Lakeview; roughly a half mile, marked by ten pairs of 25-foot rainbow pylons.

Contact: 312-608-1198 • info@legacyprojectchicago.org

Hours: Always open.

Admission: Free. Guided tours available through the Legacy Project.

About: The country's first outdoor LGBTQ+ museum walk: 40 cast bronze biographical markers mounted on the rainbow pylons, commemorating LGBTQ+ figures whose contributions have been overlooked or erased. Dedicated on National Coming Out Day in 2012 and expanded in phases since.

Old Town School of Folk Music

Address: Lincoln Square campus: West building 4544 N. Lincoln Ave and East building 4545 N. Lincoln Ave, Chicago, IL 60625. Accessible entrance at 4527 N. Oakley Ave.

Hours: Box office generally 10:00 AM–5:00 PM for in-person purchases, and open one hour before showtime on event evenings until intermission.

Phone: (773) 728-6000

About: Founded in 1957, Old Town School teaches and presents music and dance rooted in diverse American and global traditions, with two Lincoln

Square concert halls — the 400-seat Maurer Concert Hall and the 150-seat Szold Hall — plus classrooms, a music store, and a resource center.

Wrightwood 659

Address: 659 W. Wrightwood Ave, Chicago, IL 60614 — between Clark and Halsted, Lincoln Park

Hours: Open seasonally, by exhibition.

Phone: (773) 437-6601

Admission: Timed tickets must be bought in advance and are valid only for the listed date and time. Exchanges possible before the ticket time, subject to availability; no refunds. K–12 groups from Chicago may qualify for group rates.

About: A Tadao Ando–designed exhibition space in a converted 1920s apartment building, presenting exhibitions of architecture and socially engaged art. Capacity is deliberately small.



EVANSTON

Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum

Address: 3001 Central St, Evanston, IL 60201

Hours: Monday–Friday 10:00 AM–5:00 PM · Saturday 10:00 AM–3:00 PM

Phone: (847) 475-0911

Admission: Tribal citizens free with ID · members free · adults (18–64) $8 · seniors, youth 3–17, students, and teachers $6 · children under 3 free.

About: Founded in 1977 and formerly the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, it is the only museum in the Chicago area focused exclusively on the art, history, and cultures of Native American and First Nations peoples across the United States and Canada.

CITYWIDE

Chicago Mahogany Tours

Address: No fixed venue — guided tours with meeting points set at booking.

Hours: By booking.

Contact: 1-833-345-5226 · chicagomahogany@gmail.com

About: Historian-led tours of Black Chicago, tracing the people, buildings, and movements that shaped the city, from the Great Migration and the Black Chicago Renaissance through Bronzeville's business and music districts to the civil rights organizing of the twentieth century. Tours are built around neighborhoods rather than a single museum route, so the city itself serves as the exhibition.

Chicago Race Riot of 1919 Commemoration Project (CRR19)



Address: No fixed venue. Thirty-eight commemorative markers are installed across the city, concentrated on the South Side in Bronzeville, Bridgeport, and the Near South Side.

Hours: The markers are outdoor public art, visible any time. The project also runs an annual commemorative bike and trolley tour each July, plus school and community presentations.

Admission: Free to visit the markers.

About: A public history and art project commemorating the worst incident of racial violence in Chicago's history, in which 38 people were killed over a week in the summer of 1919, touched off by the killing of 17-year-old Eugene Williams for crossing an invisible color line in the waters off a segregated beach. Modeled on Germany's Stolpersteine, the project places an artistic marker at each of the 38 sites, designed with youth artists from Firebird Community Arts' Project FIRE, a glassblowing and trauma recovery program for young people injured by gun violence.

Chicago Palestine Film Festival

Address: No permanent venue — this annual festival takes place at host venues that change year to year. See website for more information.

Hours: By festival dates and screening times.

About: An annual festival of Palestinian and Palestine-related cinema, among the longest-running of its kind in North America. Programming spans narrative features, documentaries, and shorts by Palestinian filmmakers and others working on Palestine, often paired with director talks and post-screening discussions. Because it runs at partner venues around the city rather than a single theater, dates, locations, and ticketing change each year — check the website for the current program.

Indigenous Chicago Walking Tours

Address: No fixed venue. Self-guided 2 mile route on the Indigenous Chicago digital map platform, anchored downtown and elsewhere in the city.

Contact: mcnickle@newberry.org

Hours: Available any time through the map site.

Admission: Free.

About: Chicago is, and has always been a Native place. However, many traditional tours of the city continue to erase, or misrepresent Indigenous history. This walking tour takes users across more than five centuries of Native history, connecting Indigenous people to some of Chicago's most famous landmarks, and recentering Native people and perspectives where they have been erased or marginalized.

NETWORKS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PROJECTS

The following are generally not open to visitors, but are engaged in work of interest and meaning to ASA members.

Black Midwest Initiative

About: Housed in UIC's Department of Black Studies, the Initiative was founded in 2017 by Dr. Terrion Williamson in response to the erasure of Black Midwesterners from national conversation, and is a regional network of scholars, artists, and organizers working across academics, art, and activism. It produced the anthology Black in the Middle, runs a Summer Institute and fellows cohort, and convenes the Black Midwest Symposium, which rotates between Midwestern cities. A related Black Midwest Justice Hub focuses on environmental justice.

Black Researchers Collective

About: A Chicago-based collective that trains and equips communities with research tools so residents can be more civically engaged and policy-informed, through community workshop intensives, a research and evaluation consulting line, a podcast, and a pipeline connecting Black researchers to opportunities.

Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative (Chicago AICC)

About: A collaborative of Chicago-area organizations serving American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and First Nations communities, convening members for advocacy, planning, capacity building, and mutual support.



Chicago Cultural Alliance

About: A consortium of more than 40 Chicago-area cultural heritage museums, centers, and historical societies, connecting and supporting its members and running collaborative citywide programming. The Alliance office is not the destination — its members are, and they reach well beyond the organizations in this guide, spanning Ukrainian, Swedish, Japanese American, Irish, Chinese American, Polish, Balzekas Lithuanian, Hellenic, and many other heritage museums and centers across the city. Visit the Alliance's site for the full member directory; it is the single best way to find a cultural institution near a given neighborhood or connected to a particular community.

Chicago Freedom School

About: A youth leadership organization cultivating the leadership of Black and Brown young people, offering training and political education to youth and the adults who work alongside them. Its best-known program is the Freedom Fellowship, a six-month organizing intensive for teenagers.

Chicago Public Media (WBEZ Chicago)

About: The nonprofit parent of WBEZ and, since 2022, the Chicago Sun-Times. Its studios and offices have been at Navy Pier since 1995, and the entire studio core was recently rebuilt for audio and video production.

Chicago Torture Justice Center and Memorials Foundation (CTJM)

About: Started in 2010 as a coalition of artists, activists, attorneys, and survivors fighting for justice for people tortured by Chicago police commander Jon Burge, the foundation provides trauma-informed therapy, a survivor repair fund, and community programming, and is the first center of its kind in the country. A permanent public memorial to the survivors is forthcoming in nearby Washington Park.

College Unbound

About: An accredited, state-approved college that reinvents higher education for returning adult learners, building each student's curriculum around their own purposes and the needs of their workplace and community. It supports students across several states.



Folded Map Project

About: Tonika Lewis Johnson's visual investigation of segregation in Chicago, pairing addresses on the North and South Sides that share a grid number — 6329 N. Paulina and 6329 S. Paulina, for instance — and photographing both, then bringing the residents into conversation with each other. It has grown into films, exhibitions, and a civic engagement curriculum.

GoodKids MadCity (Englewood)

About: A youth-led anti-violence organization founded by Chicago young people in 2018, running youth engagement events, community service projects, workforce development, and a summer program, and pushing policy campaigns including the Peacebook initiative.

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights (ICIRR)

About: A coalition of more than 100 member organizations — community groups, unions, religious institutions, service agencies, ethnic associations — organizing for immigrant and refugee rights across Illinois, with citizenship and DACA programs, deportation defense, a family support hotline, and a statewide rapid response network.

IRRPP State of Racial Justice Reports

About: A report series from UIC's Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy examining racial inequity in Chicago across housing, health, education, income, and criminal justice, with separate volumes devoted to specific communities. The reports are widely used as a baseline data source for local advocacy.

Kenwood Oakland Community Organization (KOCO)

About: Founded in 1965, one of the oldest Black-led grassroots organizing groups in Chicago, working across affordable housing, equitable education, youth investment, and senior rights. Campaigns include the reopening of Dyett High School and the Obama Center community benefits agreement.

Mikva Challenge

About: Founded in 1997 in tribute to Judge and Congressman Abner Mikva and his wife Zoe, a teacher and education activist. Mikva Challenge develops young people as informed, active participants in democracy through action civics curriculum, youth councils, and educator training.

Nuestro Chicago Archives

About: A Chicago Reader series documenting Latino life, history, and community memory in Chicago, drawing on archival material and first-person accounts.

Organized Communities Against Deportations (OCAD)

About: An undocumented-led group organizing against deportation, detention, criminalization, and incarceration of Black, brown, and immigrant communities in Chicago and the surrounding area, through accompaniment and asambleas, community-driven litigation and campaigns, and cross-movement organizing.

UIC Global Asian Studies – Dis/Placements

About: A project from UIC's Global Asian Studies program examining displacement, migration, and the reshaping of Chicago neighborhoods, developed with students and community partners.

UIC Liberal Arts & Sciences Symposium: Declarations of Independence

About: The printed program for a UIC College of Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty symposium, collecting the participating scholars, session descriptions, and abstracts. Useful as a record of the faculty working in these areas and as a way to identify potential speakers; read it online through the link.

UIC Undocumented Knowledges

About: A Latino Cultural Center program centering the knowledge, scholarship, and lived expertise of undocumented students and communities, through public events, workshops, and creative work.

