

VIII. Music, Theater, and Art in America's Urban Campus

America's Urban Campus institutions bring a wide range of social and cultural programs to the City of Chicago. They are an indispensable part of the city's music, theater, and visual arts communities. In this section, we first briefly discuss the universities' role in these communities. Then we discuss some specific programs run by America's Urban Campus colleges and universities that contribute to the arts in Chicago.

ATTRACTING TALENT AND VISITORS THROUGH THE ARTS

The students, faculty, and alumni of America's Urban Campus colleges and universities have been a major driving force behind the music, theater, and arts scenes in the City of Chicago for decades. The School of the Art Institute of Chicago is ranked fourth among fine arts schools by the U.S. News and World Report.¹⁴ Columbia College Chicago is ranked in the top 20 film schools in the country.¹⁵ DePaul and Northwestern are also among the top 25 drama schools.¹⁶ Alumni of these schools have gone on to win Oscars, Tonys, and Emmys on Broadway and in Hollywood, and have made a big impact in Chicago. America's Urban Campus alumni have founded or led some of the most prominent theater companies in the city, including Lookingglass Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, TimeLine Theatre, and Steppenwolf. Alumni, students, and faculty of these schools also participate in the city's world-renowned improv community.

In addition to theater and film, musicians from America's Urban Campus colleges and universities go on to play in the city's orchestra, jazz clubs, and local bands while artists from America's Urban Campus colleges and universities present their work at galleries and museums throughout the city.



The Art Institute of Chicago

Photo credit: *School of the Art Institute of Chicago*

14. US News and World Report, "Best Graduate Fine Arts Programs," 2016, www.usnews.com, accessed on March 26, 2018.

15. The Hollywood Reporter Staff, "The Top 25 American Film Schools 2017," August 16, 2017, www.hollywoodreporter.com, accessed on March 26, 2018.

16. The Hollywood Reporter Staff, "The Top 25 Undergraduate Drama Schools Ranked," May 20, 2016, www.hollywoodreporter.com, accessed on March 26, 2018.

MUSEUMS AND ARCHITECTURE TOURS

Many AUC schools operate museums that are open to the public. These museums include a several art museums, such as:

- The Art Institute of Chicago (The School of the Art Institute of Chicago)
- The Block Museum of Art (Northwestern University)
- The DePaul Art Museum
- Gallery 400 (University of Illinois Chicago)
- The Gage Gallery (Roosevelt University)
- The Museum of Contemporary Photography (Columbia College Chicago)
- The Loyola University Museum of Art
- The Oriental Institute Museum (University of Chicago)
- President's Gallery (Chicago State University)
- State Street Art Gallery (Robert Morris University) and
- University Gallery (Chicago State University).

The Jane Addams Hull-House Museum is operated by the University of Illinois at Chicago. The Hull-House, which was opened by Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr in 1889, was a place where immigrants of diverse communities gathered to learn, eat, debate, and acquire the skills necessary to create a home in a new country. The museum is comprised of two of the settlement complex's original thirteen buildings, the Hull-Home and the Residents' Dining Hall.

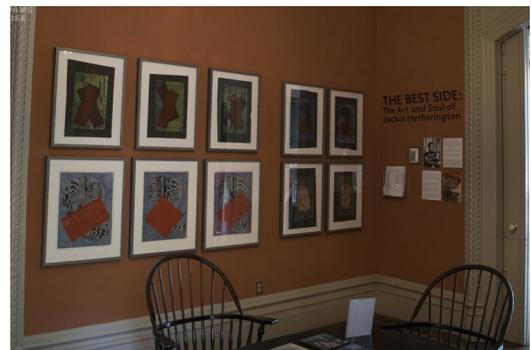


Exhibit at the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum
Photo credit: Jane Addams Hull-House Museum

Additionally, several schools participate in programs that highlight the history of architecture in Chicago. The **Mies van der Rohe Architecture Tour** at the Illinois Institute of Technology, provided by the Chicago Architecture Foundation and Grayline Tours, is one example. The tour provides a glimpse into one of the United States' most influential architects, as well as the "Second Chicago School" style of architecture that has shaped the city's skyline.

ART IN THE COMMUNITY

In addition to traditional museums, America's Urban Campus contributes to the vibrance of the Chicago art scene by bringing art to the community. Some universities partner with community organizations to expand Chicago's current community-based art scene. Others organize art festivals that draw thousands of Chicago residents. AUC's contributions to art in the community include:

- **The Manifest Urban Arts Festival.** This festival, hosted by Columbia College Chicago, features over 100 student showcases in the visual arts, music, dance, film, theater, writing, television, multimedia, performance art, comedy, video gaming, and sound collages. The event includes main-stage musical acts, street performers, an art walk, and parties. Thousands of people attend the festival each year, which is held in May in Chicago's South Loop.
- **Wabash Arts Corridor.** Columbia College Chicago partners with local businesses and organizations to create a living urban canvas in the South Loop. The project has brought muralists from around the world to create a corridor of street art.
- **Pivot Arts Incubator.** Loyola's Department of Fine and Performing Arts partners with Pivot Arts, a community-based fine arts organization, to connect innovative arts activity in Chicago's far north side neighborhoods. Loyola students work with professionals in the performing art industry to form new and original works and perform their projects at the Pivot Arts Festival. In 2018, Incubator Projects included The Rossini Project, a music and movement based adaptation of the opera, *The Barber of Seville*; *Note Every Mountain*, a piece partnered with nationally-known theater company Rude Mechs; and more.
- **Art on Campus.** The Art on Campus program promotes art both within and outside the community of Chicago State University. The Art and Design Department assists the CSU campus community in selecting and installing art from students, faculty, and the permanent collection.
- **The Historic Preservation Program.** Students and faculty at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago are working together to serve and connect with their community through restoration projects across the city of Chicago. Projects have ranged from a paint analysis project for the Frances Willard House to a restoration of The Forum.
- **The Millennium Park Crown Fountain.** Almost any recent visitor to Chicago can recall the large faces spouting water in Millennium Park. While serving as the William and Stephanie Sick Distinguished Professor at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Jaume Plensa, a Spanish sculptor, created Millennium Park's Crown Fountain with assistance from the SAIC's Department of Art and Technology Studies. Students, faculty, and staff of SAIC put out a call to more than 180 community groups for volunteers whose faces would go on the fountain. In two shoots in 2003 and 2004, SAIC recorded 80 second clips of 1,000 Chicagoans.
- **Citizen Artists Forum.** This public discussion program led by SAIC broadens the discussion around topics like artificial intelligence, the design of the criminal justice system, and others. Within these topics, SAIC and program



Millennium Park Crown Fountain
Photo credit: Millennium Park Foundation

partners such as the Illinois Humanities Council invite guest panelists to share their expertise on a given topic. Panelists are generally drawn from outside the world of art and design, including presenters like the Illinois State's Attorney, the Executive Director of criminal justice nonprofit The Marshall Project, the publisher of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, theological ethicists, and others.

- **Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events (DCASE).** In 2017, Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) invested \$4 million in artist-led community projects throughout Chicago.¹⁷ AUC works with DCASE to showcase programs and engage students, faculty, and staff in order to continue Chicago's tradition of commitment to the arts. One example can be observed in AUC colleges and universities participation in "Arts in the Dark," an annual Halloween Parade held every October on Columbus Drive.

- **2018 Venice Biennale.** The Biennale Architettura 2018 exhibition *Dimensions of Citizenship* is co-curated by the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Chicago architectural history professor, Niall Atkinson, and SAIC professor, Ann Lui—along with independent architecture critic, Mimi Zeiger—have been selected to co-curate the US Pavilion at the 2018 Venice Architecture Biennale. The exhibition is entitled "Dimensions of Citizenship" and examines the legal, social, and emotional dimensions of citizenship.¹⁸



Exploring Belonging Exhibit at the US Pavilion 2018

Photo credit: *Dimensions of Citizenship*

- **DePaul Art Museum.** This museum is a participant of 2018 Art Design Chicago, a city-wide celebration of Chicago's art and design legacy. The Winter 2018 exhibitions featured *Barbara Jones-Hogu: Resist, Relate, Unite* and *Jose Guerrero: Presente*. The museum will feature *Yasuhiro Ishimoto: Someday, Chicago* in the upcoming Fall 2018 exhibition.

MUSIC, THEATER, AND FILM

America's Urban Campus also contributes to Chicago's music, theater, and film scene. AUC schools host performances at Chicago theaters, including operas, musicals, ballets, and plays. Other schools sponsor outdoor concerts that are free and open to the public. Many of these performances feature local artists. AUC's contributions in music, theater, and film include:

17. DCASE, "Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events 2017-2018 Impact Report," www.cityofchicago.org, accessed on April 9, 2018.

18. SAIC and University of Chicago, *Dimensions of Citizenship*, www.dimensionsofcitizenship.org, accessed on June 20, 2018.

- **The North Park Gospel Choir.** The North Park University Gospel Choir performs contemporary sacred music from the spiritual and gospel genres. The choir performs in concerts in the city, which are open to the public.
- **North Park's Creative Guild Program.** Creative Guild is a class at North Park University that exposes students to guest speakers, field trips, studio visits, and community service on and off campus aiming to foster creative collaboration, team building, and leadership efforts within the art world. At the same time, the program allows student artists to discover creative opportunities in Chicago.
- **North Park's Theatre Program.** The program specializes in training students for urban theatre productions. Students work directly with theatre professionals to acquire acting, production, and theater management skills.

- **Hyde Park Jazz Festival.** The University of Chicago is the lead and founding sponsor of the Hyde Park Jazz Festival, an annual festival that celebrates jazz's legacy and future in Hyde Park and Chicago's South Side. Now in its 12th year, the Jazz Fest spans 18 hours over 2 days to crowds exceeding 10,000. Performances are held throughout the Hyde Park neighborhood, home to the University of Chicago main campus.



Photograph: Peter Gannushkin

Musicians perform at the Hyde Park Jazz Festival

Photo credit: Hyde Park Jazz Festival

- **Annual Jazzpalooza.** Music students and faculty from Chicago State University perform in this annual family-friendly event in the parking lot of Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ.
- **The Chicago State University Community Jazz Band.** The Community Jazz Band was founded in 1992 by Professor Roxanne Stevenson in response to the need for music-reading sessions for local musicians. The Community Concert and Jazz Bands began with just five musicians, playing their major instruments for one ensemble and their secondary instruments for the other. Since then, the two ensembles have housed over 400 musicians—of all ages—and performed hundreds of selections from standard and contemporary repertoire.
- **The Gene Siskel Film Center.** The Center, a public program of SAIC, offers annual film festivals that celebrate diverse voices and cultures, premieres by contemporary independent filmmakers, restorations and revivals of significant films from cinema history, and discussions with filmmakers and media artists. The Center hosts over 1,600 screenings and 200 filmmaker appearances every year. It sets the historical and cultural context for the films it screens through courses, lectures, panel discussions, and publications.
- **Outdoor Summer Concert.** Saint Xavier University hosts an annual outdoor summer concert on the front lawn of its Chicago campus. Past performances have included the Bradley Young Orchestra, the Roy Vombrock Orchestra, and the Voyager Orchestra, among others. The concert concludes with a fireworks finale at dusk. The event is free and open to the public.

- **The Dance Center at Columbia College Chicago.** The Center brings international, national, and local artists to Chicago audiences. The 2018-19 season will include performances by renowned companies including Red Clay Dance, Ananya Dance Theatre, and Urban Bush Women. Columbia students and community members interact with the dancers through workshops and other events.
- **Opera.** Both the DePaul School of Music and Northwestern Bienen School of Music are nationally recognized for their top opera and vocal performances programs. Graduates of these programs have gone on to top opera companies like The Metropolitan Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Juilliard Opera Center, Music of the Baroque, and more. Student performances for the 2017-18 season include *Handel's Theodora* at Northwestern and *The Judgment of Paris* at DePaul. Both events featured opera students and were open to the public.
- **UIC High School Jazz Festival.** Held annually, the UIC High School Jazz Festival is a day of competition and workshops for high school bands, culminating in an evening concert by a prominent jazz performer.