

CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL FY2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**CHICAGO
HUMANITIES
FESTIVAL**

A JOYFUL REUNION



After two long and challenging years apart, we were delighted to bring our community back together in venues across Chicago once again in 2021. While we are grateful to have been able to present over 100 digital programs since the beginning of the pandemic, the essence of a Chicago Humanities Festival is the magic that occurs in a space when today's most remarkable authors, artists, and thinkers—each of whom brings unique perspectives and opportunities to see ourselves and our community in new ways—meets curious audiences who are excited to expand their worldview. Your participation, passion, and commitment truly makes all the difference in bringing the Festival to life.

Our mission is to create programming that both reflects, and is very much a part of, the broader civic and cultural conversations of our time. Together, over this past year, we considered: the critical issue of political division in the U.S. and global democracy, climate change and the Great Lakes, the lives of Chicagoans during the pandemic, and the negative impacts of the racial and social inequities that exist in our nation. We also took moments to seek beauty - reveling in the arts, music, literature, and poetry—finding joy, meaning, and insights relevant to each of our lives. The arts, humanities, and social sciences—in their complex, nuanced consideration of issues, and ability to bring us together—are how we will continue to understand and shape not only this moment, but our collective future.

Thank you again for being part of the Chicago Humanities Festival community and for your continued support. We simply couldn't present such an impressive series of year-round events without your active engagement and meaningful philanthropic contributions. You make the Festival a vital Chicago institution; one that offers opportunities for each of us to learn about ourselves and the world around us, no matter the circumstances.

Our very best,

Allegra Biery
Board Chair

Phillip Bahar
Executive Director

(On Left)
Alan Cumming and Chris Jones

YEAR IN REVIEW

SPRING 2021



The 77 distinct events we presented throughout the year highlighted both the breadth and depth of our programming. We sought to address the pressing issues impacting our country and world, while also elevating the place we call home—Chicago. CHF continued to digitally stream programs in the Spring, partially returning to in-person events in the Fall with enhanced COVID-19 safety measures (including mandatory masks and vaccination checks). As part of our return, we were thrilled to renew recent partnerships with a number of organizations and venues—Harold Washington Cultural Center, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Gary Comer Youth Center, Lakeforest College, and Columbia College Chicago, to name a few—and revisit past collaborations with others such as Chicago Park District, Navy Pier, and Lincoln Park Zoo.

In total, over 103,000 people attended and/or viewed our live-streamed digital events. The Festival’s video archive remains a popular attraction, with over 5.4 million views in 2021; in December, the Festival surpassed 100,000 YouTube subscribers.

SPRING 2021

The start of 2021 saw a lively slate of events touching on a range of compelling and timely topics, including climate change with **Elizabeth Kolbert** (*Under a White Sky*) and **Bill Gates** (*How to Avoid a Climate Disaster*) and the possibilities for action at a neighborhood level with local community leaders and activists. Storytellers are at the core of the humanities, and we featured a number of important voices in our programs, such as **Salman Rushdie** (*Quichotte*), **George Saunders** (*A Swim in a Pond in the Rain*), **Michelle Zauner** (*Crying in H Mart*), and **Salamishah Tillet** (*In Search of The Color Purple*). CHF also embraced the world of the visual, with screenings of two documentary films (*Gunda* and *The Truffle Hunters*) and insightful discussions with their creators; conversations on the power of comics and art; and an exploration of the cultural history of food (with an enticing cooking demonstration) from renowned chef **Yotam Ottolenghi**. We continued the *What’s Next?* series with a range of topics—from *Political Division to Health and Equity to Museums*. Our *Deep Dive: Free Speech*, curated by **Geoffrey R. Stone** (University of Chicago) considered *Social Media and Democracy, Hate Speech, and National Security and Press Freedom*.

(On Left) Romi Crawford

TOPICS OF THE DAY

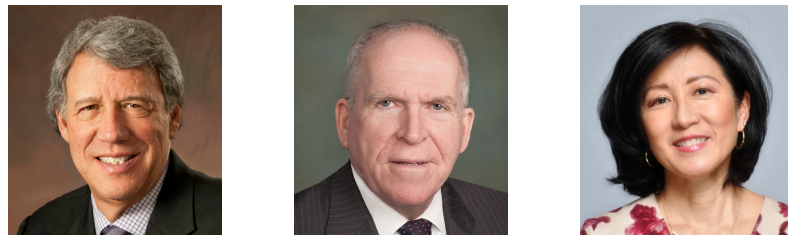
- Elizabeth Kolbert (*Under a White Sky*)
- Bill Gates (*How to Avoid a Climate Disaster*)
- Michio Kaku (*The God Equation*)
- Walter Isaacson (*Code Breaker*)
- Carol Leonnig (*Zero Fail*)
- Paul and Stephen Kendrick (*Douglass and Lincoln*)
- Louis Menand (*The Free World*)
- Martha C. Nussbaum (*Citadels of Pride*)
- Heather McGhee (*Color of Change*)
- Helene D. Gayle (The Chicago Community Trust)



(From Left) Heather McGhee, Michio Kaku, Walter Isaacson, Bill Gates

DEEP DIVE: FREE SPEECH

- Geoffrey Stone (University of Chicago)
- John Brennan (Former CIA Director)
- Ellen Nakashima (*Washington Post*)



(From Left) Geoffrey Stone, John Brennan, Ellen Nakashima

CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMMING

- Taty Chante (Brave Space Alliance)
- Oscar Sanchez (Alliance of the Southeast)
- Damayanti Wallace (GoodKids MadCity)
- Maira Khwaja (Invisible Institute)
- Maxwell Evans (*Block Club Chicago*)
- Katie Prout (*Chicago Reader*)
- Jackie Serrato (Editor-in-Chief of *South Side Weekly*)
- Bettina Chang (co-founder and editorial director, *City Bureau*)



(From Left) Damayanti Wallace, Maira Khwaja, Oscar Sanchez

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Amy Walter (*The Cook Political Report*)
- Valerie C. Johnson (DePaul University)
- Barbara A. Perry (University of Virginia)
- David Ansell (Rush University Medical Center)
- Sharrelle Barber (Drexel University)
- Marissa Evans (*The Los Angeles Times*)
- Chevy Humphry (Museum of Science and Industry)
- Lisa Yun Lee (Public Housing Museum)



(From Left) Barbara A. Perry, Valerie C. Johnson, Lisa Yun Lee, Marissa Evans

THE WRITTEN WORLD

- Salman Rushdie (*Quichotte*)
- George Saunders (*A Swim in a Pond in the Rain*)
- Michelle Zauner (*Crying in H Mart*)
- Jia Tolentino (*New Yorker*)
- Joyce Carol Oates (*The (Other) You*)
- Jhumpa Lahiri (*Whereabouts*)
- Salamishah Tillet (*In Search of The Color Purple*)
- Natalie Moore (WBEZ)
- Joy Harjo (*Living Nations, Living Words*)
- Layli Long Soldier (*Native Voices*)



(From Left) Salman Rushdie, Michelle Zauner, Joyce Carol Oates, Joy Harjo

CULTURAL VITALITY

- Yotam Ottolenghi (*Flavour*)
- Claire Saffitz (*Dessert Person*)
- Alison Bechdel (*Fun Home*)
- Dr. Grace D. Gipson (University of California Berkeley)
- Bianca Xunise (Say Her Name)
- Cecil McDonald, Jr. (Cecil McDonald, Jr. STUDIOS)
- Victor Kossakovsky (*Gunda*)
- Monica Eng (WBEZ)
- Peter Gilbert (*Hoop Dreams*)



(From Left) Yotam Ottolenghi, Cecil McDonald, Jr., Alison Bechdel, Claire Saffitz

YEAR IN REVIEW

FALL 2021



FALL 2021

Fall 2021 provided a welcome opportunity for the Festival to safely return to live programming in front of audiences. We presented a mix of digital and in-person programs during an extended season, running from August to December. Fall events highlighted how our personal and collective narratives shape our shared existence, featuring inspiring programs from Senator Tammy Duckworth, Nikole Hannah-Jones (*The 1619 Project*), Qian Julie Wang (*Beautiful Country*), and Amitav Ghosh (*The Nutmeg's Curse*). We were also excited to pay tribute to the performers who make our world come to life, with concerts by Spektral Quartet, Makaya McCraven, Tammy McCann, and Marquis Hill, as well as conversations with Sutton Foster (*Younger*), Kal Penn (*Harold and Kumar, House*), and Alan Cumming (*Cabaret, Baggage: Tales from a Fully Packed Life*). The *What's Next* series returned, with online programs exploring the future of *Work*, *Cities*, and *Money*; the season's *Deep Dive* series looked at questions surrounding the *Great Lakes* through the lenses of science, culture, and policy.

Perhaps most importantly, the Festival focused on highlighting Chicago—its many distinctive voices, stories, and neighborhoods. We truly wouldn't be who we are as an organization without the inspiration our city and its people provide. As part of this celebration, we featured three programs—*Community Gardens as Neighborhood Resources* (on Rainbow Beach on the South Shore), *Filmmaking on the South Side* (at Kennedy King College), and *Musical Legacies of the South Side* (presented with the Englewood Jazz Festival), each of which were co-created with a cohort of 20 community organizations.

2021 | MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS

Most Attended In-Person Programs

- Nikole Hannah-Jones: *The 1619 Project*
- Annie Leibovitz: *Wonderland*
- Alan Cumming: *Tales from a Fully Packed Life*
- Kal Penn: *You Can't Be Serious*

Most Streamed Programs

- Chris Hedges on America's Prison System
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: *Notes on Grief*
- Salman Rushdie: *Languages of Truth*
- *What's Next: Museums*

(On Left) Nikole Hannah-Jones
and Joy Bivins

TOPICS OF THE DAY

- Senator Tammy Duckworth
- Nikole Hannah-Jones (*The 1619 Project*)
- Joy Bivins (Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture)
- Avery R. Young. (*neckbone: visual verses*)
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (*Notes on Grief*)
- Eli Saslow (*Voices from the Pandemic*)
- Tamara Keith (NPR)
- Teju Cole (*Known and Strange Things, Black Paper: Writing in a Dark Time*)
- Amanda Williams
- Qian Julie Wang (*Beautiful Country*)
- Greta Johnsen (*Nerdette*)
- Karla Cornejo Villavicencio (*The Undocumented Americans*)
- Sarah Ruhl (*Smile*)
- Jessica Thebus (Northwestern University)
- Chris Hedges (*Our Class*)
- G. Flint Taylor (People's Law Office in Chicago)
- Amitav Ghosh (*The Nutmeg's Curse*)
- Srikanth (Chicu) Reddy (University of Chicago)
- Debbie Millman (*Why Design Matters*)
- Kyle Beachy (*The Most Fun Thing, The Slide*)
- Bing Liu (*Minding the Gap*)



(From Left) Senator Tammy Duckworth, Nikole Hannah-Jones, Teju Cole, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

ARTISTS & PERFORMANCES

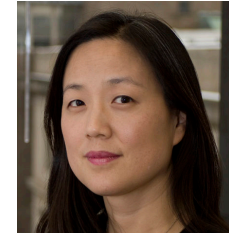
- Abby McEnany (*Work in Progress*)
- Eunji Kim
- Angela Jackson (*It Seems Like a Mighty Long Time*)
- Onyx Appleberry
- Tiff Beatty
- Tara Betts
- Krista Franklin
- Haki R. Madhubuti
- Tammy McCann
- Spektral Quartet
- Clarice Assad (*Archetypes*)
- David Skidmore (Third Coast Percussion)
- Haun Saussy (University of Chicago)
- Michael Caplan (*ALGREN*)
- Mary Wisniewski
- Rick Kogan (*Chicago Tribune*)
- Sutton Foster (*Younger*)
- Kal Penn (*Harold and Kumar, House*)
- Suroosh Alvi (VICE Media)
- Alan Cumming (*Cabaret, Baggage: Tales from a Fully Packed Life*)
- Chris Jones (*The Chicago Tribune*)
- Annie Leibovitz (*Wonderland*)



(From Left) Abby McEnany, Sutton Foster, Kal Penn, Alan Cumming

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Ai-jen Poo (National Domestic Workers Alliance)
- Indra Nooyi (*My Life in Full: Work, Family, and Our Future*)
- Harry Holzer (Georgetown)
- Edward Glaeser (Harvard University)
- Annette M. Kim (SLAB)
- Bruce Mau (Massive Change Network)
- Teresa Irene Gonzales (University of Massachusetts Lowell)
- Amber Baldet (Clovyr)
- Bill Maurer, Ph.D. (University of California, Irvine)
- Wailin Wong (NPR's *Planet Money*)



(From Left) Ai-jen Poo, Indra Nooyi, Bruce Mau, Annette M. Kim

CHICAGO: HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT

- Dawn Turner (*Three Girls from Bronzeville*)
- Dahleen Glanton (*Chicago Tribune*)
- Darlene Blackburn
- Robert E. Paige
- Romi Crawford (*Fleeting Monuments for the Wall of Respect*)
- Thabiti Lewis (BAM!)
- Pavithra Narayanan (BAM!)
- Louis Massiah
- Carlos Javier Ortiz
- Wendy Ewald
- Deborah Willis
- zakkiyyah najeebah dumas o'neal
- Ayana Contreras



(From Left) Dawn Turner, Thabiti Lewis, Romi Crawford, Darlene Blackburn

CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMMING

- Robin Cline (NeighborSpace)
- Naomi Davis (Blacks In Green (BIG™))
- Dianne Hodges (South Merrill Community Garden)
- Dr. Molly Doane (UIC)
- Michelle Kennedy (Chicago South Side Film Festival)
- Yvonne Welbon (Sisters in Cinema)
- Justin D. Williams (Production Institute Project)
- Margaret Caples (Community Film Workshop of Chicago)
- Marquis Hill (Made in Chicago)
- Ernest Dawkins (Live the Spirit Residency)
- Margaret Murphy-Webb (South Side Jazz Coalition)

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

2021 ANNUAL BENEFIT

OVERVIEW

On Monday, October 18, 2021 the Chicago Humanities Festival welcomed guests at the beautiful Museum of Contemporary Art to celebrate our community. CHF was proud to recognize internationally-renowned architect, MacArthur Fellow, and past Festival presenter, **Jeanne Gang**, with this year's Vision Award. The evening also featured performances by **Rob Lindley**, **Doug Peck**, **Bethany Thomas**, and an incredible line-up of Chicago talent who delivered a lively, inspiring performance. This evening was our largest fundraising moment of the year, and with your support we were able to raise over \$550,000 towards CHF's future.

Benefit Co-Chairs:

- Allegra E. Biery, Northern Trust
- Douglas H. Jackson, Greenhill & Co
- Kamilah Jones, Bain & Company
- Heather McWilliams, Civic Leader

THE FESTIVAL THANKS ITS MAJOR SUPPORTERS OF OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT EVENING

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- Black Oak Technical Productions



STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2022	AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021
ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	4,374,536	2,598,814
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	107,172	300,760
Contributions Receivable	766,232	971,695
Investments	14,657,997	13,487,862
Property and Equipment, Net	527,593	324,000
TOTAL ASSETS	20,433,530	17,683,139
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	99,486	47,205
Other Liabilities	82,986	451,963
TOTAL LIABILITIES	182,472	499,168
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	4,402,226	3,246,305
With Donor Restrictions	15,848,832	13,937,666
TOTAL NET ASSETS	20,251,058	17,183,971
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	20,433,530	17,683,139

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

	FOR YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2022	FOR YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 29, 2021
OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contributions (Excluding Fundraising Events)	1,435,221	2,947,521
Fundraising Events, Net	471,123	504,607
Program Admissions	182,353	43,857
Other Earned Revenue	35,418	24,911
Government COVID-19 Relief Funding	3,756,323	601,789
TOTAL OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE	5,880,438	4,122,685
EXPENSES		
Program Services	2,633,253	2,126,367
Management and General	473,363	386,502
Fundraising	697,575	427,339
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,804,191	2,940,208
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	2,076,247	1,182,477
NONOPERATING CHANGES		
Investment Return	990,840	1,855,685
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	3,067,087	3,038,162

The financial information presented herein is derived from Chicago Humanities Festival's fiscal 2022 and 2021 audited financial statements. The information does not include all the disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, as a result it does not purport to present the Festival's entire financial conditions or results of operations. A copy of the audited financial statements is available on the Festival's website.

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Philanthropic contributions cover the vast majority of the Festival’s budget, playing a critical role in the creation of our programs, ability to provide award-winning accessibility services, and presentation of our free, streaming archive featuring hundreds of past events. At a time when we are all seeking new ways to come together, these opportunities to gather and collectively consider the most pressing issues of our time are essential. We couldn’t do this without the support of our Chicago community.

If you’re already a supporter, thank you! If you aren’t, we hope you’ll consider joining us—please visit chicagohumanities.org/join-give to see how you can help bring our programming to life.

Institutional Contributors

March 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022

* Includes in-kind support

* Includes endowment contributions and draws

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Special thanks to Southwest Airlines for its partnership.

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Director of Programing

Simone Montgomery
Marketing Content Manager

Wes Moran
Director of Finance & Operations

Emmett Mottl
Associate Director of Marketing

Beyza Ozer
Social Media Specialist

Lauren Pincus
Audience Accessibility Coordinator

Brittany Pyle
Director, Production and Audience
Experience

Alexandra Quinn
Director, Institutional Partnerships
and Communications

Jamie Roberts
Associate Director, Individual
Giving

Kris Simmons
Program Manager

Kirsten Turner
Production Coordinator

Kanisha Williams
Program Coordinator

Daniel Van Duerm
Technical Coordinator

As of 04/05/2022

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