



# CITY CIVICS DAY

A CELEBRATION  
OF COMMUNITY  
CONNECTION

On November 4, 2023, the City of Chicago held the **FIRST-EVER** City Civics Day, a celebration of community connection and engagement that inspired everyday Chicagoans to take part in civic life.

The daylong celebration included:

- ★ **Artist performances**
- ★ **Panel discussions**
- ★ **“How-to” workshops**
- ★ **Unique activations**
- ★ **Remarks from Mayor Brandon Johnson**

The event was produced by the Department of Planning and Development and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events with support from the Mayor’s Office and several consultant teams.

## VISION

As an outgrowth of Chicago’s Citywide Plan, City Civics Day aimed to bolster civic engagement – a priority identified by participants in the plan’s creation – in communities across Chicago.

The event aimed to empower individuals and community groups to learn how they can partner with City government to effect change in their communities.

City Civics Day is part of the City’s commitment to build more robust and effective civic infrastructure, anchored by the pillars of the Citywide Plan: arts and culture; economic development; environment, climate and energy; housing and neighborhoods; lifelong learning; public health and safety; and transportation and infrastructure.

## Day at a Glance

### OPENING CEREMONIES

- ★ **Welcome**
- ★ **Performance by Son Monarcas**
- ★ **Opening remarks by Mayor Brandon Johnson**

### KEYNOTE SESSION

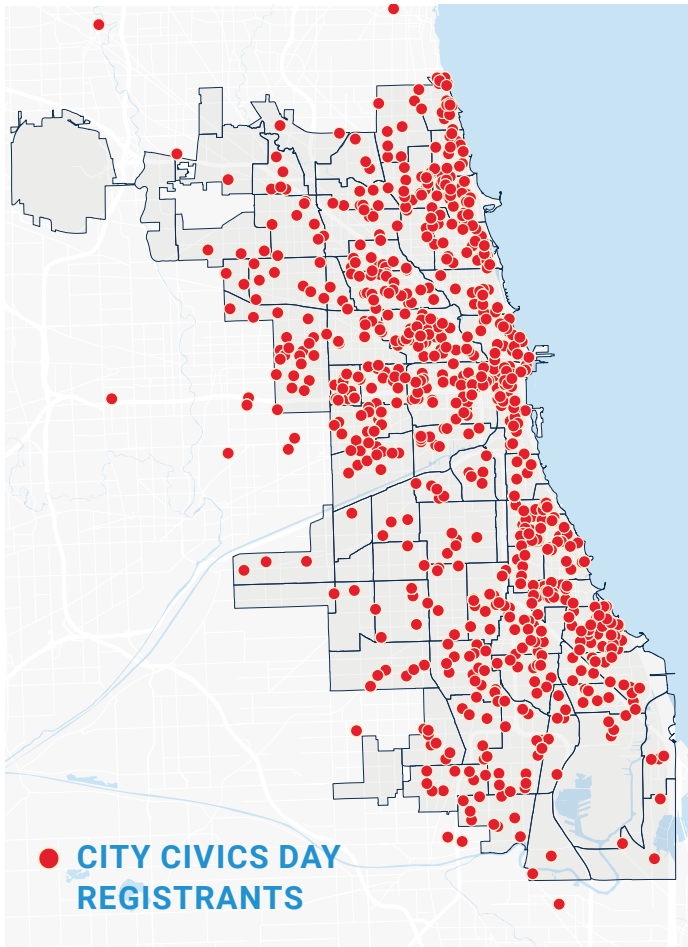
- ★ **Panel: Community Connections and Public Places**
- ★ **Performance by Kuumba Lynx**

### PANELS AND WORKSHOPS

Session #1	Session #2	Session #3
<b>PANEL</b> Converting Old Rails to Community Trails	<b>PANEL</b> Why Local Media Matters	<b>PANEL</b> Connecting with Chicago’s Cultural Histories
<b>HOW TO...</b> Organize a Community Garden	<b>HOW TO...</b> Produce a Neighborhood Event	<b>HOW TO...</b> Start a Community Network
<b>HOW TO...</b> Think Like a City Planner	<b>HOW TO...</b> Create Active, Sustainable, Safe Streets	<b>HOW TO...</b> Improve Chicago’s Rivers




I loved the **breadth of workshops**, the friendly attendees, the screen-printing activity, the healthy food options and the ward map.”



## By the Numbers

**450+** 

Attendees

**43** 

Presenters

### POST-EVENT SURVEY RESPONSES



4.3/5

Quality of the Presentations



4.7/5

Overall Satisfaction with City Civics Day



Percentage of respondents that were “very” or “exceptionally” inspired to get involved in their community.

# How to Get Involved in Future Events

City Civics Day is an opportunity to inform Chicagoans about the City's work and engage with the public in a fun, collaborative setting.

By participating in City Civics Day as presenters, City and sister agencies can:



## Create workshops

answering the most frequently asked questions from the public.



**Give insight** into the agency's role in City government and provide opportunities for public input.



## Help Chicagoans

understand how to become partners in creating positive change.



I liked the panels and all of the wonderful attendees. I am also glad that the Mayor was there. It shows how important it was to him."



My favorite part of the event was seeing other civic-minded individuals coming together to learn about the ways we could make a difference as an individual, and as a community, beyond our neighborhood."

## Scan to Learn More



## Chicago.gov/CityCivicsDay

City Civics Day is a collaboration between the Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE).



@ChicagoDPD  
@ChicagoDCASE

