



ABOUT CHICAGO SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI) is the flagship program of the Global Strategic Initiatives (GSI) team of World Business Chicago (WBC), a public-private, non-profit partnership that drives inclusive economic growth and job creation, supports business, and promotes Chicago as a leading global city.

CSCI is the largest and most active sister city program in the United States, with nearly 700 volunteers. Our volunteer citizen diplomats help to drive programs in the areas of business, culture, education, professional best practice exchanges, government relations, and social services.

CSCI advances Chicago as a global city and promotes peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation through citizen diplomacy – one individual, one community at a time – for the benefit of Chicago and its sister cities.

ABOUT THE KYIV COMMITTEE

Chairs: Vera Eliashevsky and Yuriy Figel
Business Subcommittee Chair: Lev Holubec

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Lifetime Count of Initiatives 1991-2024:
 - Arts/Culture: 50 initiatives
 - Business: 15 initiatives
 - Social Services: 20 initiatives
 - Education: 40 initiatives
 - Government: 35 initiatives (including delegations)
- Chicago and Kyiv have been sister cities since 1991, when Ukraine won its independence. *FYI: Chicago is also sister cities with Moscow, Russia, which was suspended on March 1, 2022 by the Lightfoot Administration with the condition that it will be suspended until all hostilities have ended and those who are responsible are held accountable.*
- The relationship has thrived under the leadership of citizen diplomats and volunteer members of the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International through programs in the areas of culture, education, government relations, business, and social services.
- The Kyiv Committee of CSCI's programming, and particularly its response to the war, has garnered international attention for its support of Ukraine and has been recognized by the Ukrainian national government.
- The Chicago business and civic community relied on the Kyiv Committee at the start of the war to identify vetted organizations to provide funding and humanitarian aid to, as the committee had decades of relationships with trusted partners in Ukraine and direct connections to providers on the ground.
- The Kyiv Committee of CSCI has raised significant contributions for Ukrainian relief efforts through their Support Ukraine Fund. Proceeds from the Support Ukraine Fund are distributed by the Kyiv Committee to vetted organizations and projects providing direct humanitarian and medical aid in Ukraine, such as the Free Spirit organization, who works with the

Ukrainian Medical Mission to purchase trauma medical supplies. The fund has also helped financially support families in Chicago who fled the war in Ukraine enrolled at the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Cathedral School. Proceeds also have been distributed to Help Heroes of Ukraine, Revived Soldiers of Ukraine, UNICEF.

- Members of the Kyiv Committee of CSCI have also: Launched the KYIV Alliance, a platform for facilitating ad hoc humanitarian aid initiatives and logistics in response to the war in Ukraine, with a sign-up form for volunteers and calls to actions; Facilitated delivery of humanitarian supplies from 7 states; Provided volunteers for medical aid initiatives; Participated in a worldwide TV marathon SaveUkraine; Established a pilot partnership with JKJ Workforce Agency to assist displaced Ukrainians with finding employment, supported families in Chicago who fled the war; Organized multiple fundraisers and a benefit concert in Chicago with members of the Lyric Opera Orchestra and Stage Artists to benefit the St. Nicholas Cathedral School and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America Foundation; Provided direct support for humanitarian aid to refugees in Poland; Connected Ukrainian local leaders with their counterparts in the U.S. and their communities to share what is happening in their cities.
- Since 2016, the Kyiv Committee has organized a delegation and participation in Chicago's Soldier Field Run which highlights ties between US Veterans and Ukrainian Veterans. The Kyiv Committee was chosen as an official participating charity of the Soldier Field 10 Mile Run. The Soldier Field Run celebrates the service and supports the needs of the American Armed Forces. Contributions from the run are given to *Revived Soldiers Ukraine*, which supports rehabilitation and medical care to injured veterans.
- In addition to financial support given to the *Revived Soldiers of Ukraine*, the committee has connected them with social service providers in Chicago for best practice sharing.
- They are also focusing on social services and trauma-informed care, anticipating that there will be inter-generational post-traumatic stress from the war.
- **Important Delegations**
 - In 2012, Mayor Emanuel welcomed Oleksandr Popov to Chicago and the two leaders signed a reaffirmation of the 1991 Chicago-Kyiv Sister Cities Agreement. With this partnership, the Mayor will continue to promote the City of Chicago as an economic partner and tourist destination to Ukrainian business and government leaders.
 - In 2016, Mayor of Kyiv Vitaly Klitschko attended the Chicago Forum on Global Cities. Mayor Emanuel and Mayor Klitschko signed a reaffirmation of the sister city agreement between Chicago and Kyiv on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the relationship between the two cities. The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International co-hosted Mayor Klitschko at various programs in Chicago.
 - In 2023, Mayor Klitschko met with then Deputy Mayor Samir Mayekar at a State Department conference in Denver, where Chicago pledged support with rebuilding Ukraine.
- **Chicago Street Naming:**
 - The 2012 Ukrainian delegation participated in the "Kyiv Sister Cities" honorary street naming ceremony in the Ukrainian Village neighborhood. The delegation also met with World Business Chicago, toured the tech-hub 1871 in Chicago's Merchandise Mart.
- **Kyiv Committee & Open World Delegations:** The Open World program is one of the most effective U.S. exchange programs for countries of the post-Soviet era. The Open World program focuses both on assisting the Congress in its oversight responsibilities and on

conducting exchanges that establish lasting professional relationships between the up-and-coming leaders of Open World countries and Americans dedicated to showcasing U.S. values and democratic institutions. In addition to targeting decision makers and opinion leaders, Open World recruits delegates who are relatively young and politically, ethnically, and geographically diverse. The Open World program is designed to enhance understanding and cooperation between the United States and Eurasia by developing a network of regional leaders who have gained significant, firsthand exposure to America's democratic government and free-market system.

- **2010** - The Kyiv Committee hosted an Open World delegation which consisted of a group of municipal administrators, NGO leaders and public services providers from Ukraine. During their visit to Chicago, the delegates participated in meetings focused around the theme Accountable Governance. Delegates met with Mayor Richard M. Daley, Alderman Moreno of the 1st Ward, various City of Chicago Department representatives as well as Ukrainian civic and cultural organizations.
- **2012** - The Kyiv Committee hosted an Open World delegation which consisted of a group of young emerging leaders in the field of education from Ukraine. During their visit to Chicago, the delegates participated in meetings focused around the theme Education. Delegates met with Senator Kirk's office, Alderman Maldonado of the 26 Ward, various City of Chicago Department representatives as well as Ukrainian civic and cultural organizations.
- **2015** - Five Ukrainian leaders participated in the Open World program from October 23-31, 2015, in Chicago examining public health issues, specifically HIV and AIDS.
- **2017** - With the Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation, CSCI hosted an Open World delegation of six media professionals from Ukraine under the theme of media literacy and countering false information.
- CSCI Global Youth Ambassadors Leadership Summit:
 - In 2018, The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI) partnered with Fulbright Ukraine to host a Global Youth Ambassadors Leadership Workshop in Kyiv on Tuesday, October 16. The event was held at the America House in Kyiv. Fifty students who previously applied to participate in the Chicago-based Global Youth Ambassadors Leadership Summit were invited to this unique satellite event designed to encourage teenage girls to become active leaders in their communities and develop solutions to challenges girls face around the world.
- Fashion Show Fundraisers:
 - The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International has organized two fashion show fundraisers in 2015 and 2019 to benefit Ukrainians affected by the 2015-2016 conflict and St. Nicholas Cathedral School.

[Kyiv Committee of CSCI History of Exchange \(2010-2023\)](#)

Kyiv, Ukraine
Chicago's Sister City Since 1991

On July 17, 1991, Mayor Richard M. Daley and Mayor Grigory Malishevsky of Kyiv signed a Sister Cities agreement during the Sister Cities International Conference. Chicago's Ukrainian-American community played a major role in supporting the relationship. Leaders of the community hosted a dinner in Chicago's Ukrainian Village in honor of the Kyiv dignitaries, which included the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Mayor Malishevsky also spoke at a Rotary Luncheon and made a presentation at the pre-conference seminar on Urban Redevelopment.

Committee Co-Chairs: Vera Eliashevsky and Yuriy Figel

Business Subcommittee Chair: Lev Holubec

Former Committee Chairs: Julian Kulas & Marta Farion

2010

May 12

Focus: Education

The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International co-hosted an East Meets West Business Networking Reception for sixteen young executive MBA candidates participating in the Kyiv Mohyla Business School's Presidents MBA Program. The executives were in Chicago for an executive training program conducted in partnership with Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business. Kyiv Mohyla Business School's [KMBS] Presidents' MBA program was especially designed for business owners in Ukraine. This reception offered the participants the opportunity to meet their business counterparts living in the U.S. for discussion of opportunities and comparison of business practices in Chicago and Kyiv.

August 27

Focus: Cultural

As part of the 5th Annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival at Millennium Park, Anna Fedus proudly carried the flag of Ukraine in the opening ceremony parade of flags. On the culinary side, visitors once again had the opportunity to taste Ukrainian food provided by Shokolad Pastry and Café, owned and operated by Halia Fedus. This year's Ukrainian performance featured members of the School of Boyovyi Hopak, who presented the distinctive style of Boyovyi Hopak, a Ukrainian form of martial arts.

October 15-23

Focus: Government

The Kyiv Committee hosted an Open World delegation which consisted of a group of municipal administrators, NGO leaders and public services providers from Ukraine. In addition to targeting decision makers and opinion leaders, Open World recruits delegates who are relatively young and politically, ethnically, and geographically diverse. During their visit to Chicago, the delegates participated in meetings focused around the theme Accountable Governance. Delegates met with Mayor Richard M. Daley, Alderman Moreno of the 1st Ward, various City of Chicago Department representatives as well as Ukrainian civic and cultural organizations.

2011

January 13

Focus: Education

Chicago Sister Cities International presented a short talk about Kyiv and Ukraine to a group of kindergartners at Sauganash Montessori School.

April 28

Focus: Government

Chicago Sister Cities commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear explosion. Renowned Chernobyl expert H.E. Dr. Yuri Scherbak, former Ambassador of Ukraine to the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Israel, delivered a keynote address commemorating the nuclear power plant explosion in Chernobyl, Ukraine on April 26, 1986. This disaster is considered to be one of the gravest environmental disasters of humankind.

As an eyewitness to the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986, H.E. Dr. Scherbak wrote about his experience in a sensational exposé documentary novel *Chornobyl*, which was published in most ex Soviet countries, as well as in North America and Europe (notably in Canada, the UK and the US). As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Nuclear Safety, Dr. Scherbak led the first parliamentary investigation of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, a nuclear accident in Semipalatinsk (now Semey, Kazakhstan), and one in the Urals.

Chicago Sister Cities screened a new documentary, *Block Four*, which features interviews with survivors of the Chernobyl nuclear explosion and an in-depth look at life in the Chernobyl region today. Bill Kurtis, CBS 2 News Co-Ancor and Award-Winning Journalist delivered introductory remarks.

December 1

Focus: Art

The Kyiv and Warsaw Committees of Chicago Sister Cities International presented the Chicago premiere of the *Three Stories of Galicia*, a documentary that reveals the intimate stories of three courageous individuals who took it upon themselves to preserve the dignity of the human spirit in the contentious land of Galicia. The filmmakers, Olha Onyshko and Sarah Farthat, were present and answered questions after the film. The Kyiv committee also arranged for a screening at the University of Illinois at Urbana and a panel discussion at the Ukrainian National Museum.

2012

Focus: Education

The University of Illinois School of Public Health and the Kyiv Mohyla School of Public Health are continuing their joint programs for which they received grants from U.S. foundations. Dr. Daniel Hryhorchuk of UIC School of Public Health is continuously lecturing and consulting at Kyiv Mohyla School of Public Health and also consulting with the Ministry of Education of Ukraine on matters related to Public Health and Environmental and Occupational Health

May

Focus: Government

In late May, Vera Eliashevsky, Chair of the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, and

Father Myron Panchuk, member of the Kyiv Committee, traveled to Kyiv to meet with the Head of the Kyiv City State Administration, Oleksandr Popov, and his staff, to discuss future initiatives and projects of cooperation between these Sister Cities. Ms. Eliashevsky and Fr. Panchuk represented Chicago's Mayor Rahm Emanuel at the 2012 annual Kyiv Day celebration commemorating Kyiv's 1,530th anniversary.

August 6-10

Focus: Culture

The 7th Annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival transformed Daley Plaza into an international village filled with merchants, food, music, and dance from Chicago's 28 Sister Cities. The School of Ukrainian Dance – Vyshyvanka performed a traditional and beautiful dance number representing the culture and heritage of our Sister City of Kyiv. Kyiv was also represented by the excellent Ukrainian restaurant Shokolad Pastry and Café, who served Ukrainian delicacies to visitors all week long.

October 27

Focus: Culture

The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International was proud to be one of the supporters of the Miss Ukrainian Diaspora 2012, a unique and prestigious Beauty Pageant & Concert in the Ukrainian American community of Chicago produced by Yuriy Figel, a member of the Kyiv Committee. The show was covered in different media accessible to a large Ukrainian audience worldwide. Oleksandr Ponomaryov, the Golden Voice of Ukraine, a famous celebrity singer from Ukraine performed at the event.

November 2-10

Focus: Government & Education

The Kyiv Committee hosted an Open World delegation which consisted of a group of young emerging leaders in the field of education from Ukraine. In addition to targeting decision makers and opinion leaders, Open World recruits delegates who are relatively young and politically, ethnically, and geographically diverse. During their visit to Chicago, the delegates participated in meetings focused around the theme Education. Delegates met with Senator Kirk's office, Alderman Maldonado of the 26 Ward, various City of Chicago Department representatives as well as Ukrainian civic and cultural organizations.

December 2-4

Focus: Mayoral Visit & Honorary Street Naming Ceremony

Mayor Emanuel welcomed Oleksandr Popov to Chicago and the two leaders signed a reaffirmation of the 1991 Chicago-Kyiv Sister Cities Agreement. With this partnership, the Mayor will continue to promote the City of Chicago as an economic partner and tourist destination to Ukrainian business and government leaders.

Mr. Popov's delegation also included Anatoliy Tolstoukhov, advisor to Ukraine's Prime Minister Mykola Azarov; Oleksandr Motsyk, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States; Andriy Pravednyk, the new consul general of Ukraine in Chicago; as well as directors from various Kyiv City administration departments and businessmen from the technology sector.

The Ukrainian delegation participated in the "Kyiv Sister Cities" honorary street naming ceremony in the Ukrainian Village neighborhood. The delegation also met with World Business Chicago, toured the tech-hub 1871 in Chicago's Merchandise Mart. The Kyiv Sister Cities Committee was awarded with a commemorative medal "In Celebration of the 1530 anniversary of Kyiv" and the exchanges

that have taken place between the two cities in the past 21 years.

2013

January 9

Focus: Education

The Kyiv Committee and Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America held a reception at the Consulate General of Ukraine to Congratulate Committee member Marta Kolomayets on her appointment as Director of the Fulbright Program in Ukraine and celebrate the achievements of the Fulbright Program and other Ukraine related academic programs with scholars and students from Ukraine in the Chicago area.

March 13

Focus: Business

The Kyiv Committee of CSCI, in cooperation with the Consulate General of Ukraine in Chicago, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC), the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC) hosted a small, business leaders working breakfast with distinguished guest Olexander Motsyk, Ambassador of Ukraine to the USA.

July 12-26

Focus: Education

Ten Chicago-area children participated in the summer camp “School of Success” in Kyiv, Ukraine, sponsored by the Klitschko Brothers Foundation. The Kyiv Committee facilitated the trip to Ukraine at the summer camp for these ten children.

World champion boxers Vitali and Wladimir Klitschko invited children from the Ukrainian Diaspora to attend their foundation’s summer camp from July 12–26, 2013 to join with Ukrainian children. The camp was attended by 150 children in total—130 from Ukraine, 10 from Kazakhstan and 10 from Chicago. The Chicago participation was a result of Kyiv Committee Chair Vera Eliashevsky and Kyiv Committee member Father Myron’s trip to Kyiv in 2012.

June 21

Focus: Government

The Kyiv Committee facilitated a tour of Chicago City Hall for two leading historians from Ukraine, Dr. Ihor Shchupak, and Dr. Gennady Ivanushchenko. The historians shared their work and status of Ukrainian-Jewish collaborative programs, and issues related to overcoming the legacy of totalitarianism in Ukraine as a precursor to building a democratic society and how the US can help in this process.

August 5-9

Focus: Culture

The 8th Annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival transformed Daley Plaza into an international village filled with merchants, food, music, and dance from Chicago’s 28 Sister Cities. Food vendor Shokolad Pastry and Café served traditional and authentic Ukrainian food representing the culture and heritage of Kyiv.

September 15

Focus: Education

The Kyiv Committee of CSCI hosted a ceremony for the ten Chicago-area children that participated in the summer camp “School of Success” in Kyiv, Ukraine, sponsored by the Klitschko Brothers

Foundation. Vera Eliashevsky presented a Citizen Diplomacy Award to the ten children and chaperone who attended the camp.

September 25-29

Focus: Medical

The Chicago Sister Cities International Medical Initiative Program took place in conjunction with the 15th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium, a professional educational event highlighting the most recent clinical and scientific advances in breast cancer research. Dr. Iryna Djakiv of the Ivano Frankivsk National Medical University participated and represented Kyiv in the 2013 symposium.

November 11-16

Focus: Education

The Kyiv Committee in cooperation with the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America facilitated city and state government meetings for an Open World delegation which consisted of a group of young emerging leaders from Ukraine. In addition to targeting decision makers and opinion leaders, Open World recruits delegates who are relatively young and politically, ethnically, and geographically diverse. During their visit to Chicago, the delegates participated in meetings and visits focused on new technologies in libraries.

2014

February 20

Focus: Education

The Kyiv Committee participated in the University of Chicago Booth School of Business Alumni International Roundtable's sold-out discussion Ukraine: A Country on the Brink. They worked to plan the discussion and arrange the panelists who participated in discussing the current situation in Ukraine.

The Kyiv Committee secured the participation of the Euromaidan Journalist Collective, an independent group of young journalists and students from the United States that is documenting the Euromaidan protests and reporting in English and Ukrainian.

March 13

Focus: Education

The Kyiv Committee and the DePaul Journal for Social Justice organized a presentation on the current situation in Ukraine at the DePaul Law School. The Kyiv Committee worked to plan the discussion and arrange the panelists who participated in discussing the current situation in Ukraine. Speakers included attorney Danylo Terleckyj and Euromaidan Journalist Collective member Julian Hayda.

May 10

Focus: Education

A public meeting was held with Ukrainian-born American George Sajewych, former journalist and producer of Voice of America, who was severely beaten during a protest at the Maidan. Sajewych shared his experiences at the Maidan and his views on the current situation in Ukraine. At the event, Kyiv Committee Chair Vera Eliashevsky presented Sajewych with a letter of recognition from Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

As a volunteer with the self-defense units protecting the protesters, Sajewych was badly injured during the violent anti-Maidan crackdown on February 18. Saved by the motorcycle helmet he was

wearing, and suffering from a broken arm and a concussion, George underwent surgery and was treated in a hospital in Kyiv.

The meeting was presented with the Chicago Business & Professional Group and the UIMA.

May 17

Focus: Culture

Dr. Natalia Moussienko, Ukrainian philosopher and Fulbright scholar, gave a presentation and lecture on the works of art inspired by and created during the Maidan revolution.

Fires, burning tires, barricades, celebrations, flowers, music and expressions of love and anger, are some of the scenes that led to a national uprising that were depicted in the art presentation by Dr. Moussienko. For many of the protesters, the images of the revolution were just as important as the scenes of the revolution itself.

In the span of three months (November 21 – February 22) the city's main square was transformed into a work of art. Everywhere she turned she saw graffiti, murals, photos, posters, sculptures, installations, performance art, rock concerts and even perpetual piano performances, which continues to this day.

"No other country has seen this style of revolution – a revolution of creativity, a revolution that made artists of ordinary Ukrainians, and patriots of ordinary artists", stated Natalia Moussienko.

The event was presented with the Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 85 and the UIMA.

2015

March 28

Focus: Humanitarian

With the intention of bringing the Chicagoland Ukrainian community together to raise money to support those in Ukraine affected by the war, the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, the Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago and the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council hosted a concert featuring renowned violinist, Maria Storm.

Maria Storm hails from Kyiv and has been deeply distressed by the events in her homeland and the damage it has caused to her fellow countrymen. She assembled a group of leading musicians from Chicago and New York to present a program of music—classical in the first half and modern and popular in the second—including a performance by acclaimed Ukrainian performer, Foma from Kyiv.

All proceeds raised (\$16,400.00) from this concert was donated to the Ukrainian Federation of America (UFA) to provide relief in the form of food, water, clothing and medical supplies to families and children in Ukraine affected by the war.

April 26

Focus: Culture

The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International supported the fundraiser, Ukrainian Chicago Fashion Show organized by Ukrainian Chicago Magazine. The proceeds benefited those affected by the conflict in Ukraine. The show featured three collections by leading Ukrainian fashion designer, Olena Dats.

October

Focus: Education

Five Ukrainian leaders participated in the Open World program from October 23-31,2015, in Chicago examining public health issues, specifically HIV and AIDS. Chicago Sister Cities International hosted the delegation.

Managed by the Open World Leadership Center, a support agency of the United States Congress, the Open World program is designed to enhance understanding and capabilities for cooperation between the United States and the countries of Eurasia by developing a network of leaders in the region who have gained significant, firsthand exposure to America's democratic, accountable government and free-market system.

The Open World program works to link Members of Congress to Eurasian leaders and is an instrument for Americans engaged in citizen diplomacy.

While in Chicago, the delegates met with public health leaders, decision-makers, and social service professionals to gain an understanding of public health policy in Chicago and the United States. The visiting delegates were Olexandr Yankovy, Iryna Kovalchuk, Svitlana Bubenchykova, Mariia Kasatkina, Oleksandra Chernoostrivska and Illya Tykhonov accompanied them as a facilitator.

2016

January 17

Focus: Culture

The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International organized the Chicago premiere of the documentary The Babushkas of Chernobyl at the Gene Siskel Film Center, followed by a post screening reception. Director Holly Morris was present for audience discussion at the screening.

February 10

Focus: Celebration

Chicago City Council passed a resolution to mark the 25th anniversary of Chicago's sister city relationship with Kyiv, Ukraine. The resolutions were presented to the Honorable Larysa Gerasko, Consul General of Ukraine.

May 14

Focus: Culture

Chicago Sister Cities International hosted a Eurovision Song Contest viewing party at Old Crow Smokehouse. Since 1956, the Eurovision Song Contest has been one of Europe's most popular television programs and one of television's longest running music shows. Over 200 people came to cheer on their country.

May 28

Soldier Field 10 Mile Run

The Kyiv Committee was chosen as an official participating charity of the Soldier Field 10 Mile Run held on Saturday, May 28. Sponsored by Fleet Feet Sports, this year's run encouraged Ukrainian Americans to create their own team, Friends of Ukraine, and take part as runners and volunteers. More than 50 runners and volunteers assembled for this Friends of Ukraine inaugural, including Larysa Gerasko the Consul General of Ukraine, and her entire Consular staff. The Soldier Field Run celebrates the service and supports the needs of the American Armed Forces. This year, financial

help has been extended to wounded soldiers from Ukraine.

June 1

Focus: Government

Mayor of Kyiv Vitaly Klitschko attended Chicago Forum on Global Cities. Mayor Emanuel and Mayor Klitschko signed a reaffirmation of the sister city agreement between Chicago and Kyiv on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the relationship between the two cities. The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International co-hosted Mayor Klitschko to a various programs in Chicago.

September 18

Focus: Culture

The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, The Consulate General of Ukraine and Ukrainian Congress Committee of America co-hosted the Gala Banquet celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence and 25th Anniversary of sister city relationship between Chicago and Kyiv.

2017

January 15

Ukrainian Winter Evenings Concert

Headliners the Kobzarska Sich Bandura Ensemble (under the direction of Artistic Director and Conductor Oleh Mahlay) performed the music of Ukraine, from traditional to modern folk tunes, to a sold-out audience at the Old Town School of Folk Music.

April 6

Celebrating Citizen Diplomacy Membership Reception

The Kyiv Committee had a strong presence at CSCI's membership reception by securing three Ukrainian restaurants to participate and supporting through planning and silent auction donations.

May 27

Soldier Field 10 Mile Run

The Kyiv Committee supported the "50 for 50" team at the Soldier Field 10 Mile Run, whose goal was to assemble a team of no fewer than 50 runners and 50 financial contributors to raise \$50,000 for the new School of Rehabilitation Medicine of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine (via the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation).

July 22-29

Global Youth Ambassadors Leadership Summit

Tania S., 16, of Pavlo Tychna Gymnasia 191 represented Kyiv at the Summit, an educational forum in Chicago to help grow a new generation of global leaders. The Kyiv Committee raised funds for her participation and participated in the planning and selection of participants for the Summit.

September 8-16

Open World Delegation

With the Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation, CSCI hosted an Open World delegation of six media professionals from Ukraine under the theme of media literacy and countering false information.

September 14-17

CSCI Medical Initiative

Dr. Yuriy Ostapenko of Kyiv received a grant to participate in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium in Chicago. Through a generous grant from the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation, in conjunction with the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, a competitive process awarded clinicians from Chicago's sister cities with the opportunity to attend the symposium held in Chicago.

2018

May

Soldier Field 10 Mile Run

The Kyiv Committee supported the Soldier Field 10 Mile Run, assembling a team of runners and supporters for the iconic Soldier Field 10 Mile race, at the stadium erected to honor the Armed Forces who defend freedom.

July 21 - 28

Global Youth Ambassadors Leadership Summit

From July 21–28, Chicago Sister Cities International again brought together 25 young women ages 14–16 from Chicago and around the world for its Global Youth Ambassadors Leadership Summit. Now in its third year, the Summit encourages teenage girls to become active leaders in their communities and develop solutions to the challenges girls face around the world. The Summit is presented in partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Throughout the week, youth ambassadors participate in workshops, discussions, and presentations on advocacy, activism, and leadership, giving them the tools to be leaders who create positive change.

Vlasta K. of Scandinavian Gymnasium represented Kyiv at the Summit.

September 30 – October 5

Kyiv City Council Delegation to Chicago

From September 30 to October 5, Chicago Sister Cities International hosted four members from Kyiv's city council for a week-long exchange on a number of topics, including gender equality, water safety, healthcare and city planning.

The delegation met with a number of officials from the City of Chicago, Cook County, and the State of Illinois including Patrick Murphey, Acting Zoning Administrator for the Department of Planning and Development; Dr. Terry Mason, COO of Cook County Department of Public Health; and Bradley Hart, Inspector General of the State of Illinois. They also had the opportunity to meet with the CEO of the Medical Society, Mr. Ted Kenallakes, and President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Ms. Mariyana Spyropoulos.

October 11-14

CSCI Medical Initiative

Dr. Oksana Shuliha-Nedaikhliebova of Kyiv received a grant to participate in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium in Chicago. Through a generous grant from the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation, in conjunction with the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, a competitive process awarded clinicians from Chicago's sister cities with the opportunity to attend the symposium held in Chicago.

October 16

GYALS Satellite Workshop in Kyiv

The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI) partnered with Fulbright Ukraine to

host a Global Youth Ambassadors Leadership Workshop in Kyiv on Tuesday, October 16.

The event was held at the America House in Kyiv. Fifty students who previously applied to participate in the Chicago-based Global Youth Ambassadors Leadership Summit were invited to this unique satellite event designed to encourage teenage girls to become active leaders in their communities and develop solutions to challenges girls face around the world. The workshop included keynote addresses, discussions and team building exercises focused on leadership, advocacy and activism. In addition, the program highlighted opportunities to participate in international exchanges and study abroad programs.

2019

January 16

Kyiv Committee Appoints New Co-Chair

On January 16, the CSCI Advisory Board approved Yuriy Figel as the new co-chair for the Kyiv Committee. Yuriy Figel is an entrepreneur and real estate investor, founder of Golden Figure®, a Chicago-based boutique investment company primarily focused on residential and commercial real estate. Prior to dedicating his efforts to real estate investing full-time, Yuriy Figel founded or co-founded multiple businesses and brands in the digital marketing, multimedia, event production, retail, and business services industries. As an immigrant from Ukraine whose great grandmother was born in the U.S., Yuriy has a deep connection to both countries. He has dedicated much of his time towards promoting Ukrainian cultural heritage and supporting the Ukrainian-American community in Chicago, a city which boasts a very strong Ukrainian community. He has played leadership roles in several nonprofit and charitable initiatives and projects, as well as served on the boards of nonprofits such as the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago.

May 25

Solder Field 10 Mile Run

The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International teamed up with Revived Soldiers Ukraine to assemble a team of runners and supporters for the iconic Soldier Field 10 Mile race, at the stadium erected to honor the Armed Forces who defend freedom. Following the race, the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International made a donation of \$3,000 to Revived Soldiers Ukraine in memory of the late Father Myron Panchuk, who had been involved in the project since its inception 4 years ago.

October 3 – 6

CSCI Medical Initiative

Dr. Nataliia Chorna of Kyiv received a grant to participate in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium in Chicago. Through a generous grant from the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation, in conjunction with the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, a competitive process awarded clinicians from Chicago's sister cities with the opportunity to attend the symposium held in Chicago.

October 10

Maestro Kirill Karabits CSO Debut and Reception

On Thursday, October 10, the Consulate General of Ukraine and the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted a post-performance reception in honor of Maestro Kirill Karabits' CSO subscription debut.

Chicago's Ukrainian community came out in full force to support Maestro Karabits, and numerous members of Chicago's Consular Corps also attended the performance and reception. The speaking program included remarks by Consul General of Ukraine Larysa Gerasko and Co-Chair of the Kyiv Committee Vera Eliashevsky, and Mr. Karabits was presented with a letter of welcome and congratulations from Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

October 19

Oksana Karavanska Fashion Show Fundraiser

On Saturday, October 19, the Kyiv Committee hosted a fashion show fundraiser in conjunction with St. Nicholas Cathedral School, featuring renowned Ukrainian designer Oksana Karavanska.

More than 200 people turned out for an evening of fun and fashion, all for a great cause. Natalie Martinez Gama from NBC7 was the emcee for the evening, which featured remarks by Kyiv Committee Co-Chair Vera Eliashevsky; Anna Cirilli, Principal of St. Nicholas Cathedral School; Taras Drozd, President, Board of Trustees, The Heritage Foundation; and Adrienne Tongate, Executive Director of Chicago Sister Cities International. Oksana Karavanska's runway show was the undisputed highlight of the night, featuring her signature style of incorporating traditional Ukrainian embroidery, known as vyshyvka, with modern couture. More than twenty amateur models, including some St. Nick's students, walked the runway in Karavanska's original designs. Guests also had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to purchase these designs straight off the runway after the show.

Proceeds raised will help to fund the Kyiv Committee's annual programming and philanthropic endeavors, and will support the St. Nicholas Cathedral School's "First Impressions" renovation initiative, which will add to the revitalization and beautification of one of Chicago's most iconic and historic neighborhoods.

2020

May

Focus: Culture

Tryzub and Shokolad Ukrainian Restaurants took part in CSCI A Taste of Sister Cities: Celebrating Chicago's Culinary Diversity – a restaurant partnership program in honor of our 60th anniversary this year and they were featured on Taste of Sister Cities to Go.

July

Focus: Education

Yelzaveta was selected as our 2020 Virtual Global Youth Ambassador from Kyiv, Ukraine for CSCI Global Youth Ambassador Summit!

2021

April

Focus: Education

A scholarship for young women studying at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) School of Journalism was awarded by the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities

International in memory of Marta Kolomayets (1959-2020). Marta Kolomayets was a long-time member of the Kyiv Committee as well as Director of the Fulbright Program in Kyiv. She initiated and led numerous educational and cultural projects and was a professional journalist for several publications.

The scholarship is awarded to support the new generation of promising female students of journalism, to help them become champions of freedom of speech and make further contributions to the development of independent Ukrainian media.

May

Focus: Business

Dmytro Kalyta of Kodisoft (Kyiv, Ukraine) participated in Global Tech & Innovation Series.

August

Focus: Culture

Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International participated in the flag raising ceremony to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Ukrainian Independence and walked in the parade joined by Executive Director of Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI) Adrienne Tongate & Advisory Board Member of CSCI and Co-Chair of the Warsaw Committee of CSCI Conrad Nowak, and Ukraine's famous pop-star Ruslana. The flag of Kyiv proudly waves over Chicago Avenue as the parade marches through Ukrainian Village. This flag was a gift to the Kyiv Committee of CSCI from Mayor of Kyiv Vitaliy Klitschko during his visit to Chicago in 2016. We are proud to display the flag of the capital city of Ukraine, Kyiv

2022

January

Focus: Government

Ambassador of Ukraine, Oksana Markarova met with World Business Chicago and the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International. The parties discussed potential opportunities for cooperation in the tech sector between Chicago and Kyiv, Ukraine

February 25

Focus: Government

Joint Statement by Chicago Sister Cities International & World Business Chicago

“Chicago is home to a large and proud Ukrainian American community. We stand in solidarity with Ukrainians here and across the world in support of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. May the Sister Cities mission to promote mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation be today’s call to action for the world.

The national Sister Cities movement was founded by President Eisenhower, following World War II, and during the Cold War, in an effort to promote peace and understanding by fostering bonds between people from different parts of the world.

Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI), the largest and most active sister city program in the country, has 600 citizen diplomat volunteers who dedicate their efforts to strengthening the ties between Chicago and its 29 international sister cities.

Chicago and Kyiv have been sister cities since 1991, the same year that Ukraine gained its independence. Since then, Chicago and Kyiv have shared a long history of friendship and cooperation. Today, Chicago is home to a large and proud Ukrainian American community.

Since 1997, Chicago and Moscow have also been sister cities. The Kyiv and Moscow Committees of CSCI are saddened by current events, condemn the acts of aggression against Ukraine, and are committed to promoting understanding through citizen-to-citizen diplomacy.

Our work at Chicago Sister Cities International is more vital than ever, bringing our communities together under the mission of promoting peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation through citizen diplomacy – one individual, one community at a time. As President Eisenhower said, “If we are going to take advantage of the assumption that all people want peace, then the problem is for people to get together and to leap governments – if necessary to evade governments – to work out not one method, but thousands of methods by which people can gradually learn a little bit more of each other.”

February

Focus: Social Services

With full invasion of Ukraine by Russia, all efforts focused on supporting and standing with Ukraine. With donations of support pouring in the Kyiv Committee of CSCI created the *Support Ukraine Fund* and proceeds are being distributed by the Kyiv Committee to vetted organizations and projects providing direct humanitarian and medical aid in Ukraine, i.e. Help Heroes of Ukraine, Revived Soldiers of Ukraine, UNICEF.

Outside of the money raised through the fund, members of the Kyiv Committee of CSCI have:

- Launched the KYIV Alliance, a platform for facilitating ad hoc humanitarian aid initiatives and logistics in response to the war in Ukraine, with a sign-up form for volunteers and calls to actions;
- Facilitated delivery of humanitarian supplies from 7 states;
- Provided volunteers for medical aid initiatives;
- Participated in a worldwide TV marathon SaveUkraine;
- Established a pilot partnership with JKJ Workforce Agency to assist displaced Ukrainians with finding employment, supported families in Chicago who fled the war;
- Organized multiple fundraisers and a benefit concert in Chicago with members of the Lyric Opera Orchestra and Stage Artists to benefit the St. Nicholas Cathedral School and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America Foundation;
- Provided direct support for humanitarian aid to refugees in Poland;
- Connected Ukrainian local leaders with their counterparts in the U.S. and their communities to share what is happening in their cities.

April 9

Focus: Culture

The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art and the Kyiv Committee of CSCI presented the “We Stand With Ukraine” benefit concert at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral. The concert highlighted the music of Mykola Lysenko, Hulak-Artemovsky, Elgar, Skoryk, Verdi, and Weber and raised over \$43,000. The funds raised will be split between the St. Nicholas Cathedral School to support the

newly enrolled displaced Ukrainian children and their families who arrived in Chicago fleeing Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America who is providing medical and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.

The concert was conducted by Michael Holian with music performed by members of the Chicago Lyric Opera Orchestra & Ukrainian musicians.

May 28

Focus: Government

Five wounded recovering Ukrainian veterans who currently reside in the U.S. arrived in Chicago to participate in the "Soldier Field 10" race taking place that same day. These Ukrainian veterans ran to honor the fallen Soldiers of the U.S. Armed Forces and provided a respectful tribute to our fallen heroes while representing Ukrainian gratitude to the U.S. for its continued support of Ukraine's defense of its sovereignty and freedom.

The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI) once again assembled a group of 60 runners who represented the team, "Run for Ukraine," to take part in the "Soldier Field 10" race. This event salutes every individual who has ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces, protecting freedom in battle throughout U.S. history.

The Ukrainian veterans were wounded at the onset of the military operations of Russia's war against Ukraine in 2014, and have been rehabilitating both in Ukraine and in the United States, using sport as a critical component of their therapy.

The pre-race ceremony started with a playing of taps and a military salute, with a special honor to The Armed Forces of Ukraine who were gifted a flag of the United States that was flown in their honor on May 28th over Soldier Field. Vadym Korobenko, leader of the military veteran delegation accepted the flag on behalf of all Ukrainian Armed Forces.

We thank them again for their courage in defending Ukraine!

August 25

Focus: Government

The Ukraine Fundraising Committee in cooperation with BOMA/Chicago hosted a Ukraine Refugee Benefit Event titled, Hoops On The Roof For Ukraine, to support the Kyiv Committee of CSCI in their efforts to aid Ukrainian refugees.

Consul General of Ukraine in Chicago, Serhij Koledov; Konstantin Ekelman, organizer of this event; and Vera Halicki, member of the Kyiv Committee of CSCI among others delivered remarks during the speaking program. There were a total of 230 attendees at the event that helped raise \$45k for the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International.

November

Focus: Business

The Kyiv Committee honored at Chicago's premiere international event, the World Business Chicago International Gala. Mayor of Chicago Lori Lightfoot and the organizers presented several awards, including the Chicago Sister Cities International Volunteer of the Year Award to the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, accepted by Co-Chairs Vera Eliashevsky & Yuriy Figel.

2023

January 20

Focus: Government

Secretary of State Blinken visited Chicago and met with Senator Durbin and Ukrainian community leaders, including Vera Eliashevsky, Co-Chair of the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International and Motria Melynk, Chair of the Kyiv Education Committee, to discuss the many ways that Chicagoans are supporting Ukraine.

March

Focus: Culture

Kyiv Committee met with the Petach Tikva Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art. The Committees had the pleasure to welcome Barak Yeivin, Director Conservatory of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. Many Ukrainian children, displaced refugees, were accepted to such a prestigious academy and now have an opportunity to continue studying music. The Honorable Consul General of Ukraine in Chicago, Serhiy Koledov expressed gratitude for standing with Ukraine and support of the displaced families from Ukraine.

May 21-23

Focus: Government

World Business Chicago and Chicago Sister Cities International partnered with the Honorary Consulate of Sweden in Chicago and the Lithuanian Consulate General, in partnership with the Consulates General of EU countries in Chicago to co-host a group of Deputy Chiefs of Mission from the EU embassies in Washington DC in an extensive two-day program showcasing the best of Chicago, Chicago's sustainability and innovation efforts, EU-U.S. support for Ukraine, and EU-Chicago-Illinois trade relations.

May

Focus: Social Services

Ukrainian wounded and recovering veterans run for Freedom at Soldier Field 10 in Chicago. The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International assembled "Friends of Ukraine," runners and volunteers, to display their commitment to the "land of the free" and the "home of the brave", to the Armed Forces that continue to protect freedom in battle. Ukrainian veterans participated in a round table discussion with the Road Home Program at Rush aimed to introduce them to a successful U.S. veterans' care program and to come away with ideas to consider for implementation in Ukraine. The group also visited our partner school in Chicago, St. Nicholas Cathedral School, to participate in an assembly in honor of Memorial Day.

June-December

Focus: Business, Culture

In 2023, as part of a City of Chicago initiative to support small local businesses by showcasing them on Chicago's world-famous Magnificent Mile shopping corridor, the robust Ukrainian community of Chicago was awarded an opportunity to showcase Ukrainian vendors in a six-month pop-up store.

From June to December 2023, the *C Ukraine* pop-up store welcomed thousands of guests and shared Ukraine's vibrant, unique, and modern culture through merchandise, food, workshops, book talks, musical performances, and more. This pop-up store was created and executed through a close partnership between the City of Chicago, World Business Chicago, the Ukrainian Consulate in Chicago, the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, the Magnificent Mile Association

and Chicago's Ukrainian community. *C Ukraine* featured local Ukrainian small businesses who donated portions of their sales to support Ukraine, demonstrating Chicagoans' strong support for Ukraine.

The immersive store featured this *C Ukraine* Support Wall, a collaborative art project that was inspired by local Chicago artist Matthew Hoffman and the designers of the pop-up store, Ukrainian-born architect, Vladimir Radutny, and artist Luna Prysiazhniuk.

Hundreds of visitors wrote messages and attached them to the wall, serving as a visual symbol of support for Ukraine.

This wall became a collective symbol of solidarity from Chicagoans, the local Ukrainian American community, and tourists visiting from around the world.

September

Focus: Social Services

Ukraine was represented by 3 doctors at the Lynn Sage Breast Conference as a part of the collaboration with Chicago Sister Cities International

September

Focus: Culture

It's Oksana (merchandise) and Shokolad (food) represented Kyiv, Ukraine at the CSCI International Festival on Daley Plaza.

October

Focus: Culture

The Kyiv Committee of CSCI established the First Ukrainian Cheering Zone at the Chicago Marathon.

2024

April

Focus: Diplomacy

On April 16, the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Denys Shmyhal, and Ukrainian Ambassador to the U.S., Oksana Markarova, met with Mayor Brandon Johnson and his team, along with United States Special Representative for Ukraine's Economic Recovery, Penny Priztker. Their meeting highlighted our enduring ties between Chicago and Ukraine, including our very active sister city relationship with Kyiv since 1991 and the strong Ukrainian community here in Chicago. Prime Minister Shmyhal extended gratitude for the support of the City of Chicago, Chicago's Ukrainian Community, and the Kyiv Committee of CSCI's extensive relief initiatives for Ukraine through times of crisis, which has garnered international attention. CSCI is also very grateful for our partnership with Consul General of Ukraine in Chicago, Serhiy Koledov.

May

Focus: Social Services

On the 10th year of the Russian invasion, the Kyiv Committee welcomed Major General (ret) Volodymyr Havrylov along with a group of 12 wounded active-duty Ukrainian soldiers who were joined by Ukrainian veterans and a group of runners from the U.S. to participate in the annual Soldier Field 10 race in Chicago, on Saturday, May 25, 2024. This event is held to remember the brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The Ukrainian military group traveled to Chicago to demonstrate an appreciation of the United States Armed Forces' support and cooperation with Ukraine.

The highly ranked and awarded group included 2 colonels who have been fighting since 2014, and took part in the liberation of the Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Kherson regions and led troops in the Bakhmut and Avdiivka regions. Major General (ret) Volodymyr Havrylov was appointed Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Defense during Russian aggression at the beginning of 2022. Previously, he served as Defense Attaché at the Ukrainian Embassy to the United States in 2015–2018. He is also currently a Director of the Veterans Dozen Foundation and serves on the Board of Advisors to the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.

The Ukrainian Armed Forces' first day in Chicago began with an in-studio interview on CBS followed by a visit to St. Nicholas Cathedral School where they were warmly welcomed by students, faculty, parents, the Consul General of Ukraine, US Military officers, and Chicago police officers all thanking them for their bravery and commitment to freedom.

The delegation visited the Ukrainian National Museum and Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Ukrainian Village. On Friday morning, the delegation paid a special visit to St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bloomingdale where they memorialized the victims of the Holodomor and Heavenly Hundred. This was followed by a visit to their partners at Help Heroes of Ukraine for a discussion regarding the current and future state of affairs in Ukraine. On Friday evening, a service was held at St. Joseph the Betrothed Ukrainian Catholic Church. The delegation also enjoyed an informative excursion to the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, with special thanks to Smita Shah, Chair of the Delhi Committee of CSCI, and Pam Chen and LaQuita Ford of the GMSI for hosting the soldiers. They also were able to enjoy a tour of Chicago's river and lake. It was a truly inspirational three days for all who had the privilege to meet this group of heroes who sent a message of gratitude to the United States for our support with hopes and dreams of a free Ukraine.

The organizers of the project are the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, Revived Soldiers of Ukraine with special gratitude to Natalia Boivka and the Ukrainian Charitable Fund "Vesna!" joined by their partners Help Heroes of Ukraine and the Veterans Dozen Foundation. We are grateful to Infozahyst in Ukraine who were sponsors of this project. The Kyiv Committee is also grateful to Shokolad and Velour Ukrainian restaurants for their generous in-kind support.

June

Focus: Social Services

In June, Nathalie Robelot-Timtchenko (Founder & Executive Director, First Aid of the Soul) & Walter Tun (Executive Director, Selfreliance Association) joined the 2024 CSCI Social Services Conference to discuss innovations in social services from Ukraine among an audience of over 100 Chicago-based social services professionals, as well as 40 delegates from 7 of Chicago's additional sister cities. Nathalie and Walter gave amazing presentations on the work being done in the trauma-informed

care space in Ukraine, especially through Natalie's work with First Aid of the Soul.

October

Focus: Diplomacy

On Friday, October 25th, the C Ukraine Support Wall was formally presented to the City of Kyiv, Ukraine. The wall originated from the C Ukraine pop-up store in Chicago, which welcomed thousands of visitors from June to December 2023, and shared Ukraine's vibrant, unique and modern culture through merchandise, food, workshops, book talks, musical performances, and more. Hundreds of visitors wrote messages and attached them to the wall, serving as a visual symbol of support for Ukraine. The pop-up store was executed by World Business Chicago, through a close partnership between the City of Chicago, the Consulate General of Ukraine – Chicago, the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, the Magnificent Mile Association and Chicago's Ukrainian community.

The C Ukraine Support Wall is a collaborative art project that was inspired by local Chicago artist Matthew Hoffman and the designers of the pop-up store, Ukrainian-born architect, Vladimir Radutny, and artist Luna Prysiachniuk. This wall became a collective symbol of solidarity from Chicagoans, the local Ukrainian American community, and tourists visiting from around the world.

The C Ukraine Support Wall and its messages of support from Chicago were unveiled to citizens of Kyiv, city officials, and the resident children and refugees at the Kyiv Palace of Children and Youth. Jim Gamache, friend of the Kyiv Committee of CSCI and citizen liaison for U.S. – Ukrainian humanitarian efforts presented the C Ukraine Support Wall on behalf of the City of Chicago, World Business Chicago, and the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International. The Consulate General of Ukraine in Chicago facilitated the transportation of the wall to Kyiv.

Jim Gamache alongside Chicagoan and journalist Joseph Lindsley of Ukrainian Freedom News also met with Mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko and discussed the Chicago community's strong and everlasting support for Ukraine. Mayor Klitschko shared greetings for all Chicagoans and shared words of appreciation for the strong bonds between our communities, especially through the sister city connection between Chicago and Kyiv since 1991, which has thrived under the stewardship of the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International.

You can listen to Mayor Klitschko's greetings for Chicago through WGN Radio via Bob Sirott, Joseph Lindsley, and Ukrainian Freedom News here! Bob Sirott's daily WGN Radio show features daily updates from Ukraine from Joseph Lindsley now for over two years.

October

Focus: Best Practices Exchange; Social Services

On October 13 – 14, the Kyiv Committee of CSCI hosted two special delegates for a meeting with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) for a tour of Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan, and the Mainstream Pumping Station. Volodymyr Yermak, Deputy Head the Division of Control and Analytical Support for the Kyiv City State Administration and Roman Kashpur, a Ukrainian soldier and athlete attended the meeting and tour alongside Kyiv Committee Co-Chair, Vera Eliashevsky. They enjoyed a fruitful meeting with Commissioner Marcelino Garcia, MWRD Chairman of Finance, where they discussed water reclamation efforts and explored shared goals in sustainability and infrastructure between Chicago and Kyiv.

During this delegation, The Kyiv Committee of CSCI also partnered with Revived Soldiers of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Running Club Chicago to host two special guests, Roman Kashpur and Mariia Golota, for the 2024 Bank of America Chicago Marathon and special pre-marathon reception at Tryzub.

Roman Kashpur, a Ukrainian soldier who lost his leg in combat to a landmine has run 5 of the 6 major marathons in the world: London, Tokyo, NYC, Berlin, and now Chicago. In London, he became the first Ukrainian military veteran to complete the marathon using a prosthetic limb. In 2016, Roman enlisted in the Ukrainian army at the age of 19, two years after Russia annexed Crimea. He lost the lower part of his right leg in a land mine explosion in 2019 while on duty in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region and continued to fight on the front line against Russia wearing a prosthesis. Within 6 weeks of his combat injury, he started walking and quickly progressed to running with the goal of improving his fitness. "After being injured, from the very first day, I tuned myself to one thing: I will live an even more active life than before the injury," Roman said. When war with Russia broke out in February 2022, Roman traveled to the war zone, just 30 miles from the Russian border, to train new troops. Thanks to his unit's quick response, the region was spared attacks.

Mariia Golota, a running coach from Ukraine also came to Chicago to take part in the 2024 Bank of America Chicago Marathon. Mariia founded "RUN21" a global running club based in Kyiv, Ukraine, with more than 100 members that live in Ukraine, Europe, and the U.S. She is the author of the first Ukrainian book about running called "Never Stop" which remains one of the most popular sports books in Ukraine that continues to boost amateur running culture in Ukraine and motivates runners to get into the sport and keep running.