



## History of Exchange

Kyiv, Ukraine  
Chicago's Sister City Since 1991

**Co-Chairs:** Vera Eliashevsky and Yuriy Figel

**Former Chairs:** Julian Kulas & Marta Farion

**1991**

**July 17**

**Focus: Signing Agreement**

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.

**July**

**Focus: Culture**

A visiting Ukrainian music group toured several cultural facilities and met with Chicago-based musicians to gain a better understanding of the Chicago cultural scene.

**Focus: Economic Development**

The Kyiv Committee Chair and other members of Chicago's Ukrainian-American community hosted Leonid M. Kravchuk, Chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and future president of Ukraine. While in Chicago, Kravchuk met with several business leaders. In addition, Kyiv's Chairman of the Association of Businesses, Vitaly Mayco, visited Chicago to attend a series of meetings with the heads of five major Chicago businesses.

**1992**

**Focus: Economic Development**

A delegation of 11 bankers from Kyiv visited Chicago. The Kyiv Committee provided a tour of Ukrainian Village and held a seminar on Community Banking at First Security Savings Bank.

## **May**

### **Focus: Government**

Chicago lawyers participated in the conference “Law Day” in Kyiv. The delegation met with their counterparts to conduct forums and seminars that focused on establishing the new legal order in Kyiv.

## **1993**

### **Focus: Culture**

The Ukrainian artist, Olga Antonenko, participated in the O'Hare Art Mural Project in May. She also took part in the A.R.T. Children's Art Exchange.

### **Focus: Government**

A delegation of three representatives from Kyiv City Hall visited Chicago to reaffirm the Sister Cities' relationship and plan future exchanges. The delegation included Vasyl Nesterenko, Chairman of Kyiv City Council, Anatoliy Anissimov, Chair of the Public Council of Foreign Relations, and Valery Babich, President of Ukrainian Businessmen. The delegation met with representatives from the City of Chicago's Departments of Environment, Planning and Development (Long Range Planning and Trade Services) and Cultural Affairs, as well as business representatives. The Kyiv Committee also hosted a luncheon for the members of the Kyiv City government.

### **Focus: Government**

Vladimir Mackukha from the Kyiv Research Institute of Socioeconomic Problems, spent one week in Chicago meeting with representatives of the academic and business communities as well as officials from the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development.

## **1994**

### **Focus: Government**

The Chair of the Kyiv Committee led a delegation of Ukrainian Americans to meet President Clinton, Vice President Gore and State Department officials to discuss U.S.-Ukrainian relations.

### **Focus: Government**

The Chair of the Kyiv Committee was invited to Washington D.C. to speak about situation of Ukrainian Jews.

### **Focus: Medical & Social Service**

The Kyiv Committee coordinated a tour of Chicago, including visits to hospitals, medical suppliers and manufacturing companies, for a delegation of 20 Ukrainian medical and pharmaceutical professionals attending the U.S. Department of Commerce's Health Industry Business Round table. Alzheimer and Gray hosted a reception.

## **1995**

### **Focus: Culture**

The Kyiv Committee hosted the Mozltov Jewish Theater Troupe. The ensemble performed at the Chicago Cultural Center as well as at other venues throughout Chicago.

### **Focus: Economic Development**

The Chair of the Kyiv Committee participated in a seminar for 18 Ukrainian bankers. The event was sponsored by the National Forum Foundation.

## **1996**

### **Focus: Culture**

The Kyiv Committee collaborated with the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art to coordinate the visit of three artists from Kyiv. Their program included tours to artists' studios in Chicago and a reception.

### **Focus: Culture**

A press conference was held at the Chicago Cultural Center for Ukrainian and Russian language media to inform them of the activities of the Kyiv Committee as well as the Chicago Sister Cities program at large.

## **July**

### **Focus: Culture**

In honor of the 5th anniversary of the Chicago-Kyiv Sister Cities signing, the Kyiv Committee launched an intensive fundraising campaign that raised \$95,000 from major companies and in-kind donations. These funds were used to sponsor many cultural events in the Chicago area: the Kyiv Chamber Orchestra performed 3 times at the Grant Park Music Festival and at the Chicago Cultural Center. In addition, the Committee held a reception to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Chicago-Kyiv relationship in the Cultural Center, and a series of official municipal government and business meetings.

### **Focus: Government**

Victoria Melentieva, Head of Protocol for the City of Kyiv, came to Chicago to meet with City and State government officials and the city's business community.

## **1997**

### **Focus: Culture**

A World in a Weekend featured Kyiv. Highlights included A City in a Suitcase presentation, Continental Drift radio program featuring contemporary music of Kyiv and Ukraine, master egg decorator Vera Samyia, Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Ukrainian Dance, the film Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors, and pianist Mykola Suk.

### **Focus: Culture**

Four Ukrainian administrators came to Chicago, including the Deputy Mayor, the Director of the Kyiv Department of Culture and a choreographer. The purpose of the visit was to organize a performance by a Ukrainian dance ensemble in Chicago for the fall. The delegation also had meetings with several representatives from City of Chicago Departments.

### **Focus: Culture**

The Ukrainian pianist, Valentina Lisitsa, performed at the Grant Park Music Festival. The Kyiv Committee hosted a reception for the public to meet the musician.

### **Focus: Culture**

The Chicago Children's Choir performed in Kyiv.

## **1998**

### **Focus: Culture**

The Kyiv Committee hosted a reception for Ukrainian astronauts visiting Chicago.

### **Focus: Culture**

A Ukrainian Theater Troupe performed in Chicago.

### **Focus: Culture**

World-renowned Ukrainian pianist Valentina Lisitsia performed to an audience of thousands at the Grant Park Music Festival.

### **Focus: Culture**

The Virsky Dance Ensemble from Kyiv performed at the Chicago Theater.

### **Focus: Culture**

The winners of the Vladimir Horowitz Piano Competition performed a benefit for the Kyiv Committee at the Preston Bradley Hall.

### **Focus: Culture**

The Chicago Protégé Orchestra from DePaul University went to Kyiv for a series of concerts.

### **Focus: Education**

Representatives from DePaul University, Loyola, and other universities in Chicago participated in an academic exchange program with Kyiv, with the assistance of the Kyiv Committee.

### **Focus: Government**

A Kyiv journalist met with the Ukrainian Congress Committee of Chicago.

### **Focus: Medicine & Social Service**

The Committee hosted a reception for the President of the Ukrainian Red Cross, who received the Man of the Year Award in Chicago from the American Red Cross for his work with victims of Chornobyl.

## **1999**

### **Focus: Culture**

The Kyiv Committee hosted a reception for pianist Valentina Lisitsia at Grant Park Music Festival. Ms. Lisitsia was first introduced to Chicago by the Kyiv Committee in 1998 and later featured on CBS Sunday Morning.

### **Focus: Economic Development**

The Committee hosted Anatoly K. Kinakh, President of the Business Association of Ukraine and a delegation of 12 representatives from Ukraine's top corporations, during their visit to Chicago to attend a business conference in Chicago. The Committee arranged meetings with several companies in the Chicago area, and hosted a luncheon.

### **Focus: Education**

Kyiv Committee Member Vera Eliashevsky mentored a young businessman, the owner of an office supply company in Kyiv, at Avery Dennison. Upon returning to Kyiv, the businessman assisted the Committee with its Sister Schools program, and supplied Chicago's four Sister Schools in Kyiv with computers, copiers and fax machines.

**Focus: Environment**

The Vice Mayor of Kyiv and the Director of Foreign Economic Affairs were in Chicago to meet with representatives from the City of Chicago Department of Waste Management. While here, the Kyiv Committee hosted a reception in their honor.

**Focus: Government**

Kyiv Committee Chair Marta Farion met with Kyiv Mayor Omelchenko and the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer to discuss current and future projects.

**Focus: Government**

The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Ukrainian Navy and three officers visited Chicago and the Ukrainian-American community. The visit was part of the Joint Contact Team initiative, which assists military forces during the transition to a free market economy and democratic government.

**2000**

**Focus: Culture**

Musical artists Orbert Davis and Lynne Jordan with 10 musicians represented Chicago at the "Chicago Jazz and Blues Festival" as part of Kyiv Days. In addition to performing a ticketed concert for 2,500 people, these artists performed a free outdoor concert for 500,000 that was broadcast nationally.

**2001**

**Focus: Economic Development**

The Kyiv Committee, working with the Western NIS Enterprise Fund, hosted a group of 16 business representatives from Ukraine, who attended the FMI Show at McCormick Place. Committee Members attended a reception for the delegation and arranged for meetings at corporations for individual delegation members.

**Focus: Education**

The Kyiv Committee hosted a benefit for Chicago's Sister Schools in Kyiv to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Chicago-Kyiv Sister Cities relationship.

**Focus: Education**

The Kyiv Committee hosted the Deputy Mayor, the Director of International Relations, and a School Director from Kyiv.

**Focus: Education**

The Kyiv Committee hosted a fundraiser at the Union League Club marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ukrainian independence attended by 350 people and raised funds to purchase \$6,000 in office equipment and \$10,000 for sister schools exchanges with 4 schools in Kyiv. Self-reliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union and Heritage Foundation co-sponsored, along with the main sponsor Western Union as sponsor of the donation ceremony.

**Focus: Government**

The Kyiv Committee and Western NIS Enterprise Fund co-hosted a luncheon in honor of former Foreign Affairs Minister, Borys Tarasyuk, at the Chicago Council of Foreign Relations.

**2002****February 10****Focus: Education**

Through donations garnered by the Kyiv Committee, technical equipment was installed in Chicago's four Sister Schools in Kyiv.

**June 1-2****Focus: Culture**

The Kyiv Committee sponsored second generation Ukrainian - American author Askold Melnyczuk to participate in the Chicago Printer's Row Book Fair.

**Focus: Education**

The Kyiv Committee worked with Northwestern University to obtain a Eurasia Foundation grant for a joint Master's program in technology management between Northwestern University and the Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

**2003****July 24-August 1****Focus: Culture**

The Mayor of Northbrook, IL, Mark Damisch, gave piano concerts in several locations in Kyiv and Zhytomir, Ukraine. This tour was a part of Mr. Damisch's continuing mission to promote harmony and peace through music to countries throughout the world. The Committee sponsored Mr. Damisch's trip.

**March 6-17****Focus: Medicine**

The Kyiv Committee and the Centers for Disease Control collaborated on a project in Ukraine to raise awareness about elimination of micronutrient malnutrition through enriching salt with iodine. The committee received a \$20,000 grant from the Centers for Disease Control.

**April 28-May 10****Focus: Education**

The Kyiv Committee organized a weeklong educational program in Chicago for the four directors of Chicago's Sister Schools in Kyiv. This ten-day Program was designed to provide the educational administrators from Kyiv with an in-depth knowledge of many facets of secondary school education in the United States. To accomplish this, the schedule included interaction with each of the four corresponding Sister Schools in Chicago, meetings with the Chicago Public Schools Administration, and with officials from the public and private sector, as appropriate.

**May 30****Focus: Medicine & Education**

The Kyiv Committee organized "Because Life is Beautiful" a fashion show benefit to prevent breast cancer in Ukraine. The fashion show featured three leading Ukrainian designers: Anna Babenko,

Victoria Gres and Oksana Karavanska, as well as two Chicago-based designers from Ukraine: Tatyana Chelekhova and Natalia Nazarova. The proceeds from this event were used to purchase a mammography machine for the Oncology Diagnosis Center in the Kherson.

#### **July 14**

##### **Focus: Culture**

The Kyiv Committee co-sponsored a performance by the Chicago Dance Ensemble Hromovytsia at the Operetta State Theater in Kyiv.

#### **October**

##### **Focus: Medicine & Education**

The Kyiv Committee assisted in the signing of an exchange agreement between the Schools of Public Health at the University of Illinois (UIC) and the Kyiv Mohyla University School of Public Health.

#### **2004**

#### **February**

##### **Focus: Education**

The Kyiv Committee facilitated an internet exchange between the students at Northbrook Meadowbrook elementary school and Harmoniya School in Kyiv. For several months grammar school students in both countries participated in the International Technology Initiative, a program where students can learn about each other's cities and daily lives. The electronic learning exchange was led by Committee member Motria Melnyk.

#### **February 12-25**

##### **Focus: Medicine**

The Kyiv Committee and the Centers for Disease Control continued to work on their collaborative a project in Ukraine, a micronutrient malnutrition and public health initiative.

#### **March, 2004**

Motria Melnyk traveled to Kyiv to initiate a collaborative international project where children from both Harmony and Meadowbrook Schools would engage in educational exchange projects utilizing technology.

#### **March, 2004**

Motria Melnyk taught and modeled integrated lessons utilizing different areas of the curriculum.

#### **March 8**

##### **Focus: Media**

The Kyiv Committee facilitated the participation of Myroslava Gongadze in the Chicago Sister Cities International journalism series: "Women, Culture and Politics" at the University of Chicago. In addition, several media meetings were held in Chicago.

#### **May**

The first video conference was held between students of Harmony Gymnasia and Meadowbrook School.

#### **April 25-26**

##### **Focus: Government & Sports**

The visit of a Mayoral delegation from Kyiv to Chicago featured official meetings with various members of the business community as well as City and State officials. The Kyiv Committee hosted a 400-person dinner and a reception to honor the delegation from Kyiv and Vitaly Klitschko, the newly crowned World Boxing Council Champion.

### **July 25-August 5**

#### **Focus: Education**

Working in collaboration with the Kyiv Committee, the Northwestern University Center for Technology & Innovation Management in collaboration with the University's Kellogg School of Management hosted a program for 45 Executive MBA graduate students from the Kyiv Mohyla Business School. In conjunction with this visit, on July 30, Northwestern University, Kyiv Mohyla Foundation & Motorola held a conference on Ukraine Trade.

### **August 5-15**

#### **Focus: Medicine**

The Kyiv Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International, working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), hosted two representatives from Zhinocha Hromada. This is part of the Kyiv Committee's continuing Iodine and Public Health initiative in Ukraine. Zhinocha Hromada is working with the Kyiv Committee to develop and implement an educational program about nutrition at the local level. During a 13-day stay in Chicago, the program included meeting with the Chicago Department of Public Health, the State of Illinois Department of Public Health, and several local hospitals in the Chicago area.

### **September 2-5**

#### **Focus: Culture**

Alex Kogan, correspondent of the Ukrainian Broadcasting Company and the music journal NOTA, was in Chicago for the Chicago Jazz Festival. His trip was organized and sponsored by the Kyiv Committee. Alex was provided with official press accreditation to attend and interview performers, visited Chicago's top recording studios and public radio.

### **September 10**

#### **Focus: Social Service**

The Kyiv Committee hosted For Sale or Rent— the Captive Daughters of Ukraine: A Public Colloquium on Human Trafficking to build awareness about the criminal trafficking of women of Ukraine. The panel featured three experts in the field: Victor Malarek, author of *The Natashas – Inside the New Global Sex Trade* (Arcade, 2004); Melanne Vermeer, Chair, Vital Voices Global Partnership and former chief of staff to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Amy Heyden, Winrock International and former Trafficking Prevention Program Director, Ukraine. It was moderated by Dr. David E. Guinn, Executive Director and Adjunct Professor of Law, International Human Rights Law Institute, DePaul University School of Law.

### **October 1-16**

#### **Focus: Education**

Luba Markewycz, from LaSalle Language Academy, and Natasha Oussenko, from Nobel Charter School, traveled to their Sister Schools in Kyiv to train their Ukrainian counterparts' innovative methods of teaching English as a second language.



**October 4-15****Focus: Education**

The Education Sub Committee organized the exchange visit of two Chicago teachers – Luba Markewycz, from LaSalle Language Academy, and Natasha Oussenko, from Noble Charter School – to Kyiv to train their Ukrainian counterparts in effective methods of teaching ESL. While there, they also attended a regional conference for teachers of English where they also had an opportunity to interact with their Ukrainian colleagues.

**November 27-December 12****Focus: Medicine**

Continuing the Kyiv Committee's work in the fight against breast cancer in Ukraine, the lead radiologist at the Oncology Diagnosis Center in the Kherson, Dr. Myakynkov, received training on aspects of breast cancer prevention and treatment at the Mammography Department at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center. The aim of Dr. Myakynkov's visit was two fold: to ensure proper training and care for the mammography equipment and to allow Dr. Myakynkov to share his training at Rush with other radiologists in Kherson, thus magnifying the impact of the program. In addition, Dr. Myakynkov attended the Annual Meeting of the Radiological Society of North America in Chicago. The Committee's medial visits were coordinated by Lida Truchly.

**December****Focus: Culture**

Working in collaboration with the Chicago Sister Cities International Program, the Kyiv Committee designed a holiday card that featured a work by Oleksandr Melnyk, an artist in Kyiv.

**2005****April 5****Focus: Culture**

The Kyiv Committee hosted a breakfast for the First Lady of Ukraine, Mrs. Kateryna Chumachenko Yushchenko at the Chicago Cultural Center. Mrs. Maggie Daley, Commissioner Weisberg and leaders of the cultural community in Chicago were present.

**April 17-20****Focus: Culture**

Working in collaboration with the Visual Arts Department and the Foundation for International Arts and Education, the Kyiv Committee hosted the visit of Anatoly Melnik, Director, and Dmytro Horbachev, Lead Curator, National Museum of Art, Kyiv for the proposed Ukrainian Modernism exhibition in the Chicago Cultural Center in 2006. Meetings with Lois Weisberg, Commissioner; Greg Knight, Director, Visual Arts, DCA; Gloria Groom, Curator of French 19th Century Painting, The Art Institute of Chicago and community leaders in the Ukrainian Village were held.

**July****Focus: Education**

Working in collaboration with the Kyiv Committee, the Northwestern University Center for Technology & Innovation Management in collaboration with the University's Kellogg School of Management hosted a program for Executive MBA graduate students from the Kyiv Mohyla Business School.

**October, 2005**

During Mayor Richard M. Daley's official trip to Kyiv, Ukraine he visited Harmony School to explore how the educational exchange project initiated by Motria Melnyk between Meadowbrook School (Northbrook, IL) and Harmony School (Kyiv, Ukraine) could be used as a model for other sister cities and Chicago schools to increase global connections utilizing technology.

**October 5-10****Focus: Health**

The Kyiv Committee hosted Kateryna Yushchenko, wife of Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine, on a visit to Chicago area hospitals, medical facilities and associations as part of her ongoing healthcare advocacy campaign in Ukraine.

**October 13-16****Focus: Government**

Mayor Richard M. Daley and Mrs. Maggie Daley traveled to Kyiv, Ukraine to meet with business, government, educational and religious leaders and to promoting relations with between the two sister cities.

The Mayor promoted Chicago as a trading partner and tourist destination in a speech to Ukrainian business and government leaders. He also spoke at a ceremony marking the 390th anniversary of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. The university formed partnerships with the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

The Daleys dined with Ukraine President Victor Yushchenko and his wife, Kateryna, a Chicago native. The schedule also included a tour of the Harmonia Humanitarian Gymnasium School and meetings and private dinner with U.S. Ambassador John Herbst and Kyiv Mayor Oleksandr O. Omelchenko. Mayor Daley laid flowers at a monument to Taras Shevchenko, a 19th century Ukrainian poet and artist, and at a monument to the more than 100,000 victims of the Nazi massacre at Babyn Yar in September 1941.

**2006****March 14-16****Focus: Government**

The Kyiv Committee participated in the International Energy Conference Forum in Kyiv, Ukraine by sending Antonia Ornelas, Energy Director for the City of Chicago's Department of Environment, Energy & Air Quality Division.

**July 22 - October 15****Focus: Culture**

A major exhibition of early 20th century Ukrainian art in the United States, "Crossroads: Modernism in Ukraine, 1910-1930", was held through the summer at the Chicago Cultural Center. The Chicago exhibition was organized by the Kyiv Committee, working in collaboration with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, the Foundation for International Arts and Education and the National Art Museum of Ukraine.

This outstanding exhibit of 21 Ukrainian avant-garde artists included over 70 works gathered by Professor Dmytro Horbachov and Nikita Lobanov-Rostovsky from private collections, the National

Art Museum of Ukraine, the Theatre Museum, the Museum of Folk Art of the Ukraine, and the Art Museum of Dnipropetrovsk. This major exhibit was attended by more than 40,000 people and garnered major media attention. In conjunction with the exhibition, the Kyiv Committee worked with the Department of Cultural Affairs to develop a series of related programs, including concerts, gallery talks, lectures, and a contemporary Ukrainian film festival.

## **2007**

### **April**

#### **Focus: Education**

Motria Melnyk of Meadowbrook Elementary School awarded the Bridge Building Award for connecting young students through technology to students in Kyiv, Ukraine, and giving them opportunity to build bridges of dialog, cooperation and understanding.

### **October**

#### **Focus: Sports**

World Boxing Championship—The Kyiv Committee officially greeted Ukrainian Boxers participating in the Olympic Qualifying Tournaments. Dr. Paul Nadzikewycz, the Head of Sports Subcommittee assisted in finding Boxing Team training facilities in Chicago.

### **October 19-21**

#### **Focus: Culture**

The KyivCommittee co-sponsored a free and open to the public concert featuring the winners of the 2007 International Competition for Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz. Over 175 people attended this concert – part of the Fourth Presbyterian Church Friday Noonday Concert series. Following the concert, the Committee hosted a luncheon at the Signature Room and provided a tour of Navy Pier. On Saturday, the pianists were given a tour of the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art and the Ukrainian National Museum, as well as interviewed by a local Ukrainian radio station. The concert in Chicago was the first stop of a tour that continued on to Washington, DC and New York City.

### **December**

#### **Focus: Media**

The Kyiv Committee assisted Yulia Diachuk (Journalist TSN) and Volodymr Ostapenko (Cameraman) with interviews and an overview of Chicago and how we celebrate the holidays. The special feature (Christmas in the US - Chicago, San Diego, LA) aired on Ukraine's most popular TV broadcasting company 1 + 1, in four to three-and-a-half minute segments between Jan 7-14, 2008 and was coordinated by committee member Maria Klymchak.

### **December 24-28**

#### **Focus: Media**

CSCI was featured on ABC-7's 11am news the week of Christmas (Dec 24, 26-28). These four-minute segments featured holiday traditions (through food, merchandise and performances) from Chicago's Sister Cities. Kyiv was represented by the SUM Choir led by choir director Wally Popowycz.

## **2008**

### **May 5**

#### **Focus: Diplomatic**

CSCI hosted a luncheon for UN Diplomats visiting Chicago on a visit from The Humpty Dumpty Institute "U.N. Across America" Program. The Kyiv Committee was represented by Vera Eliashevsky, Committee Chair and Marta Farion, Member of the Chicago Sister Cities Executive Committee. Ukraine was represented by Deputy Permanent Representative Mr. Viktor Kryzhanivskiy – Ukraine and Consul General Ukraine Vasyl Korzachenko.

### **June 6**

#### **Focus: Culture**

Chicago Sister Cities International Festival on Daley Plaza -The Kyiv committee was represented by the Hromovytsia Dance Ensemble.

### **June 30**

#### **Focus: Government**

The Committee and Mrs. Daley hosted a luncheon reception at Navy Pier in honor of the visit of Mrs. Kateryna Yushchenko to Chicago.

### **August 7-8**

#### **Focus: Education**

Twenty-seven young executive MBA candidates from Kyiv Mohyla Business School were in Chicago for an exchange with the Kellogg School of Business. They had meetings with City of Chicago representatives in the area of ecological - environmental concerns in urban planning (how the city plans the greening of the city, what programs there are for green architecture, recycling, pollution control, etc).

### **October 17**

#### **Focus: Music**

In conjunction with the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, the Kyiv Committee hosted a concert of Anastasia Rizikov, 2006 winner of the Vladimir Horowitz International Young Pianist Competition in Kyiv, Ukraine. The concert took place at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art. The 8 year old Anastasia was featured on the Oprah Show.

## **2009**

### **January 15**

#### **Focus: Business**

The Kyiv Committee along with the Ukrainian Consulate, Board Members of Self-reliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union attended the Chicago Sister Cities International Breakfast with Mayor Daley.

### **January 26**

#### **Focus: Education**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Chicago-based Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America signed a partnership agreement to establish the Electronic Library of Ukraine (ELibUkr) in Kyiv, Ukraine. For the first time Ukrainian academics and students will have

access to the world's digitized network of academic and research information on an equal access basis through the Electronic Library & Knowledge Centers.

The ELibUkr Project is an investment in Ukraine's future and will expand to include Ukraine's main universities within three years. Realizing that access to academic and research information was nearly non-existent in Ukraine, Marta Farion—president of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America and Chicago attorney on the Executive Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International—initiated the project in 2007.

### **March 6**

#### **Focus: Business**

The Kyiv Committee partnered with the Kellogg School of Management to present "Managing a Global Company in an Emerging Economy: Winning in a Time of Crisis", a lecture, discussion and reception featuring Dr. George Logush, Vice-President of Kraft Foods and Managing Director of Kraft Ukraine.

### **April 27-29**

#### **Focus: Government**

Vice Mayor Yevhen Chervonenko, representing Kyiv, attended the Chicago Global Cities Forum. Mayor Daley and Vice Mayor Chervonenko reaffirmed the Kyiv/Chicago Sister City relationship and a plan for future exchanges in the area of Emergency Management and Transportation was agreed upon. Members of the Kyiv Committee, Ukrainian Consulate, Heritage Foundation of 1st Security Federal Savings Bank, Selfreliance Foundation, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union attended the Forum Dinner at Chicago's Field Museum.

### **May 15-17**

#### **Focus: Media**

After taking part in the First North American Ukrainian Forum on Journalism held at Soyuzivka on May 15-17, Vasyl Ilaschuk, President and Andrij Chernyuk, Vice President of National Television Company of Ukraine- Channel One, traveled to Chicago to attend several meetings arranged for them by The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, including meetings with Ukrainian Wave, Ukrainian Independent Radio, Chicago ABC-TV Network and the Director of the Chicago Office of Tourism. They agreed to continue to explore opportunities for collaborative projects, starting by featuring segments about Chicago in Ukraine.

### **June 15-18**

#### **Focus: Cultural**

As part of the third annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival at Daley Plaza, Marko Tun proudly carried the flag of Ukraine in the opening ceremony parade of flags. On the culinary side, visitors had the opportunity to taste Ukrainian food provided by Shokolad Pastry and Café, owned and operated by Halia Fedus. Hromovytsia Ukrainian Dance Ensemble once again treated spectators to a wonderful performance of Hopak.

### **June 28-July 2**

#### **Focus: Education**

The Chicago Kyiv Education Subcommittee was very pleased to announce initiation of a school partnership between Ogden School and Harmony Gymnasia in Kyiv, Ukraine. Principal Ken Starral and Assistant Principal Anthony Vandarakis visited Harmony Gymnasia on June 29, 2009 to

implement this partnership and plan a focus of activities. Discussions established plans for a future project that will focus on Ecology with the objective of uniting the efforts of Chicago and Kyiv students to explore, recognize and shape a healthy ecological environment.

### **July 25**

#### **Focus: Cultural**

The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International proudly hosted Ukrainian Superstar, Ruslana—the 2004 Eurovision winner and World Music Award winning and MTV Europe Music Award nominated artist— during her Chicago tour. She visited Ukrainian Village and Willis Tower, among other sites.

### **September 30**

#### **Focus: Fashion**

World Fashion Chicago returned to Millennium Park on Wednesday, September 30 for its fourth turn on the runway. More than 35 high-end local fashion designers were featured alongside international designers from Sister Cities such as Milan, Italy; Shanghai, China, and Durban, South Africa. Kyiv, Ukraine was represented by local designer Vika Brown, originally from the Poltava Region of Ukraine.

### **October 1-4**

#### **Focus: Medical Initiative**

Chicago Sister Cities International hosted its first annual Chicago Sister Cities Medical Initiative Program. This unique collaboration among Chicago Sister Cities International and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University presented an exceptional opportunity for qualified candidates residing in Chicago's 28 Sister Cities to attend the 11th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium. This symposium brought approximately 800 clinicians together in Chicago to learn about recent clinical and scientific advances in breast cancer research from international experts. Ukraine was represented by Dr. Igor Galaychuk of Ternopil State Medical University.

### **October 25**

#### **Focus: Cultural**

Anastasia, a remarkably talented ten-year old Canadian pianist, who has already garnered the title of "Classical Pianist of the Future" was the featured pianist with the Northwest Chicago Symphony in a performance of Chopin's "Piano Concerto No.2 in f minor" directed by Michael Holian, the symphony conductor. The concert was sponsored by the Wright College Cultural Events Committee along with co-sponsorship of the Kyiv Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International, The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art and Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union. This was Anastasia's 3<sup>rd</sup> appearance in Chicago.

## **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear explosion. Renowned Chornobyl 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 Chornobyl, Ukraine on April 26, 1986. This disaster is considered to be one of the gravest environmental disasters of humankind.

As an eyewitness to the Chornobyl 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 Chornobyl 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-Anchor 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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, Svitalana 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 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence and 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Tychyna 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.