



History of Exchange

Lucerne, Switzerland
Chicago's Sister City Since 1998

Co-Chairs: Albert Lacher & Camille Julmy

1998

September 10

Focus: Signing Agreement

A Sister Cities agreement was signed in Lucerne September 10, 1998. Mrs. Daley represented Mayor Richard M. Daley at the ceremony. At the same time, the 60th anniversary of the Lucerne Music Festival was celebrated with the opening of its new performing arts center and a performance by The Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

1999

Focus: Culture

During a visit to Chicago, Lucerne Mayor Urs Studer re-affirmed the sister cities' relationship that was signed in Lucerne in 1998. At the same time, Swiss Week took place throughout Chicago, featuring Swiss musical performances, arts and crafts, and food.

2000

March 1-8

Focus: Business & Culture

The Lucerne Committee embarked on a cultural mission to Lucerne, Switzerland. This trip was open to all sister cities committee members as an introduction to Swiss culture and heritage.

Highlights of the mission included a private reception by Lucerne's Mayor Studer, an invitation to a private performance of the Noggeler Carnival Band, participation in the Carnival parade, a fondue party in the Swiss Alps, a visit to the Children's Parliament, after which the Chicago Youth Council was modeled, and a chance to make valuable business contacts by attending the many optional business excursions offered by the city of Lucerne.

2001

Focus: Culture

An artists studio and residence for Swiss artists opened in Chicago to encourage Lucerne based artists to influence and enhance their projects through immersion in a Chicago setting; to encourage collaboration among Chicago and Lucerne artists, and to strengthen the relationship between Chicago and Lucerne.

A jury in Lucerne selected artists from a large pool of submissions. Artists awarded the studio for 2002 were tubist Marc Untemaehrer, cartoonist and graphic artist Melk Thalmann and jazz drummer Fredy Studer.

Focus: Culture

The Lucerne Committee hosted a delegation from Lucerne for dinner and a blues performance.

Focus: Culture

Chicago Days in Lucerne featured an opening performance by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which paid tribute to the victims of September 11 with the National Anthem.

The Discover Chicago photo exhibition was displayed in Lucerne. The Chicago Office of Tourism set up a booth with Chicago flags in front of Gubelin AG on Main Square and the New Age Theater gospel group from Chicago performed. The CSO had an exclusive contract as the "Lucerne Festival" Orchestra in Residence for the next two years.

2002

September 20-29

Focus: Education

Through Sister Schools Abroad, 23 High School students and faculty visited Walter Payton College Prep.

September

Focus: Culture

The Chicago Days festival, celebrating Chicago's heritage and culture through music, historical exhibits and other activities, was held in Lucerne.

2003

November

Focus: Culture

The Nogglers arrived to perform in the GNMA Festival of Lights and at several plazas downtown.

2004

November

Focus: Culture

The Nogglers performed in the GNMA Festival of Lights and at several plazas downtown.

2005

May 11

Focus: Culture

Lucerne based filmmaker and photographer Jesco Tscholitsch, screened Chicago Snacks, a series of vignettes portraying behaviors and lifestyles of Chicago city residents.

November

Focus: Culture

Lucerne based musicians; the Noggelers performed in the GNMA Lights Festival, Millennium Park, and at several plazas.

2006

February 24-March 1

Focus: Culture

Members of the Lucerne Committee traveled to Lucerne for Carnival 2006.

May 26

Focus: Culture

Karim Patwa presented his feature film, Spaceship, as part of the Lucerne Artists Studio.

July 7

Focus: Culture

Reception and performance by Lucerne artist Claudia Bucher was part of the Lucerne Artists Studio.

July

Focus: Education

An exchange program was implemented between Northwestern Law School and Universitat Luzern signed.

November 16-20

Focus: Culture

The Noggelers performed in the GNMA Lights Festival, Millennium Park, Mother Hubbard's, and at several plazas downtown.

2007

June

Focus: Arts & Culture

Rose Pritchett, a talented Chicago performance artist was selected for an artist residency in Lucerne. Her time in Lucerne was sponsored by the Swiss Benevolent Society and gave her chance to get together with the "Lucernois" artists.

2008

January 29

Focus: Photography

The committee hosted an opening reception for a video installation of *1001 American Smiles* by Stephan Wicki, a Swiss Film Maker and Photographer and former studio artist from the Lucerne-Chicago studio artist project. *1001 American Smiles* is a silent film composed of 1001 portraits of smiling Chicagoans representing the diversity of the city.

February 29

Focus: Culture

The Lucerne Chicago artist studio welcomed artists from Lucerne since 2001 to spend four months in Chicago and immerse themselves in the Chicago art scene. The current resident was Rachel Eisenring and her film *Pauline in July* was featured at the Caro D'Offay Gallery.

June

Focus: Arts & Culture

Paul Giallorenzo and Lou Mallozzi, two talented Chicago musicians were selected for an artist residency in Lucerne. Their time in Lucerne was sponsored by the Swiss Benevolent Society and gave them a chance to get together with the "Lucernois" artists.

July 10-13

Focus: Government

The Honorable Urs W. Studer, the Mayor of Lucerne, Switzerland, and a delegation of civic leaders from their city were in Chicago from July 10th through the 13th, 2008. During the visit to strengthen the ties between the two cities and explore Chicago's vibrant architectural history and art, Mayor and Mrs. Daley hosted dinner for the delegations.

September 15

Focus: Culture

Since 2001, the Lucerne Chicago artist studio has welcomed artists from Lucerne to spend four months in Chicago and immerse themselves in the Chicago art scene. The current resident is Irina Lorez, a dancer, who performed at Gallery Heaven with Paul Giallorenzo, Chicago pianist and synthesizer.

October 26

Focus: Sports

The Lucerne Committee of Chicago sister Cities in collaboration with the Lucerne Marathon organizers offered Chicagoans discounted hotel rates in Switzerland for the Lucerne marathon on October 26, 2008.

November 7

Focus: Film

SOFA 2008 and the Lucerne committee 2008 presented: The Gold Weaver Documentary film by Verene Endter about Lucerne Goldsmith Lucie Heskett Brem.

2009

April

Focus: Education

Walter Payton College Prep students visited their Sister School Kantonsschule in Lucerne.

May 17

Focus: Music

Swiss Talents Meet American talents, as the Swiss vocal artist, Isa Wiss, the current resident at the artist in residence studio in Chicago, performed with movement artists Asimina Chremos and Ayako Kato at Epiphany Dance Experiment.

June 14-18

Focus: Government

The Lucerne Committee hosted the delegation from the City Council of Sursee (Switzerland).

An extensive cultural program was organized for the members of the delegation: tours of Millennium Park and Chicago Cultural Centre, attendance at Dvorak festival performance at CSO and CSCIP Festival at Daley Plaza, welcome dinner and various meetings with Sister Cities' community.

June

Arts & Culture

Diane Wawrejko, a talented Chicago dancer was selected for an artist residency in Lucerne. Her time in Lucerne was sponsored by the Swiss Benevolent Society and gave her chance to get together with the "Lucernois" artists.

July

Focus: Culture

The Lucerne Committee supported Swiss National Day on Daley Plaza

July

Focus: Arts & Culture

New resident at Lucerne Artist Studio in Chicago

October 1-4

Focus: Medical

Dr. Susanne Bucher from Kantonsspital Luzern Neue Frauenklinik participated in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium – Sister Cities Medical Initiative.

November

Focus: Music

Lake Cruise with the Noggeler Carnival Band

2010

January 28

Focus: Education

The John Marshall Law School and the University of Lucerne are proud to announce its new spring semester exchange students.

February

Focus: Arts & Culture

Painter and illustrator Christoph Fischer (1976) began his residency at the Lucerne Artists Studio.

February 18

Focus: Film & Culture

The Lucerne and Petach-Tikva committees of Chicago Sister Cities International, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago and the Consulate of Israel in Chicago screened Igaal Niddam's (Switzerland) motion picture "Brothers" (2008) at the Chicago Cultural Center, Claudia Cassidy Theater.

May 17

Focus: Film & Culture

The Lucerne Committee of Chicago and the Consulate General of Switzerland presented film screenings. "Steinauer Nebraska" by Swiss Film Maker Karl Saurer and "Raja's Journey" by Swiss Film Maker Karl Saurer

June

Focus: Arts & Culture

Cecil McDonald, a talented Chicago photographer was selected for an artist residency in Lucerne. Her time in Lucerne was sponsored by the Swiss Benevolent Society and gave her chance to get together with the "Lucernois" artists.

July

Focus: Culture

The Lucerne Committee and the Consulate general of Switzerland co-hosted an annual Swiss Day at the Daley Plaza.

October

Focus: Sports

The Lucerne Committee with several other Swiss organizations of Chicago co-hosted a cheering station to support the Swiss runner at the Chicago Marathon.

October

Focus: Education

Two University of Lucerne law students, Monica Frey and Sarah Eltawab, studied at The John Marshall Law School for the fall semester. John Marshall students Kathleen Cunningham and Douglas Miller spent the fall studying at the University of Lucerne law faculty. Also, University of Lucerne law students Mirahn Duerst and Dominik Hasler studied at Northwestern University School of Law.

Prof. Mark E. Wojcik of The John Marshall Law School started teaching courses at the University of Luzern.

November

Focus: Arts & Culture

A group of architecture professionals from Lucerne visited Chicago. Lucerne committee hosted the group for the CSO performance and helped arrange various meetings, including Northwestern University.

December

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Lucerne Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International welcomed Cybu Richili to the Artist-in-residence studio in Chicago, December 2, 2010. He works primarily in the areas of architecture, education, visuals arts, culture and science. Mr. Richli concluded his residency at end of March.

2011

April

Focus: Culture

The Lucerne Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International welcomed Christoph Erb to the Artist-in-Residence Studio in Chicago. A renowned musician, bandleader and composer, Erb specializes in tenor saxophone and bass clarinet. Erb concludes his residency at the beginning of August.

June

Focus: Arts & Culture

Petra Bachmaier and Sean Gallero, two talented Chicago video artists were selected for an artist residency in Lucerne. Their time in Lucerne was sponsored by the Swiss Benevolent Society.

July 21

Focus: Education

The Lucerne Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International in collaboration with the John Marshall Law School and the Consulate General of Switzerland co-hosted a cocktail reception and a jazz performance of Swiss musician Christoph Erb, tenor and saxophonist, along with local Chicago artists Jason Stein, bass clarinet, Jason Roebke, bass and Mike Reed, drums.

October 12

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Lucerne Committee welcomed Michelle Grob as a new resident at the Lucerne Artist Studio. Ms. Grob's videos and works in textiles have been exhibited in Switzerland and other European countries. She had spent time in Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Germany where she was involved in artistic work and studies. The residency in Chicago was her first extended stay in the United States.

2012

June

Focus: Arts & Culture

Mischa Zupko and Amos Gillespie, two talented Chicago artists were selected for an artist residency in Lucerne. Both musicians have been working on commissioned work for different orchestras in Chicago. Their time in Lucerne was sponsored by the Swiss Benevolent Society and gave them some peace and quietness to compose and get together with the "Lucernois" artists.

August 1

Focus: Arts & Culture

Mathis Pfäffli and Nadine Gerber were residents of the Lucerne Artist Studio. Pfäffli is a graphic designer and Gerber an illustrator. Pfäffli and Gerber won the Lucerne Artist Studio grant thanks in part to the small and intricately crafted brochures they created on the basis of art performances, such as the "Picturesque Meal."

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 Burckhardt Quartet performed traditional and beautiful music representing the culture and heritage of Lucerne.

October 4-7

Focus: Medical

The 14th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium was a professional educational event highlighting the most recent clinical and scientific advances in breast cancer research. Dr. Anne Dietrich from Women's Hospital, Kantonsspital Lucerne participated and represented Lucerne in the 2012 symposium.

October 3

Focus: Education

As part of the ongoing student exchange between the John Marshall Law School in Chicago and the University of Lucerne, John Marshall Law School hosted Melanie Mathis and Valentina Zihlmann from University of Lucerne for the 2012 fall semester.

October 7

Focus: Sports

The Lucerne Committee of CSCI and members of the Swiss community had a cheering station with Swiss flags, cow bells, Hopp Schwiiz, Allez la Suisse, Forza Svizzera signs to support the Swiss Runners at the 2012 Bank of America Chicago Marathon.

December

Focus: Arts & Culture

Arno Troxler, a musician, drum player and organizer of the Jazz Festival Willisau, is the new resident of the Lucerne Artist Studio in Chicago from December 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013.

2013

April 1-July 31

Focus: Culture

Lucerne-based musician and composer Philippe Burrell has been the artist-in-residence at the Lucerne Artist Studio in Chicago since April 1, completing the residency on July 21, 2013.

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. Performer Sam Burckhardt Quartet performed traditional and authentic Swiss music representing the culture and heritage of Lucerne.

July 19

Focus: Culture

Swiss conductor Thierry Fischer Grant Park debut - informal committee get-together

August 1-November 30

Focus: Culture

Lucerne-based visual artist Michelle Kohler has been the artist-in-residence at the Lucerne Artist Studio in Chicago since August 1, completing the residency on November 30, 2013. Michelle's husband and two-year old son have also travelled to Chicago with her.

August 15

Focus: Culture

The Lucerne Committee of CSCI hosted a luncheon in honor of Conductor Ludwig Wicki's visit to Chicago. Mr. Wicki, a native of Lucerne was in town to conduct *The Lord of the Rings—The Two Towers* on Thursday and Friday, August 15 and 16 at the Ravinia Festival, leading the Chicago Symphony Orchestra through the full score by Howard Shore with complete film and lawn screen.

September 3-24

Focus: Culture

Chicago-based artist Mary Ellen Croteau has been the artist-in-residence at the Chicago Artist Studio in Lucerne since September 3, completing the residency on September 24, 2013.

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. Kathrin Schwedler of the Neue Frauenklinik Luzern participated and represented Lucerne in the 2013 symposium.

October 13**Focus: Athletics**

The Lucerne Committee of CSCI participated in a Swiss cheering station along the marathon route at the Bank of America Chicago Marathon.

2014**January 1-April 30****Focus: Culture**

Lucerne-based visual and textile artist Nina Steinemann has been the artist-in-residence at the Lucerne Artist Studio in Chicago since January 1, completing the residency on April 30, 2014.

May 1-July 30**Focus: Culture**

Lucerne-based photographer and filmmaker Ralph Kühne has been the artist-in-residence at the Lucerne Artist Studio in Chicago since May 1, completing the residency on July 31, 2014.

May 31**Focus: Education**

On Saturday, May 31, Virginia Russell, member of the Lucerne Committee of CSCI attended New Field Elementary School in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago for their International Day celebration. She was invited by Israel Hernandez, a young teacher who visited an elementary school in Lucerne last fall.

While at the school, she visited Israel's classroom, saw the bulletin board full of Swiss flags and watched a concert which included some of his students singing a song about William Tell.

The pen pal linkage facilitated by the Lucerne Committee is also going well.

June 30**Focus: Recognition**

Joerg Oberschmied, Co-Chair of the Lucerne Committee of CSCI was announced to serve as Honorary Consul General of Switzerland in Chicago.

August 1-November 30**Focus: Culture**

Lucerne-based visual artist Reto Leuthold has been the artist-in-residence at the Lucerne Artist Studio in Chicago since August 1, completing the residency on November 30, 2014.

August 9-26**Focus: Culture**

Chicago-based artist Ayako Kato has been the artist-in-residence at the Chicago Artist Studio in Lucerne since August 9, completing the residency on August 26, 2014.

2015

March 12-15**Focus: Arts & Culture**

The Lucerne Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted Lucerne Mayor Stefan Roth and the 50-member Noggeler Guuggenmusig Luzern (“The Noggeler”) carnival band.

To welcome them to Chicago, the Lucerne Committee hosted the Swiss Noggeler Soirée, a welcome reception on the 99th floor of the Willis Tower, on March 12. Over 200 people attended to welcome Mayor Roth and see a performance of the Noggeler. A raffle was held with a grand prize of a luxury trip to Switzerland (won by Natacha Doyle), a dinner for four at Chicago Cut and four tickets to a Blackhawks game (won by Robert Wislow) and a stay at the Chicago Peninsula Hotel (won by Jack Donohew).

Mayor Roth attended a number of meetings focusing on further strengthening the Chicago-Lucerne sister city relationship, including with representatives from the Harris Theater, the Chicago Blues Festival Meeting, the Lucerne Committee of CSCI, representatives from 1871 and a meeting with Chicago Deputy Mayor Steve Koch. He also visited the Lucerne-Chicago Artist Studio and attended a business luncheon with the Swiss American Business Council, World Business Chicago and the Honorary Consul General of Switzerland.

The Noggeler performed at a number of events and marched with Mayor Roth in both Chicago St. Patrick’s Day Parades. In addition, they performed at Harry Caray’s, the Swiss Noggeler Soirée, Lizzie McNeill’s Irish Pub, the French Market, Ovie Bar & Grill and Water Tower Place.

September 9 – 30**Focus: Arts & Culture**

Chicago artist Jeff Baraka participated in the Chicago-Lucerne Artist Exchange and visited Lucerne, Switzerland. Jeff studied and engaged arts and urban subculture communities of Lucerne, Zurich, and Grenoble, France.

For over ten years, Chicago and Lucerne have worked together on artist exchanges between the two cities. The aim is to develop professional artist collaborations and to strengthen the relationship between Chicago and Lucerne. The Lucerne Committee of CSCI has hosted numerous professional artists of various disciplines at its unique artist-in-residence program, the Lucerne Artist Studio in Chicago. In return, Chicago artists are hosted in residence in Lucerne, as well.

2016**January 17****Focus: Award**

Lucerne, Switzerland’s famous 50-member Noggeler Guuggenmusig Luzern—who was brought to Chicago by the Lucerne Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International for the 2015 St. Patrick’s Day Parade—received the “Most Entertaining Performance Award” from the Chicago St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee. The Noggeler gave public performances throughout Chicago when they visited from March 12–15, 2015 with Lucerne Mayor Stefan Roth.

The Noggeler is part of Lucerne’s carnival tradition, one of the most popular carnival celebrations in Europe. The Noggeler play everything from folklore to pop with common brass

band instruments, while wearing ornate costumes. Their 2015 visit marked the ninth time the Noggeler has visited Chicago.

February 26**Focus: Arts & Culture**

On February 26, 2016 from 7-10pm, join the Lucerne Committee of CSCI for the exhibition *The Meaning of Life*, A New Comic by Anja Wicki, the current artist-in-residence at the Lucerne Artist Studio, 903. N. Damen Avenue.

For over ten years, Chicago and Lucerne have worked together on artist exchanges between the two cities. The aim is to develop professional artist collaborations and to strengthen the relationship between Chicago and Lucerne. The Lucerne Committee of CSCI has hosted numerous professional artists of various disciplines at its unique artist-in-residence program, the Lucerne Artist Studio in Chicago. In return, Chicago artists are hosted in residence in Lucerne, as well.

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.