



History of Exchange

Toronto, Canada
Chicago's Sister City Since 1991

Chair: Linda Loving

1991

Focus: Signing Agreement

Art Eggleton, Mayor of Toronto signed a sister cities agreement with Mayor Richard M. Daley at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, during a reception in honor of the 1991 Sister Cities International Conference. While in Chicago, Mayor Eggleton and his wife toured the city, with particular focus on the city's famed architecture.

1992

Focus: Business

Mayor Richard M. Daley led several Chicago representatives on a business mission to Toronto.

Focus: Government

Toronto's Mayor June Rowlands and Toronto city council members visited Chicago and toured many sites throughout the city, including Gallery 37.

1993

Focus: Culture

In 1993, the Toronto Committee collaborated with the Department of Cultural Affairs and the Chicago Apparel Center to organize a fashion show featuring creations of ten Toronto fashion designers.

1994

Focus: Business

June Rowlands, Mayor of Toronto led a delegation of city and business representatives to Chicago to meet with their Chicago counterparts and discussed possible joint-venture projects, economic development opportunities and future Sister Cities events. Mayor Rowlands addressed the issues of regional economic development to members of the Chicago business

community, and Mayor Richard M. Daley welcomed the Toronto delegates at a dinner held in their honor.

1995

Focus: Business

Carol Sexton, Chair of the Toronto Committee, hosted a breakfast for Canadian fashion industry representatives. In addition, a NAFTA fashion show was held later that evening at the Apparel Mart.

Focus: Education

Chicago's Edgar Allan Poe Classical School traveled to Toronto for an exchange with two Toronto public schools and a performance at City Hall.

May 24-27

Focus: General

Mayor June Reynolds of Toronto hosted Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley in Toronto on May 24 and 25. Both mayors then departed for the international meeting of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative in Quebec City.

1996

Focus: Culture

Mayor Richard M. Daley, members of the Toronto Committee and members of Chicago's business and cultural community traveled to Toronto to meet with their counterparts.

Focus: Culture

The Chicago Children's Choir performed in Toronto.

Focus: Business

Toronto Mayor Barbara Hall made an unofficial visit to Chicago to attend the World Economic Forum held at the University of Chicago in collaboration with the Chicago Council of Foreign Relations and Northwestern University.

1997

Focus: Culture

The Toronto Committee, in collaboration with the Galway Committee, hosted the Flying Bulger Klezmer Band and the Liz Carroll Irish Ensemble in a concert at the Grant Park Music Festival.

Focus: Education

A pilot program, driven by Sister Cities International, teamed Chicago's Trumbull Elementary School with Toronto's Blake Elementary to educate and communicate cross-culturally using the Internet.

1998

Focus: Government

Mel Lastman, Mayor of Toronto visited Chicago with accompanied delegation.

2000

Focus: Culture

The Toronto Committee celebrated Tall Ships Chicago at Navy Pier and received a gift of a life-size fiberglass moose, a part of Toronto's Moose in the City project modeled on Chicago's Cows on Parade.

2004

Focus: Government

A 22 -member delegation visited Chicago from Toronto.

2006

June

Focus: Culture

The Toronto Committee, in collaboration with Tourism Toronto and the Canadian Consulate, had a tourism booth and gave away photos of a Canadian Mountie as their part in Sister Cities International's 50th Anniversary celebration on Daley Plaza.

June

Focus: Education & Music

The Toronto Committee helped to host a Toronto high school band and attended several of their performances.

November 17-20

Focus: Education

Six design teams from George Brown College's Institute without Boundaries and the City Design Center of the University of Illinois with specialties in design, urban planning, architecture, landscape architecture and social development, participated in a charette (an urban planning technique).

The teams visited Garfield Park to learn about the community and its challenges. Students worked with Bruce Mau and used guidelines learned from the Massive Change Exhibition and the City Global Visionaries Symposium to create solutions for a youth oriented space in the Garfield neighborhood of Chicago.

An international jury judged the final designs on creativity and integrative thinking in addressing social and sustainability issues. The winning team won \$500 and the teams' designs were showcased at Gallery 37 and were displayed at the Design Exchange in Toronto.

2007

April 19

Focus: Environment

As part of The Pepper Construction Leaders in Sustainable Architecture Lecture Series, the Chicago Architecture Foundation and the Toronto Committee presented a lecture and reception

with award-winning Toronto architect Thomas Payne, a founding partner of Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects (KPMB), one of Toronto's leading architecture firms.

Toronto underwent a cultural renaissance with the unprecedented building and architectural transformation of a dozen major arts and cultural institutions.

The Toronto committee also welcomed Lillie Zendel, the head of Toronto's Cultural Affairs department and Jane French who runs Toronto's Doors Open program.

2008

June

Focus: Culture

The Toronto Committee welcomed a Caribana dance troupe to highlight Caribana Toronto, an exciting two-week cultural explosion of Caribbean music. The troupe performed at the Chicago Sister Cities International Festival on Daley Plaza.

2009

May 23 - 24

Focus: Culture

The Toronto Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted a trip to Toronto for the 10th anniversary of "Doors Open Toronto." As a part of the celebration, more than 175 buildings of architectural, historic, cultural, and social significance opened their doors to the public for free tours.

June

Focus: Culture

The Toronto Committee welcomed back a Caribana dance troupe to highlight Caribana Toronto, an exciting two-week celebration of Caribbean music. The troupe performed at the Chicago Sister Cities International Festival on Daley Plaza.

October 1-4

Focus: Medical

Dr. Sara Taylor from Sunnybrook Odette Cancer Centre participated in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium – Sister Cities Medical Initiative.

2010

April 12

Focus: Government

Mayor David Miller and the City of Toronto hosted a reception in honor of US Ambassador David Jacobson (and native Chicagoan) and the Toronto Committee of CSCI, followed by a Blue Jays vs. Chicago White Sox baseball game.

April 13

Focus: Healthcare

The Toronto committee co-hosted the lecture "Health Care: Understanding the Future, a Canadian Perspective" by Carolyn Bennett, PC, MP, former Secretary of Health of the Canadian Government.

July

Focus: Government

The U.S. Consulate in Toronto, with the support of the Toronto Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, hosted a 4th of July Celebration in Toronto, with many Chicagoans in attendance.

August 5-6

Focus: Architecture

The Toronto Committee hosted delegates from The Building Industry and Land Development Association, who met with the City of Chicago Departments of Community Development and Planning, as well as visited several high-rises in the newly developed Lake Shore East community, to learn how Chicago has revitalized the Loop.

August 27

Focus: Culture

Toronto blues musician Heather Bambrick performed at the 5th Annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival, held in Millennium Park as part of Chicago Sister Cities International's 50th anniversary celebration.

October 14

Focus: Business

The Canada-U.S. Business Council Chicago and the Toronto Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International presented the *Canada-U.S. Economic Forecast: Understanding the Future* luncheon, featuring Dr. Sherry Cooper, Executive Vice President and Chief Economist, BMO Financial Group.

Dr. Cooper has been cited as one of the most influential women in Canada, and Canada's national newspaper calls her "the megawatt celebrity economist".

2011

April 29

Focus: Culture and Business

Art Dealers Association of Canada (ADAC) participated in an exclusive not-for-profit contingent at Art Chicago April 29 – May 2. In partnership with Canada Council for the Arts, Government of Ontario, Toronto Arts Foundation and Art Toronto, ADAC presented A Quiet Revolution: Canadian Art Now, a unique program designed to build awareness around Canadian galleries, artists and the art market.

An iteration of this initiative was successfully presented at The Armory Show in New York, earlier this year. A large selection of Canadian artists and galleries participated in the show, and three lectures were held about the Canadian art scene.

June – October

Focus: Culture

The Chicago-based Access Contemporary Music (ACM) presented, in collaboration with the Toronto Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, and Toronto composer Omar Daniel, *Composer Alive*.

Mr. Daniel composed a new piece in four installments and emailed them to Chicago as it was written. Each installment was recorded in an open rehearsal session and then posted to ACM's website with comments from the composer and from the performers.

The project's aim is to demystify the compositional process and give an audience access to the composer's thought process from first draft, through rewrites, to the finished product. While in Toronto, ACM recorded the final installment under the composer's supervision and presented performances of music by Chicago composers. Mr. Daniel traveled to Chicago for the World Premiere performance of his new piece at the Chicago Cultural Center where music from other living Toronto-based composers will be featured.

August 11

Focus: Culture

Kaya, a young pop rock group from Toronto, performed at the Chicago Sister Cities International Festival on Daley Plaza to a crowd of 2,000 people.

September 7

Focus: Culture and Government

North America Now - Two of Chicago's most dynamic theatre companies, Teatro Luna and Bailiwick Chicago, have come together to produce a very special evening of art and social conversation designed to explore the state of North America and the border relations between Canada, the United States and Mexico on the 10th Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

September 22-23

Focus: Business and Culture

IIDEX (International Interior Design Exposition) is Canada's largest National Design Expo and is twinned with the annual NeoCon conference in Chicago. This year a delegation of designers from Chicago will be attending.

October 15-16

Focus: Architecture

Openhouse Chicago is an architecture festival hosted by the Chicago Architecture Foundation and is modeled after Doors Open in Toronto. Over 100 buildings will open their doors to the public for a free exploration of the city.

November 17, 2011

Focus: Business

The Canada-US Business Council Chicago and the Toronto Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted the luncheon "Canada-U.S. Economic Forecast: Understanding the Future" featuring Dr. Sherry Cooper, Executive Vice President and Chief Economist, BMO Financial Group.

Dr. Cooper has been cited as one of the most influential women in Canada, and Canada's national newspaper calls her "the megawatt celebrity economist". Dr. Cooper discussed the economic and financial outlook for the U.S. and Canada against the backdrop of important world events.

2012

February 6

Focus: Culture & Government

The Toronto Committee partnered with the Canadian Consulate of Chicago to host a luncheon with Professor Dan Silver who spoke with Chicago planners about his recent report "From the Ground Up -- Growing Toronto's Cultural Sector" and how lessons can be applied to the cultural plan that Chicago is undertaking. He is also the co-editor of a forthcoming book, Global City Cultural Planning.

September 18-20

Focus: Business & Government

The Toronto Committee hosted a welcome reception dinner for Mayor Ford of Toronto and his accompanying business delegation, composed of 60 high-level business executives from Toronto, during their 2-day business mission to Chicago. The reception introduced Toronto business leaders to key leaders in Chicago. The Sister Cities agreement between Chicago and Toronto was reaffirmed by Mayor Emanuel and Mayor Ford during the visit.

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. David Cescon from Princess Margaret Hospital, UHN participated and represented Toronto in the 2012 symposium.

2013

March 13

Focus: Business

The Toronto Committee sponsored the Canada-U.S. Business Council's "Economic and Financial Market Prospects & Risks" luncheon with Earl Sweet, Managing Director & Economist for BMO Harris at the Metropolitan Club.

July 1

Focus: Culture & Government

The Toronto Committee sponsored the Canadian Consulate's Canada Day reception at CineSpace Chicago on the set of the hit TV series, BOSS. The reception also served as an informal farewell to Consul General Gitane De Silva and Senior Trade Commissioner Joanne Lemay.

October 16

Focus: Culture

The Toronto and Paris Committees of CSCI sponsored the City of Chicago's Fashion Focus: Taking it to the Streets meet and greet reception on the Pritzker Pavilion Stage in Millennium Park immediately following the runway show for designers and industry leaders. Featured in the runway show were international designers Sarah Stevenson from the Toronto Fashion Incubator and Christine Phung from the Atelier de Paris, along with local Chicago designers.

2014

March 13

Focus: Environment

The Toronto Committee sponsored the Chicago Architecture Foundation's (CAF) Great Lakes Symposium at the CAF, which brought together leading professionals to discuss the complexities of designing for life on the water's edge. Representatives from cities around the Great Lakes in the US and Canada shed light on planning within this ecosystem, from the comprehensive urban design created by SOM for the Chicago Lakeside Development on the Far Southeast Side, to design proposals for Toronto's waterfront, to efforts to revitalize urban centers such as Detroit through design.

June 4

Focus: Education

The Toronto Committee of CSCI and the Book Stall presented an author discussion and reading with Canadian author Joseph Boyden on his latest novel, *The Orenda* at The Chicago Architecture Foundation. Boyden's literary masterpiece, *The Orenda*, is a reimagining of the Huron-Iroquois Wars during the seventeenth century and the fateful Jesuit missionary intervention in that conflict. The extraordinary result is a stunning novel you will never forget.

2015

February 17

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Toronto Committee sponsored the Chicago Premiere Screening of King Lear, as an extension of Canada's Stratford Festival. The Stratford Festival is an internationally recognized annual celebration of theatre running from April to October in the Canadian city of Stratford, Ontario. This year, a screening of King Lear was held at Chicago's Music Box Theatre free of charge to the public.

September 24

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Toronto Committee of CSCI was one of the sponsors for the Tale of Two Cities Chicago Showcase. Showcasing Toronto and Chicago as global cultural leaders in music and arts, Tale of Two Cities featured performances by Saba, Leather Corduroys, Jessie Reyes, Sean Leon and Juno Moss DJ-ing. This event established economic bridges while strengthening cultural citizen-based relationships; created new business partnerships within Toronto's and Chicago's music and entertainment industry through current leaders and influencers; generated employment opportunities where artists in both cities can gain revenue, as well as new career opportunities for Toronto-based artists by exposing them to the Chicago market and vice versa; and created new music with artists from both Toronto and Chicago through collaboration.

2016

February 10

Focus: Celebration

Chicago City Council passed resolutions to mark the anniversaries of four of Chicago's sister city relationships: 25 years with Kyiv, Ukraine; Mexico City, Mexico; and Toronto, Canada; and 20 years with Paris, France. Mayor Rahm Emanuel was present to congratulate the Consuls General and the respective sister city committees chairs.