

## DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

---

### *City Council Budget Hearing – October 5, 2015*

#### *Remarks – Commissioner Michelle T. Boone*

Thank you, Chairman Austin, Vice-Chairman Ervin and members of the City Council for the opportunity to discuss the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE). Your support throughout the years is appreciated.

This has been an incredible year for the arts in Chicago. Several of our flagship cultural institutions celebrated milestone anniversaries, including the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the centennial anniversary of the Renaissance Society and the 60<sup>th</sup> season for the Joffrey Ballet, with 20 of those years based right here in Chicago. Our city hosted two important events for artists and arts professionals: the Americans for the Arts Annual Conference, and the United States Artists Fellows Assembly, a gathering of some of the most important contemporary and traditional artists practicing in America. Renowned artist Theaster Gates – a member of the DCASE Cultural Advisory Council – opened new arts spaces on the south side, and renovated an old CHA property into a space for affordable housing and artist's studios. Chicago's culinary community gained heightened global attention as host to the prestigious James Beard Awards. And the city hosted numerous cultural and artistic exchanges between Chicago artists and those of the world from Puerto Rico, India, China, France and other faraway places. And as one of America's oldest museums, The Art Institute of Chicago enjoyed being recognized as the #1 museum in the world. Chicago also welcomed the news of two new major museums coming to our city – the George Lucas Museum of Narrative Art and the Obama Presidential Library and Museum.

I mention the achievements of the cultural community at-large because it all vividly illustrates the impact and mission of DCASE: to enrich Chicago's artistic vitality and cultural vibrancy. DCASE fosters the development of Chicago's nonprofit arts sector, independent working artists and for-profit arts businesses – and markets the city's cultural assets to local, regional and global audiences. Chicago's arts sector contributes \$2.2 billion annually to our economy, provides 60,000 jobs and \$1.3 billion in household income every year.

DCASE extends the reach of art and culture to a wide and diverse audience, makes high-quality work accessible and provides local artists a platform to perform and display their talents through exhibitions, performances and special events downtown and neighborhood sites throughout the city. All told, by the end of this year, DCASE will produce and present more than 2,000 programs, services and events that will reach more than 9.5 million people from all over the world. According to our market research, our large-scale summer festivals and events contribute more than \$246 million in total business activity to the Chicago economy and generate well over \$5.6 million in tax revenue.

DCASE works closely with community-based organizations and event organizers to ensure that roughly 800 neighborhood festivals and athletic events receive proper permitting each year. In addition, DCASE provides financial support to local artists, cultural institutions and community organizations through our Cultural Grants Program. And we offer assistance and support to Chicago's thriving creative industries, including

workshops and events, for creative professionals in the music, film, culinary and other fields. Following are just a few notable highlights from 2015.

### *Arts & Events Programming*

This year, DCASE has been hard at work to realize a vision of Mayor Emanuel's for the first-ever Chicago Architecture Biennial, opening October 3 and continuing through January 3, 2016 – at the Chicago Cultural Center and citywide. Presented in partnership with the Chicago Architecture Biennial organization and the Graham Foundation, the Biennial aims to be the largest international survey of contemporary architecture in North America, with hundreds of free public programs and exhibitions and installations that showcase cutting-edge ideas and talents of over 100 architects and firms representing more than 25 countries, including several from Chicago.

At the Chicago Cultural Center (“The People’s Palace”), DCASE presents art, music and more for nearly 800,000 visitors annually. This spring and summer, we featured two very popular art exhibitions with ties to Chicago: “*Archibald Motley: Jazz Age Modernist*,” the first retrospective of the Chicago artist’s paintings in two decades, which drew over 70,000 visitors; and “*Move Your Body: The Evolution of House Music*,” celebrating more than 30 years of a homegrown art form that is now heard around the world. As always, we also work with theater and dance groups year-round expanding their reach and exposure to downtown audiences, and DCASE presents multiple free concerts weekly showcasing local musicians performing many musical styles, from classical to funk.

DCASE partnered with the Millennium Park Foundation for its 2015 Millennium Park Summer Celebration, with special exhibitions and hundreds of free events, including concerts, films, workouts and family fun. This year, park attendance is projected to reach 5 million visitors. Audiences now enjoy two signature DCASE festivals in the Park: the Chicago Gospel Music Festival celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this May, and the Chicago Jazz Festival—now in its third year at Millennium Park—welcomed an estimated audience of 140,000, the largest since moving from Grant Park.

The perennial summertime favorite, Taste of Chicago served 1.4 million residents and visitors from around the world. Taste continues to thrive as the nation’s premier free outdoor food festival, showcasing the diversity of Chicago’s dining community, alongside music and other activities for the entire family. I’m thrilled to report that this year, Taste turned a profit of more than \$320,000, and eight of 10 ticketed events were sold out! Under Mayor Emanuel’s administration, improvements and program enhancements such as the popular Celebrity Chef du Jour program, food trucks, culinary podcasts and more diverse dining options have yielded strong attendance and high marks from our guests.

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, DCASE partnered with Commissioner Tamley from the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities and ADA 25 Chicago to ensure our programs were even more accessible to audiences with disabilities. At many of our events this year, we increased accessible seating and sign language interpretation, printed braille programs, added captioning for outdoor films and hosted “touch tours” for our visual art exhibitions, among other initiatives – all as part of our department’s commitment to improving accommodations for people with disabilities. DCASE also led

the charge to rally the cultural community to increase accessibility and encouraged 25 cultural institutions to adopt new or expand existing services.

Of course, the Chicago Air & Water Show and the Blackhawks 2015 Stanley Cup Parade and Rally drew millions of attendees. And other signature festivals such as the Chicago Blues Festival and World Music Festival Chicago helped strengthen our reputation as a global cultural destination.

### *Creative Industries*

DCASE leads the City's efforts to generate revenue by attracting and facilitating the creative industries in Chicago such as film and media, music and culinary. 2014 was another very busy year for the Chicago Film Office, with 444 projects – including a record 148 commercial spots, five television network series and major studio features. This all continues a three-year surge in film and television business for the city.

Earlier this year, DCASE launched a new annual symposium for Chicago's artists and creative professionals: the Lake FX Summit + Expo; it attracted more than 10,000 people from across the city and the region. The event included keynotes and presentations by nearly 400 industry leaders at six downtown venues and seven neighborhood locations over four days.

This month and through November 15, our 20th Annual Chicago Artists Month will provide showcases for hundreds of creative makers in dozens of neighborhoods, offering over 300 opportunities for the public to meet artists and see their work up close.

### *Grants*

With City Council support, DCASE continues to strengthen the city's Cultural Grants Program. In 2015, DCASE will provide more than 200 grants totaling \$1.2 million to nonprofit organizations and individual artists. And in 2014, DCASE launched IncentOvate – a new grants program to foster innovation in the arts, a goal of the Chicago Cultural Plan. Funding to advance the Cultural Plan helped to increase our grants budget to \$1.7 million with \$500,000 in Cultural Plan implementation funds directed to this initiative.

### *Cultural Planning*

And last, but certainly not least, DCASE continues to advance the goals of the Chicago Cultural Plan, our city's blueprint to strengthen Chicago's cultural community and creative economy. This summer, DCASE once again partnered with the Chicago Park District to deliver more than 1,000 free cultural activities throughout the city via Mayor Emanuel's Night Out in the Parks program. DCASE was the primary funder of this summer-long and year-round series. Other programs supporting the Cultural Plan included, but certainly were not limited to: a twice-weekly concert series on the redeveloped Chicago Riverwalk; and the 2nd Annual Fifth Star Awards, a live show honoring Chicagoans that have made significant contributions in the world of arts and culture. Our sophomore class of honorees included: Sandra Cisneros, poet and acclaimed author of several books including *The House on Mango Street*; beloved children's music performer and educator Ella Jenkins; prominent architect Stanley Tigerman; Norm Winer, program director of legendary rock station, WXRT; and The Joffrey Ballet.

And while I've shared a lot, there is still a lot more that happens, from several other festivals including the Chicago Kids & Kites Festival; Chicago SummerDance – downtown and populating park sites around the city; year-round artist residency programs at the Chicago Cultural Center; Maxwell Street Market, a favorite Chicago Sunday tradition; Chicago Farmers Markets – offering both daytime and night markets – and much, much more. DCASE could not accomplish all of this without the continued and ongoing support of the City Council, so on behalf of the entire team I extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to each and every one of you.

Serving the residents of Chicago is an extraordinary honor. We all look forward to working closely with you and your constituents in 2016.

Thank you. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

# Cultural Affairs and Special Events 2016 Budget Hearing

## MBE/WBE Contracting Data

Period: January 1, 2015 – September 15, 2015

Total Purchases: \$9,966,233

MBE/WBE Spend	
WBE:	\$423,821 (4.3%)
Asian MBE:	\$1,350,232(13.5%)
African-American MBE:	\$1,544,284 (15.5%)
Hispanic MBE:	\$292,860 (2.9%)
<b>Total Purchases:</b>	<b>\$3,611,197 (36.2%)</b>

## Staffing Data

Department Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	2	4	6	8%
Black	5	11	16	23%
Hispanic	5	4	9	13%
White	18	22	40	56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>100%</b>
	42%	58%		

New Hires Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	0	0	0	0%
Black	1	0	1	33%
Hispanic	0	0	0	0%
White	0	2	2	67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>
	33%	67%		

Department Managers Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	1	1	2	6%
Black	2	5	7	23%
Hispanic	1	1	2	6%
White	11	9	20	65%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100%</b>
	48%	52%		

## Interns

School	Gender	Race
Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN	Female	Black
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA	Male	White
Chicago Excel Academy H.S., Chicago, IL	Female	Black
Columbia College, Chicago, IL	Female	Black
Columbia College, Chicago, IL	Female	Hispanic
DePaul University, Chicago, IL	Female	White
DePaul University, Chicago, IL	Female	Black
DePaul University, Chicago, IL	Male	White
DePaul University, Chicago, IL	Male	Hispanic
DePaul University, Chicago, IL	Female	Hispanic
DePaul University, Chicago, IL	Male	White
DeVry University, Chicago, IL	Female	Hispanic

# Cultural Affairs and Special Events 2016 Budget Hearing

Harper H.S., Chicago, IL	Male	Black
Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL	Male	Hispanic
Morgan Park H.S., Chicago, IL	Male	Black
Morgan Park H.S., Chicago, IL	Female	Black
Morgan Park H.S., Chicago, IL	Female	Black
Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL	Male	White
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL	Male	White
Percy L. Julian H.S., Chicago, IL	Male	Black
Phillips Academy H.S., Chicago, IL	Male	Black
Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL	Male	White
School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL	Female	White
School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL	Female	Asian
Simeon Career Academy H.S., Chicago, IL	Male	Black
Simeon Career Academy H.S., Chicago, IL	Female	Black
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL	Female	White
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL	Male	Other (White & Hispanic)
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL	Male	Other (White & Hispanic)
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL	Female	Other (Black & Hispanic)
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL	Female	Asian

# 2016 DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

