



History of Exchange

Athens, Greece Chicago's Sister City Since 1997

Chair: Demetrios Kozonis

Vice-Chair: Nicholas Black

1997

September

Focus: Signing Agreement

The Athens Committee hosted and entertained the Mayor of Athens and his delegation during the September 1997 visit to Chicago for the signing of the Sister Cities agreement.

Focus: Medical

The Athens Committee sponsored the telecommunications system that was established between Chicago's Children's Memorial Hospital and Aghia Sophia Hospital in Athens. Both Mayors Daley and Avramopoulos attended the inauguration of the system.

Focus: Culture

Athens Participated in the "World in a Weekend" at the Chicago Cultural Center.

1999

Focus: Sports

The Athens Committee sponsored a Greek elite runner to run in the 1999 Chicago Marathon and sponsored the production of "Race of Pride," a documentary about the history of the Marathon.

Focus: Fundraiser

In response to the September earthquake, the Athens Committee organized a benefit to raise money for the victims.

Focus: Culture

The "Threads of Life" cultural event was sponsored by the Athens Committee. The Exhibit included works of Greek embroidery and woven textiles as well as a presentation by a representative of the National Museum of Athens.

Focus: Culture

The Athens Committee supported an Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society music tour that included a concert in Chicago by a Greek islands musicians group.

Focus: Culture

Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago featured two Greek films in the European Film Festival, with the input and support of the Athens Committee.

2000**December****Focus: Culture**

As part of the CTA "Adopt-a-Station" program, the Athens Committee sponsored the "Ithaca" mural by Eleni Glinou of Athens. The mural was installed at the Halsted Street Station, which is located on the south boundary of Greektown.

2002**April****Focus: General**

A reception at the Chicago Cultural Center was held in honor of the Mayor of Athens.

Focus: Sports

During their visit and training in the USA, a dinner reception was thrown for the Hellenic Amateur Baseball Federation players and staff.

2003**February 14-16****Focus: Culture**

Chicago Cultural Center hosted the "Art of Gold - Past and Present" Exhibit. The exhibit displayed exact museum copies of classical Greek and Byzantine gold jewelry and contemporary creations.

Focus: Sports

The Athens Committee helped sponsor the Chicago Greek youth soccer team, "Athens F.C."

2004**May 5****Focus: Culture**

The Athens Committee co-sponsored the 6th Annual Culinary and Hospitality Showcase Dinner.

Focus: Culture

Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago featured "The European and Greek Film Festivals," which was coordinated by the Athens Committee.

Focus: Environment

The "Plant Your Roots in Greece Foundation" received help from the green thumbs of the Athens Committee.

May 16**Focus: Culture**

The Committee sponsored a panel discussion on "Hellenism and Christianity" at the Chicago Cultural Center.

June 4-9**Focus: Culture**

The Schopf Gallery displayed the "Ekecheiria" art exhibit with sponsorship from the Athens Committee.

June 22-25**Focus: Culture**

Two art exhibits "Reflections of Hellenic Art" by artist Ninon Marinos and "Olympic Heroes and Gods" by artist Erika Spyropoulos were put on display at the Chicago Cultural Center. The art pieces were sponsored by the Athens Committee.

2006**Focus: Fundraising**

The Athens Committee began fundraising for a sculpture exchange program, which will result in the permanent display of "The Runners" sculpture at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

Focus: Government

To help prepare Chicago as a successful bidder for the 2016 Olympic Games, Mayor Daley visited London, Athens and Barcelona in November 2006, accompanied by CSCI Chairman Bob Karr.

2007**March 23****Focus: Fundraising**

The Athens Committee held a fundraiser at the Crystal Palace Banquet in Des Plaines for the Gateway Green sculpture project "The Runners".

2008**February 7****Focus: Government**

The Athens Committee hosted a welcome dinner for the new Consul General, the Honorable Anastassios Petrovas at the Gale Street Inn Restaurant.

August 19**Focus: Fundraising**

The Athens Committee hosted Greek Night at US Cellular Field. The Athens Committee was one of the beneficiaries of a portion of ticket sales for the White Sox game.

August 21**Focus: Sports & Fundraising**

The Athens Committee hosted the inaugural k Athens Sister City Shuffle in Greektown. Proceeds went to fun “The Runners” sculpture project.

September 21**Focus: Sports**

The Athens Sister Cities shuffle “5K on the Runway” at O’Hare Airport. The race was presented by the City of Chicago O’Hare Modernization Program.

2009**February 8****Focus: Government**

His Excellency Panos Livadas, Secretary General of Information visited Chicago.

April 20**Focus: Architecture**

The Athens Committee in cooperation with The Institute of Classical Architecture sponsored a lecture on the Restoration of the Parthenon.

April 24**Focus: Government**

The Honorable Vassilis Kikilias, Vice Mayor of Athens visited Chicago for the Chicago Global Cities Forum.

June 8

The Athens Committee invited guests to their 1st Annual Golf Outing at Maple Meadows Golf Course to benefit the “Runners,” an artistic creation by Professor Theodore Papagiannis to be erected at O’Hare airport.

June

A representative from Taft High School visited Pierce College in Athens to sign a Sister School agreement.

June 19**Focus: Government**

Aikaterini Katsabe, President of Athens Tourism and Economic Development Company visited Chicago.

August 21**Focus: Sports**

Athens Sister City Shuffle 5K Run in Greektown.

September 21**Focus: Culture**

The Athens Committee celebrated the opening of the new runway at O'Hare International Airport. It was linked with the five kilometer race which went to support *The Runners* sculpture that is now permanently installed at O'Hare International Airport.

September 30**Focus: Culture**

Victoria Boutique and Minion Clothing represented Athens during the World Fashion Chicago.

October 1-4**Focus: Medical**

Dr. Grigorios Markris from the National Kapodistrian University of Athens participated in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium – Chicago Sister Cities Medical Initiative.

2010**June 19th – June 25****Focus: Culture**

The Athens Committee hosted the 60 member Choral Group "Chorus of Nafpaktos" from the port city of Nafpaktos Greece. On June 20, 2010, the choir gave a benefit concert for the "Runners" sculpture. The concert was held at the Copernicus Center and had attendance of over 600 people.

August 21**Focus: Sports**

The 3rd Athens Sister City Shuffle 5K Run took place on the Lakefront.

2011**March 2011****Focus: Culture**

The sight work for the installation of the Runners Sculpture was initiated. Work included construction of a foundation and installation of a previously engineered support system for the sculpture. It also included the construction of a triangular base, sight landscaping, and lighting.

April 29, 2011**Focus: Culture**

The Athens Committee hosted a Benefit Dinner honoring the completion and installation of the Runners sculpture with special guest, Theodoros Papagiannis, the Athenian Sculptor created this work of art and donated it to the City of Chicago. The dinner was attended by over 300 people and more than \$100,000 was raised.

September 13, 2011**Focus: Culture**

The Runners Sculpture was officially dedicated and presented to the City of Chicago. The dedication ceremony took place at the sculpture sight outside of O'Hare's International Terminal. The Dedication was attended by Members of the Athens Committee, His Eminence

Bishop Iakovos, Ioanna Efthymiadou, Ioanna Efthymiadou, Michelle T. Boone, Commissioner Cultural Affairs Cultural Events, Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Aviation, Jon Rodgers, Chicago Gateway Green, and Bill Kurtis who served as Emcee

October 5-6

Focus: Culture

The delegation and the mayor from the city of Marathon, Greece visited Chicago. Athens Runners Reception was held after the race at the Hellenic Foundation.

2012

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. Athens was represented by the excellent restaurant Med Kitchen, who served Greek delicacies to visitors all week long.

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. Konstantinos Koumarelas from GNA G. Gennimatas Hospital of Athens participated and represented Athens in the 2012 symposium.