



## History of Exchange

### Galway, Ireland Chicago's Sister City Since 1997

**Chair:** William Gainer

**Vice-Chair:** Billy Lawless, Sr.

#### 1997

**Focus: Signing Agreement**

Galway, Ireland became Chicago's fourth friendship city when Mayor John Mulholland and Mayor Richard M. Daley formalized the agreement in Chicago March 1997. Mayor Mulholland, along with the city manager and members of the Galway City Council attended meetings, marched in the South Side St. Patrick's Day parade and attended a benefit which commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Great Famine and the founding of St. Patrick's Church.

**Focus: Culture**

The Galway Committee hosted its kick-off benefit, held in conjunction with the opening of "Riverdance."

**Focus: Government**

Mayor Michael Leahy of Galway visited Chicago with a delegation consisting of Galway City Council members. Business contacts were established with Ameritech and Waste Management. Waste Management sponsored a luncheon and tour of a landfill.

#### 1998

**Focus: Culture**

Celtic Fest organizer met with officials of the Galway Arts Festival.

**Focus: Culture**

Galway performers were featured in the Celtic Festival.

**Focus: Culture**

The Galway Committee hosted Mayor Angela Lynch-Lupton and a cultural delegation.

**Focus: Culture**

The Galway Committee hosted a reception honoring Finton O'Toole, Irish Times author and critic on drama, film and literature.

**Focus: Culture**

In conjunction with St. Patrick's Day, Fr. John O'Donahue, author of Anamcara, lectured in Chicago.

**Focus: Culture**

A World in a Weekend featured Galway.

**Focus: Economic Development**

The Galway Committee Chair was a featured speaker at Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and World Trade Center on doing business in Ireland.

**Focus: Economic Development**

A trade mission of 36 business and government leaders to Galway and Dublin was led by Cook County Assessor James Houlihan and the Honorable Neil Hartigan. Results of the mission included: 1) John Marshall Law School committed to work towards a joint program with University College Galway and Dublin Schools of Law; 2) Chicago law offices of Schiff, Hardin & Waite partnered with a law firm in Dublin; 3) a Galway corporation decided to lead trade mission to Chicago in 1999.

**Focus: Education**

The Galway Committee Chair participated in "Principal for a Day" program.

**Focus: Education**

The Homework Show on local television featured Galway.

**Focus: Fundraiser**

The Galway Committee's annual benefit highlighted the Galway Horse Races and Oyster Festival at Hawthorne Race Track.

**Focus: Government**

The Galway Committee coordinated with John Marshall Law School on a seminar on the Euro and welcomed leaders from County Down in Northern Ireland to discuss possible collaborations.

**Focus: Government**

The Galway Committee hosted the Irish Ambassador to the United States.

**Focus: Government**

Galway Mayor Leahy, Galway Chief Financial Officer and a municipal delegation visited Chicago.

**1999****Focus: Culture**

While in Chicago for his play "Belfry," Druid Theater Company playwright Billy Roche was hosted by the Galway Committee.

**Focus: Economic Development**

Mayor Declan McDonnell and a delegation spent two days in Chicago meeting with government and business leaders, and members of the Galway Committee. The Irish Oak hosted a dinner for the delegation.

**Focus: Fundraiser**

The Galway Committee's annual fundraiser "Galway Oyster Fest and Races" took place in September at Hawthorne Racetrack.

**Focus: Government**

The Galway Committee hosted the Attorney General of Ireland during his visit to Chicago.

**2000****July****Focus: Culture**

A cultural delegation from Chicago visited Galway. They visited with the mayor's office and attended various conferences, particularly about healthcare, technology and social services.

**Focus: Fundraiser**

The Galway Committee held its annual Oysterfest fundraiser at Hawthorne Racetrack.

**2001****Focus: Culture**

Galway Committee went as a group to see "The Weir" at Steppenwolf Theater.

**Focus: Culture**

Galway Mayor Quinn marched in South Side and downtown St. Patrick's Day parades.

**Focus: Government**

Mayor Lyons of Galway and a delegation visited Chicago.

**Focus: Culture**

The Galway Committee hosted a reception to honor Irish author Pat Mason, who participated in the Chicago Humanities Festival.

**Focus: Education**

The Galway Committee hosted a luncheon in honor of Professor Orser of Illinois State University who was conducting an archeological dig in Galway.

**Focus: Culture**

The Galway Committee's annual fundraiser "Galway Oyster Fest and Races" at Hawthorne Racetrack featured traditional Irish food, music, dancing and a live auction of Irish items.

**2002****November 17****Focus: Culture**

The Committee's annual fundraiser, the Oyster Festival of Racing 2002, was held at Hawthorne Racetrack. Dinner, racing and a silent auction were among the activities at this exciting annual event.

**2003****June 28**

Mayor Daley was awarded the highest honor in Galway, the *Freedom of the City* award for his dedication to furthering relationships between Chicago and Galway. Other recipients of the award include President John F. Kennedy, Pope John Paul II, and President Ronald Reagan. He was also conferred with an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Ireland, Galway.

**August 18-20****Focus: Economic Development**

The mayor of Galway visited Chicago with the "Spirit of Galway" delegation, and met with Mayor Daley.

**November 16****Focus: Fundraiser**

The annual Oyster Festival of Racing took place at Hawthorne Race Track. A day of racing, traditional Irish music, and a buffet of Irish cuisine, including oysters, were enjoyed by all.

**2004****March****Focus: Education**

The Upper School Instrumental and Vocal Music areas of the Arts Department of The Latin School of Chicago participated in a music tour to the Republic of Ireland. This educational exchange was very successful, as it allowed students to share their talents with another culture through the universal medium of music; experience enrichment by traveling, meeting, and performing for and with students of another country; through working and living together, obtain a greater understanding for the concept of "team effort" and esprit de corps; initiate a biennial exchange program with schools from other geographic locations; and, in effect, represent the City of Chicago as part of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program.

**March 29****Focus: Culture**

The Second Annual Martha Fox Lecture in Irish Studies presented a lecture by Dr. Niall O Ciosain, "Print and the Irish Language," about the language shift from Irish to English in Ireland, and the role printing had in this cultural transformation.

**May****Focus: Culture**

The Galway Committee hosted Trish Casey, winner of Galway's Poetry Grand Slam, who traveled to Chicago to compete in Marc Kelly Smith's Poetry Slam at the Green Mill.

**June 4****Focus: Culture**

"Help Raise Our Sails" Mr. Steve Mulkerrins, in association with Galway Sister Cities Committee, christened the Naomh Bairbre (Saint Barbara). This 47 foot vessel known in Ireland as a Galway Hooker was handmade by Mr. Mulkerrins over a period of 4 years. 20 tons of wood specially shipped from Ireland and a lot of sweat went into making his dream come true. Mayor Richard M. Daley performed the christening of this one of a kind vessel at Montrose Harbor.

**June 16****Focus: Culture**

The Galway Committee and the Irish Repertory of Chicago celebrated the world premiere of A Dublin Bloom by Dermot Bolger, a stage adaptation of James Joyce's Ulysses. This play is set in Dublin on June 16, 1904. The committee and guests celebrated the centennial of Bloomsday with a special dinner-theatre package that included dining on Celtic fusion cuisine at The Galway Arms.

**August****Focus: Culture**

Committee hosted the annual "Spirit of Galway" delegation. The delegation's tour included a meeting with Mayor Daley and tours of Chicago sites.

**October****Focus: Culture**

The Galway Committee sponsored and hosted a welcoming party for two fiddlers from Galway, the Kane Sisters, who performed at Celtic Fest.

## **November**

### **Focus: Fundraiser**

The annual Oyster Festival of Racing took place at Hawthorne Race Track. A day of racing, traditional Irish music, and a buffet of Irish cuisine, including oysters were enjoyed by all.

## **December**

### **Focus: Culture**

Committee hosts an Irish "High Potential" Managers delegation in conjunction with DePaul University. A reception is held in their honor at Lizzie McNeill's pub.

## **2005**

### **Focus: Government**

Mayor Padrig Conneally participated in the US Conference of Mayors hosted by Mayor Daley.

## **August**

### **Focus: Culture and Government**

Committee hosted the annual "Spirit of Galway" delegation, including Mayor Walsh. The delegation's tour included a meeting with Mayor Daley and tours of Chicago sites.

## **November**

### **Focus: Fundraiser**

The annual Oyster Festival of Racing took place at Hawthorne Race Track. A day of racing, traditional Irish music, and a buffet of Irish cuisine, including oysters were enjoyed by all.

## **2006**

### **Focus: Government**

The Galway Committee actively supported the Immigration Reform Committee in their efforts to improve immigration legislation.

### **Focus: Government**

Mayor Walsh participated in the Richard J. Daley Durban Forum, and discussed how globalism has impacted Galway. He had several meetings discussing future cultural and business exchanges.

### **Focus: Culture**

Galway was represented in CSCI's 50th Anniversary Celebration on Daley Plaza with beautiful crafts from Nuada, an Irish dancing troupe, and a student Irish music performance.

### **Focus: Reception**

The committee hosted a going-away reception for Consul General Sheehan that was attended by Mrs. Daley.

### **Focus: Government and Culture**

Mayor Ó Brolacháin, the first Green Party Mayor in Ireland, visited Chicago as part of the Spirit of Galway delegation. The delegation met with Mayor Daley and Commissioner Johnston of the Environment Depart, and took a tour of City Hall's rooftop gardens.

**September 10****Focus: Culture**

The Galway Committee, in collaboration with the Chicago Committee in Galway, and the Galway Arts Center, welcomed Brendan Murphy, Galway's Cúirt International Festival of Literature Grand Slam winner. Mr. Murphy performed his winning poetry slam at several venues, including the Green Mill, the birthplace of Chicago poetry slam.

**October****Focus: Culture**

The committee helped to sponsor the Flight of the Earls at the Chicago Humanities Festival.

**October 3****Focus: Culture**

The Galway Committee opened a photo exhibit "Images of Chicago – A Spectacle of Urban life at the Water's Edge" at the Galway City Museum on October 2, which was attended by several high-ranking officials, including the Mayor of Galway. The photos were gifted to The City of Galway, and will travel to schools and libraries. Mrs. Daley also visited Galway and participated in its annual Oyster Festival of Racing.

**October 26****Focus: Fundraiser**

The Galway Committee held a fundraiser at the *Pirate Queen*, a Broadway in Chicago play depicting the story of legendary Irish pirate Grace O'Malley.

**November 12****Focus: Fundraiser**

Oysterfest: The committee's annual day of brunching and racing to celebrate Galway's Oyster Festival of Racing. This event serves as the committee's annual fundraiser.

**2007****January 24****Focus: General**

The Committee welcomed a group of Irish City and County Managers in a small reception. The group participated in a DePaul University program with the City of Chicago in a best practice exchange.

**August 18****Focus: Art & Culture**

The ground-breaking celebration of *Grainne*, a sculpture from Galway placed in Heritage Green Park, across from St. Patrick's Cathedral took place in August. It was attended by Mayor Daley and Mayor Costello as well as many city and public officials from both Chicago and Galway. The beautiful sculpture celebrates the history of Irish immigration to Chicago and is paid for by the City of Galway and the CSCI Galway committee. The gift will be reciprocated by the committee in Galway sometime in the future.

**December 9****Focus: Art**

The committee welcomed award-winning poetry slam artist Micael Kearney, winner of Galway's esteemed Cúirt Festival of Literature. He performed at the Green Mill.

## **2008**

### **May 6**

The Galway Committee invited the CSCI community to happy hour at Chicago's most exciting new Irish address, D 4 Irish Pub and Café. The committee learned about other committee's projects and welcomed new friends interested in the Galway Committee.

### **June**

#### **Focus: General**

Galway was represented in the Sister Cities International Festival on Daley Plaza with crafts from Nuada.

### **September 14**

#### **Focus: Culture**

The Galway Committee reserved the fan deck for the White Sox/Angels baseball game at US Cellular Field's "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day" celebration. The low price of \$99 included Irish entertainment, food and drinks, and trolley transportation between Lizzie McNeill's Irish Pub and the US Cellular Field.

### **October 21**

#### **Focus: Music**

Accessible Contemporary Music (ACM) and the Galway Committee presented the final concert of the Composer Alive: Ireland project. The concert featured the World Premiere of Sunshowers, a new work written for ACM by internationally recognized Galway based composer Jane O'Leary. The concert also featured Silenzio Della Terra by Ms. O'Leary for flute and percussion and music by Irish composers Grainne Mulvey, Linda Buckley and Stephen Gardner.

### **November 16**

#### **Focus: Fundraising**

The Galway Committee presented the 2007 Oyster Festival of Racing at the Hawthorne Race Course.

### **December 7**

#### **Focus: Literature**

The Galway Committee welcomed Miceal Kearney, an award winning poet, in his debut Chicago Performance at various locations and dates.

## **2009**

### **March**

The Galway Committee's Vice Chair, Billy Lawless celebrated St. Patrick's Day in Washington, D.C., with Senator Dick Durbin and Mayor Pdraig Conneely of Galway.

### **April**

#### **Focus: Government**

The committee held a reception in honor of Mayor Conneely.

**May 17****Focus: Literature**

The Galway Committee invited guests for a wreath laying at the *Grainne* statue followed by a reception in the reception hall of Old St. Pat's with a short presentation in song and story by singer Catherine O'Connell and Mart Pat Kelly, author of "Galway Bay", a historical novel based on the life of Kelly's great great-grandmother Honora Kelly who survived the Great Starvation of 1840's Ireland, escaped with her young children to Chicago and settled in Bridgeport. Her grandson was Ed Kelly, Mayor of Chicago from 1933 to 1947.

**September**

Augustus Burley Elementary began their Sister School relationship with Clare Galway National School.

**October 1-4****Focus: Medical**

Dr. Aoife Lowery from the National University of Ireland Galway & Galway University Hospital participated in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium – Sister Cities Medical Initiative.

**October 9-13****Focus: Government**

A reception in honor of The Great Garda Run Chicago was held celebrating 150 members of the Irish An Garda Siochana Police Force running in the Chicago Marathon.

**November 16****Focus: Trade**

On November sixteenth, 2009 The Chicago Sister Cities International, along with the Galway Committee coordinated an Oyster Fest of Racing which aimed to increase international trade, promote economic development and support exchanges in the fields of culture, education, medicine, social services, environment, and technology with Sister Cities around the globe for both their benefit as well as the benefit for the City of Chicago.

**2010****March****Focus: Education**

The Galway Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International partnered with the Chicago Public Library for *One Book, One Chicago*, Chicago's annual city-wide book club that featured 'Brooklyn' by Colm Toibin. The Galway committee coordinated finding several Chicago and Galway schools to read the book together and take part in a virtual book-club exchange, as well as the Galway Arts Centre.

**August 25****Focus: Tourism and Culture**

The Mayor of Galway County, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn, and Galway committee member Clem Walsh visited Chicago, met with the committee, and visited the Chicago Sister Cities International Festival in Millennium Park to watch a performance of the Trinity Irish Dancers and visit the Irish merchant Because I Like it!

**August 25****Focus: Culture**

Trinity Irish Dancers represented Galway at the Chicago Sister Cities International Festival, and included one of the top-ranked male dancers in the world.



**August 27**

**Focus: Culture**

The Irish Music School of Chicago represented Galway at the Chicago Sister Cities International Festival.

**November 10**

**Focus: Sports**

The Galway Committee helped to facilitate a marathon exchange with Galway. The two top male and female runners from Galway participated in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon.

**November 10**

**Focus: Cultural**

The Galway Committee and the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago hosted an Advanced Screening of "The Irish Magic of Inis Meain". Conceived by Executive Producer Melissa Sage Fadim and written/produced/directed by multiple Emmy award-winning filmmaker Terry Spencer Hesser, "The Irish Magic of Inis Meain" is a 30-minute documentary film that shows an up close and personal look at the people who make a living on this wet rock in the Atlantic. The film will be publicly premiered on WTTW-TV Channel 11 at a to-be-determined date in late November.

**November 13**

**Focus: Fundraiser**

The Galway Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted the 2010 Oyster Festival of Racing. In celebration of our Sister City's famous food festival, the annual fundraiser includes horse racing, traditional Irish music and a buffet of Irish cuisine.

**2011**

**March 17**

The Galway Committee hosted members of the United Nations Irish Veterans Association. While they were in Chicago, they marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and met with Mayor Daley.

**March 24**

**Focus: Cultural**

The Galway Committee hosted an outing to the Druid Theater's production of *The Cripple of Inishmaan* at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater. After the play, the Committee hosted a reception for the cast and crew of the production.

**May 15**

**Focus: Government**

Cllr. Michael Crowe, Mayor of Galway City, visited Chicago for the inauguration of Mayor Rahm Emanuel. While in Chicago, he was hosted by the Galway Committee.

**August 3-8**

**Focus: Business and Culture**

The Galway Committee of CSCI traveled to Galway to meet with Mayor Hildegard Naughton, members of the Galway City Council and their counterpart committee. They helped to facilitate and attended two gallery openings by Chicago artist Matt Lamb. The Irish United Nations Veterans Association hosted the committee for a reception and a tour of the barracks, chapel and museum.

Two individually selected collections, celebrating the life and work of Matt Lamb, were on exhibit at the University of Ireland - Galway and the Galway City Museum, in August of 2011. These two fine institutions collaborated with the Galway City Art's Council, Matt Lamb Ltd., as well as the Galway and Chicago Sister Cities Committees, in hosting these two special exhibitions.

### **August 22**

#### **Focus: Government and Tourism**

The Galway Committee hosted Galway City Mayor Councillor Hildegard Naughton and the *Spirit of Galway* delegation, a group of Galway city officials and business leaders. Mayor Naughton, who is in the process of establishing a children's music school in Galway, met with DePaul's Community Music School to begin collaboration. Members of the group also met with Mayor Emanuel, toured the Chicago Board of Trade and met with the City of Chicago Department of Transportation.

### **October 8 -14**

#### **Focus: Government**

Janet Attarian, Project Director of the Streetscape and Sustainable Design Program at the City of Chicago Department of Transportation, was invited by the Galway City Manager to present Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Design Initiatives to the Galway City Council at their Sustainable Infrastructure Seminar and a separate presentation to the Urban Design and Civic Governance Seminar at the School of Architecture, University of Limerick. In particular they were interested in Janet's experience with the Streetscape, Green Alley, Complete Streets and Sustainable Streets programs and how they enhance understanding of governance processes and their relationship to the development of urban form; sustainable development policy as it relates to the built environment; and community process. In addition, Janet's expertise in maintaining green infrastructure, particularly permeable pavements, is also of interest.

### **November 12, 2011**

#### **Focus: Fundraiser**

The Galway Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted the 2011 Oyster Festival of Racing. In celebration of our Sister City's famous food festival, the annual fundraiser includes horse racing, traditional Irish music and a buffet of Irish cuisine.

## **2012**

### **March 14**

#### **Focus: Culture**

The Galway Committee held a St. Patrick's Day Reception in honor of delegates visiting from Galway and Cork.

### **August 6-10**

#### **Focus: Culture**

The 7<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. Merchant Because I Like It! sold traditional Irish souvenirs and the Irish Trinity Dancers performed traditional and beautiful dance representing the culture and heritage of Galway.

### **August 12**

#### **Focus: Culture**

The Galway Committee of CSCI co-hosted Irish American Day at Six Flag with the Irish American Heritage Center, Chicago Irish Immigrant Support and the Trinity Dancers.

**August 12-16****Focus: Mayoral Visit**

The Honorable Terry O'Flaherty, Mayor of Galway and a delegation met with Mayor Rahm Emanuel to discuss Sister City initiatives and the relationship between the two cities. Mayor Emanuel honored the Galway Committee as the "Gold Star" example of a sister city relationship.

**August****Focus: Immigration**

The Gathering Ireland 2013 and Ireland Reaching Out are two exciting programs that invites the 70 million people from around the world who claim Irish decent to visit the home of their ancestors. The Galway Committee of CSCI played an important role in support these two programs by hosting events introducing both initiatives to the Chicagoland Irish community at events Downtown Chicago, Gaelic Park and the Irish American Heritage Center.

**August****Focus: Peace**

In conjunction with iBAMI, the Galway Committee of CSCI co-sponsored an "Umbrellas for Peace Parade at the Irish Heritage Center. More than 100 participants (mostly children) thoughtfully and creatively decorated umbrellas and cheerfully marched both outside and inside the Center.

**October 4-7****Focus: Medical**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium was a professional educational event highlighting the most recent clinical and scientific advances in breast cancer research. Dr. Peadar Waters from the National University of Ireland Galway and Galway University Hospital participated and represented Galway in the 2012 symposium.

**November 10****Focus: Fundraising**

The Oyster Festival of Racing 2012, the Galway Committee's annual event was special this year since it was in memory of long-time member Frank McMahon that unexpectedly past away earlier in the year. The event was a great success with Frank's family members and friends all together enjoying horseracing and Irish delicacies at Hawthorne Race Track.