



History of Exchange

Lucerne, Switzerland
Chicago's Sister City Since 1998

Co-Chairs: Joerg Oberschmied & 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 Noggler arrived to perform in the GNMA Festival of Lights and at several plazas downtown.

2004

November

Focus: Culture

The Noggler 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 Igal 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 "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.