



History of Exchange

Paris, France Chicago's Sister City Since 1996

Chair: Brett August

Vice-Chair: David Reithoffer

1996

September

Focus: Signing Agreement

After a visit to Chicago former Paris mayor, President Jacques Chirac proposed to Mayor Richard M. Daley that Chicago and Paris enter into a sister cities agreement. The agreement was solidified in Paris in September 1996.

1997

Focus: Government

First Deputy Mayor of Paris, Jacques Dominati, accompanied a small delegation, to Chicago. Meetings focused on ideas for alleviating traffic congestion in Paris and parking alternatives. In addition, the Paris Committee hosted a benefit dinner at Bistro 110 featuring the renowned Chef Joel Robuchon. Funds provide seed money for future sister cities projects.

Focus: Culture

Paris Committee members cheered on French runners during the Chicago marathon at Paris Patisserie, a restaurant in Lincoln Park. The number of French runners increased from seven in 1996 to more than 150 in 1997 due to a member of the Paris Committee solicited French runners during the Paris marathon.

Focus: Culture

The Ferre Brothers Quartet from Paris performed during the Chicago Jazz Festival at Grant Park.

1998

Focus: Culture

The Paris Committee arranged a discussion entitled “Outsiders Inside: Writers in Urban Culture” for Paris-based writers.

Focus: Art

The Chicago Jazz Festival featured jazz groups from Paris.

Focus: Fundraising

The Paris Committee hosted a fundraiser titled “Petrossian at the Pump Room.”

Focus: Culture

Les Grands Ateliers was featured at the Merchandise Mart during DECOREX show.

Focus: Culture

The Paris Committee organized a cheering section at Paris Patisserie for French runners participating in LaSalle Bank’s Chicago Marathon for the second year.

Focus: Culture

A World in a Weekend featured Paris.

1999

Focus: Social Services

The Paris Committee arranged the itinerary for Madame Giscard d’Estaing, former first lady of France and founder of the Foundation pour l’Enfrance, which focused on meetings with leaders and innovators in the field of child welfare.

Focus: Culture

The Paris Committee collaborated with Alliance Francaise de Chicago to develop Celebrating Chopin, a two-month long celebration of the music of Chopin, as well as the effect of his work on the visual arts.

Focus: Government

Frederic LaCave, in charge of American affairs for the City of Paris, met with CSCIP staff and Paris Committee members.

Focus: Culture

La Fete de la Musique, a festival celebrating music during a 24-hour period, featured Le Grand Orchestre du Bal, sponsored by the Paris Committee.

Focus: Economic Development

The Trade and Business Subcommittee met with counterpart subcommittee members from Paris who represent the Paris Development Agency to discuss potential projects.

2000

Focus: Culture

The Paris Committee held a fundraiser called *Chefs de Paris*, which celebrated Chicago's finest French chefs; the chefs offered samplings of their creations at Symphony Center. A scholarship was awarded to a Kendall College student.

Focus: Economic Development

In collaboration with Invest in France Agency, the Paris Committee organized a trade mission to Paris for Chicagoland biotechnology companies. Trip participants had the opportunity to establish contacts with French pharmaceutical companies, research institutes, regulatory bodies, and venture capital firms; meet with French biotech companies in one-on-one partnering meetings; visit the genopole® d'Evry Biotech Park and Paris Biotech Park; showcase Illinois Biotech companies at the new BIOTEC Europe 2000 expo & conferences in Paris, and enhance relationships between the Illinois Biotech and French Biotech communities.

Chicago companies participated in a series of one-on-one meetings with more than 70 French firms. As a result of these sessions, several overseas partnerships are seriously being negotiated. The trip was made possible with support from The Chicago Partnership for Economic Development, Deloitte & Touche, Illinois Trade Office, McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff, and United Airlines.

Focus: Culture

The Paris Committee sponsored the New European Literature Festival 2000 at the Chicago Cultural Center, where six authors from throughout Europe read from their works, discussed the current state of European literature, and signed books.

2001

Focus: Culture

The opening of American Center in Paris featured performances by Chicago's Hubbard Street Dance Company.

Focus: Culture

The Chicago Praise Ensemble performed at the Paris Gospel Festival.

Focus: Sports

The Paris Committee held a reception for the nearly 400 French runners in Chicago to participate in LaSalle Bank's Chicago Marathon.

Focus: Education

RATP engineers from France gave a presentation at University of Illinois at Chicago on the Guimard Metro Entourage installation in Chicago.

2002

April 7**Focus: Culture**

Members of the Paris Committee traveled to France to support Chicago runners participating in the Paris Marathon.

April**Focus: Arts & Culture**

The inauguration of a subway entrance designed by Hector Guimard was held at the installation site at Michigan and Van Buren. This design is a replica of a Paris Metro entryway. The Paris Committee participated in the celebration.

April**Focus: Business**

Representatives of French biotechnology companies visited Chicago based biotechnology companies to exchange ideas and network business opportunities.

October 11**Focus: Sports**

A reception was held for French runners in the Chicago Marathon.

2003**October 28-31****Focus: Business**

Paris Biotech Conference

August 18**Focus: Culture**

Guests enjoyed a picnic style dinner and honored Kendall College culinary student, with a \$1000 scholarship, followed by a French Baritone performance in PBH.

October 10**Focus: Culture**

A reception was held at Vertel's to welcome the French Chicago marathon participants.

2006**September 25-29****Focus: Culture**

Several events were held to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Chicago and Paris as Sister Cities:

*Mon. 9/25 – presentation by Ben Mittman on the restoration of the Pont Neuf at the Alliance Francaise

*Tue. 9/26 – special reception at the World Fashion Chicago runway show

*Wed. 9/27 – French Film night at the Cultural Center

*Thur. 9/28 – presentation by Reid Lewis about his endeavor to reenact the journey of LaSalle, and early French explorer of Illinois.

*Fri. 9/29 – Chicago Symphony Orchestra features pieces by French composers Maurice Ravel and Saint-Saen.

October 20**Focus: Sports**

Reception for the French Runners participating in the LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon at the Cultural Center

2007**March 21****Focus: Culture**

Paris Committee Member Claudia Hommel performed at the HotHouse as part of the Jazz Fuare Project. The Committee, in conjunction with the Alliance Francais, hosted a small reception.

April 14-28**Focus: Education**

Twelve students aged 15-16 visited Chicago from l'Ecole Alsacienne in Paris. The two schools expressed interest in becoming Sister Schools and paper work was generated and was sent to the school to be signed.

Focus: Culture

The Paris Committee arranged for an exhibition of photos depicting the restoration of the Pont Neuf (French for new bridge), ironically the oldest bridge in Paris, taken by retired Northwestern University professor Ben Mittman. The exhibition took place in the town hall of the 6th arrondissement in Paris, and was very well received.

September**Focus: Affirmation of Agreement**

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the cities.

November 25-28**Focus: Government**

As a follow up to Mayor Daley's visit to Paris this September, a delegation from the City of Paris was in Chicago and included Mr. Philippe Chotard, Vice Secretary General; Ms. Véronique Bédague-Hamilius, Director of Finance; Mr. André Marie Bournon, Vice Director of Urban Planning and Mr. Mayeul Places, Department of International Affairs. While in Chicago, the delegation had meetings with the City Departments of Housing, Streets and Sanitation, Environment, Budget, Finance and with the Chicago Public Schools.

RMD visited Paris in September 2007 to celebrate the culmination of the 10th anniversary of the Sister City signing with Paris. During his visit, the Mayor signed a renewed agreement with the Mayor of Paris for continued cooperation between our cities.

During his visit, he was also hosted by the Minister of Finance and Economy for France, Her Excellency Christine Lagarde. Minister Lagarde has a close connection to Chicago, as she lived here for several years when she was Chairman of the Baker and McKenzie Law Firm. RMD has been supportive of working with Minister Lagarde to continue to promote economic ties between Chicago and France.

2008

January

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Paris Committee co-sponsored an exhibition in Paris 6th arrondissement of photos depicting the restoration of Pont Neuf taken by retired Northwestern University Professor Ben Mittman.

March 26-April 5

Focus: Education

A group of eighth grade students from Abraham Lincoln Elementary School traveled to Paris to visit Lycee Henri IV. Students from Henri IV will travel to Chicago in April to visit Abraham Lincoln Elementary School. The two schools are considering a formal Sister School partnership which will be curriculum based around the areas of environment and greening of urban areas.

April 19-28

Focus: Education

Twenty-four eighth-grade students from the Lycee Henri IV in Paris visited their sister school in Chicago, Abraham Lincoln Elementary in Chicago.

June 2-6

Focus: Culture

Cyrano's Bistro represented the Paris as a food vendor at the Chicago Sister Cities International Festival on Daley Plaza.

October 2

Focus: Fashion

French designer, Sakina M'sa, participated in an exploratory visit to Chicago. As well as meeting with program organizers of After School Matters and other Chicago institutions, Ms. M'sa was featured as one of the six internationally-based designers in the World Fashion Chicago runway show on October 2.

October 5

Focus: Culture

Accessible Contemporary Music, in conjunction with the Chicago Sister Cities International Program, presented the final concert of the Composer Alive: Paris project. The concert featured the World Premiere of Sextet, a new work written for ACM by Internationally recognized Paris based composer Stéphane Delplace and the music of other living French composers will also be performed. Mr. Delplace was present.

October 10

Focus: Sports

The Paris Committee hosted the annual French Runners Reception, honoring the French runners participating in the Chicago Marathon. The reception was held at the Chicago Cultural Center in G.A.R. Hall. The event is presented by Paris-Chicago Sister Cities Committee (L'Association Paris-Chicago); The Bank of America Chicago Marathon and the Consul General of France in Chicago.

November 6-December 3

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Paris Committee co-sponsored "Faces: A Question of Identity: The Changing Face of France" by emerging Paris based artist, Florent Moutti.

November 17**Focus: Business**

The Paris Committee co-hosted a reception for a delegation from the Paris based Electric Vehicles Trade Commission.

October 5**Focus: Music**

Accessible Contemporary Music, in conjunction with the Chicago Sister Cities International Program, presented the final concert of the Composer Alive: Paris Project. The concert featured the World Premiere of Sextet, a new work written for ACM by Internationally recognized Paris based composer Stephane Delplace and the music of other living French composers were also performed.

November 18**Focus: Music**

Join the Paris Committee in supporting the Jazz Faure Project when “French impressionism meets American Jazz”.

2009**March****Focus: Education**

Ten students from Abraham Lincoln Elementary School traveled to Paris and students from Lysee Henry IV visited students in Chicago. Lincoln Park High School students traveled attended classes at their Sister School, took guided tours of the city and attended cultural events.

April**Focus: Education**

Lakeview High School teacher Donna Chen took students to visit their Sister School in Paris. Lincoln Park High School students and Paris Committee members traveled to Paris to cheer on the Chicago runners in the Paris Marathon and meet with the Head of Office of International Relations at the Paris Board of Education.

April 24**Focus: Government**

The Honorable Pierre Schapira, Deputy Mayor of Paris visited Chicago.

April 2**Focus: Sports**

Paris Committee Member David Reithoffer traveled to France for the Paris Marathon to support Chicago's bid for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. On April, 2, he was featured on French television as part of a French expatriate from Chicago segment.

June**Focus: Arts & Culture**

The photography of Jean-Christophe Ballot photography exhibition.

July 9-13**Focus: Business**

Hubert Duault, General Director of Paris Development, and Karine Bidart, Business Development Director of Paris Development visited Chicago. Follow up visit from M. Schapira was in Chicago in April, he discussed with Mayor Daley and M. de Boissiere about possible economic exchanges between Paris and Chicago.

September**Focus: Sports**

The Annual French Marathon Runner's Reception was held at the Chicago Cultural Center.

October 1-4**Focus: Medical**

Dr. Youlia Kirova from the Institut Curie participated in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium – Sister Cities Medical Initiative.

November-December**Focus: Arts & Culture**

War & Peace with artists David Gista, a Parisian artist and Dave Sheehan & Todd Narbey Readings by Award-winning poets Stella Vinitchi Radulescu & Emily Calvo with translations from French. Exhibition located at TH!NKART SALON in Chicago.

Focus: Government

His Excellency Pierre Vimont, Ambassador of France to the United States visited Chicago for meetings with French-American Foundation Young Leaders and National Association of Elected Local Leaders.

2010**January 29****Focus: Government & Sports**

Blind French Marathoner Michael Le Besnerais presented a letter of greetings at L'Hotel de Ville from Mayor Daley to Paris Mayor Delanoë Le Besnerais. The guest of honor at the annual French Runner's Reception hosted by CSCI Paris Committee for the hundreds of French Runners who participate in the marathon each year.

February 26**Focus: Education**

War and Peace: A Night of International Relations. A French Delegation of emerging leaders to the United States participated in an evening of cross-cultural dialogue on diversity featuring a panel discussion moderated by: Illinois State Representative William Burns.

February**Focus: Education**

Lincoln Park High School welcomed twenty students and two teachers from Louis Le Grand High School from Paris. The exchange allows students to focus on common threads in literature, art, architecture and history that have influenced the respective cities. Lincoln Park students will travel to Paris during Spring Break.

May 19**Focus: Sports**

The Chicago Fire welcomed Legia Warsaw, Paris Saint-Germain and Red Star Belgrade for the first-ever Chicago Sister Cities International Cup at Toyota Park.

April 12**Focus: Environment**

A conference in Paris on "The Greening of America: An Opportunity for Europe". This program is part of the City of Paris' strategy to provide to French audiences a better understanding of the various aspects of US environmental policies. Commissioner Suzanne McKenna represented Chicago. In addition, the commissioner met with officials from the City of Paris and presented on Chicago's environmental policies.

April**Focus: Government**

The Honorable Bertrand Delanoë, Mayor of Paris visited Chicago.

September 9**Focus: Arts & Culture**

Bank of America presents "Made in Chicago" exhibit in Paris at the Mona Bismarck Foundation, the former home of the Count and Countess Bismarck. The opening reception included guests such as the U.S. Consul General in Paris, assorted dignitaries such as Mayors, the French equivalent of Congressmen, a former Secretary of the Interior, and many others.

October 8**Focus: Sports**

The Paris Committee of CSCIP was proud to host their annual "French Runners Reception" on October 8, honoring the French runners participating in the Chicago Marathon. Over 300 athletes and supporters enjoyed watching the video from the Bank of America Chicago Marathon 2009.

November 1**Focus: Arts & Culture**

A joint exhibit featuring the photography of ten youth from Altgeld Gardens in Chicago and ten youth visiting from La Courneuve in Paris opened at the Richard J. Daley Civic Center. Since April 2009, when the project was initiated, students have developed their skills, and shared their work on a common website. This Chicago exhibit marks the first collective exhibit and exchange between the Chicago and French participants.

November 6-13**Focus: Social Services**

Paris Social Services exchange and conference was one of the first official CSCI social service exchanges to improve social services in our global community. Nine Parisian social service professionals discussed their Chicago experience and featured a Chicago and Paris panel discussion on "What Can We Learn from Each Other". Topics that were discussed include common social challenges and best practices to address the needs of children and youth.

2011

May 13

Focus: Arts & Culture

Paris in the Springtime Gala Reception presents The Body Politic, featuring the works of Pierre Marie Brisson with a special guest appearance by the artist, a coveted silent auction and poetry performances featuring Emily Thornton Calvo and Stella Vinitchi Radlescu. The Paris Committee of CSCI welcomed the francophone community and beyond for their first fund raising effort in order to further youth initiatives through Sister Schools Abroad, which initiates, implements and supports the development of strong ties between Chicago schools and Paris.

June 21

Focus: Music

Make Music Chicago: Celebrating the global phenomenon of the 24-hour musical holiday on June 21, Make Music Chicago is a one-day music festival held on the first day of summer that is for all ages. The music event is celebrated by over 110 countries and 460 cities around the world. Inspired by France's "Fête de la Musique", this year marked the 30th anniversary of the country's national musical holiday.

Highlights included a video message from Lyric Opera Creative Consultant Renée Fleming and performances from over 100 different musicians and groups. Make Music Chicago was celebrated in various locations throughout the city.

This program was free and open to the public, presented in partnership with Rush Hour Concerts, the Consulate General of France and many more.

November-December

Focus: Social Services

The Paris Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International is excited to announce that they are accepting applications for an upcoming Paris Social Service Exchange. Tentative dates are from late November to early December. Up to eight interdisciplinary social service professionals from Chicago will meet in Paris to visit sites and dialogue with French professionals about their culture and best practices with regards to child welfare.

2012

June 7

Focus: Education

Chicago and Paris, sister cities since 1996, signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and l'Académie de Paris. The goal is to facilitate student and teacher exchanges, promote new pedagogical practices, and expand the international dimension in teaching and professional development.

June 28

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Paris Committee of Chicago Sister Cities and the French Consulate hosted a cocktail reception at the Chicago Cultural Center in celebration of the opening tour of the world's oldest national ballet company: the Paris Opera Ballet, which made its debut in Chicago.

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. Marie-Paule Sablin from the Institut Curie in Paris participated and represented Paris in the 2012 symposium.

October 5**Focus: Sports**

The Paris Committee of CSCI hosted their annual “French Runners Reception” on October 5, honoring the French runners participating in the Chicago Marathon. Over 300 athletes and supporters enjoyed the reception.

October 5**Focus: Culture**

Chicago Sister Cities International proudly congratulated David Reithoffer, Vice-Chair of the Paris Committee of CSCI for being awarded the Chevalier de l’Ordre National du Mérite (Knight of the National Order of Merit) by the French government. Reithoffer was given the award by the Honorable Graham J. Paul, Consul General of France to Chicago at a reception at the Chicago Cultural Center for French runners visiting Chicago to participate in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon.

December 24**Focus: Culture**

Benjamin Kelner, Communications Manager of CSCI was featured on ABC 7 Chicago talking about Christmas traditions in some of Chicago’s Sister Cities. Traditional Christmas cakes were highlighted in the segment representing the culture and heritage of Paris, France.

2013**Focus: Social Services****January 10**

The Paris Social Services Committee held a fundraiser at Cyrano’s Farm and Kitchen from 5:30-7:30 to raise funds for their Winter 2013 Paris–Chicago Social Service Exchange, in which social service professionals from Paris will participate in a week-long immersion into Chicago’s social service networks. Tickets were \$40 in advance, \$50 at the door. A raffle was held with a number of prizes, including a Sofitel package valued at \$500, an Alliance Francaise language package, a spa gift basket, a wine gift basket valued at \$150, two certificates for a truffle-making class at Katherine Anne Confections, a piece of art valued at \$500 and other prizes. Raffle tickets were \$10, 3 for \$25. About 100 tickets were sold, with close to \$5000 raised, meeting the goal.