

## 2024 Neighborhood Access Program Grantees

The **Neighborhood Access Program** supports the cultural vitality of every neighborhood via grant programs and partnerships designed to be responsive to the complex needs of individual communities. This program offers direct grants for all types of community-based arts and culture activities. This program was created to support arts and culture activities in all neighborhoods with a focus on those that have traditionally not received significant funding through DCASE's Cultural Grants Program, and to collaborate with other City departments to make a collective impact on neighborhoods identified through other City initiatives.

Grantee	Project Title	Project Description
A Knock At Midnight, NFP	Exposure to Photography	A Knock at Midnight will provide 10-week sessions of beginning and advanced photography and culinary arts classes for middle and high school students. Students will collaborate on food styling and photography, culminating in exhibits and printed catalogue of their work.
Access Contemporary Music	Vacant Storefront Cross Collaborative Musical Awakening	Access Contemporary Music will activate a vacant storefront in Uptown with a series of collaborative musical events in the summer of 2025, celebrating Uptown's rich history and cultural diversity. Highlights include a commissioned compositions based on Studs Turkel's <i>Working</i> and Bob Rehak's iconic images of the neighborhood.
Annie B. Jones Civic Arts Center	ABJ Harmonious Voices	The "Harmonious Voices" program will serve the community, ages 12-65, through film, vocal performance, songwriting and production workshops, culminating in a community performance of original songs.
Bodies In Motion II NFP	Programmatic Activities	Bodies in Motion II will provide weekly dance classes drawing upon the majorette and hip-hop genres for youth aged 4 – 24. Students will collaborate on choreography and perform in community events and a culminating recital for the public.
Chicago Rewilding Society	West Side Equestrian Trick Riders	The Chicago Rewilding Society will offer a free equestrian trick riding program for Garfield Park youth aged 5 - 18 years. Students will learn a variety of disciplines such as dance, drumming, and acrobatics as part of the program, culminating in a public presentation.
Chicago Torture Justice Center	Resilience Theatre Festival	The Chicago Torture Justice Center, in collaboration with the Mud Theatre Project, will produce performances and readings of original works by artists impacted by the criminal legal system.
Chinese American Museum of Chicago	Queer in Chinatown	The Chinese American Museum of Chicago, in collaboration with Space Club 680 North, will collect and preserve the diverse queer histories within Chinatown resulting in publication at the end of 2025. Additional programming will include exhibitions of queer trans-American artists during Pride Month.
CRE8 Space, L3C	CRE8 Space	Dondre Smith will produce an eight-week long session of CRE8 Space, an initiative equipping BIPOC youth essential fashion design skills including an intensive sewing incubator and a culminating public fashion showcase.

## 2024 Neighborhood Access Program Grantees Î

Creative Networkk	Creative Networkk's Chicago Footwork Dance Team and Leadership Development Program	Creative Networkk will host a Chicago Footwork Dance Team and Leadership Program in partnership with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boys & Girls Club in Garfield Park. Programming will include panel discussions on Chicago dance history, family dance workshops and Footwork battles for youth and adults.
Epic Art Space, Inc.	Architecture for Kids	Epic Art Space will present a series of events and an instructional curriculum for teaching the value of architecture and urban design to Chicago youth.
Herrera, Samantha (whatever spectrum media collective)	Rogers Park Youth Summer Film Camp Collective 2025	whatever spectrum media collective will host a three-week-long film development camp for 16 - 19 year olds, resulting in a 5-10 minute comedic film uplifting positive narratives of Chicago youth.
Humboldt Park Skate Meetup, L3C	HP Skate Meetup 2025 Season	HP Skate Meetup will host free monthly cultural roller skating events on Chicago's West side. Humboldt and Garfield Parks will transform into a one night roller rink with free skate rentals, free skate lessons, live music, and local Chicago DJs.
Lional "Brother El" Freeman	Sandbox Symphony X	Lional "Brother El" Freeman will present the Sandbox Symphony X at Oakwood Beach on August 9, 2025. This 10th annual festival unites artists, musicians, wellness practitioners, and community organizers to honor the culture and resilience of Greater Bronzeville and Oakland including interactive art installations, live performances, and wellness activities.
Mendoza, Enrique	Que Se Te Antoja? Arte, Comida, y Cultura en el Suroeste de Chicago	Enrique Mendoza will produce a series of opportunities for West Lawn residents to learn the art of mosaics alongside Latin American history and culture. Activities include collaborating with small businesses and vendors to create customized pieces, a public art piece, and a Dia de los Muertos event.
Nuamah, Sally	Common Archives: A Celebration of Black Neighborhood Life	Sally Nuamah will continue to lead her neighbors in creating a multi-generational archive for the Neighborhood Commons Cooperative - one of the last remaining Black co-op buildings in Chicago - with a planned exhibition at the Near North Library in October 2025.
ReinventAbility	DisFest Neighborhood Celebrations	In conjunction with their DisFest 2024 at Chicago Live on Navy Pier, ReinventAbility will offer accesible arts events in South Shore and Pilsen, focusing the workshops on disciplines and genres indigenous to those areas.
Roman Susan Art Foundation NFP	FRUTAS	FRUTAS, in collaboration with Roman Susan Art Foundation, will host bimonthly Spanish-language arts and culture events in Uptown promoting multilingualism and language justice while uplifting the Latinx and LGBTQIA+ communities.
Soulful Book Fair Foundation	Soulful Chicago Book Fair	The Soulful Book Fair Foundation will present their annual Black literature and arts book fair/festival in Woodlawn, including publishing and literacy workshops, puppet shows, live music, and author exhibititions.

## 2024 Neighborhood Access Program Grantees Î

Southwest Creative Studio	Chicago Hip-Hop Heritage Museum Pop-Up at Southwest Creative Studio	In Spring 2025, Southwest Creative Studio and the Chicago Hip Hop Heritage Museum will present a three-month long pop-up exhibition in Chicago Lawn, designed to celebrate Hip Hop's rich legacy and cultural impact in the city.
The Kehrein Center for the Arts Foundation	Movements of Resilience: A Celebration of Black & Brown Women in Dance	The Kehrein Center for the Performing Arts will partner with Ballet 5:8 to present an evening of dance, spoken word, and opera celebrating the both Black and Women's History months. Cultural arts and dance workshops will be offered to local youth and educators in conjunction with the performance.
The WasteShed	Art in Action	The WasteShed's Art in Action initiative will offer up approximately 15 creative workshops that culminate into an art exhibition showcasing participants' works. Workshops will explore sustainability and art as pathways for healing.
Theatre Y	The Musicality of Christmas: A Three-day Festival in Lawndale	In December 2024 Theatre Y will collaborate with Light Up Lawndale, Stone Temple, Music Inc, The Lawndale Pop Up Spot, and the Firehouse Community Arts Center to produce a series of winter festivities celebrating the neighborhood through ensemble-generated performances, street decorating, music, and meals.
Voice of the City	Art, Nature, Ancestry at Origins Woods	Voice of the City will feature Samuel J Lewis II; will host community-building activities and ancestry workshops at Origin Woods; will curate curriculum about the migration narratives in the Calumet Region; and develop "West Pullman Stories," where residents will collaborate with artists and ancestry researchers to share personal and community histories.
Wood St. Collective	Summer Englewood Book Fest (SEBF)	Wood St. Collective will produce the First Annual Summer Englewood Book Fest in June 2025, including book vendors, panel discussions, free children's books, and a stage for live presentations by authors, poets, and spoken word artists.

**Panelists:** Jakina Ado, Mark Banks, Meghan Beals, Margaret Brown, Stefan Brün, Carolyn Carney, Dr. Ada Cheng, Sasha Daltonn, Rachel Gadson, Nathalie Galde, Sara Galvan, Tandra Hawkins, Evan Hill, William Howard, Sebastian Izquierdro, Emma Landgraf, Liliana Macias, Roseanna Magada, Cecil McDonald, Laura Miracle, Dr. Marsha Noble, Ayesha Riaz, Brian Shaw, Alice Smith Jones, Rosalba Valdez