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## ECHOES OF CHICAGO: An emerging nonprofit arts organization *strengthening community through the arts and innovative networking and cultural events*

What is community? Is where you live a community? Are you part of a community?

Each day, we casually navigate through a variety of spaces from home to neighborhood to city. In a world where there are continuously more outlets for community as well as distractions from it, are we considering what these spaces and ideas mean and how they are evolving? Do we want Chicago to be a place where we don't acknowledge our neighbors or passersby? Or do we want to strengthen the ties that encourage community? Often times people remember the communities of yesterday, **Where The Heart Is** offers an opportunity for people to consider the possibilities for communities of tomorrow.

**THE CAUSE:** Echoes of Chicago invites the public to **Where The Heart Is**, an interactive event exploring home, community, and neighborhood, on May 11<sup>th</sup> 7pm-2am and May 12<sup>th</sup> 2pm-8pm. Portions of the proceeds benefit two organizations that advocate for community: Communities United Against Foreclosure and Eviction (CUAFE) and Albany Park Neighborhood Council (APNC), who will be sharing information and raising awareness at the event. CUAFE consists of members of various communities in and around Chicago that believe housing is a human right and fight to keep people in their homes. The APNC is a grassroots community organization that unites youth and adults from Albany Park and surrounding communities to address issues of social justice.

**THE PARTICIPANTS:** Portions of the proceeds also benefit the musical talent performing at the event: The Wake Downs, Maintenance Crew, The Naps, Marjan Agicic, Matt Campbell, Tuesday's Children, and DJs AuECS and Jamie Wax. Six artists will display their photography, painting, and mixed media: Rebecca Israilevich, Emilie B Squared, Rhie Cruz, Jose Gomez, Sasha Andruz, and Powell Jordano. Event goers have the opportunity to view the artistic process via Live Artists: Emilie B Squared, Darius Dennis, and Echoes Family. The audience can also become a canvas by commissioning Body Painter: Leek. Another route for the community to engage the creative process can be found at the arts and crafts table: Maria Gullo's Creative Corner. Additionally, MADE Gallery will have items for sale, ranging from glass art to jewelry.

**FURTHER ATTRACTIONS:** Audience members can win a variety of Raffle prizes and remain actively aware by answering Trivia questions pertaining to the event's themes and the issues the community organizations address. Correct answers are awarded free drinks! The public can purchase hand-painted hats designed by a variety of Echoes members, extended family, and friends that have donated their time and talent. Echoes of Chicago strives towards sustainable practices by offering local brews and spirits, and by hosting local vendors who sell their goods and services while promoting their businesses.

Echoes of Chicago aims to establish spaces that provide opportunities for people who work in various mediums, genres, and scenes to support, promote, and raise awareness of Chicago's eclectic and thriving culture. For more information about Echoes of Chicago's events and to find out how you can participate, please visit [www.echoesofchicago.org](http://www.echoesofchicago.org) or email [echoes312@gmail.com](mailto:echoes312@gmail.com).

When a drop hits, it ripples.