



ECHOES OF CHICAGO: A non-profit organization dedicated to
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?

Join Echoes of Chicago for our second annual fundraising event in celebration of Chicago's 176th Birthday! Come out and support our effort to showcase and promote Chicago culture, creatives, and innovators. March 2nd 2013, 6:00 pm-2:00 am, 1812 W. Hubbard.

The Who: Currently, Echoes is an entirely volunteer-run organization, with only four members. We invest our time and money to ensure the success of the organization, whose sole purpose is to support the Chicago community. Happy Birthday Chicago is our second annual fundraiser, where we aim to raise both money and overall support for our vision and hard work.

The Cause: Echoes believes that creativity is essential for sustained cultural growth and social consciousness in community and can be used to build a common voice for citizens to celebrate each others' achievements as well as address concerns of inequity and injustice. Promoting various facets of Chicago's unique cultures offers the opportunity to encourage an alliance that endorses a more cohesive rendition of what Chicago has to offer. Echoes of Chicago is dedicated to strengthening community through the arts and innovative networking and cultural events.

The Theory: In response to the notion that Globalization requires cities to have the most elaborate entertainment districts or respond with cultural conservation and preservation of the past, Echoes of Chicago believes it is fundamental for Chicago to learn from both strategies by forging a culturally relevant community of today and placing it on a pedestal for all citizens to congregate at, assess, and re-forge. This would be a city no longer trying to prove itself to the world, but rather dedicated to crafting a culture for its citizens that is democratic and truly representational of the people—to benefit and provide for the people that are truly devoted to citizenship. In this effort, success will be twofold: it will engage both the unnerving belief that cultural globalization is about assimilation and conformity, and the concept that economic globalization is the only catalyst for cultural globalization.

If the purpose is to become ever-active in creating and recreating Chicago's cultural heritage, then sustainable economies will blossom in the support of local business, creatives, and citizens/community members. This will simultaneously ease the dependence on tourist dollars as well as viably create more tourist dollars. Chicago will be known as a trendsetter, where the rest of the world waits for our next move, and our next move will always be to further strengthen our ties by celebrating our similarities and differences in the most true and authentic way conceptualized by its citizens.

The Participants: Echoes of Chicago produces events—as community gatherings—that consider the role of contemporary American citizenry and community development. We ask various community groups, non-profits, and artists to help build an atmosphere for reflecting on and unpacking various themes that contribute to this discussion. Using the functions of consumerist culture, we invite the public to pay a small donation upon entrance and maintain moderate prices on beverages, which all contribute to benefitting the participating non-profits, musicians, Echoes, and sometimes other elements of entertainment. We welcome artists to put their work on display for sale, and ask for a small commission in return. Because Echoes is committed to keeping our events available and enjoyable to as many members of Chicago's community as possible, we keep our quality high and our prices low.

When a drop hits... it ripples