



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CITY OF CHICAGO'S 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
ADVANCING ADVISORY COUNCILS**

**Cultural Advisory Council**

- Advised Commissioner Erin Harkey on matters relating to the City's cultural affairs and special events and supported the Commissioner's efforts to expand the reach and impact of Chicago's rich and varied arts, cultural, and entertainment resources. DCASE has embedded the Cultural Advisory Council (CAC) into the Department's work which allowed them to advise and assist in strategic areas, including:
  - The development of a new DCASE mission and vision statement
  - The launch of a new recovery grant program, the Together We Heal Creative Place Program
  - The drafting of We Will Chicago Arts and Culture pillar recommendations
- Advocated for additional DCASE resources to support the recovery of the sector and were key partners in increasing awareness of opportunities and resources that were available to the arts and culture community.

**Equity Advisory Council**

- Supported the launch of the Together We Heal (TWH) initiative, and within just three months hosted 200 healing events involving nearly 10,000 Chicagoans. The Equity Advisory Council (EAC) joined in celebrating that work with a summit, sharing reflections through art and storytelling, and building a vision for a full year of healing—one that includes cross-neighborhood dialogue and connection, public events to celebrate culture, and the City's commitment to institutional change. The Year of Healing 2022 launched in January.
- Reviewed feedback from the TWH participants, which was used to create the City's Equity Statement of Principles. This document establishes a shared definition of equity, a vision for the city and has been used to support teams developing RFPs, building strategic plans, crafting new policies and other areas of work.



- Provided feedback to develop the first phase of the Equity Dashboards, which primarily focuses on workforce diversity. The EAC also shared insights for future phases, which will include procurement data, community level outputs/outcomes, and progress measurement on the Racial Equity Action Plans.
- Created a community kick-off event to share with the public the extensive training efforts underway as OERJ formally launched Equity & Racial Justice Learning cohorts, a 2-year strategy to train over 20 departments in concepts, tools, and planning for equity.

### **LGBTQ+ Advisory Council**

- Passed a resolution in City Council honoring the life and advocacy of Trans activist Elise Malary, who Chicago tragically lost this year.
- Secured funds in the 2023 budget to conduct assessments, facilitate trainings, and develop policies to create Trans-inclusive hiring practices in the Mayor's Office.
- In collaboration with the Women's Advisory Council and alderman, members advised on a Citywide policy to institutionalize reforms following the passage of the Bodily Autonomy Ordinance to protect the privacy of individuals seeking gender reassignment services.
- Awarded additional Chicago Proud Awards, which have honored 10 individuals, businesses and organizations that have made an outstanding impact for Chicago's LGBTQ+ communities.
- Worked with CDPH, Howard Brown Health and other community organizations to inform outreach strategies in response to a MPV outbreak.
- Collaborated with Chicago Police Department's LGBTQ+ liaisons when tragic events have impacted the community, such as in the aftermath of the fatal hit-and-run outside of Jeffrey's Pub in August.
- Advised City officials on LGBTQ+ resources and training for a new 211 system.

### **New Americans Advisory Council**

- Provided input and guidance on refugee resettlement efforts.
- Greeted and welcomed refugees at O'Hare airport.
- Supported the City's efforts to elicit donations by launching an Amazon Wish List to support migrants bused from Texas.
- Provided legal consultation to nearly 4,000 new arrivals at the city's Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC).
- Volunteered to serve as translators at shelters and the MARC.

### **Veterans Affairs Advisory Council**



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- Worked with the Office of the Mayor to develop a plan for the establishment of an Office of the Director of Veterans to improve services and engage Chicago's diverse veterans communities through enhanced collaboration with community organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector.
- Convened quarterly meetings streamed on Facebook Live, which served as a forum for veterans organizations and officials to discuss issues and programs impacting the veterans community.
- Developed and operated working groups to examine issues and challenges faced by veterans, including the Working Group on Employment, Education, and Entrepreneurship, and the Working Group on Support Services.
- Helped plan and supported City-sponsored programs honoring veterans, including the Memorial Day Parade, Veterans Day, and other events.
- Worked with the Mayor to identify candidates representing the diversity of the veterans community for appointment to the Advisory Council on Veterans.
- Represented the City at numerous veterans events across the city throughout the year.

**Women's Advisory Council**

- Co-authored and presented the Creating a More Equitable Recovery: Addressing the Economic Barriers COVID-19 Exacerbated for Women in Chicago [report](#).
- Advised the City on enhancing Sexual Harassment laws (passed City Council in April 2022) and supported efforts to outreach to community residents, workers, and businesses once the law went into effect.

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