

The Neighborhood Access Program (NAP) supports the cultural vitality of every neighborhood via grant programs and partnerships designed to be responsive to the complex needs of individual communities. It 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 the INVEST South/West and Our City, Our Safety initiatives.

Grantee	Project Title	Project Description
51st Street Business Association	Brown Derby Jazz Series	The Brown Derby Jazz Series is a series of free musical performances in The Great Lakes Elks Lodge that brings back the historical aspect of the Jazz history of Bronzeville. This series will local artists from the community to present a variety of live musical, dance, vocal performances and open mike/sit in opportunities to introduce new talent.
Albany Park Theater Project	Albany Park Trading Cards	This community-wide collaboration will create a set of Albany Park-themed trading cards celebrating neighborhood residents and landmarks. Each card will feature original, commissioned artwork; a brief narrative of the featured individual or landmark on the other side; and a QR code that leads to short recordings of community members sharing stories, memories, poems, videos, animations, songs.
Alva Nelms	Community Making: Leather Sneakers Project	Community members will each together, design and make their own leather sneakers. The participants will learn the steps, tools, disciplines, rhythms, and experience the tactile pleasures of making leather work.
Asian Human Services Inc	West Ridge Story Festival	Asian Human Services (AHS), in collaboration with Silk Road Rising, will host EPIC (Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course) residencies for immigrants and refugees as part of AHS’ English Language classes. Students will create an original short play or monologue, which will be brought to life by professional actors during a final reading and through a professionally produced video. Providing immigrant and refugee families in West Ridge with the opportunity to share their stories through playwriting helps give voice to those that often don’t feel they have one and empowers them for life.
B U I L D INCORPORATED	Austin Community Arts Program (CAP)	BUILD’s Community Arts Program will offer year-round Public Art, Dance, Podcasting, and Music programming for 60 teens in the Austin community. Young people will have the opportunity to learn dance, focusing on movement and expression; engage in podcasting, interviewing peers, family and community residents, telling their stories, and reframing the narrative; be immersed in music education; and participate in a public art component - hosting a showcase at summer’s end highlighting all they have learned over the course of the program, and receiving a “learn and earn” stipend.

Back Alley Jazz	Back Alley Jazz	Back Alley Jazz is a free, annual neighborhood-wide event in Chicago's South Shore community that features live jazz performances in residential sites and open lots. This is a project of South Shore residents, Hyde Park Jazz Festival, and a wide range of neighborhood groups.
Centro Romero	Pueblo Unido Gallery (People United Gallery)	The mission of Pueblo Unido Gallery is to highlight the stories and issues faced by refugees and immigrant communities and will be used to elevate the creative works of Centro Romero and similar communities across Chicago. The community-based, youth-managed Pueblo Unido Gallery will train the youth of Centro Romero in all aspects of gallery management, curatorial practice, and creative production.
Chicago Public Art Group	Greater Grand Crossing Project	The artistic team of Pugs Atomz, Damon Lamar Reed, and Cujodah in collaboration with Chicago Public Art Group propose to create three - five murals that will be windows into the traditions, culture, and history of the Greater Grand Crossing neighborhood. The goal is to enrich this underserved community's civic pride and to demonstrate the power of art to promote engagement and investment in an area where creative vision will make a significant impact.
Cuerdas Clasicas	When folkloric Latin music meets classical	Cuerdas Clasicas will foster the love of cultural music through a series of workshops focusing on popular, semi-classical, and folkloric Latin music. In addition to learning about various composers from all over the world, students will receive instruction on how to play the instrument of their choice, such as the mandolin, the bandurria, the lute, the bass, and classical guitar.
Dondre Smith	CRE8 SPACE Initiative	Create (CRE8) Space Initiative is a fashion focused incubator program providing 25 young BIPOC artists access to design workshops, art education, creative mentorship, and hands on sewing training. Aspiring designers living within the Roseland, Southshore, & Washington Park neighborhoods will have the opportunity to learn how to design a garment from scratch and showcase their work in a collaborative fashion show in 2023.
Elizabeth Johanson	Inspire, Fire: Sound Obsession & the Artist Roadmap	This intensive will nurture independent artists in music and business development with real life experience. It is an adult extension of Kids Summer Jam that was focused on working with kids.
Grace Housing Complex	Grace Community Quilt Project	Renowned Chicagoland creatives join forces with Grace Housing Complex. Artists will orchestrate a community quilting project along with free produce giveaways in South Deering along with a mural to decorate one of the largest & most visually barren communities.

Kayla Johnson	Inspiring Black Literacy	Johnson will provide two "Little Free Libraries," commissioning local Black artists to paint them. These free little libraries will create visual and literal opportunities for the community to access information and be empowered by it. She will also produce the "Black Literacy Festival" in Southeast side of Chicago. At this festival, the completely painted little libraries will be revealed and there will be author talks, vendors, and giveaways.
KC Diaz & Tatiana Lee Rodriguez	#WeAreHumboldtPark	#WeAreHumboldtPark is an initiative meant to uplift community stories, provide youth with creative opportunities, and build local talent. We are planting seeds today so that the future of storytelling is community-driven
Kenneth Williams & Richard Willis	Sparking the Bronzeville Renaissance: Entrepreneurship and Imagination	Ricky Willis and Kenneth Williams find building up and conserving Bronzeville to be of dire importance and believe the present and future is the infrastructure of the community, much like the brick and mortar of the buildings that are consistently threatened and/or turned into empty lots. They plan to teach a workshop consisting of children and adults, to design and build small structures for Bronzeville, educating for the future and importance of the buildings that already exist with the potential to fill the empty lots.
Lawrence Preman Tilson	El Sombrero de Tres Picos	"El Sombrero De Tres Picos" will be a multi-faceted collaboration between The Lyric Ensemble, Ensemble Espagnol and students of Hubbard High School in West Lawn, combining music, dance, acting, singing, stagecraft and artistic creativity. Students will be actively involved in creating a story that is relevant for themselves, and the performances will offer the local community a chance to experience the richness of classical Hispanic culture.
Leiana Gary	Cottage Grove Planters Project	Students from Art in Motion Charter School (AIM), working in conjunction with the school's art director and Gamma Xi Phi Professional Art Fraternity, will complete new artwork panels that will be framed and mounted onto 19 remaining concrete planter pots lining Cottage Grove Boulevard and on 79th Street. Cottage Grove Planter Society volunteers, students and other neighborhood residents will assist in this beautification project by maintaining and planting new flowers in those planter pots in late Spring of 2023.
Marya Spont-Lemus	Unearthing Layers, Connecting Stories: Reflections on Environmental Justice in Everyday Life	Spont-Lemus will facilitate a cohort of 10-15 adult residents of McKinley Park and nearby Southwest Side neighborhoods through the process of devising a collaborative book of creative writings based on their lived experiences and sensory observations of local environmental issues. Copies of the book will be shared locally by Neighbors for Environmental Justice and others through a series of free events produced with community groups.

Mas Maiz Native Land	Zenyelitzli: Native Land Restoration and Indigenous Mexican Arts	Zenyelitzli Collaborative, in partnership with the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, Earthseed, and Back Yard Gardens, will host a 6-week paid internship program for 10 youth ages 13 to 21. The internship will focus on Aztec Dance, Permaculture and Visual Art Taught from an Indigenous lens, participants will gain a more profound sense of self and environmental awareness with opportunities to change the physical landscape of our communities.
Mercedes Inez Martinez	Son Monarcas: "Afro-Latinx Connection"	Son Monarcas will be providing cultural community performances and multi-disciplinary (music, dance, visual art etc.) arts workshops in Garfield Park. Workshops and performances will be bilingual, aimed at youth and adults in the neighborhood, and focus on the Afro-Latinx Connection within our community through the arts.
Middle Eastern Immigrant & Refugee Alliance (MIRA)	Middle Eastern Cultural Festival	The Middle Eastern Immigrant and Refugee Alliance (MIRA) will host a two day Middle Eastern Cultural Festival in West Ridge in late summer 2023. The event will celebrate Middle Eastern music, dancing, poetry, food, and crafts featuring contributions by Iraqi, Syrian, Afghan, and other Middle Eastern West Ridge Community Members.
NeighborScapes	In Th3 Land - An Englewood Open Mic Series	#INTH3LAND is an Englewood Open Mic Series hosted by NeighborScapes, Imagine Englewood If..., and the Abundant Chi Collective with the ultimate goal of spreading creativity throughout the community and creating a platform that shows off the beauty of individual growth and perseverance. Each open mic will feature a local artist from Englewood and mutual aid will be provided through one of the partners for this open mic series, and it will end with a culminating anniversary celebration of the series in Spring 2023.
North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council	North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council Seventh Annual Arts Festival	The Seventh Annual North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council Arts Festival will continue the celebration of the community with food, entertainment and fun. Local vendors provide the food while local and city-wide entertainers provide multi-cultural music, and art of all kinds.
Phantom Gallery Chicago	Tactical Urbanism in The Horizontal Landscape "Soundscape Tapestry"	Tactical Urbanism in The Horizontal Landscape "Soundscape Tapestry" exposes pedestrians to the experience of what is viewed inside the gallery creating a dynamic platform for large-scale installations, moving image works, and sound performances. This collaborative effort has put two artists, a composer/percussionist, and a visual/installation artist, in a space to create a new body of work that will draw on the inspiration gained from the environment of the Bronzeville neighborhood.

Pilsen Center for Cultural and Contemporary Arts	El Futuro Mentor's Jam	PCCC Arts will curate and host the Futuro Music Mentor Jam and Showcase, a live music and youth art exhibitions which will be free and open to the public at the Pilsen Food Pantry which is centrally located within the neighborhood. The first set for each event will feature professional artists from within the greater Chicago area and the second set will integrate the PCCC Arts Futuro Jazz Ensemble music students (or other student musicians) to perform alongside these masters. The second hour of the event will proceed as standard music jams do with a rotation of professional and youth creatives on stage performing improv for the live community audience.
Rauner Family YMCA	Heal, Unite & Celebrate: A Community Art Project	The Rauner Family YMCA, in partnership with the National Museum of Mexican Art, will engage local residents in a public art project to heal, unite, and celebrate the Little Village/South Lawndale community area. Drawing on the neighborhood's rich artistic traditions and channeling the talents and perspectives of neighborhood youth, the project will transform a blank retaining wall along the 2700 block of South Western Avenue into a vibrant mural voicing concerns for the community and hopes for its future.
SkyART	SkyART Art Therapy Programs	SkyART's Art Therapy Programs was established in 2020 in response to the pervasive mental health crises brought to light after months of isolation, financial hardship and loss. SkyART works with art therapists and therapeutic interns to provide free art therapy for ages 7 to 24 to combat adversity, trauma and mental health issues through the powerful method of creative expression.
Soulful Book Fair Foundation	Soulful Chicago Book Fair	The Soulful Chicago Book Fair celebrates Black Literary Arts throughout the African Diaspora on the south side of Chicago. Its four city blocks are each characterized by genre, exciting book lovers Grammy-level
Southwest Creative Studio (Cena Loren and Allison Burke)	We Are Chicago Lawn - Freestanding Mural	Southwest Creative Studio will create a free-standing mural with the words "We Are Chicago Lawn". The artistic vision of the mural will be led by a Chicago Lawn artist and painted over the course of 2 days by residents in the neighborhood. The mural will be permanently displayed in Chicago Lawn close to their studio on Western and 63rd.
The Beat Bank	Sandbox Symphony VIII	Sandbox Symphony VIII is a coordinated series of arts activations for healing and inspiration. This free, public spectacular hailing from Oakwood Beach celebrates the vibrant art, culture, commerce and people of the south side of Chicago. It is designed to encourage a more connected, informed, and healthy environment stimulating creativity.
The Kehrein Center for the Arts Foundation	Global Music Series at KCA	In partnership with the Old Town School of Folk Music, the Kehrein Center for the Arts will co-curate and co-produce a series of six concerts for the public and six school assemblies for Catalyst Circle Rock Charter School with a focus on world music.

The Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center	Stories from the West Side	James Sanders & Conjunto, Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre and Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center present a production inspired by the memories of Latino Chicago. Moved by the collaborative process of collecting neighborhood stories that serve as imagery for original jazz compositions and dance choreography, the project includes community concerts and oral history workshops involving local youth as researchers and safekeepers of these narratives.
Woodlawn Restorative Justice Hub	"Its' Okay Not To Be Okay" Young Leaders for Peace	The Woodlawn Restorative Justice Hub is partnering with Chicago Playback Theatre Ensemble (CPTe), an interactive performance ensemble that brings personal stories voluntarily told by the audience to live onstage using improved movement and music. The Woodlawn Restorative Justice Hub and CPTe believe sharing stories builds community, strengthens empathy, and ignites dialogue. CPTe provides a customizable educational curriculum for partners like Woodlawn Restorative Justice Hub, developing active listening skills and tools for identifying, expressing, and processing complex emotions.
<p><b>2022 NAP Panelists:</b> Patrizia Acerra, Arkey Adams, Meghan Beals, Ana Bermudez, Samantha L. Creightney, Andi Crist, Tarah Ortiz Durnbaugh, Carlos Flores, Amena Karim, Jarius Vyron King, Ginger Leopoldo, Roy McGrath, Michelle Murff, Janae Nkansah, Lauren Pacheco, Maryrose Pavkovic, Dr. Chanel Phillips, Veronica Reyes, Tiffany Smith, Brett Swinney, Hac Tran</p>		