

citizens

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago Humanities Festival Announces Annual Benefit Evening on Sept. 15 Featuring Author Walter Isaacson Tickets On Sale Aug. 6 to Public Program

Chicago—Aug. 4, 2015—Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) is pleased to announce its 26th Annual Benefit Evening on Tuesday, September 15 at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago (120 E Delaware Pl). The Benefit Evening will feature author and Aspen Institute president **Walter Isaacson** in conversation with **Melody Hobson**, president, Ariel Investments. Isaacson will participate in the CHF Benefit Evening following a public program at 5:30 p.m. the **Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago** (N Michigan Ave at Delaware Pl). Proceeds from both programs will directly advance the CHF's mission to create opportunities for people of all ages to support, enjoy, and explore the humanities. Additionally, proceeds from the event's paddle raise will support CHF's **EdLab** education and outreach initiatives.

Tickets to the Gala Benefit are available at chicagohumanities.org/gala. Tickets to the public program with Isaacson are **\$20 for the public, \$15 for CHF members, and \$10 for students/teachers**. Tickets are **on sale now to CHF Members** and will go **on sale to the public** at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 6 at chicagohumanities.org or by calling the **CHF Box Office** at 312-494-9509.

"We are excited to feature Walter Isaacson in a timely and thought-provoking conversation with Melody Hobson at this year's Benefit," said **Phillip Bahar**, executive director of the Chicago Humanities Festival. "They each contribute so thoroughly to the ongoing discussions about civic and corporate responsibility, as well as driving national conversations about the importance of innovation, ideas, and education, themes central to our 2015 Fall Festival theme of Citizens."

Walter Isaacson is the president and CEO of the Aspen Institute, a nonpartisan educational and policy studies institute based in Washington, DC. He has been the chairman and CEO of CNN and the editor of *TIME* magazine. Isaacson's most recent book, *The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution* (2014) is a biographical tale of the people who invented the computer, Internet and the other great innovations of the digital age. He is the author of *Steve Jobs* (2011), *Einstein: His Life and Universe* (2007), *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life* (2003), and *Kissinger: A Biography* (1992), and coauthor of *The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Made* (1986). He is a graduate of Harvard College and of Pembroke College of Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He is on the board of United Airlines, Tulane University, the Overseers of Harvard University, the New Orleans Tricentennial Commission, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Society of American Historians, and My Brother's Keeper Alliance.

Melody Hobson is president of Ariel Investments and is responsible for firm-wide management and strategic planning, overseeing all operations outside of research and portfolio management. She also serves as chairman of the board of trustees for Ariel Investment Trust. Hobson is a regular contributor and analyst on finance, the markets, and economic trends for CBS News. She is chairman of the board for DreamWorks Animation SKG, Inc., as well as director of The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. and Starbucks Corporation. Her community outreach includes serving as chairman of After School Matters, a non-profit that provides Chicago teens with high-quality, out-of-school time programs. She is a board member of The Chicago Public Education Fund, George Lucas Education Foundation, Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, and Sundance Institute. In 2015, she was named to *TIME* magazine's list of "100 Most Influential People in the World."

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The Benefit Evening is spearheaded by co-chairs **John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe** and **Harrison I. and Lois M. Steans**. Gala Planning Committee Co-Chairs are **Allegra E. Biery** (Region President, Wealth Management, Northern Trust) and **R. Scott Falk** (Partner, Kirkland & Ellis LLP).

Leadership commitments include: **The Allstate Insurance Company, Richard and Mary L. Gray, Grosvenor Capital Management, L. P., Illinois Tool Works, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Northern Trust, J. B. and M. K. Pritzker Family Foundation, John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe, Lois M. and Harrison I. Steans, and Annette W. Turow.**

CHF 26th Annual Benefit Evening Event Details:

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Time: **5:30 p.m.** [Public Program with Walter Isaacson](#) at Fourth Presbyterian Church (N Michigan Ave at Delaware Pl)
6:30 p.m. Private Reception
7:30 p.m. Private Dinner and Conversation with Walter Isaacson and Mellody Hobson

Location: Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, 120 E Delaware Pl

Dress: Business Attire

Gala Tickets: Premium Reservation **\$1,000**
Individual Reservation **\$500**
Walter Isaacson Public Lecture **\$10–20**

Website: For more information or to make your reservation to the CHF Annual Benefit Evening, please visit chicagohumanities.org/gala or call 312-553-2000.

The Chicago Humanities Festival is proud to partner with [The Chicago Community Trust](#) as its lead partner for the 2015 Fall Festival. For the past 100 years, the Trust has connected the generosity of donors with the needs of the community. In its role as CHF's first-ever lead partner, the Trust and CHF worked together to develop Fall Festival programming that explores themes of civic engagement and philanthropy in all its forms—time, treasure, and talent. This includes several Centennial-specific programs, details of which will be released later this summer

FALL FESTIVAL SAVE THE DATES:

- **Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015** – CHF Gala Benefit featuring a public program with Walter Isaacson.
- **Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015** – Fifth annual Morris and Dolores Kohl Kaplan Northwestern Day on the Northwestern University campus in Evanston.
- **Sunday, Oct. 25, 2015** – Ninth annual Hyde Park Day on the University of Chicago campus.
- **Monday, Oct. 26–Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015** – Chicago Humanities Festival in and around downtown Chicago.

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About the Chicago Humanities Festival

For 25 years, the Chicago Humanities Festival has celebrated the questions that shape and define us as individuals, communities, and cultures. For the curious at heart, CHF's vibrant **year-round programming** and robust **Fall Festival** offer the opportunity to engage with some of the world's most brilliant minds. Collaborating with leading arts, cultural, and educational organizations, it presents scholars, artists and architects, thinkers, theologians, and policy makers that change how we see the world, where we're from, and where we're going. Under the leadership of **Executive Director Phillip Bahar, Marilynn Thoma Artistic Director Jonathan Elmer, and Associate Artistic Director Alison Cuddy**, CHF is one of Chicago's most vital presenting organizations.

The Chicago Humanities Festival has grown from **eight programs in one day at a single venue in 1990**, to **160 programs year-round at more than 25 venues** in and around Chicago. Over the past 25 years, CHF has put on more than 2,600 programs and performances, and presented more than 3,300 speakers and artists, including: 10 Nobel Prize winners, 70 Pulitzer Prize winners, 52 MacArthur Award recipients, 16 Tony Award winners, 10 Grammy Award winners, and seven Academy Award winners. Visit chicagohumanities.org for more information.