

citizens

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago Humanities Festival Announces 2015 Fall Festival

Citizens

Oct. 24–Nov. 8

Lineup Includes Yotam Ottolenghi and Claudia Rankine

Walter Isaacson Headlining CHF Gala Benefit Sept. 15

CHF Partners with The Chicago Community Trust for Centennial Celebration

CHICAGO, IL—May 5, 2015—The Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) announces **Citizens** as the theme for the 2015 Fall Festival. Close to 100 programs will take place in and around Chicago Oct. 24–Nov. 8, 2015 as part of the 26th annual arts and ideas festival.

“The question of what it means to be a citizen has never been more urgent or more perplexing—just look at our debates over civil rights and government power, immigration, and marriage equality,” said CHF’s **Marilynn Thoma Artistic Director Jonathan Elmer**. “The Fall Festival on Citizens will take up many of these current issues, but we’ll also delve deeper into the question of belonging itself, how that is shaped by our identity, our history, and our future.”

Confirmed presenters for the 2015 Fall Festival include cultural anthropologist and digital activism expert **Gabriella Coleman**, Russian-American journalist **Masha Gessen**, British-based chef and food writer **Yotam Ottolenghi**, *Citizen* poet **Claudia Rankine**, and as part of the **CHF Gala Benefit on Sept. 15**, *Steve Jobs* biographer and President/CEO of the Aspen Institute **Walter Isaacson**.

A complete schedule will be released in August at chicagohumanities.org/citizens. Tickets to the 26th Chicago Humanities Festival go on sale to **CHF Members** on **Tuesday, Sept. 8** and to the general public on **Monday, Sept. 14**.

The Chicago Humanities Festival is also proud to announce [The Chicago Community Trust](http://TheChicagoCommunityTrust.org) 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 will work together to develop Fall Festival programming that explores themes of civic engagement and philanthropy in all its forms—time, treasure, and talent. This will include several Centennial-specific programs, details of which will be released later this summer.

“The Trust’s Centennial is the start of a movement to reimagine philanthropy and make the Chicagoland region the most generous and compassionate in the nation,” said **Terry Mazany, President and CEO, The Chicago Community Trust**. “It is our hope that our partnership with CHF and the Fall Festival theme of Citizens will serve as a catalyst for residents across the region to engage in dialogues about how we can make our communities stronger, safer, and more dynamic.”

Confirmed Presenters for the 2015 Fall Festival Include:

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Trained as a cultural anthropologist, **Gabriella Coleman** researches, writes, and teaches on computer hackers and digital activism. Her first book was *Coding Freedom: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Hacking*. Her new book, *Hacker, Hoaxer, Whistleblower, Spy: The Many Faces of Anonymous*, has been named to Kirkus Reviews' Best Books of 2014. Coleman holds the Wolfe Chair in Scientific and Technological Literacy at McGill University and has given numerous talks on hackers, digital activism, open source production, and intellectual property law.



Russian-American journalist **Masha Gessen** is the author of *The Brothers: The Road to an American Tragedy*, about the Boston Marathon bombing, as well as the national bestseller *The Man Without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin* and *Words Will Break Cement: The Passion of Pussy Riot*. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Slate*, and many other publications, and has received numerous awards, most recently the 2013 Media for Liberty Award. She has served as the editor of several publications and as director of Radio Liberty's Russia Service. She lives in New York.



Walter Isaacson is President and CEO of the Aspen Institute, a nonpartisan educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. He has been chairman and CEO of CNN and editor of TIME magazine. Isaacson's most recent book is *The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution*. He is also the author of *Steve Jobs* and several other best-selling biographies. Isaacson is a graduate of Harvard College and of Pembroke College of Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He is vice-chair of Partners for a New Beginning, a public-private group tasked with forging ties between the US and Muslim world.



Israeli-born, British-based cookbook author and chef **Yotam Ottolenghi** is the founder and co-owner of Ottolenghi delis and NOPI restaurant. He writes a weekly column in the *Guardian Weekend* magazine and has published four bestselling cookbooks: *Plenty*; *Plenty More* (his collection of vegetarian recipes); *Ottolenghi: The Cookbook* (co-authored with Sami Tamimi); and *Jerusalem*. Ottolenghi has made two *Mediterranean Feasts* series for More 4, along with a BBC documentary, *Jerusalem on a Plate*. Ottolenghi will talk about his latest project, NOPI, with head chef **Ramael Scully**.



Claudia Rankine is the author of five collections of poetry, including the National Book Critics Circle Award-winning *Citizen* and *Don't Let Me Be Lonely*; and the plays *Provenance of Beauty: A South Bronx Travelogue*, commissioned by the Foundry Theatre, and *Existing Conditions* (co-authored with Casey Llewellyn). Rankine is co-editor of *American Women Poets in the Twenty-First Century* series and *The Racial Imaginary*. A recipient of awards and fellowships from The Academy of American Poets, The American Academy of Arts and Letters, The Lannan Foundation, Poets and Writers, and the National Endowment for the Arts, she teaches at Pomona College.

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.

TICKETS:

Tickets to the 2015 Chicago Humanities Festival go on sale to CHF Members on **Tuesday, Sept. 8** and to the general public on **Monday, Sept. 14**. Tickets for the public program with Walter Isaacson will go on sale separately, later this summer. The full schedule of all programs will be available at chicagohumanities.org/citizens in August. To become a member, visit supportchf.org. CHF Box Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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. CHF also presents the spring **Stages, Sights & Sounds**, Chicago's only international performance festival for young audiences. 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.

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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.

About The Chicago Community Trust

The Chicago Community Trust, our region's community foundation, partners with donors to leverage their philanthropy in ways that transform lives and communities. Since its founding in 1915, the Trust has awarded approximately \$2.3 billion in grants to thousands of local and national nonprofits, including \$164.5 million in 2014. Throughout its Centennial year, the Trust will celebrate how philanthropy in all its forms—time, treasure and talent—strengthens our region and impacts the lives of its residents in countless ways.

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