

CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL AND ILLINOIS HUMANITIES TO STAGE AMERICAN-DEBUT OF DAVID LANG'S CROWD OUT

TO FEATURE A CHOIR OF 1000 CHICAGOANS FROM ALL
WALKS OF LIFE

CIVIC OCCASION ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

This October, the Chicago Humanities Festival and Illinois Humanities are proud to partner and present the American debut of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Lang's *crowd out*. *Crowd out* is a public performance piece and civic occasion, open to all, which will feature the talents of 1000 Chicagoans from all 50 wards. The massive outpouring of participants represents a democratization of public performance art and is a fitting piece in the midst of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Chicago Picasso and The Wall of Respect, two of Chicago's most famous public art pieces.

Lang's composition, a chorus for 1000 voices, will be conducted by Northwestern University choral organization director Donald Nally and Grammy-winner Tim Munro. The performance will pull together Chicagoans from every ward and all walks of life, as they practice, rehearse, and engage with one another before a cumulative performance at the heart of Millennium Park on October 1.

Using its logistical mastery, the Chicago Humanities Festival will guide the 50 choirs, composed of amateur and professional singers, to the promenade at the heart of Millennium Park and *Cloudgate* (The Bean) where the performance will take place.

"*Crowd out* is a unique embodied exploration of the one and the many," says CHF Artistic Director Jonathan Elmer. "Each one of us is inevitably alone--one body, one life, one soul--but we are just as inescapably part of larger collectives--and so we are never really alone. *Crowd out* enacts this push and pull of our lives, conformity changing to dissent, togetherness to loneliness."

Beginning in the next few weeks and spread out over the next four months, Illinois Humanities will lead a series of...IL HUMANITIES TO FILL IN

The *crowd out* neighborhood network aims to be the The Wall of Respect and the Chicago Picasso of our time – inspiring and laying the foundations for a grassroots arts network that will be tapped again and again for future programs and city-wide cultural initiatives (such as the City of Chicago's 50x50 Neighborhood Arts Project, the Chicago Architectural Biennial, and the Terra Foundation's Art Design Chicago).

Crowd out's debut is free and open to the public.

For more information and to learn how to get involved, please visit crowdoutchicago.org.

About the Chicago Humanities Festival

At Chicago Humanities Festival, we believe that humanity thrives when people gather, connect and open themselves to ideas that go beyond their individual experience. That's why for more than 28 years, CHF has been curating live events that allow audiences to connect with thinkers—both established and emerging and see the world differently. Under the leadership of Executive Director Phillip Bahar, Thoma Artistic Director Jonathan Elmer, and Associate Artistic Director Alison Cuddy, CHF is one of Chicago's most vibrant civic institutions. Join us and celebrate the social life of ideas. chicagohumanities.org