

## citizens

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Chicago Humanities Festival Announces Complete Schedule For 26th Fall Festival: Citizens

130 Events Throughout Chicago Oct. 24–Nov. 8  
First Ever Pilsen Day To Culminate Festival

Featuring Ta-Nehisi Coates, Elvis Costello, Nigella Lawson, Aasif Mandvi, Azar Nafisi, Patton Oswalt, Wendell Pierce, Salman Rushdie, Sarah Vowell & Jacqueline Woodson

CHICAGO, IL—August 18, 2015—The Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) announced today the complete schedule for the 26th Fall Festival, 130 events which will explore the theme of **Citizens, Oct. 24–Nov. 8, 2015** at venues across Chicago. This year's presenters include *Between the World and Me* author **Ta-Nehisi Coates**, Rock and Roll Hall of Famer **Elvis Costello**, TV personality and cookbook author **Nigella Lawson**, actor and former contributor to *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* **Aasif Mandvi**, *Reading Lolita in Tehran* author **Azar Nafisi**, comedian **Patton Oswalt**, *The Wire* actor and author **Wendell Pierce**, 2015 *Chicago Tribune* Literary Prize-winner **Salman Rushdie**, American history writer **Sarah Vowell**, *Brown Girl Dreaming* author and Newbery Honoree **Jacqueline Woodson**, and many more. To view a complete schedule, visit [chicagohumanities.org/citizens](http://chicagohumanities.org/citizens).

Tickets to the 26th Chicago Humanities Festival range from **free to \$38** and go on sale to **CHF members** at 10 a.m. **Tuesday, Sept. 8** and to the general public at 10 a.m. **Monday, Sept. 14**. Tickets can be purchased at [chicagohumanities.org](http://chicagohumanities.org) or by calling the **CHF Box Office** at **(312) 494-9509** Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To learn more about CHF membership, visit [supportchf.org](http://supportchf.org).

"What it means to be a citizen is changing before our very eyes," said CHF Marilynn Thoma Artistic Director **Jonathan Elmer**. "It's incredibly exciting to launch this festival now and think through the range of issues that face us—race in America, immigration, religious freedom, to name a few—in the company of today's leading thinkers, writers, and artists."

New this year, CHF will debut Pilsen Day in partnership with **The Chicago Community Trust**. The full day of events was curated with local partners like the **National Museum of Mexican Art**, **Cultura in Pilsen**, and **Mana Contemporary**, with programs exploring the immigrant experience, gentrification, local art, and more. The Festival will end with a closing celebration at **Thalia Hall**, featuring music by **Sones de México Ensemble**, **Dos Santos**, and **Sonorama**, and hosted by **David Chavez** of Sound Culture. CHF also debuted a new app, where audience members can access programs, maps, and tickets. The free Chicago Humanities Festival App can be downloaded in the [Google Play](#) or [iTunes](#) store.

### Highlights for Citizens:



**Walter Isaacson | Tuesday, Sept. 15 | Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago  
Part of the CHF Gala Benefit | Tickets are on sale now at [chicagohumanities.org](http://chicagohumanities.org)**

President and CEO of the Aspen Institute, a nonpartisan educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC, **Walter Isaacson** has been chairman and CEO of CNN and editor of *TIME* magazine. His most recent book is *The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution*. Isaacson is also the author of *Steve Jobs* and several other best-selling biographies.

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**Morris and Dolores Kohl Kaplan Northwestern Day | Saturday, Oct. 24 | Northwestern University**



**Azar Nafisi: Republic of Imagination | Cahn Auditorium**

**Azar Nafisi** is the beloved author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, a personal account of teaching literary classics to students in Iran. Her newest work—*The Republic of Imagination*—is a heartening tribute to reading in a democratic society. Part polemic, part memoir, it's a reading of her favorite American novels: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Babbitt*, and *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*, among others.



**Peter Singer: The Most Good You Can Do | The Chicago Community Trust Centennial Program  
Norris University Center, McCormick Auditorium**

Australian moral philosopher **Peter Singer** is a professor of bioethics at Princeton University and Laureate Professor at the University of Melbourne. Included among the world's 100 most influential people by *TIME*, his books include *Animal Liberation*, *Practical Ethics*, and his latest, *The Most Good You Can Do*.



**Between the World and Me: Ta-Nehisi Coates | Cahn Auditorium**

A leading critic on race relations in the US, **Ta-Nehisi Coates** will speak about his new book, *Between the World and Me*. Coates is a national correspondent for *The Atlantic* and contributor to *Time*, *O*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. He has received the Hillman Prize, the George Polk Award for his cover story, "The Case for Reparations," and his *Atlantic* blog was named one of the 25 Best in the World by *TIME*.



**Citizen Chef, Global Foodie: Yotam Ottolenghi | Cahn Auditorium**

Israeli-born, British-based cookbook author and chef **Yotam Ottolenghi** is the founder and co-owner of Ottolenghi delis and NOPI restaurant. He is also the author of four bestselling cookbooks: *Plenty*, *Plenty More*, *Ottolenghi: The Cookbook* and *Jerusalem* (both co-authored with Sami Tamimi). His latest project with **Ramael Scully**, *NOPI* (Oct. 20), celebrates a fusion of Asian and Middle Eastern cuisine.

**Hyde Park Day | Sunday, Oct. 25 | University of Chicago**



**Lawrence Wright: Peace Against All Odds | Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts**

**Lawrence Wright** is a writer for *The New Yorker* and author of six previous books of nonfiction, including *In the New World*, *Remembering Satan*, *The Looming Tower* (winner of the Pulitzer Prize), *Going Clear*, and the novel, *God's Favorite*. He is also a playwright and screenwriter. His latest book, *Thirteen Days in September*, details the Camp David negotiations among Jimmy Carter, Anwar Sadat, and Menachem Begin.



**Anthony McGill: An Evening of Performance and Conversation | The Allstate Program  
Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts**

Chicago native **Anthony McGill** is Principal Clarinet of the New York Philharmonic. In January 2009, he performed alongside Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, and Gabriela Montero at the presidential inauguration of Barack Obama. McGill returns home to perform and discuss his career, family, and the state of diversity in classical music.

**Week of Oct. 26**



**Raj Chetty | Richard J. Franke Lecture in Economics**

**Tuesday, Oct. 27 | Northwestern University School of Law, Thorne Auditorium**

**Raj Chetty** studies core issues of American society—equality, education, and government policy—through the lens of economics. A recent winner of the John Bates Clark Medal for best American economist under 40, Chetty is a MacArthur Award-winner and is currently Bloomberg Professor of Economics at Harvard.



**An Evening with Sarah Vowell | Thursday, Oct. 29 | Art Institute of Chicago**

**Sarah Vowell** is the *New York Times* best-selling author of nonfiction books on American history and culture, including *Unfamiliar Fishes*, *The Wordy Shipmates*, and essay collections *Take the Cannoli* and *Radio On*. Vowell will discuss her forthcoming book, *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States* (Oct. 20), a portrait of Revolutionary War hero Marquis de Lafayette.



**Aasif Mandvi: No Land's Man | Elaine and Roger Haydock Humor Series**

**Friday, Oct. 30 | Northwestern University School of Law, Thorne Auditorium**

A former correspondent on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, **Aasif Mandvi** is an actor, writer, and producer on HBO's *The Brink*. He won an OBIE for his one-man play *Sakina's Restaurant* and appeared in the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Disgraced* at Lincoln Center. He will discuss his latest book *No Land's Man*.

**North Michigan Ave | Saturday, Oct. 31**



**Claudia Rankine: An American Lyric | *National Endowment for the Humanities 50th Anniversary Program* / Northwestern University School of Law, Thorne Auditorium**

**Claudia Rankine** is the author of five collections of poetry, including the National Book Critics Circle Award-winning *Citizen*. She is co-editor of the *American Women Poets in the Twenty-First Century* series and *The Racial Imaginary*. She has received awards from The Academy of American Poets, The American Academy of Arts and Letters, The Lannan Foundation, *Poets & Writers*, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



**Citizen University: Eric Liu | *Robert R. McCormick Foundation Lecture* Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago**

White House speechwriter and advisor **Eric Liu** is the founder of Citizen University—an organization dedicated to fostering a stronger culture of citizenship. He is the author of such acclaimed works as *Guiding Lights*, *The Accidental Asian*, *The Gardens of Democracy*, and his latest, *A Chinaman's Chance*.



**So You've Been Publicly Shamed | Northwestern University School of Law, Thorne Auditorium**

**Jon Ronson** is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *So You've Been Publicly Shamed*. The Welsh journalist and humorist's works include *The Psychopath Test* and *Lost at Sea: The Jon Ronson Mysteries*; the international best-sellers *Them: Adventures with Extremists* and *The Men Who Stare at Goats*, as well as the screenplay for *Frank*, which debuted at Sundance 2014.



**Marlon James: A Brief History of Seven Killings | Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago**

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, **Marlon James** is the author of *The Book of Night Women*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle. His first novel, *John Crow's Devil*, was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Prize and was a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. James's latest, *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, explores the Cold War and gangster politics of 1970s Jamaica and was just long-listed for the Man Booker Prize.

**Loop | Sunday, Nov. 1**



**Capturing the Hive | Art Institute of Chicago**

**Anand Varma** started photographing natural history subjects while studying biology at the University of California, Berkeley. Varma is now a regular contributor to *National Geographic*, where his feature stories include "Quest for a Superbee" about the science behind honeybee declines. He will lead a visual journey—and important conversation—through the challenges that bees and our environment are facing today.



**Jacqueline Woodson: *Brown Girl Dreaming* | First United Methodist Church at The Chicago Temple**

**Jacqueline Woodson** is the 2014 National Book Award Winner for her *New York Times* best-selling memoir, *Brown Girl Dreaming*. The author of more than two dozen books for young readers, she is a four-time Newbery Honor winner, a recipient of the NAACP Image Award, a three-time National Book Award finalist, and a two-time Coretta Scott King Award winner.



**Wendell Pierce's New Orleans | First United Methodist Church at The Chicago Temple**

**Wendell Pierce** was born in New Orleans and is an actor and Tony Award-winning producer. He starred in the acclaimed HBO series *The Wire* and *Treme*. Since Hurricane Katrina, Pierce has been helping to rebuild the flood-ravaged Pontchartrain Park neighborhood in New Orleans. He will speak about his new book, *The Wind in the Reeds: A Storm, A Play, and the City that Would Not Be Broken* (Sept. 8).



**Jeff Chang on Race, Culture, and Social Change | Art Institute of Chicago**

**Jeff Chang** is a journalist and leading voice exploring race, hip-hop, youth culture, and the arts. His books include *Can't Stop Won't Stop*, *Total Chaos*, and the recently released *Who We Be: The Colorization of America*, which tracks critical changes in art, music, and advertising. Chang will discuss the power and limits of contemporary multiculturalism and his current work around culture and social change.

**Week of Nov. 2**



**Four Women: Josephine, Eartha, Nina, and Tina | *The William and Greta Wiley Flory Concert* | Two Performances Monday, Nov. 2 | Francis W. Parker School**

Actor/producer **Rob Lindley** and music director **Doug Peck** will create an evening exploring the lives and music of four iconic expatriates: Josephine Baker, Eartha Kitt, Nina Simone, and Tina Turner. This one-night-only cabaret, hosted by **Lili-Anne Brown**, will feature **E. Faye Butler**, **Lynne Jordan**, **Dee Alexander**, **Bethany Thomas**, and more.



**Elvis Costello | Tuesday, Nov. 3 | Francis W. Parker School**

Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer **Elvis Costello** has been making music for the past 40 years. Now, he comes to CHF to discuss his forthcoming memoir, *Unfaithful Music and Disappearing Ink* (Oct. 13), with CHF Associate Artistic Director **Alison Cuddy**.



**Little Girl on the Prairie | Friday, Nov. 6 | Francis W. Parker School**

**Pamela Smith Hill** is the editor of *Laura Ingalls Wilder's Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography* and *Laura Ingalls Wilder: A Writer's Life*. Her popular online course on Laura Ingalls Wilder, through Missouri State University, reached nearly 7,000 students last year. Hill is also the author of three award-winning young adult novels and has taught writing at universities in Oregon, Washington, and Colorado.

**UIC Forum | Saturday, Nov. 7**



**Citizen Artist: Salman Rushdie | 2015 Chicago Tribune Literary Award | UIC Forum**

Fiction writer **Salman Rushdie's** work includes *Midnight's Children*, *Shame*, and the forthcoming *Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-Eight Nights* (Sept. 8). In response to his novel *The Satanic Verses*, the Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa on his life. Living under threat of death for years, Rushdie has emerged as an outspoken advocate for freedom of expression.



**Selfish, Shallow, and Self-Absorbed: Meghan Daum | UIC Forum**

**Meghan Daum** is the author of four books, most recently the collection of essays, *The Unspeakable*. She is also the editor of *Selfish, Shallow & Self-Absorbed: Sixteen Writers on the Decision Not To Have Kids*. Since 2005, Daum has been an opinion columnist at the *Los Angeles Times*. She also writes for *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, and *Vogue*. **Jac Jemc** (*A Different Bed Every Time*) will moderate the conversation.



**Danielle Allen | 2015 Chicago Tribune Heartland Award for Nonfiction | UIC Forum**

**Danielle Allen** is the Director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University. Known for her work on justice and citizenship in ancient Athens and modern America, she is the author of *Talking to Strangers: Anxieties of Citizenship since Brown vs. the Board of Education*, *Why Plato Wrote*, and most recently, *Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality*.



**Patton Oswalt | Elaine and Roger Haydock Humor Series | UIC Forum**

**Patton Oswalt** is the author of *The New York Times* best-selling books *Silver Screen Fiend* and *Zombie Spaceship Wasteland*. He has released five TV specials and five comedy albums, including the Grammy-nominated *My Weakness Is Strong* and *Finest Hour*. Oswalt has also appeared in numerous TV shows and films, including *Young Adult*, *Big Fan*, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, and *Ratatouille*.

**The Chicago Community Trust Pilsen Day | Sunday, Nov. 8**



**Simply Nigella | Tyson Foods Lecture on Food | Benito Juarez Community Academy**

**Nigella Lawson**, food enthusiast, TV personality (*The Taste*), and journalist, is the author of nine best-selling books including *Nigellissima*, *Feast*, and *How to Be a Domestic Goddess*. Her books have sold more than 12 million copies worldwide, along with her Quick Collection apps. She comes to CHF to discuss her new cookbook *Simply Nigella: Feel Good Food* (Nov. 3) with CHF Associate Artistic Director **Alison Cuddy**.

**The Chicago Community Trust Centennial Programs** | Bilingual programs with simultaneous interpretation into Spanish.



**Borders & Islands | Cultura in Pilsen**

Dominican Republic writer, musician, and theater artist **Rita Indiana** and Chicago-based writer and critic **Achy Obejas** will discuss their shared Caribbean and queer identities.



**Illegal | Cultura in Pilsen**

**José Ángel N.**, author of the book *Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant*, talks about the experience of undocumented immigrants, who live both very much inside and at the margins of American society.



**On Place and Belonging | Cultura in Pilsen**

**Gerardo Cárdenas**, *contratiempo* magazine's editorial director, moderates a roundtable discussion on citizenship, immigration, and gentrification with journalists, artists, and writers.

## Pilsen Neighborhood Tours:



### Día de los Muertos Exhibit Tours | National Museum of Mexican Art

Tour the National Museum of Mexican Art's annual Día de los Muertos exhibition, honoring all those newly departed through this annual celebration. Curated by **Dolores Mercado**, altars, installations, popular art, and works by more than 60 artists from both sides of the border make up this momentous presentation.



### Mural Walking Tours | Harrison Park Fieldhouse

Poet, activist, and Pilsen Mural Tours guide **Luis Tubens** leads an exploration of public art in Pilsen. The tour will begin with an introduction to the work of muralist **Hector Duarte** and conclude with an opportunity to participate in the public art installation *ofrenda*, created by **Elevarte Community Studio for Citizens**.



### Pilsen Gallery Tours | Cobalt Studios

Co-founder of Cobalt Studio **Antonio Martinez** leads this tour of Pilsen's contemporary art studios and creative spaces featuring mixed-media paintings, printmaking, photography, arts and crafts, and live performances.

## Closing Party | Thalia Hall



CHF presenters, partners, and friends celebrate the end of Citizens with a closing party. **David Chavez** of Sound Culture brings us a night of musical entertainment, including **Sones de México Ensemble**, **Dos Santos**, and **Sonorama**. **Calixta** will provide visual effects. *This celebration is presented in partnership with Time Out Chicago as part of a larger Pilsen Day media sponsorship.*

## SAVE THE DATES:

- **Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015** – CHF Benefit Evening 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–Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015** – Chicago Humanities Festival in and around downtown Chicago
- **Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015** – First annual Pilsen Day

## TICKETS:

Tickets for the public program with Walter Isaacson are currently on sale. All other tickets to the 2015 Chicago Humanities Festival: Citizens go on sale to CHF Members at 10 a.m. on **Tuesday, Sept. 8** and to the general public at 10 a.m. on **Monday, Sept. 14**. Tickets are available at [chicagohumanities.org/citizens](http://chicagohumanities.org/citizens) or by calling the **CHF Box Office** at **312-494-9509**. To become a member, visit [supportchf.org](http://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. 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. Visit [chicagohumanities.org](http://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.

**VENUES:**

**Oct. 24, 2015 | Morris and Dolores Kohl Kaplan Northwestern Day | Northwestern University**

**Cahn Auditorium**  
600 Emerson St, Evanston

**Harris Hall, Room 107**  
1881 Sheridan Rd, Evanston

**Norris University Center, McCormick Auditorium**  
1999 Campus Dr, Evanston

**Bienen School of Music, Mary B. Galvin Recital Hall**  
70 Arts Circle Dr, Evanston

**Oct. 25, 2015 | Hyde Park Day | University of Chicago**

**Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts**

**Film Screening Room 201, Performance Hall, Performance Penthouse 901 & Theater East**  
915 E 60th St

**Oct. 26–Nov. 7, 2015 | Throughout Chicago**

**Art Institute of Chicago, Fullerton Auditorium**  
111 S Michigan Ave

**Jane Addams Hull-House Museum**  
800 S Halsted St

**Art Institute of Chicago, Rubloff Auditorium**  
230 S Columbus Dr

**Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Edlis Neeson Theater**  
220 E Chicago Ave

**The Arts Club Chicago**  
201 E Ontario St

**National Hellenic Museum**  
333 S Halsted St

**First United Methodist Church at The Chicago Temple**  
77 W Washington St

**The Newberry Library**  
60 W Walton St

**Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, Buchanan Chapel at the Gratz Center**  
126 E Chestnut St

**Northwestern University School of Law, Thorne Auditorium**  
375 E Chicago Ave

**Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, Sanctuary**  
N Michigan Ave at Delaware Pl

**Old Town School of Folk Music, Gary and Laura Mauer Concert Hall**  
4544 N Lincoln Ave

**Francis W. Parker School, Diane and David B Heller Auditorium**  
2233 N Clark St

**Park West**  
322 W Armitage Ave

**Harold Washington Library Center, Cindy Pritzker Auditorium**  
400 S State St

**Poetry Foundation**  
61 W Superior St

**Haymarket Pub & Brewery**  
737 W Randolph St

**UIC Forum**  
725 W Roosevelt Rd

**Nov. 8, 2015 | Chicago Community Trust Day | Pilsen**

**Benito Juarez Community Academy**  
S Laflin St & W Cermak Rd

**Mana Contemporary**  
S Allport St & W Cermak Rd

**Cobalt Studios**  
1950 W 21<sup>st</sup> St

**National Museum of Mexican Art**  
1852 W 19<sup>th</sup> St

**Cultura in Pilsen**  
1900 S Carpenter St

**Thalia Hall**  
1807 S Allport St