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## CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL RELEASES FULL LINE-UP FOR 2016 FALLFEST/16: SPEED

MORE THAN 100 EVENTS OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 12

FEATURING TREVOR NOAH, DAN SAVAGE, SENATOR BARBARA BOXER,  
MAUREEN DOWD, JON MEACHAM, JONATHAN LETHEM, LENA WAITHE, LINDY  
WEST, JESSICA VALENTI, ISABEL WILKERSON, PENN JILLETTE, AND MORE

The Chicago Humanities Festival is moving full speed ahead towards the 27th annual Fallfest, releasing its full line-up of events. **Fallfest/16: Speed** will feature more than 100 events by prominent artists, authors, historians, scientists, and cultural commentators including **Dan Savage**, **Maureen Dowd**, **Trevor Noah**, and **Jonathan Lethem**.

"This fall our festival will take stock of how rapidly, and sometimes how slowly, changes in our society take place," says **Thoma Artistic Director Jonathan Elmer**. "Whether they are discussing social change, like the sudden social acceptance of gay rights, or technological acceleration, like the prospect of driverless cars on our roads later this month, our presenters will deepen and complicate how each of us thinks about transformational change."

New this year is an **Evening in Bronzeville** featuring several presenters including *The Warmth of Other Suns* author **Isabel Wilkerson**.

"As we mark the centennial of the Great Migration, there's no better place to be than Bronzeville, the epicenter of that historic journey and one of our city's most vibrant artistic communities," says **Associate Artistic Director Alison Cuddy**. "Chicago was utterly transformed by this mass movement north from the Mississippi Delta and further south, and it's a perfect moment to consider the way it continues to shape the social and cultural life of our city."

It has been a year of change at the Chicago Humanities Festival. Early this year, CHF inaugurated its first Springfest (on the theme of Style). CHF continues to offer Chicago cultural explorers thought provoking and entertaining events throughout the year. “For more than 25 years, the Chicago Humanities Festival has been curating important conversations in the city,” says **Phillip Bahar**, Executive Director of the Chicago Humanities Festival. “Our programs have been held in intimate classrooms, ornate public libraries, vast auditoriums, and sacred spaces,” he says, “the places where the social life of ideas flourish and thrive. With a new Springfest, Fallfest, and year-round opportunities for Chicagoans to connect with today’s greatest thinkers, we’re just getting started.”

The full line-up for Fallfest/16: Speed is available at [tickets.chicagohumanities.org](http://tickets.chicagohumanities.org). Tickets go on sale to CHF members on **Tuesday, September 20** and to the general public on **Tuesday, September 27**. Tickets to the Speed kick-off events featuring Gloria Steinem and Thomas Friedman are sold out. Tickets can be purchased online or by calling the box office at (312) 494-9505. Tickets range from \$5–50.

Speed Highlights:

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**Morris and Dolores Kohl Kaplan Northwestern Day | Saturday, October 29**

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**Maureen Dowd | Cahn Auditorium**

Pulitzer-Prize winning *New York Times* columnist and best-selling author Maureen Dowd will discuss the current state of the 2016 presidential election and her new book *The Year of Voting Dangerously: The Derangement of American Politics* with David Axelrod.

**Senator Barbara Boxer | Cahn Auditorium | | Joanne H. Alter Women in Government Lecture**

A lioness of the Senate, Barbara Boxer has represented the state of California as its junior United States Senator since 1993. As she prepares to retire, join Boxer in reflecting on her long career in public service.

**Jonathan Lethem | Cahn Auditorium**

The acclaimed author of nine novels including *Dissident Gardens* and *The Fortress of Solitude*, Jonathan Lethem is a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship and the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction. This fall, he'll discuss his new novel, *The Gambler's Anatomy*.

**Nancy Jo Sales | Cahn Auditorium**

Award-winning journalist and author of *The Bling Ring*, Nancy Jo Sales comes to CHF this fall to discuss the rapid rise of social media and the potential threats it poses to young girls growing up today.

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**Hyde Park Day | Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts | Sunday, October 30**

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**Gary Younge**

Younge, an award-winning columnist at *The Guardian*, will discuss his much anticipated new book, *Another Day in the Death of America*, examining the lives of 10 children across America struck down by gun violence in a single day. “Drawn from suburbs and cities of every demographic, these sensitively researched portraits of virtually unknown victims and their grieving families expose the structural ties of race, class, and a lack of gun control,” says poet Claudia Rankine.

**Victor Goines Quartet with Mary Stallings | Helen B. and Ira E. Graham Family Concert**

A clarinetist, saxophonist, and composer, Victor Goines is one of the most accomplished jazz musicians in the world today. Currently the director of jazz studies at Northwestern University, he has been a member of Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra as well as the Wynton Marsalis Septet for more than 20 years. His quartet, joined by acclaimed vocalist Mary Stallings, headlines the Helen B. and Ira E. Graham Family Concert.

## Week of October 31

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### **Mary Roach | Monday, Oct. 31 | Francis W. Parker School | Elaine and Roger Haydock Series**

*New York Times* best-selling author and acclaimed science writer, Mary Roach is known for her works *Bonk*, *Stiff*, and *Gulp*. She'll discuss her latest, *Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War*, which explores the reality of human beings in armed conflict.

### **Dan Savage | Monday, Oct. 31 | Francis W. Parker School**

The writer, activist, and TV personality, best known for his sex and relationships column, *Savage Love*, will lend his perspective to CHF to discuss the rapid revolution in gay rights—from the end of “don’t ask, don’t tell” in 2011 to marriage equality in 2015.

### **The Adventures of Fat Rice | Tuesday, Nov. 1 | National Hellenic Museum | Tyson Foods Series on Home Cooking**

The partners behind Fat Rice, The Bakery at Fat Rice, and The Ladies’ Room, Abraham Conlon and Adrienne Lo, will debut their first cookbook: *The Adventures of Fat Rice*.

### **Philip Glass | Wednesday, Nov. 2 | Symphony Center | Chicago Tribune Literary Award**

Philip Glass is one of the most influential artists and composers of our time. Throughout his career, he has broken new ground, penning operas, chamber works, film scores, and symphonies. He'll discuss his creative range, from *Strung Out* and *Einstein on the Beach* to *Voyages* and *Hydrogen Jukebox*, as he accepts the 2016 *Chicago Tribune* Literary Award. Glass's appearance will also include a musical selection.

### **Grant Faulkner | Friday, November 4 | Francis W. Parker School**

The Executive Director of National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) and a co-founder of 100 Word Story, Grant Faulkner comes to CHF in the midst of NaNoWriMo to lead a hands-on exploration in the method of fast, uninhibited writing.

### **Penn Jillette | Friday, November 4 | Francis W. Parker School**

Outspoken, frank, and biting clever, Penn Jillette joins Associate Artistic Director Alison Cuddy to discuss his determination to transform himself—body and mind.

### **Margot Lee Shetterly | Saturday, November 4 | Northwestern University Law School**

Shetterly, the author of *Hidden Figures* and a producer of the film adaptation set to star Taraji Henson, comes to CHF to discuss the stories and lives of the black women scientists and mathematicians who fueled America's victory in the space race.

### **Jon Meacham | Saturday, Nov. 5 | Thorne Auditorium, Northwestern University Law School**

The former editor of *Newsweek* will discuss the life and presidency of George H.W. Bush, the subject of his latest work. Meacham drew upon unprecedented access to the 41st President and will discuss his recent re-appraisal of Bush's time in office and an examination of the changing tenor of American politics.

## Week of November 6

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### **Lena Waithe | Sunday, Nov. 6 | Rubloff Auditorium, Art Institute of Chicago**

A South Side native, Columbia College graduate, and “Denise” on Netflix's hit series *Master of None*, Lena Waithe will discuss her path to television writing and producing, as well as her experience as the co-creator and showrunner for Showtime's forthcoming drama series *The Chi*.

### **We Can Be Heroes | Monday, Nov. 7 | Francis W. Parker School | William and Greta Wiley Flory Concert**

With the world still reeling from the deaths of two larger-than-life musicians, David Bowie and Prince, noted Chicago theater veterans Rob Lindley and Doug Peck have dedicated the annual William and Greta Wiley Flory Concert to the recently departed artists. This year's Flory concert, "We Can Be Heroes," will feature the

talents of JC Brooks and the Uptown Sound frontman Jayson Brooks, The Voice alumnus Mark Hood, Jeff Award-winning musical theater artist Bethany Thomas, and Neo-Futurist ensemble member Malic White.

**Bill McKibben | Wednesday, Nov. 9 | Francis W. Parker**

An environmentalist and writer, Bill McKibben is one of the most important activists in the movement surrounding climate change. As a former *New Yorker* staff writer and the author of *The End of Nature*, McKibben wrote one of the very first rallying cries about the dangers of humanity's role in global climate change. McKibben comes to CHF to discuss the alarmingly rapid rise in global temperatures.

**Melissa Harris-Perry | Tuesday, Nov. 10 | Northwestern University Law School | Illinois Humanities**

A beloved academic and public intellectual, Melissa Harris-Perry hosted an eponymous talk show on MSNBC weekend mornings between 2012-2016. Harris-Perry will host a live version of her new talk show, "MHP LIVE," with an episode focusing on gun violence, as part of a capstone of Illinois Humanities' inaugural People-Powered Publishing Conference on November 10.

**Friday, November 11: An Evening in Bronzeville**

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**Isabel Wilkerson | Harold Washington Cultural Center | Southwest Airlines Program**

The author of *The Warmth of Other Suns*, Isabel Wilkerson is the first black woman in the history of American journalism to win a Pulitzer-Prize, the first African-American to win for individual reporting in the history of American journalism, and the former Chicago Bureau Chief of *The New York Times*. In the midst of the centennial observation of the Great Migration, Wilkerson will discuss the lasting impacts of the greatest mass migration of Americans in the 20th century.

**Ross Gay | Blanc Gallery**

Ross Gay is a poet and the author of three books including *Against Which* and *Bringing the Shovel Down*. Gay will discuss and read from his latest collection, *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*, winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award.

**Robbie Montgomery | Peach's Restaurant | Tyson Foods Series on Home Cooking**

A former back-up singer for a number of musical acts including Ike and Tina Turner, The Supremes, and James Brown, Robbie Montgomery is the owner of Sweetie Pie's restaurant, and the subject of the reality show, *Welcome to Sweetie Pie's*. She'll discuss her life in show business as well as her contributions to soul food and soul music.

**Chicago House Music | Gallery Guichard**

CHF will host three Chicago House Music legends at Gallery Guichard for a conversation, listening session, and, of course, a dance party. Confirmed presenters include The Warehouse founder Robert Williams, Czarina Mirani of *5 Magazine*, and DJ Green Velvet (aka Cajmere).

**Saturday, November 12 (Closing date)**

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**Trevor Noah | Music Box Theatre | Elaine and Roger Haydock Series**

The host of *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah* will discuss his unlikely journey as the child of an interracial couple in apartheid-era South Africa to his career in stand-up comedy and now *The Daily Show*.

**Jane Smiley | First United Methodist Church | Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize for Fiction**

From skewering academics in *Moo* to reimagining King Lear amid Iowa's rolling hills in her Pulitzer-Prize winning *A Thousand Acres*, Jane Smiley's oeuvre is one of the most compelling in American literature. Smiley will accept the *Chicago Tribune's* Heartland Prize for Fiction.

**Jessica Valenti, Lindy West, and Samantha Irby | First United Methodist Church**

CHF convenes a panel to discuss the state of contemporary feminism in American society after a historic election. *The Guardian* columnists Jessica Valenti and Lindy West will be joined by essayist and blogger Samantha Irby. Valenti is the author of *Sex Object* and West is the author of *Shrill*, both are memoirs.

**John Edgar Wideman | First United Methodist**

A MacArthur Fellow, two-time PEN/Faulkner winner, and author of the forthcoming *Writing to Save a Life*, John Edgar Wideman will close out Fallfest/16: Speed with a discussion of the wrongful conviction and execution of Louis Till, Emmett Till's father, by the United States Army a decade prior to Emmett's murder.

## Venues for 2016 Chicago Humanities Festival's Fallfest/16: Speed

### September 23

Lyric Opera of Chicago  
20 N Upper Wacker Dr

### October 13

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law  
Thorne Auditorium  
375 E Chicago Ave

### October 17

Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago  
Sanctuary  
N Michigan Ave & E Delaware Pl

### Morris and Dolores Kohl Kaplan Northwestern Day | Saturday, October 29

Cahn Auditorium  
600 Emerson St

Josephine Louis Theater  
20 Arts Circle Dr

Harris Hall Room 107  
1881 Sheridan Rd

Ryan Center for the Musical Arts  
Galvin Recital Hall  
70 Arts Circle Dr

Mary & Leigh Block Museum of Art  
Pick-Laudati Auditorium  
40 Arts Circle Dr

### Hyde Park Day | Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts | 915 E 60th St Sunday, October 30

Performance Hall, Film Screening Room 201, Theater East, Performance Penthouse 901

### Throughout Chicago | October 31-November 10, November 12

Art Institute of Chicago  
Fullerton Hall  
111 S. Michigan Ave

Art Institute of Chicago  
Rubloff Auditorium  
230 S Columbus Dr

Chicago Cultural Center  
Claudia Cassidy Theater  
77 E Randolph St

First United Methodist Church  
at the Chicago Temple  
77 W Washington St

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

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

Harold Washington Library Center  
Cindy Pritzker Auditorium  
400 S State St

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

Music Box Theatre  
Main Theatre  
3733 N Southport Ave

National Hellenic Museum  
Calamos Hall  
333 S Halsted St

The Newberry Library  
Ruggles Hall  
60 W Walton St

Old Town School of Folk Music  
Gary and Laura Maurer Concert Hall  
4544 N Lincoln Ave

Poetry Foundation  
61 W Superior St

School of the Art Institute  
Ballroom  
112 S Michigan Ave

Symphony Center  
Armour Stage  
220 S Michigan Ave

Untitled Supper Club  
111 W Kinzie St

Venue SIX10  
Feinberg Theater  
610 S Michigan Ave

### Evening in Bronzeville | November 11

Blanc Gallery  
4445 S Martin Luther King Dr

Harold Washington Cultural Center  
4701 S Martin Luther King Dr

Peach's Restaurant  
4652 S Martin Luther King Dr

Gallery Guichard  
436 E 47th St