

60 YEARS OF CHANGE



2016-2017

ANNUAL REPORT



CHICAGO CHILDREN'S CHOIR IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT INSPIRES AND UNITES DIVERSE YOUTH TO BECOME GLOBAL CITIZENS THROUGH MUSIC. OUR MISSION IS TO INSPIRE AND CHANGE LIVES THROUGH MUSIC.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Letter from Josephine Lee, President & Artistic Director
3	Letter from Bob Fealy, Chairman of the Board of Directors
4	Creating Global Citizens
6	60th Anniversary Performance Highlights
8	CCC on Tour
10	Red Jacket Optional
12	Ambassadors Board
13	Alumni
14	School & Community Partnerships
16	CCC at a Glance
18	Our Supporters
21	Staff & Boards



A Letter from Josephine Lee President & Artistic Director



Dear Friends,

In 1956, Chicago Children's Choir (CCC) was founded on a powerful idea: that young people from diverse backgrounds can change the world by raising their voices together in song. During a time of segregation, our founder, Reverend Christopher Moore, used music to empower young people to transcend the social barriers separating them and stand together as one.

As I reflect on our 60th anniversary, I am moved by the strength of this founding idea and what it means for our world today. CCC offers diverse young people a space where they are asked to imagine what is possible and encouraged to bring this vision to life. By learning how to express themselves through song, they begin to hear their inner voice. When singing with their peers, they forge connections that last a lifetime. Through their hard work and determination, they not only transform themselves, achieving something greater together than what they could do on their own, but also the lives of those who hear their song. This is what we mean by 60 years of change.

As we enter the next phase of our history, we are committed to upholding this legacy, and we thank you for joining us in all that lies ahead.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josephine Lee'.

Josephine Lee

A Letter from Bob Fealy Chairman of the Board of Directors



Dear Friends,

Our mission at Chicago Children's Choir is to "inspire and change lives through music." One might think that the mission speaks only to inspiring and changing the lives of the 4,600 Chicago-area youth involved with our 100+ in-school choirs conducted in 85 Chicago schools, our 10 neighborhood choirs or in one of our world-renowned choirs like Dimension or the Voice of Chicago.

However, CCC's mission extends far beyond our city. Our children learn the importance of acceptance and tolerance of all people, becoming emissaries for peace and social justice worldwide. Whether performing in one of our city's neighborhoods or as the featured act at Ravenna Festival in Italy, their songs inspire unity and love among all people.

Six decades ago, a small group of people joined arms and committed to changing the world by combining the power of music and youth, and hence, Chicago Children's Choir was born. Today, we carry forward that vision by making a real difference in the lives of thousands of additional youth, their families and friends, and all who hear and see the impact of CCC's teachings.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, our deepest gratitude goes out to our CCC leaders, conductors and team members who are responsible for shaping the lives of our children. And to our many generous friends and institutions providing essential philanthropic support to Chicago Children's Choir, THANK YOU on behalf of the thousands of children who are beneficiaries of your commitment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Fealy'.

Bob Fealy

CREATING GLOBAL CITIZENS

Inspiring and Changing Lives from Coast to Coast

Since the mid-1960s, we have taken our students on numerous tours throughout the nation. From California to New York and from Alabama to Alaska, our domestic tours have blanketed the country and given our students the opportunity to share the best of Chicago with the nation. To see where our students went during our 60th anniversary, check out page 8.

Bridging America Tours Mid-1960s - Present

Canada
1967, 1977, 1981,
1995, 1998, 2004



CCC students proudly represented the best of Chicago to the world during a performance at the 1967 International and Universal Exposition hosted in Montreal.

Mexico
1993

Cuba
2016



CCC brought over 50 students to Cuba during a pivotal moment in the history of U.S. and Cuban relations, fostering intercultural understanding through musical workshops and performances with Cuban artists and youth.

Argentina &
Uruguay
2009



After the fall of Apartheid, CCC took over 40 students on a historic tour of South Africa. CCC had the privilege of meeting Nelson Mandela and visiting his former jail cell, where CCC students paid tribute to his fight for justice by performing anti-Apartheid songs.

South Africa
1996, 2014

England,
Scotland & Wales
1999

England,
Denmark, &
W. Germany
1970

Germany
2003

Germany, Austria
& Hungary
2001

Italy
1997, 2012, 2017

Baltic Tour
2011

Russia
1994

Czech Rep.
2006

Ukraine
1997

CCC's journey to India began the early 2000s, when we first commissioned *Sita Ram*, a musical work based on the *Ramayana*, an ancient Hindu epic. Following the fall 2012 production of *Sita Ram* at the Harris Theater, CCC traveled to India, performing pieces from the show and making meaningful connections with the people of India.

India
2013



INDIA, 2013

Japan
1992, 2002, 2005

South Korea
2008



CCC's performance in the DMZ was an important historic event for CCC and the world, as CCC was the first non-Korean civilian group allowed to enter the Yeolsei Observation Platform in the Demilitarized Zone.

Global Citizenship

CCC's mission of inspiring and changing lives through music knows no borders.

Throughout our history, our students have performed on five continents and for such dignitaries as former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama, former President Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, former Chinese President Hu Jintao, former South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak, Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso. We are grateful for the many opportunities we have had to represent our city and nation around the world.

60th ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

During our 60th anniversary, our students performed over 170 concerts throughout Chicago. From singing back-up vocals for Chance the Rapper at his Magnificent Coloring Day festival to performing with Yo-Yo Ma at his Concert for Peace at St. Sabina, our students honored the legacy of our founding mission and demonstrated what is possible when diverse young people perform together at a high level.



60TH ANNIVERSARY KICKOFF

To kick off CCC's 60th anniversary season, CCC hosted a Community Sing event at Navy Pier, featuring performances by Voice of Chicago and special guest speaker, Reverend Jesse Jackson.



OBAMA'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

Students from Voice of Chicago had the honor of performing at former President Barack Obama's Farewell Address with Eddie Vedder at McCormick Place.



PAINT THE TOWN RED

Paint the Town Red, CCC's largest annual free concert event, brought together all 4,600 CCC students throughout Chicago for an interactive performance experience at Pritzker Pavilion, Millennium Park.



TARGET COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

CCC's Target Community Concert Series, an annual concert initiative, showcased all levels of CCC's programs through concerts held in Englewood, Austin, Beverly, Pilsen, and Humboldt Park.



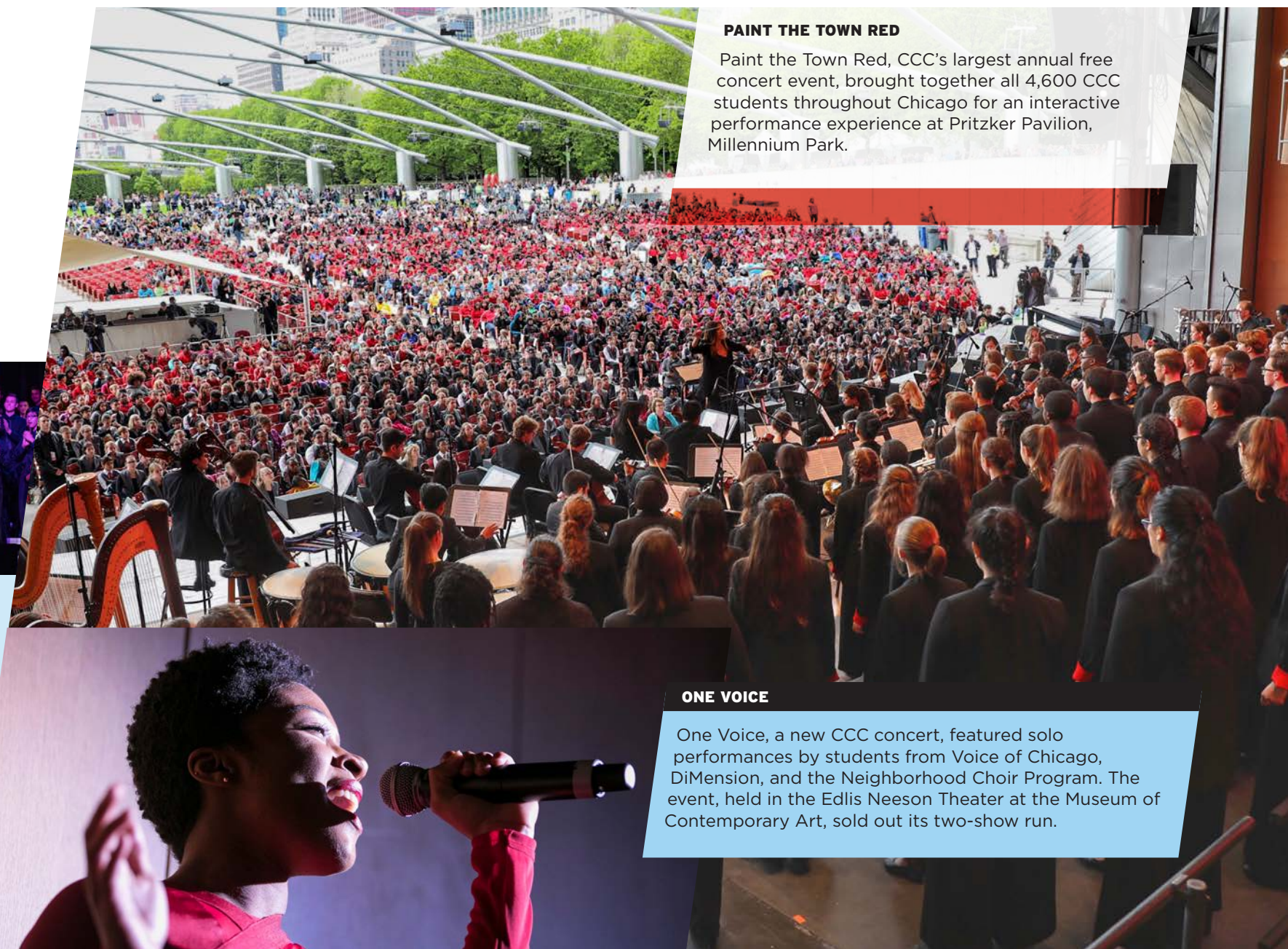
BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONCERT SERIES

CCC's Black History Month Concert Series, an annual educational concert experience, provided over 3,600 students from the In-School Program with the opportunity to perform with their peers on stage at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and explore the national theme of Black History Month.



WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL

CCC's sixth annual World Music Festival brought together over 500 students from the Neighborhood Choir Program, DiMension, and Voice of Chicago for a day of musical and cultural exploration at the Copernicus Center, culminating in a concert with guest artists Sousou & Maher Cissoko.



ONE VOICE

One Voice, a new CCC concert, featured solo performances by students from Voice of Chicago, DiMension, and the Neighborhood Choir Program. The event, held in the Edlis Neeson Theater at the Museum of Contemporary Art, sold out its two-show run.

CCC ON TOUR

At the core of our mission is a steadfast commitment to inspiring and uniting diverse youth to become global citizens through music.

Touring brings this vision to life, allowing students to experience firsthand the richness of our country and the world and to connect with others through the common language of music. This past year, over 300 CCC students traveled both within and outside the United States, collaborating and performing with over 30 schools, venues, and institutions.

Bridging America Tours

CCC's Bridging America Tours provide students from the Neighborhood Choir Program and DiMension with the opportunity to spread CCC's mission throughout the United States. Students are placed in a tour ensemble and spend a weekend performing, sight-seeing, and connecting with other young people.



Remembering Beth Kershner

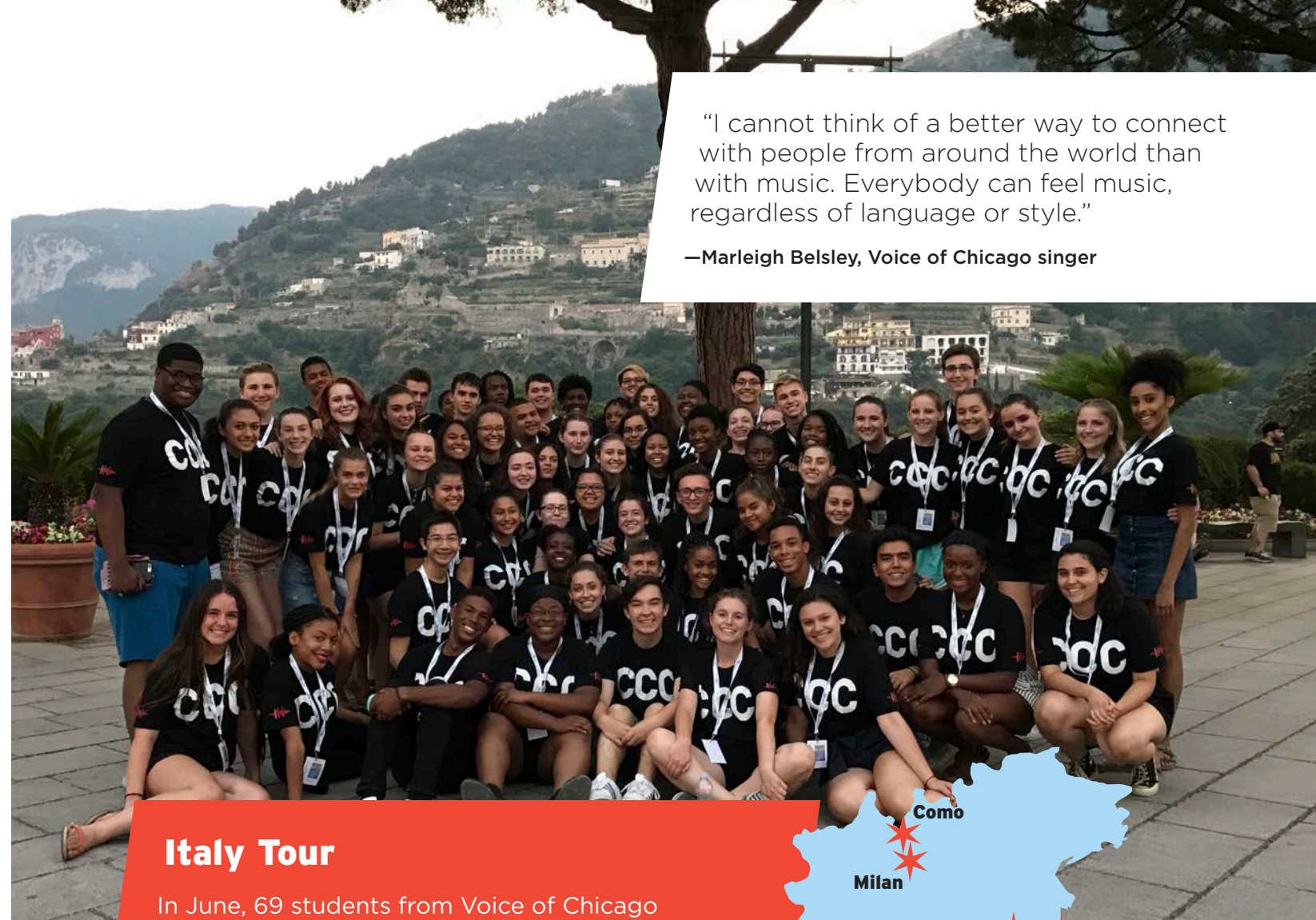
For over twenty years, CCC had the great fortune of designing and implementing our tours under the expert guidance of our tour planner, Beth Kershner. Last fall, Beth sadly and unexpectedly passed away. Beth was as much a part of the CCC family as any staff or singer.

She introduced us to new cities and countries. Her spirit is with us every time we assemble a tour book, every time we "count off" and every time we instruct singers to "travel in 3's" — all systems we learned from her. She kept us safe and she nurtured our sense of inquisitive adventure. The tours she planned created memories that will last a lifetime.



"I cannot think of a better way to connect with people from around the world than with music. Everybody can feel music, regardless of language or style."

—Marleigh Belsley, Voice of Chicago singer



Italy Tour

In June, 69 students from Voice of Chicago performed throughout Italy, serving as ambassadors of CCC's mission by making meaningful connections with those they encountered. Among these experiences were a collaboration and performance with students at the Cometa School in Milan and a day of hiking with West African refugees in San Benedetto in Alpe.

A VISIT FROM KATY PERRY

Katy Perry attended Voice of Chicago's closing concert at the Ravello Festival, sharing inspiration and smiles with our students after the performance.



"We allowed ourselves to be vulnerable. Despite our differences, we all felt the music and were able to perform together, united...It is such a privilege to have a space where completely letting go is not only acceptable but encouraged."

—Sofia Kouri, Voice of Chicago singer, on her experience singing with students from the Cometa School





\$1.27M RAISED

767 ATTENDEES

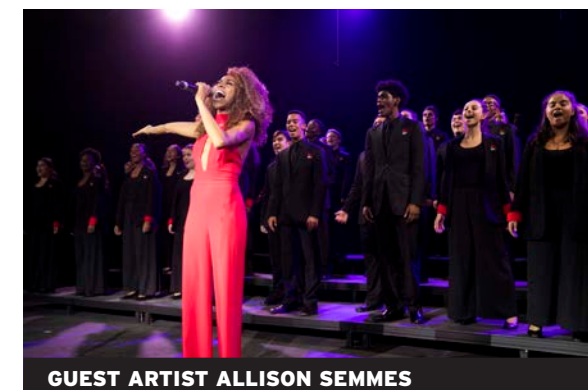
150 SINGERS

1 INSPIRING EVENING



**2016 RJO HONOREES:
PRISCILLA AND STEVEN KERSTEN**

CCC honored board member Priscilla Kersten and her husband Steven Kersten for their years of incredible support of CCC.



GUEST ARTIST ALLISON SEMMES

CCC students shared the stage with special guest artist Allison Semmes, an alumna of CCC and the star of the national tour of *Motown: The Musical*.

RED JACKET OPTIONAL

Every October, CCC hosts *Red Jacket Optional* (RJO), an extraordinary evening of performances and fundraising in support of CCC's choral programs throughout the city.

This year's event was hosted at The Geraghty, an innovative event space in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, and raised a record-breaking \$1.27 million.





AMBASSADORS BOARD

The Ambassadors Board is a group of Chicago's brightest young professionals who work to raise visibility and funds for CCC. Through advocacy and fundraising, the Ambassadors Board allows members to develop their skills to become the next generation of Chicago philanthropists.

Choir Connect

At the start of the program year, the Ambassadors Board hosted *Choir Connect*, a networking event for Chicago's brightest professionals and future leaders that raises awareness of CCC's work throughout the city.



CCC Unplugged

CCC Unplugged, the Ambassadors Board's annual fundraiser, brought together over 350 young philanthropists in February for a night of cocktails, performances by current students and alumni, and dancing to the musical stylings of DJ Matt Roan, the Chairman of the Ambassadors Board. Hosted at 1st Ward, the event raised over \$50,000 in support of CCC's mission.



Since 1956, generations of young people in Chicago have participated in our programs. As adults, they become members of our alumni community, an extraordinary group of diverse individuals who are living proof of the excellence taught in our programs.



60th Anniversary Alumni Weekend & Celebration

Over Memorial Day weekend, CCC hosted a three-day gathering of alumni to celebrate 60 years of CCC. The weekend began with *Paint the Town Red*, where alumni performed with Voice of Chicago on stage at Pritzker Pavilion. They then enjoyed a "Throwback Rehearsal" on Saturday morning, where they sang CCC classics and new favorites, led by conductors from throughout CCC's history. The weekend came to a close at the First Unitarian Church in Hyde Park, the birthplace of CCC. There, alumni performed a special service in honor of the late Reverend Christopher Moore's wife, Judy Moore, who passed away on December 16, 2016.

ALUMNI



SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

NEIGHBORHOOD CHOIR PROGRAM: BRANCH LOCATIONS

Albany Park Neighborhood Choir Program
North Park Covenant Church
5250 N. Christiana Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625

Austin Neighborhood Choir Program
Austin Town Hall, Chicago Park District
5610 W. Lake St.
Chicago, IL 60644

Beverly Neighborhood Choir Program
Beverly Arts Center
2407 W. 111th St.
Chicago, IL 60655

Englewood Neighborhood Choir Program
Hamilton Park Cultural Center,
Chicago Park District
513 W. 72nd St.
Chicago, IL 60621

Garfield Park Neighborhood Choir Program
Off the Street Club
25 N. Karlov Ave.
Chicago, IL 60624

Humboldt Park Neighborhood Choir Program
Casa Central
1335 N. California Ave.
Chicago, IL 60622

Hyde Park Neighborhood Choir Program
First Unitarian Church
5650 S. Woodlawn Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637

Lincoln Park/DePaul Neighborhood Choir Program
DePaul University
2130 N. Kenmore Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614

Pilsen/Little Village Neighborhood Choir Program
Rauner Family YMCA
2700 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60608

Rogers Park Neighborhood Choir Program
Indian Boundary Park, Chicago Park District
2500 W. Lunt Ave.
Chicago, IL 60645

VOICE OF CHICAGO & DIMENSION

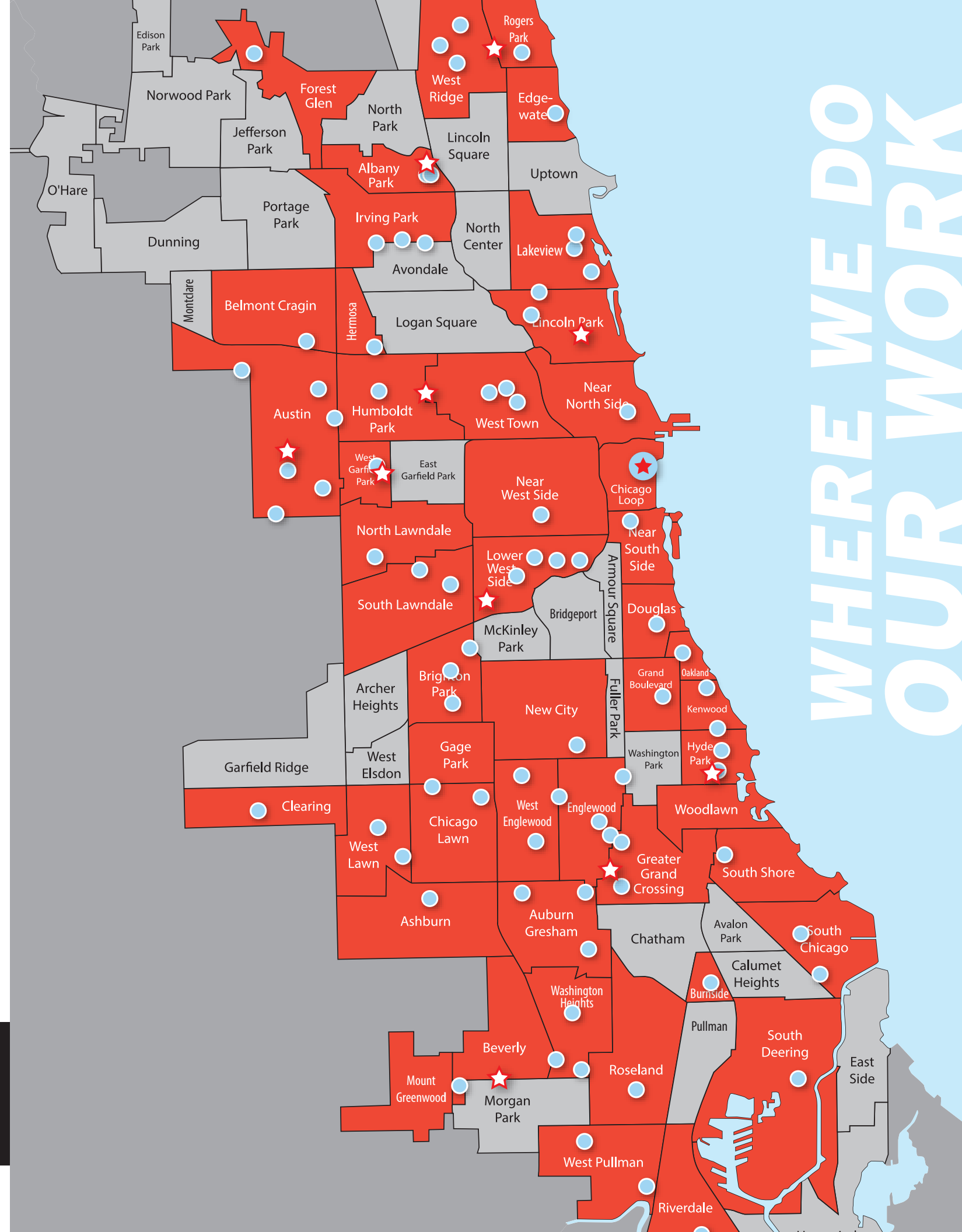
Chicago Cultural Center
78 E. Washington St., 5th Fl.
Chicago, IL 60602

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAM: PARTNER LOCATIONS

Alphonsus Academy & Center
for the Arts
Alice L. Barnard Computer Math &
Science Center Elementary School
Belmont-Cragin Elementary School
Daniel Boone Elementary School
Orville T. Bright Elementary School
John C. Burroughs Elementary School
George Washington Carver
Primary School
Catalyst Charter Elementary School -
Circle Rock
Chicago International Charter School -
Irving Park
Chicago Jesuit Academy
George Rogers Clark Elementary School
Peter Cooper Elementary Dual
Language Academy
Crown Community Academy of Fine
Arts Center Elementary
Nathan S. Davis Elementary School
Sir Miles Davis Magnet Elementary
School
Jose De Diego Elementary Community
Academy
Stephen Decatur Classical Elementary
School
Disney II Magnet Elementary School
Thomas A. Edison Regional Gifted
Center Elementary School
Great Lakes Academy Charter School
Horace Greeley Elementary School
Wendell E. Green Elementary School
Walter Q. Gresham Elementary School
Frank W. Gunsaulus Elementary
Scholastic Academy
Nathan Hale Elementary School
Lionel Hampton Fine & Performing Arts
Elementary School
John Harvard Elementary School of
Excellence
Charles R. Henderson Elementary School
William G. Hibbard Elementary School
Thomas J. Higgins Elementary
Community Academy
Homeschool Choir at Independence Park
Edward N. Hurley Elementary School
Inter-American Elementary Magnet
School
Keller Regional Gifted Center
Joshua D. Kershaw Elementary School
Anna R. Langford Community Academy
LaSalle II Magnet Elementary School

Mildred I. Lavizzo Elementary School
R. H. Lee Elementary School
Legacy Charter School
Leslie Lewis Elementary School
Joseph Lovett Elementary School
Benjamin E. Mays Elementary Academy
Ronald E. McNair Elementary School
Arnold Mireles Elementary Academy
Irvin C. Mollison Elementary School
Donald Morrill Math & Science
Elementary School
Mount Vernon Elementary School
Phillip Murray Elementary Language
Academy
Louis Nettelhorst Elementary School
New Field Elementary School
William P. Nixon Elementary School
Alfred Nobel Elementary School
Ogden International School of Chicago
Richard J. Oglesby Elementary School
Jesse Owens Elementary Community
Academy
Francis W. Parker Elementary
Community Academy
Manuel Perez Elementary School
John J. Pershing Elementary Humanities
Magnet
William H. Prescott Elementary
A. N. Pritzker Elementary School
William H. Ray Elementary School
Jackie Robinson Elementary School
Phillip Rogers Elementary School
Sherman School of Excellence
Jesse Sherwood Elementary School
Beulah Shoemith Elementary School
South Loop Elementary School
South Shore Fine Arts Academy
STEM Magnet Academy
George B. Swift Elementary Special
School
George W. Tilton Elementary School
Enrico Tonti Elementary School
University of Chicago - Donoghue
UCSN Octavio Paz
John A. Walsh Elementary School
Harold Washington Elementary School
John Greenleaf Whittier Elementary
School
Wildwood World Magnet Elementary
School
Woodlawn Community Elementary
School

- ★ Neighborhood Choir Program: Branch Locations
- In-School Program: Partner Locations
- ★● DiMension / Voice of Chicago

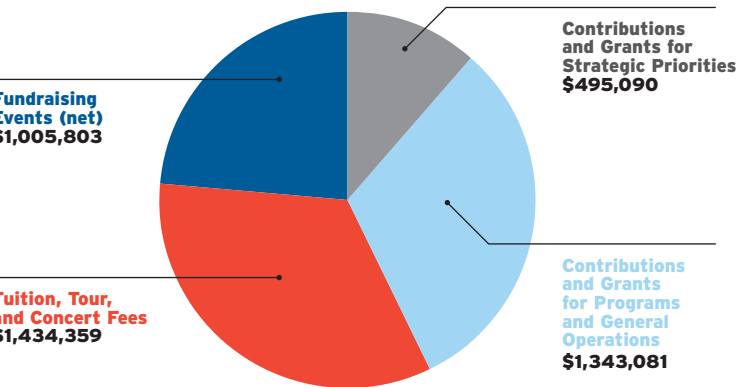


WHERE WE DO OUR WORK

CCC AT A GLANCE

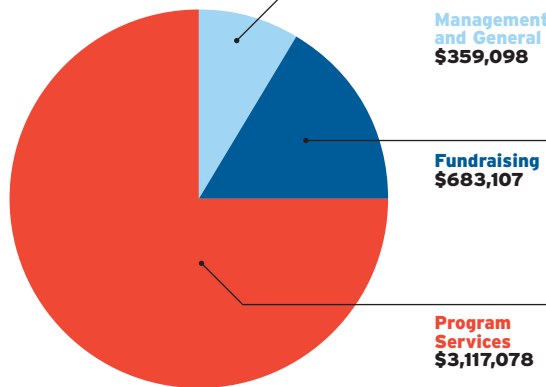
FY17 Unrestricted Revenue

Total: \$4,278,332

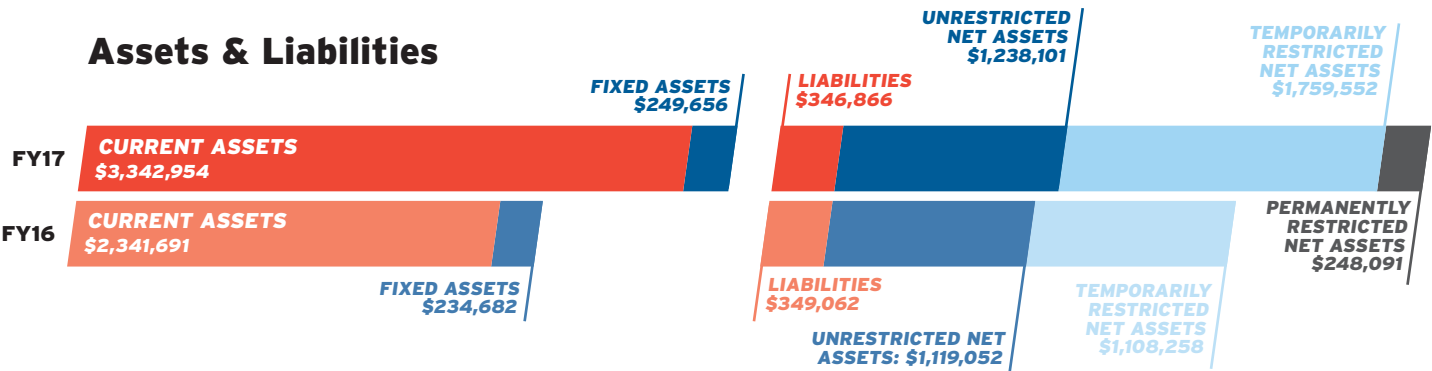


FY17 Expenses

Total: \$4,159,283

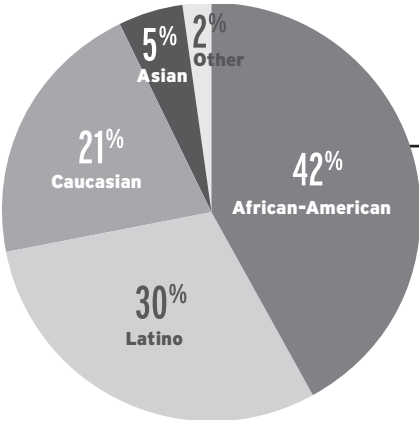


Assets & Liabilities



OVER 50%
OF STUDENTS FROM
OUR AFTER-SCHOOL
PROGRAMS COME
FROM LOW-INCOME
HOUSEHOLDS.

OVER 80%
OF THE SCHOOLS WITH
WHOM WE PARTNER
PREDOMINATELY SERVE
STUDENTS FROM LOW-
INCOME HOUSEHOLDS.



CCC Student Demographics ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS

NEIGHBORHOOD CHOIR PROGRAM & DIMENSION 700 STUDENTS

TOTAL ENROLLMENT
4,600 STUDENTS ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAM
3,800 STUDENTS

**VOICE OF
CHICAGO**
100+ STUDENTS

OUR SUPPORTERS

Chicago Children's Choir is grateful to the many individuals, families, corporations, foundations and cultural partners whose gifts, which were received between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, are vital to the success of our mission.

FOUNDATION, CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENT DONORS

\$100,000 & ABOVE

The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust
North Avenue Day Nursery
Target

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
Chicago Park District
The Crown Family
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation

\$25,000 - \$49,999

The Chicago Community Trust
Lyon Family Foundation
Nth Degree Scholarship Fund
The Smart Family Foundation Inc.

\$15,000 - \$24,999

The Davee Foundation
John R. Halligan Charitable Fund
The Negaunee Foundation
Prince Charitable Trusts

\$10,000 - \$14,999

ComEd
Harper Court Arts Council
Garrett Brands
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Illinois Arts Council Agency
Lincoln Park Preschool & Kindergarten
Pella Rolscreen Foundation
Siragusa Family Foundation
The Wege Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Butler Family Foundation
Mazza Foundation
Peoples Gas
The Wicklander Family Foundation
Fanny R. Wurlitzer Fund at the DeKalb County Community Foundation

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Sahara Enterprises, Inc.
Strides for Peace
Urban Partnership Bank
Wynnchurch Capital, Ltd.

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Golub Capital
Human Resources Management Association of Chicago
IWIRC - Chicago Network
KMC Foundation
Salesforce
Shure Incorporated
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\$100 - \$499

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A&M Enterprises, LLC.
AmazonSmile Foundation
Creative Couture
Felt Chicago, LLC.
Google, Inc.
Power Construction
Shotime Inc.
Stern Consulting International
Trinidad Resort & Club, L.L.C.
Virgin Hotels Chicago

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