

The **Chicago Urban Fine Arts Commonwealth NFP, 501(c)4**, is a civic action organization that engages elected, politically appointed and civic service public servants in a manner that upholds the civil rights of all cultures and subcultures in the Greater Chicagoland region (Southeast Wisconsin, Northeastern Illinois and Northwest Indiana), evolved of the black experience in the Americas and beyond, in a manner that respects members of the local urban fine arts community as voters, taxpayers and business folk, with particular attention to the following Four Freedoms:

- **Freedom of Expression artistically and politically**, especially in exercising the right provided in the federal and Illinois Bill of Rights to peacefully assemble to petition representatives in government for redress of grievances and in a manner that influences laws and public policy that substantively benefit the general welfare of Chicagoland's urban fine arts community.
- **Freedom of Physical Wellness**, ranging from protection from community street violence to freedom from police brutality and like other rogue law enforcement.;
- **Freedom of Mental Wellness**, ranging from protection from issues unduly leading to anxiety and depression to improved access to community-based suicide prevention services and post-suicide grief counseling.
- **Freedom of Economic Wellness**, including the freedom to make a living off one's urban fine art and protection from taxation and fees for public services that would keep members of the local urban fine arts community in an impoverished rut.

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For more information on how to join CUFAC in an ever evolving proactive revolution over reactive pushback, contact:

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The **Chicago Urban Fine Arts Commonwealth NFP** was founded in August 2016 as a child organization of the progress organization Chicago Progress, and **CUFAC** incorporated in July 2017 as a not-for-profit Illinois corporation. **CUFAC** is operated by an executive board known as the Action Board of Elders, with ultimate oversight by a board of trustees known as the General Assembly.

**CUFAC's** chief operating officer is an executive director known as the team leader, and a president known as the General Assembly speaker heads the entire organization. Members of **CUFAC's** board of trustees are known as assemblymen/women.

**CUFAC** maintains a community not-for-profit account at Huntington National Bank, with fiduciary services from Glendale Heights, Ill.-based Boutique Branding Network.

In its actionist political organizing, **CUFAC** provides consulting to voters and officeseekers alike, including voter registration and referrals to options for voter registration, referrals to pollwatcher, voter registrar and election judge training.

**CUFAC** consulting for officeseekers and proposed referendums include paralegal research of election law related statutes, research on proposed and ending legislation, reading the tea leaves on candidates and proposed referendums, assistance with news media appearances, political preference polling and advising on political commercials and other branding. Because of its political consulting, **CUFAC** has bolstered the campaigns of several local, state and federal candidates seeking re-election or first-time election and such public initiatives as the Cook County advisory referendum on the March 20 Illinois primary election ballot asking if the Illinois General Assembly should legalize recreational cannabis use, testing, weighing, sale and distribution by persons age 21+.

Through its widely reported oral and written public appearances before Chicago City Council, the Cook County Board of Commissioners and their committees and Illinois House of Representative and Illinois Senate committees championing meat-and-potato/bread-and-butter issues on behalf of Chicagoland's urban fine arts community, **CUFAC** has earned the respect of elected, politically appointed and civil service public servants in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government throughout Greater Chicagoland, the region's general business community, such other progressive organizations as Bernie Sanders-inspired Our Revolution Illinois and chambers of commerce and the Illinois League of Women Voters.

Stumping at club and outdoor entertainment events and filing amicus curiae briefs has been key to **CUFAC's** effective rallying of voters and lawmakers.

**CUFAC's** parliamentarian skills and adeptness at parliamentary procedure have such steered social/cultural organizations as **Chi-Rock Nation NFP, 501(c)7**, to a clear direct path to effective organization and reorganization.

### **CUFAC HAS ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING IN ITS FIRST YEAR OF EXISTENCE:**

- Persuaded the Cook County Board of Commissioners to enact an ironclad amendment to the County Amusement Tax Ordinance that recognizes DJ'ing as a fine art worthy of certain tax breaks and that substantially rolls back tax on small- and medium audience DJed events.
- In partnership with the business community, not-for-profit business organizations and other civic action organizations, compelled the Cook County Board of Commissioners to repeal the county sweetened beverage tax and worked with Illinois State Rep. Silvana Tabares (D-Chicago) on championing a joint bill in the Illinois General Assembly that would outlaw taxing beverages by weight and volume.
- Won unanimous approval by the Cook County Board of Commissioners an advisory referendum on the March 20 primary election ballot asking if the Illinois General Assembly should legalize recreational use, weighing, testing, sale and distribution of cannabis by persons 21+.
- Raised \$3,000 for Puerto Rican and Mexican disaster relief in partnership with the Foreign Exchange world music party and hip-hop social/cultural organization Renegades of Fun.
- Concluded on a ground-breaking no-bid contract with the Cook County Forest Preserve District for four local world-class beatboxers to mentor youth during the district's fifth Annual Teen Exploration Day at Powderhorn Lake in Burnham/Southeast Cook County (beatboxers carried out their duties for all four hours contracted when all other exhibitors and attractions packed up at the first sight of rain.
- Launched the Well Dome Alliance suicide awareness/prevention initiative including open forums during weekly 606 Chicago hip-hop open mic event at SubT Lounge/Wicker Park and the monthly Butter party at Harbee's/Pilsen, a flier of Greater Chicagoland/national suicide awareness/prevention/grief counseling resources and the digital audio/video PSA "Life Is Such A Gift" series. Well Dome Alliance has been enthusiastically received by the local urban fine arts community and Cook County Commissioners Deborah Sims (D-Chicago), a former social worker, and John A. Fritchey (D-Chicago) and Jeffrey Tobolski (R-Lyons), both survivors of suicides by family and close friends.
- Launched the **RESPEKT!** digital flier initiative against harassment, which has gone internationally viral on Facebook with its message that harassment of all shapes and forms is unacceptable.
- Commander-in-chiefted advanced negotiations with the Cook County Forest Preserve District for no-bid funding of a two-day international hip-hop/world music exposition at Shabbona Woods in South Holland/Southeast Cook County as the kickoff event for 2018 Chicago Hip-Hop Heritage Month in July.

- Organized and commander-in-chiefted Chicagoland civic engagement book tour for honorary member and 2017 Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Tyehimba Jess, including several appearances at Chicago Public Library sites on Chicago's South Side and one at the Poetry Foundation/Poetry Magazine's library and honorary resolutions from Chicago City Council and the Cook County Board of Commissioners (copies of his Pulitzer-winning second poetry collection "Olio" have been placed with the Vivian Harsh Collection at Carter G. Woodson Regional Library, Southside Community Art Center, DuSable Museum, Cook County Archive, Illinois Archive and the Illinois Authors Rm. Of the Gwendolyn Brooks/Illinois State Library and CPL chief have expressed interest in purchasing additional copies of the book for placement at other branches). Jess used Cook County Board Finance Committee appearance to stump for more local, state and federal funding of Chicagoland's urban fine arts scene.
- Based on general public testimony on the issue, invited to give expert testimony at a hearing of the Cook County Board of Commissioners Human Relations Committee on affordable and safe drinking water among financially struggling suburban Cook County communities of color.
- Supported with voter registration and public testimony at an Our Revolution Illinois community forum at Chicago Teachers Union Center on discriminatory property tax assessments.
- Persuaded Chicago City Council to expand audience capacities exempt from city amusement tax. Also launched, through council's Black Caucus, advanced talks for in-kind city support of a youth jam at Burnham Park Skater Park on the city's Near South Side during 2018 Chicago Hip-Hop Heritage Month in July.
- Sponsored in partnership with the Eighth Ward Accountability Coalition Our Revolution 2018 Illinois' Gubernatorial Candidates Form at Chicago Teachers Union Center, largely with voter registration and gathering of nominating petition signatures for local, state and federal officeseekers.

