eChicago 2012
Planning for change based on high speed internet

8:30-5:00 on Friday, April 20 and 8:30-3:30 on Saturday, April 21
UIC Student Center East, 750 S.Halsted (UIC Halsted on Blue Line El)
Streaming and tweets at http://echicago.illinois.edu

We’ve seen a lot of federal spending and several high speed internet projects. Now it’s time to plan for change on that new infrastructure. To recap:

- President Obama takes office in January 2009
- $787 billion stimulus bill, $7.2 billion for high speed internet in February 2009
- $350 million awarded for internet construction and related activity in Illinois in 2009 and 2010, and more in local match dollars
- Funding ends January 1, 2013

What will have been accomplished? What has it meant for the digital divide? What will be sustainable? And what are we going to do about it?

For six years eChicago has brought campus and community together to talk about critical issues facing all of us. eChicago comes out of community informatics. It asks how local communities and social institutions use computers and the internet, especially in Black, Latino, and lower income communities. It’s about ending digital divides and seeing how the community can use cyberpower to end racism and poverty. The public library is the number one institution providing free computer access in the community, so we care about the past, present and future of the public library. And eChicago always links Chicago’s inner city with the suburbs, and with city, county, and state government. It’s about a more digital and more democratic Chicagoland.

In light of the new internet speeds, let’s consider something old and something new:

1. **Hip hop** is the most live form of global culture rooted in digital tools. Last year we kicked off our respect for rap with a plenary presentation by Cap D (David Kelley) of All Natural. He killed it. This year we’ve got a full session with strong cultural forces in the community search for cyberpower.

2. **Local wikis** are an easy new move towards community information commons. The corporation is fully online, so is the government. And the university. And many individuals. Now what would it mean for our communities to be online? With cyberspace as a commons rather than a corporate marketplace, what does democracy look like? Find out, get involved, starting here at eChicago.

We are eager to hear your thoughts today and tomorrow and your ideas for eChicago 2013. Welcome!
# eChicago 2012

## Friday, April 20

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Many modes to eChicago 2012...

Face to face: Make the most of the folks here today. Listen carefully, think about the questions people raise, and speak up in the Q and A. That’s traditionally a rich moment at eChicago.

Streaming: All three of our rooms are live-video streamed. Tell your friends who can’t be here to watch the video at echicago.illinois.edu.

Tweeting: Never tweeted? Always tweeting? Our hashtag AKA tweet stream is at #echicago. To follow it, visit echicago.illinois.edu. Or join the conversation on your smartphone; if this is new to you, conference staff can show you how.

...and many languages...

...especially English, Spanish and Chinese, three languages we know will be represented at the conference.

Friday, April 20, 8:30-5:00

8:30-9:00 Coffee and registration, third floor of UIC Student Center East
9:00-10:15 Plenary in the Cardinal Room

Session 1 Chicago Public Library: Empowering Citizens in the Cardinal Room
Chicago Public Library has many old friends and a new director. What do we need to know about its history in order to guarantee its future? Joyce speaks from her dual identity as the first IT director of CPL and then a scholar of the library’s history.

Kate Williams, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Opening and Chair
Joe Hoereth, University of Illinois at Chicago Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement, Welcome
Joyce Latham, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee

10:15-10:30 Break
10:30-11:45 Breakout sessions

Session 2 How is the local library serving communities in crisis and change? in the Cardinal Room
The library depends on its patrons and the local community, and vice versa. What happens to this relationship when communities are under stress? When technologies are in flux?

Kang Chiu, Friends of Rogers Park Branch of Chicago Public Library
Brooke Bahnsen, Fremont Public Library
Rose Peterson, Rockford Public Library
Will Kent, Chicago Public Library, Chair

Session 3 Does Illinois have high speed internet yet and are we using it? in the Dearborn Room
What projects are being implemented? Are they working as they should? What plans exist for when the funds end? These panelists are either managing or studying the high speed internet rollout.

Dionne Baux, LISC Chicago
Jim Ciesla, Northern Illinois University
Tracy Felty, Saline County E-911
Gene Loeb, Center for CI Technology for Mental Health of Older Persons
Matt Parks, Northern Illinois University
Abigail Sackmann, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Chair
11:45-12:45 **Lunch on your own**, inexpensive options include:
   - **East Café** dining hall on the first floor: a non-commercial and varied menu
   - **Inner Circle** on the second floor: Burrito Bravo, Sbarro, Subway, or Wendy’s

12:45-2:00 Breakout sessions

**Session 4** *Is the library being reinvented for the 21st century?* in the Cardinal Room
How are computers changing the local public library? What is the future of downloading and uploading digital info in the library? What skills will 21st century librarians need?
   - **Norma Lugo-Gulyas**, Wilbur Wright College
   - **John Spears**, Naperville Public Library
   - **Sarah Tansley**, Chicago Public Library
   - **Hilary Lee**, Chicago Public Library, Chair

**Session 5** *Graduate students: Future leaders getting prepared* in the Dearborn Room
What courses and research projects are we engaged in? What jobs are we preparing for? What projects can we collaborate on from difference institutions? What’s working, what else can we do?
   - **Noah Lenstra**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Chair

2:00-2:15 Break
2:15-3:30 Breakout sessions

**Session 6** *Towards the digital transformation of Chicago’s South Suburbs* in the Cardinal Room
This session focusses on the hardest hit suburbs. Does the suburban municipality have Internet connectivity and use policies and programs? Where are the digital divides between Chicago and the suburbs, or inside the suburbs? Where do we go?
   - **Vivian Covington**, University Park
   - **David Johnson**, South Suburban Community College
   - **Bruce Montgomery**, Technology Access TV
   - **Greg Wass**, Cook County
   - **Rusty Winchel**, Northern Illinois University Outreach
   - **Abdul Alkalimat**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Chair

**Session 7** *Reconfiguring information: New media and YOUmedia* in the Dearborn Room
How is old media being reinvented with digital technology? Will professional journalism survive? How does new media change the definition of literacy? How is the public library involved?
   - **Billy Belchev**, Webitects
   - **Mike Hawkins**, YOUmedia
   - **Jeff Kelly-Lowenstein**, Hoy
   - **Demetrio Maguigad**, Community Media Workshop, Chair

3:30-3:45 Break
3:45-5:00 Plenary in the Cardinal Room

**Session 8** *Public Policy and the Information Revolution in Cook County*, in the Cardinal Room
What are the current policies for high speed internet connectivity? Given budget crises will there still be funding to end the digital divide? What best practices are there in Illinois? What are the next steps?
   - **Kate Williams**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Opening
   - **Greg Wass**, Cook County
Saturday, April 21, 8:30-3:30

8:30-9 Coffee and registration, third floor of UIC Students Center East
9-10:15 Plenary in the Cardinal Room

Session 9 Edit Your City: Collaborative Media in the 21st Century
Can a wiki take a whole community into cyberspace? What is a local wiki? What are the best practices of a local wiki? What differences does it make for the life of a community?

Abdul Alkalimat, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Opening
Philip Neustrom, LocalWiki

10:15-10:30 Break
10:30-11:45 Breakout sessions

Session 10 Tech in the hood in the Cardinal Room
In low income communities, why focus on the digital divide? How can we create more computer literate “hoodies?” Why is Facebook so popular? Is it important to diversify what people do? How?

Chris Hamb, Chrisp Media
Elizabeth Rosas-Landa, The Resurrection Project
Elizabeth Tarpley, Kennedy-King College
Jami Thompson, Chicago Public Library, Chair

Session 11 Workshop: How to build a local community wiki in the White Oak Room
What is the digital footprint of the community? How can all digital info of a community be aggregated? How can someone upload new info? This session will explain how to start a wiki and ways to keep it going. How have they worked so far?

Philip Neustrom, LocalWiki
Brian Zelip, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Chair

Session 12 eChicago as global network: China and Chinese Chicago in the Dearborn Room
China is a rising power and it’s here in Chicago and Illinois. How is Beijing “informatizing” its communities? What do various digital connections between China and the US look like? How is the history of Chinese Chicago part of the future?

Cao Haixia, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Adrian Kok, Dominican University
Andrea Stamm, Chinese American Museum of Chicago
Kang Zhou, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Sophia Hu, Chicago Public Library, Chair

11:45-12:45 Lunch on your own in the first floor’s East Café dining hall
12:45-2:00 breakout sessions
Session 13 **State policy and practice to span the digital divide** in the Cardinal Room
What is the current program to end the digital divide in Illinois? What kinds of projects use these resources? What’s working and what still needs to be done?

*Brian Bell,* Parkland College  
*Kara Kennedy,* Lumity  
*Joey Mak,* Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity  
*Bruce Montgomery,* Technology Access TV, Chair

Session 14 **Chicago hip hop, the digital hustle & social justice** in the White Oak Room
Organized discussions regarding the hip hop community, outside of actual cultural performance, have existed since at least the early 1980s. These discussions have become more frequent and widespread, especially as generations who’ve grown up with hip hop mature, and as universities, political campaigns and business models increasingly look to them for engagement and profit. This session explores a bottom-up approach to technology and networking by featuring four hip hop artists from Chicago who are leading best practices using new digital tools for community building and social consciousness.

*Mike Hawkins,* YOUMedia, Co-Chair  
*Babyface Monster,* Chi-Bangerz.com  
*Psalm One,* PsalmOne.tv  
*Jasiri X,* JasiriX.bandcamp.com  
*Brian Zelip,* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Co-Chair

Session 15 **Workshop: Digital tools for cultural heritage** in the Dearborn Room
People around the world are using technology to share and to stay connected to cultural heritage. New ways to search for roots and share culture emerge online. This workshop discusses simple social and technical procedures you can use to get involved in community and family history digitization. Topics covered include: basic digitization, using Omeka (http://www.omeka.org) to build digital libraries and museums, organizing communities around digital cultural heritage, and using digital cultural heritage in face-to-face settings, such as school assemblies or family reunions. The workshop’s theme is: **Everyone can do something now to contribute to the construction of universal designs for sharing local and family histories online.**

*Noah Lenstra,* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Chair

2:00-2:15 Break  
2:15-3:30 Plenary in the Cardinal Room

Session 16 **Developing Our Vision**
What three main points of the conference need to be remembered? What is your personal eChicago goal for the next year? What should eChicago 2013 be about?

*Charles Benton,* Benton Foundation  
*Alejandro Luis Molina,* Caja del Agua Studios  
*Frances Roehm,* Skokie Public Library  
*Abdul Alkalimat,* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Chair
**Presenters, panelists, and chairs**

**Abdul Alkalimat (Gerald McWorter)** was born in Chicago’s Cook County Hospital and first lived in the Cabrini projects. He was educated at Edward Jenner Elementary School, Marshall High School, the University of Illinois at Navy Pier, Roosevelt University, and the University of Chicago (PhD). He has worked as chairman of the Chicago Friends of SNCC (Students Non-violent Coordinating Committee), founder and chair of OBAC (Organization of Black American Culture), and founder of Timbuktoo Bookstore. He is the editor of several websites—Malcolm X: A Research Site, Cyberchurch, and eBlack Studies. He authored the Ford Foundation report on Information Technology and Black Studies (2006) and is recognized in Barber’s Black Digital Elite. He edits the largest listserv in Black Studies, H-AFRO-AM. Currently he is Professor of Library and Information Science and African American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His latest book is “The African American Experience in Cyberspace: A Resource Guide to the Best Websites on Black Culture and History” (2003). (mcworter@illinois.edu)

**Brooke Bahnsen** is a librarian at Fremont Public Library District in Mundelein, IL. She is currently in the Adult Services department and manages the Audio-Visual collection. Ms. Bahnsen recently received an award from the Mundelein Human Relations Commission for celebrating diversity in the library. Ms. Bahnsen is actively creating programs for Spanish-speakers, including a family story time and One-on-one Technology Help. She is always looking for ways to connect library services with all community members and has an interest in teaching digital literacy. (brookebahnsen@gmail.com)

**Dionne Baux** is a native Chicagoan. She received her Master Degree in Public Administration from Roosevelt University with a focus in government. Dionne has worked in City government and not for profits for over 5 years focusing on community economic development. Baux is currently a Program Officer with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)-Chicago working on the Smart Communities Program. The Smart Communities program works to increase digital access and use by youth, families, businesses and other institutions in five moderate-and low-income Chicago neighborhoods: Auburn Gresham, Chicago Lawn, Englewood, Humboldt Park and Pilsen. (dbaux@lisc.org)

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**Bilyan "Billy" Belchev** is the president of Webitects, a web design and development firm in Chicago. He also still helps clients with online strategy and community engagement in a digital world. Since the beginning of his career, he has believed that the most efficient way to design a successful product is to consult directly with the people who will be using it. This approach has a fancy name--user research--and it is a guiding principle for Mr. Belchev when it comes to web portals. Mr. Belchev likes sharing his opinion with companies, new or established, on how to avoid producing "build it and they never come" products. He occasionally lectures graduate students in usability and user research at Illinois Institute of Technology, where he earned his M.S. in Technical Communication & Information Design, and his B.S. in Computer Science. (billyb@webitects.com)
Brian Bell worked in the private security field with a specialization in information technology after 4 years at Southern Illinois University in law enforcement and security management. He is now project coordinator and part time faculty at Parkland Community College, Champaign, IL, specializing in computer literacy as coordinator of an Illinois Department of Commerce Digital Divide grant. He operates Parkland’s Illinois WorkNet Center for service to the unemployed and teaches multiple sections in the Computer Science and Information Technology Department. Brian also worked at Don Moyers Boys and Girls Club developing and teaching, Crossroads Community Church developing computer curriculum at the middle school level, and Urban League of Champaign-Urbana where he set up and coordinated a community technology center. Currently Brian has been tirelessly devoted to establishing public computing centers in vulnerable locations throughout the Champaign-Urbana community. This is accomplished by the donation of computers obtained from local and national corporations, refurbished then redistributed throughout the community. Brian believes access to technology is the first step in bridging the digital divide. (bbell@parkland.edu)

Charles Benton has served as Chairman of the Benton Foundation since 1981. Its mission is to articulate a public interest vision for the digital age and to demonstrate the value of communications by solving social problems. Among its current program priorities are projects on Universal Broadband/Universal Service, Community Media/Community Development, and Digital Media Access/Inclusion. Charles Benton has also had a long career in the media education and entertainment businesses as President or Chairman of Encyclopaedia Britannica Education Corporation, Films Incorporated, Public Media Inc., Lionheart Television International, and Home Vision Entertainment. In 1978, President Carter appointed him as Chairman of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science and as Chairman of the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services, held in November of 1979. In 1997, President Clinton appointed him as a member of the Presidential Advisory Committee on the Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters. Throughout his career, Mr. Benton has been an active board member and advisor for organizations in the arts, education and communications. Currently these include service as Chairman of the Partnership for a Connected Illinois and as a Board member of the Educational Development Center in Boston and the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. A graduate of Yale University, Mr. Benton did post graduate work at Northwestern University and the National College of Education and taught 5th grade at the Washington Elementary School in Evanston, Illinois. He is married to Marjorie Craig Benton and they have two children and five grandchildren. (cbenton@benton.org)

Cao Haixia (曹海霞) is a Ph.D candidate in library science at Peking University and visiting doctoral student at UIUC's Graduate School of Library and Information Science. She earned her undergraduate degree from the Institute of Public Administration of Hebei University of Economics and Business in 2006 and a masters degree from the School of Management of Beijing Normal University in 2008. Her research fields include community informatics and public library, library theoretical research, and the history of the public library. (hca@illinois.edu)

Kang Moy Chiu. I can remember getting my first library card at the Rogers Park Library when I was a third grader. With the resources at the library, I became an avid reader and a life-long learner. Owing a debt of gratitude for the resources the Chicago Public Library freely gave me, I became a library volunteer as an adult literacy tutor in 1983. When I missed an organizational meeting in 1987, I became the president of the Friends of the Rogers Park Library, a post that I
have held for the last 25 years trying to improve our neighborhood learning resource. I have also served as one of the delegates from Illinois at the 1991 White House Conference on Library and Information Services and as member of the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee from 2002 to 2006. (kang.chiu@yahoo.com)

James R. Ciesla, Ph.D., a health economist, is a member of the faculty in the Public Health and Health Education Programs at Northern Illinois University. His research involves evaluating the outcomes of treatment and services for people in disadvantaged populations. He currently serves as an independent evaluator of the Connected Living “Getting Illinois Low Income Seniors and People with Disabilities Online” project funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP), which is a Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA) demonstration project. (jciesla@niu.edu)

Vivian Covington was sworn in as the first female African-American Mayor Of University Park, IL on May 10, 2011. A University Park resident for 20 years, the mayor had been a member of the Village’s Trustee Board since 2003. She has also been a Library Board Trustee since 2001. Married to Andre, they have three children and five grandchildren. An Information Technology expert with more than 32 years experience of Federal Government service, Mayor Covington is employed with the Veterans Administration. Her management title is Subject Matter Expert for critically important global technology-related programs. As a student at Eastern Illinois University, Covington majored in Business Administration with a minor in Computer Science. She is currently pursuing a Master’s in Public Administration from Governors State University. In recognition of her outstanding professional service, she has received many awards, commendations, and letters of appreciation for her professional and voluntary service. Mayor Covington was the Woman of the Year, 2010/2011 – National Association of Professional Women (NAPW); Graduate of the Leadership Program – Department of Veterans Administration; Employee of the Year – Veterans of Strike Force One Organization; Who’s Who for Professionals; and Leadership Graduate – Illinois Municipal League. (vcovington@university-park-il.com)

Tracy L. Felty is the Saline County E-911 Director and Saline County Sheriff’s Office Communications Supervisor since 2002. Lt. Felty was the Assistant E-911 Director at Gallatin County from 1996 until 2002 and a telecommunicator with the Saline County Sheriff’s Office since 1998. Lt. Felty wrote the 9-1-1 application for Gallatin County E-911, which became the first county in Illinois to have it’s 9-1-1 calls answered by another agency in another county. Lt. Felty was awarded the Government Leader Award in 2009 by the E-911 Institute in Washington D.C. for his work with government officials and other government agencies in broadening relationships to regional, state and federal levels. Lt. Felty received a Bachelor Degree in Communications from Southern Illinois University in 1989 and a Master’s Degree in Meteorology from Mississippi State University in 1993. Lt. Felty is the President of the Southern Illinois Coal Belt Fire Protective Association, of 100 fire departments across Southern Illinois and Southwestern Indiana. A board of director of the Illinois Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce, and Public Information Officer for both the Shawneetown Fire Department (18 year member) and Saline County Sheriff’s Office. Lt. Felty is also a Deputy Coroner for the Saline County Coroner’s Office. In 2010, Lt. Tracy L. Felty, was elected as the Treasurer of the Counties of Southern Illinois 9-1-1 project. (CSI-911). CSI-911 is a project to bring Next Generation 9-1-1 to Southern Illinois. (salinee911@yahoo.com)
**Chris Hamb** originally a Chicago native, has lived in Champaign-Urbana for the last thirteen years. During that time he has had many roles, including college student, graduate student, University of Illinois Faculty and most recently small business owner. Mr. Hamb currently serves on several boards and committees in his local community (Champaign County NAACP Executive Board, CUpperStar Steering Committee, Canaan Men’s SAFEHouse Steering Committee, Champaign County Black Chamber of Commerce Executive Board, Salem Cyber Church Committee and the UC2B Technical Commitee). Mr. Hamb is an active member of Canaan Baptist Church where he serves as the Web Ministry Chair. Christopher is a mentor with the Talks Mentoring and the One-to-One Mentoring programs. In 2009 he was named one of United Way’s Emerging Community Leaders. When Christopher is not volunteering he runs and operates Chrisp Media, LLC, a web consulting business he founded. Chrisp Media, LLC specializes in bringing non-for-profits and small businesses online. ([chrishamb@chrishamb.com](mailto:chrishamb@chrishamb.com))

**Mike Hawkins** (aka Brother Mike) is the heart and soul of YOUmedia. The Associate Director and Lead Mentor for Digital Youth Network, Brother Mike came to DYN with eight years’ experience working in the classroom at Carter G. Woodson on Chicago’s South Side. Brother Mike specializes in spoken word and hip-hop. In 1999, he co-founded a performance group called Poetree Chicago, which brought spoken word and hip-hop together to venues and communities throughout Chicago. The group was selected for the Illinois Arts Council’s Traveling Artist Roster, creating positive, uplifting material that could inspire and educate. In 2004, the group produced its first album, Positive Pollution.

As a DYN mentor, Brother Mike has worked across media, from spoken word to radio to graphic design. Most notably he helped develop a multi-media arts class called “iRemix Records,” in which sixth-grade students analyze and critique the music industry while learning how to create their own music. Students take on multiple roles as producers, artists, managers, designers, and videographers, with the goal of creating a CD and presenting their work to a larger audience. Brother Mike is the creator of such projects as Change Society, which engages students in media creation with a focus on civic engagement, and Lyricist Loft, which provides a pathway for students to showcase their work to a public audience. ([mhawkins@digitalyouthnetwork.org](mailto:mhawkins@digitalyouthnetwork.org))

**Joseph Hoereth** is Director of the UIC Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE). As part of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA), IPCE creates opportunities for scholars, concerned citizens, students, and government to participate in public discourse and educational programs on current policy issues and social trends. The Institute has supported a wide range of public discourse events, programs, and research projects in partnership with other university departments and external partners. IPCE also conducts civic education and leadership development programs for neighborhood leaders, college students, and high school students. The core research focus for the Institute is the use of technology to enhance civic engagement, and it manages CivicSource.org, a web portal devoted to information and learning about civic engagement. Dr. Hoereth has worked at several university-based research centers and private consulting firms and holds a B.A. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley, a Masters, and a Ph.D. in urban planning from Rutgers University. ([jhoereth@uic.edu](mailto:jhoereth@uic.edu))

**Sophia Hu** was born in China and later moved to Chicago two weeks before her first birthday. Growing up in the South Loop of Chicago, she constantly exercises English and many dialects of the Chinese
language (Mandarin, Cantonese, and Taishanese) on a daily basis. Her Bachelors in Psychology and strong interest in technology has led to her current position at Harold Washington City College as a Computer Lab Assistant and Chicago Public Library as a Cyber-Navigator at the heart of Chinatown.

Kara Kennedy joined Lumity as Executive Director in August 2009. She brings over 20 years of nonprofit experience predominately in health and voluntary health organizations. Kara is a highly versatile professional with expertise in fundraising, program development and management, strategic planning, and organizational development. Under Kara’s leadership, Lumity has deepened its involvement with CTCs statewide through partnering with DCEO on Elevate America in 2009, launching the MS IT Academy with CTCs, and launching CTC Connect, a program designed to increase the capacity and sustainability of CTCs. In addition, npo.net has expanded statewide and into Texas.

As Director of Corporate Relations at Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Kara formed and managed partnerships with fortune 500 companies including Best Buy, The Coca-Cola Company, Kraft Foods, Microsoft Corporation, and Proctor & Gamble. She also served for 3 years as Development Director at Respiratory Health Association (formerly known as American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago) and created the Catch Your Breath Initiative addressing women and lung health issues.

Her longest tenure was at the national Alzheimer’s Association serving for over 10 years in the Program Services Division. Her most significant accomplishments included development of dementia care practice guidelines for residential care, led a national demonstration project on care management for individuals with dementia and their caregivers, and initiating the Associations Diversity Initiative. Kara began her career as a discharge planner developing programs for patients in community hospitals both in Chicago and Charleston, SC. She holds a Masters in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University and Bachelors in Social Work from Indiana University. In addition, Kara achieved her Certified Association Executive designation.

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Will Kent is a recent graduate of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois. He concentrated in Community Informatics. Fascinated by information literacy, he currently works as a CyberNavigator with the Chicago Public Library. He is also wrapping up a pilot program at the University of Illinois to improve retention of low income, first generation-college-going students. His interests are wide, spanning broadband internet access, environmental psychology, and participatory action research. You can find him biking around the city.

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Adrian Kok is a tenured Associate Professor from the Graduate School of Social Work, Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois. He has been an affiliate with the Community Informatics Lab at UIUC and participated in numerous e-Chicago conferences since its inception. He is currently appointed by the GeroEd Center of Council of Social Work Education as a mentor to assist with infusion of gerontology in social work programs and by the Social Work Leadership Initiative at the New York Academy of Medicine to mentor schools to implement the rotation model with social work schools in Illinois. He has been involved in numerous research and evaluation projects with CLESE and West Suburban Senior Services. In 2010, he was recognized for his teaching excellence by Dominican University. His current research focuses on the infrastructure available in older adult communities that promote information literacy, digital divide within the social work profession, and is currently working with colleagues at the CI Lab at
UIUC on the Global CI Literature Review Project. (ajkok@dom.edu)

Joyce Latham comes to LIS education after an extended career in libraries. With a background in cataloging and technical services, she became closely involved with retrospective conversion and automation projects. She was the head of Automated Services for the Southern Maryland Regional Library and worked on the development of the statewide Sailor Project. From there she went to Chicago Public Library as the head of Information Technology. After three years at the University of Illinois studying the social influences on the development of intellectual freedom in public libraries, she went to upstate New York as a library / public library system director. With the completion of her dissertation she came to the School of Information Studies, where she specializes in public libraries, intellectual freedom and library history. Latham’s revisionary research focus is on the activist role of librarians in the development of culture. (latham@uwm.edu)

Hilary Lee has been a part of the Cybernavigator program since 2007. She currently works at the Conrad Sulzer branch in Chicago and assists patrons with all levels of computer literacy to accomplish tasks in the digital age. In addition to developing educational tutorials for patrons who are seeking employment she assists patrons looking for ancestors, researching medical information or just accessing the internet for information on their favorite hobby. Ms. Lee has focused much of her work on assisting patrons in accessing the CPL Learning Express module. This free CPL offering provides mock timed exams for a wide range of standardized tests for high school, post secondary, graduate and industry certification exams for credentialing purposes. Ms. Lee and her husband has lived in the City of Chicago for the last 20 years. (hlee@chipublib.org)

Noah Lenstra, PhD student, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, is interested in community informatics and cultural heritage, or local historical communities using digital technologies to enhance, preserve and share community memory. He is especially interested in the role of public libraries, archives and genealogists in digital community memory. He is also interested in the preservation of memory of Afro-descendent communities in the digital age. (nlenstr2@illinois.edu)

Gene Loeb is the associate editor for a journal issue on internet and information retrieval (IRRDL) and a contributor to a text on international broadband activities and issues. Gene is writing a chapter and researching on lifelong learning, technology, and communication. He recently gave an online presentation on this topic in February. He is also working with a researcher in Portugal on a project involving opinions on broadband applications in rural areas of selected nations. (geneloeb@gmail.com)

Jeff Kelly Lowenstein is the Database and Investigative Editor at Hoy, the Chicago Tribune’s Spanish-language newspaper. He previously worked for five years at The Chicago Reporter, and, before that, for South Shore Community News on Chicago's South Side. His work has been published in the Chicago Tribune, the Boston Herald, the Daily Herald and the Common Review, among many publications. Kelly Lowenstein’s work has won local, regional and national awards, including a NABJ National Media Award in 2010, the Chicago Headline Club’s Watchdog Award for Excellence in Public Interest Reporting in 2008, and Peter Lisagor Awards for Exemplary Journalism in 2006 and 2008. A 2007 Racial Justice Fellow at the Institute of Justice and Journalism and a 2008 Dart Center Ochberg Fellow, he is the president of the Dart Society. He lives in Evanston, Illinois with his wife Dunreith. His son Aidan
is a freshman at Tulane University.  
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Norma Lugo-Gulyas has been employed as a librarian in the City Colleges of Chicago for 22 years where her field of expertise has been as a Reference Librarian. Presently, Norma is the Director of the Library Technical Assistant (LTA) Program at Wilbur Wright College. She began teaching in the LTA Program in 1994 when classes were taught ‘face to face’ in the classroom. Roughly 10 years ago, the program shifted from the traditional classroom to an online setting with practical experience being offered through a practicum at a library selected by the student. The blending of online learning and ‘hands-on’ experience has proven to be an exciting and valuable way for students to learn. Working as a librarian and a professor has allowed her the benefit of understanding the profession from a professional and an educator’s perspective. Norma’s varied experience in libraries has provided her with firsthand knowledge that she can impart to students planning to become library technical assistants.  
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Demetrio P. Maguigad is the new media manager of the Community Media Workshop. His focus is on developing and implementing the organization’s strategic online communications and managing the development and production of new media resources and tools. He is an expert on online strategy and web platforms and has presented his work on how nonprofits can leverage the web at various national and local conferences and lectures series. He is currently an associate professor at Columbia College Chicago, Marketing Communications Program where he teaches Social Media and PR Strategies.  
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Joey Mak is the Assistant Deputy Director for the Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Technology at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). In this role, Joey works closely with the agency’s business development team to implement programs that help entrepreneurs and small businesses succeed. Additionally, he is responsible for developing policies and coordinating the state’s efforts in the fields of biotechnology, broadband and digital literacy.

Before joining DCEO, Joey was the Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff in the Illinois Governor’s Office, where he served as the primary liaison between the Chief of Staff and other administrative units of state government.

Prior, Joey was the chief fundraiser for State Representative Lisa Hernandez. He also managed community affairs and outreach for State Representative Sara Feigenholtz for two years before joining her 2009 special election bid for U.S. Congress, where he served as the head speechwriter and was responsible for developing the campaign’s online content and social media. Joey has also worked as a public affairs representative at Resolute Consulting in Chicago, where he assisted with various public relations campaigns for clients including the Big Ten Network, Allied Waste and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

Raised in Chicago’s north suburbs, Joey graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a B.A. in Political Science and a B.S. in Anthropology. He currently resides in Chicago.  
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Alejandro Luis Molina is a Technologist and Principal at Caja del Agua Studios, a consultancy specializing in technology and educational integration. He is active in the Puerto Rican community known as Paseo Boricua. He also serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center in Chicago, Illinois, where he chairs the technology committee, which oversees the technology integration of of its AIDS program, day care and youth centers and wellness and
Community Informatics projects. He is past co-chair of the Steering Committee for the Humboldt Park Smart Communities Project, which was created to encourage broadband adoption in the wake of the City of Chicago’s Digital Excellence Initiative. As well, he serves as Vice-President of the Board of Directors of Youth Connections Charter School (YCCS), a CPS Charter school with 21 campuses and 3500 students throughout Chicago. In this capacity, he serves as Chair of the Technology and Compliance Committees, as well as an advocate of open-source and Web 2.0 solutions for both the Youth Connections Charter School (YCCS) and Alternative Schools Network (ASN) schools and in the Greater Humboldt Park Area. (alejandrom@cajadelaguastudios.org)

Babyface Monster is the owner of Chi-Bangerz.com, a Chicago based hip-hop website & weekly internet radio show that helps his fellow talented independent Midwest musician’s find much needed exposure. In addition to helping others, he himself is one of hip-hop’s most gifted secrets. He recently released his debut EP, “Cadillac Brougham Joints” to rave review on the blogosphere. Currently, he’s currently perfecting 2 more projects titled, “The Making of A Monster”, & “Revolutionary Street Slang”, all to be released independently in 2012! He’s now set to introduce himself to an industry crying out for genuine artists & good music. (babyfacemonster@gmail.com)

Bruce Montgomery is the Founder and President of Montgomery & Company, a digital media, information and communications technology company based in Chicago. Bruce is also the Founder, executive producer and host of Technology Access Television; Chicago’s longest running weekly TV show covering Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship news and information. Bruce has built a strong knowledge base in the strategic technology needs of the service industries through practical experience in the public and private sectors of education, government, economic development, construction, health care, professional services, software development and digital media enterprises. Prior to becoming an entrepreneur Bruce developed his expertise in technology, marketing and business development working for the companies of Control Data Corporation, Entré Computer, Javelin Software, Timeplex, Unisys, and Sprint. Mr. Montgomery serves on the boards of the Bronzeville Community Development Partnership, the Illinois Technology Association (ITA) and TechAdvantage at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed Bruce to the Mayor’s Council of Technology Advisors and Governor Pat Quinn named Bruce to the board of The Illinois Broadband Deployment Council and The Partnership for a Connected Illinois. He is also a technology initiatives advisor to Illinois Congressmen Danny Davis and Bobby Rush. Mr. Montgomery majored in marketing at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL and attended Amos Tuck Graduate School of Business at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. (Bruce@TATV.org) (bruce@tatv.org)

Philip Neustrom is a software engineer in the San Francisco Bay area currently co-directing the LocalWiki effort. He co-founded DavisWiki.org in 2004. For the past several years he has worked on a variety of nonprofit efforts to engage everyday citizens. He oversaw the development of the popular VideoTheVote.org, the world’s largest coordinated video documentation project, and was the lead developer at Citizen Engagement Laboratory, a
nonprofit focused on empowering traditionally underrepresented constituencies. He is a graduate of the University of California, Davis, with a bachelor’s in mathematics. (philip@localwiki.org)

Psalm One is a Chicago-born musician signed to Rhymesayers Entertainment. A former Chemist, she has been making music the right way since 2002. She's been writing since she could hold a utensil. Boasting a prideful, soulful and vulnerable style, she takes a multi-faceted, ultra-cultural approach to songwriting. She plays the drums, reads music, and she loves singing punk songs in the shower. Her mother is a journalist. She's lived in Minneapolis, San Francisco, New York and rural Illinois. Chicago is her home. The music chimes and flashes with blues, jazz and pop influences. She once won 1st place in her grammar school Science Fair. She once wore a lab coat to a performance because she had no time to change. Someone said she beat Lauryn Hill in a battle. She makes a mean bowl of Macaroni and Cheese, that's for sure... Critically claimed, criminally slept on and superbly talented, Psalm is a legend in the making. Heralded by some, intimidating to others, incredible to hug. Rhymesayers Entertainment showed remarkable taste and intelligence and signed her to a multi-album deal in 2006. Her first commercial offering, "The Death of Frequent Flyer" is a quirky, poised and colorful gumbo cooked up and served as an introduction to the potential of a true emcee. She is an emcee who knows that it's bigger than emceeing. She offers food for thought effortlessly, and that's something few can claim. Her chameleon flow has been shared with legendary folks from the Hieroglyphics camp, to the Rhymesayers camp, to NYC and back. Her touring stripes are evident,; her craft is ever-polished. A self-proclaimed "Woman at Work", she has recently been giving away lots of stellar, FREE music to her fans, preparing them for the next full-length offering. We can't wait. Enjoy her today. (psalm.uno@gmail.com)

Matt Parks is Director of Network Services at NIU; Project Director for iFiber network deployment project; has been with NIU for 1 year; prior to joining NIU Matt spent 14 years in private industry, specifically in the Wireless Sector at Motorola, Nextel and Sprint Nextel; Matt led the planning and engineering function of Sprint Nextel's iDEN and CDMA networks in the Midwest Region, comprised of 14 states and over 40 switch complexes; most recently Matt was Director of Technology and Business Development at ISCO International - which serves Tier-1/Tier-2 3G/4G Wireless Providers in the US and Internationally. (mparks2@niu.edu)

Rose Peterson is the Information Technology / Collection Management Manager at Rockford Public Library. She graduated from Rockford College, BS in Computer Science, and University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana earning an MLIS. Rose has worked at Rockford Public Library for fifteen years. (rpeterson@rockfordpubliclibrary.org)

Frances Roehm created and is the webmaster for ChicagoJobs.org, the area's first and most trusted Chicago Metro-focused job and career website. She is a librarian for the Skokie Public Library, where she is responsible for Skokie's Community Information Network, SkokieNet and serves as the Community Liaison. Ms. Roehm co-authored "Guide to Internet Job Searching," McGraw-Hill (now in it's 7th edition). In addition, she is an advocate for providing quality online resources available anytime, anywhere in the state and led the effort to create an online statewide information portal, Illinois CLICKS!, built by librarians and easily accessible 24/7. Ms. Roehm is a member of Governor Quinn's Broadband Deployment Council, the IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Eliminate the Digital Divide Advisory Council, library associations, and several local community groups. (froehm@skokielibrary.info)
Elizabeth Rosas-Landa was born and raised in Mexico City. She received her BA in Information Technology from the Insurgentes University as well as a certification in e-commerce in Mexico. She worked as the director of technology for the national marketing firm, Marketing and Promotion Company in Mexico City, where she gained more than seven years of expertise in the technology field. She moved to the United States in 2010. She volunteered in several non-profit organizations helping communities improve their technology skills through different programs, and taught technology classes in different institutions throughout Latino immigrant communities. She currently works at The Resurrection Project as program manager for the Smart Communities/BTOP Program, a Broadband USA initiative, where she focuses on bridging the digital divide in the Pilsen neighborhood. Her focus is on education of adults in digital literacy, as well as providing digital tools to the community’s residents and business owners such as the Pilsen Portal. (erosaslanda@resurrectionproject.org)

Abigail Sackmann is a masters student in the Graduate School of Library & Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research interests include community informatics, food systems and data visualization. As a graduate assistant in the Community Informatics Research Lab, she has carried out and supervised other students doing case studies of IT use by 100 public and non-profit organizations, all part of the UC2B broadband project in Champaign-Urbana. (sackmnn2@illinois.edu)

John Spears (MSLIS ’98, UIUC) currently holds the positions of Executive Director at the Naperville Public Library and Part-time Adult Services Librarian at the Oswego Public Library District. Prior to assuming his post at Naperville, John served as the Director of the Joliet Public Library; Library Manager of the 95th Street Library of the Naperville Public Library; Coordinator of Adult Programming, Manager of Community Branches, and Business and Information Resource Manager at the St. Charles City-County Library District (MO); and Manager of the Mid-County Branch of the St. Louis County Library. As Vice-President of the Reaching Across Illinois Library System Board of Trustees, John serves on the Delivery and Legislative Committees, LLSAP Task Force, and as Chair of the Continuing Education Committee. Active in ALA and ILA, John is a member of the Data Collection for Library Managers Committee of LLAMA. Additional statewide and regional work has included the Future of Illinois Library Cooperation (FILC), the FILC Funding Taskforce, and the Future of Resource Sharing Committee of the Illinois State Library, and Vice President of the Illinois Library Employee Benefits Plan. In addition to his work in libraries, John is an active Rotarian, an Assistant Coach of Forensics at North Central College, and a member of the Naperville Development Partnership Board of Directors. John has presented to numerous associations on management of electronic resources, collection development, the future of libraries, services to businesses, and community outreach. (jspears@naperville-lib.org)

Andrea Stamm volunteers at the Chinese-American Museum of Chicago where she chairs the Collections and Research Committee, serves on the Board of Directors, has curated several exhibitions and managed 2 grants for the Museum. At Northwestern University Library, she is head of the Bibliographic Services Department. (astamm@northwestern.edu)

Sarah Tansley currently works as the Branch Manager of the Humboldt Park Branch of the Chicago Public Library. Sarah started her career with CPL as a children's librarian and has enjoyed working in a variety of Chicago’s neighborhoods including Back of the Yards and Avalon Park. (stansley@chipublib.org)
Elizabeth A. Tarpley is the Director of IT, City Colleges of Chicago-Kennedy King College. Ms. Tarpley has been a technologist for over a decade. At the City Colleges, she plans, directs, implements, and manages computer systems and operations which support the needs of each college, while following the goals and objectives to interface District-wide. She also supports technology initiatives in neighboring communities (Englewood).

In addition to this role, Ms. Tarpley has spent the last six years developing innovative products and concepts which serve the technology needs of toddlers and special populations though one company she founded, Targeted Technology Solutions, LLC. A serial tech entrepreneur, recognized by Forbe's Magazine as an "Inspiring Entrepreneur" for her work bridging the digital divide; she also owns/co-owns several other ventures.

Ms. Tarpley holds a BA from DePaul University and an MBA with concentration in Information SystemsManagement from Keller Graduate School of Management. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. (etarpley@ccc.edu)

Jami Thompson studied Library and Information Science at Dominican University. Her work has been published in Make Your Own History: A Documenting Feminist and Queer Activism in the 21st Century and discussed in Alison Piepmeier's Girl Zines: Making Media, Doing Feminism. She currently works as a Cyber Navigator at Chicago Public Library's Near North Branch where she teaches computer basics and unfreezes the public access computers. (jthompson@chipublib.org)

Greg Wass is the Chief Information Officer for Cook County, Illinois. He has over 25 years’ experience in public sector management and technology consulting, including executive positions at the State of Illinois, City of Chicago, and City of Alexandria, Virginia, and at two major technology consulting firms. As CIO, Greg is working to transform the IT infrastructure of Cook County government via shared services, open data and cloud computing strategies, and is implementing long-overdue, critical business applications. In 2012 Greg was recognized by Government Technology magazine as one of the nation’s top 25 “doers, dreamers and drivers” in public sector innovation (http://www.govtech.com/top-25/Greg-Wass.html).

Prior to joining Cook County in late 2010, Greg was CIO for the State of Illinois. During his tenure Illinois was recognized nationally for transparency of public information on the web, and for improving government operations through consolidation and shared services.

In 2009, Illinois was awarded the largest ever multi-program federal planning grant for its connected health and human services “Framework” project, and in 2010, the state completed a major modernization of its unemployment insurance systems. Greg has chaired the Illinois Century Network policy committee since 2007, and was co-author of Governor Quinn’s economic plan for Illinois, which focuses on the key role of public infrastructure, including broadband, in economic recovery.

Greg served on the Executive Committee of the National Association of State CIOs, and has been a regular speaker at Harvard University’s annual summit on shared services in the public sector. Since 2005 he has served on the faculty at Northwestern University, and has developed and taught courses for NU’s online graduate program in public policy and administration.

Formerly, Greg was research director for Chicago’s Civic Federation, where he co-sponsored the Urban Innovations awards program, analyzed the taxes, debt and spending of major Chicago-area governments, and conducted research on public sector innovation that was recognized nationally.

Greg holds a B.A. in economics from Northwestern University and an M.A. in urban and quantitative economics from the University of Illinois at Chicago. (greg.wass@cookcountyil.gov)
Kate Williams is an assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate School of Library and Information Science. She recently completed a study of technology use and help in Chicago Public Library, is examining Illinois communities in the broadband rollout, and co-directs the Community Informatics Research Lab at UIUC. Her research examines the role of stable, longtime relationships in local communities (also known as bonding social capital) as a precondition for powerful use of technology. She began community technology work in 1993 at the Chicago Area Project teaching women to use an Apple 2e. (katewill@illinois.edu)

Rusty Winchel’s broadband experience covers an extensive array of telecommunications and data technology including Voice over IP (VOIP), circuit switched voice and high-speed data and Ethernet transport applications for broadband, long-haul, and CATV industries and extensive data and voice network design for business and educational applications. Starting with construction of fiber networks for voice long-haul applications during his tenure at Sprint, Rusty has continued to advocate for fiber based transport systems in support of local, municipal and wide-area networks to provide connectivity for both public and private sector organizations. Extensive involvement with projects such as Illinois Rural HealthNet (IRHN), Chicago Southland Fiber Network (CSFN-SSMMA) and many other municipal fiber connectivity projects has been a direct result of that continuing advocacy. Rusty’s broadband work experience has included network sales, consulting, engineering and construction for Northern Illinois University (NIU), Motorola, Digital Equipment Corporation, Sprint and Pioneer Standard. Mr. Winchel is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Platteville; Department of Business, Industry and Communications (BIC). (rwinchel@niu.edu)

Jasiri X, emcee and community activist, is the creative force and artist behind the ground breaking internet news series, This Week with Jasiri X, which has garnered critical acclaim, thousands of subscribers, and millions of internet views. From the controversial viral video What if the Tea Party was Black?, to the hard hitting truth of A Song for Trayvon, Jasiri X cleverly uses Hip-Hop to provide social commentary on a variety of issues. His videos have been featured on websites as diverse as Allhiphop.com and The Huffington Post and Jasiri has been a guest on BET Rap City, The Michael Baisden Show, Free Speech TV, Left of Black, and Russia Today. Jasiri X first burst on the National and International Hip-Hop scene with the powerful hit song Free The Jena 6 which was played on more than 100 radio stations and was named Hip-hop Political Song of the Year. His debut album, American History X, was named Album of the Year at the Pittsburgh Hip-Hop Awards. A six time Pittsburgh Hip-Hop Award winner, Jasiri recently became the first Hip-Hop artist to received the coveted August Wilson Center for African American Culture Fellowship. A founding member of the anti-violence group One Hood, Jasiri started the New Media Academy to teach young African-American boys how to analyze and create media for themselves. Jasiri has performed from New York City to Berlin, Germany and various cities in between, including recently in front of 30,000 at the Our Communities Our Jobs Rally in Los Angeles. He has toured colleges and universities across the country presenting his innovative workshop, How to Succeed in Hip-Hop Without Selling Your Soul, and is working on a book of the same name. He also blogs for Jack and Jill Politics, Daveyd.com, and The Black Youth Project. Jasiri X signed a record deal with Wandering Worx Entertainment and is currently working on his album, Ascension with acclaimed producer Rellglon. (jasirix@gmail.com)
Brian Zelip is a research analyst for the Graduate School of Library & Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is interested in the intersections of youth, hip hop cultural production and the use of information technology by marginalized communities and local institutions. His focus on community technology began in 1999 as a Masters student in Africana Studies at the University of Toledo volunteering at the Murchison Community Center teaching computer classes and organizing tutoring programs for neighborhood kids. As field researcher for the Community Informatics Research Lab’s Statewide Illinois Broadband Research project he has been studying the BTOP rollout, interviewing key actors in anchor institutions around the state. In addition to working with others to build a community wiki for Champaign Urbana using LocalWiki.org, Brian is also a hip hop dj and host on community radio station WEFT. (bzelip@illinois.edu)

Kang Zhao is a doctoral student in the Peking University Department of Information Management and a visiting doctoral student in the Community Informatics Research Lab at UIUC. She earned her bachelor and master degrees at Peking University in information management and information science. Her research interest includes social aspects of information technology, online community, scholarly communication in digital age, and social networks. (kangzhao@illinois.edu)

Partners and supporters

A Community/Technology Manifesto

We dedicate ourselves to become difference makers! An information revolution is underway, leading global transformation in health, education, business, culture and in the diverse activities of our daily lives.

This revolution cannot and will not bypass any underserved or low income community. Every person and every neighborhood is impacted and therefore challenged to act.

We rely on: cyber-democracy, collective intelligence, and information freedom.

**Cyberdemocracy** means universal access: every person and every community organization able to make full use of new technologies.

**Collective Intelligence** means hearing all voices: all of us uploading as well as downloading.

**Information Freedom** means online information is findable, easy to use, and requires no special permission to access.

With these values, we will work together so all our communities and community organizations can communicate, represent themselves online, and use digital technology to create cyber-power for social change!

This manifesto originated in Toledo, Ohio, and has collected signatures in Champaign, Illinois. Can it serve Chicago? Let’s debate it. ([http://eblackcu.net/portal/manifesto](http://eblackcu.net/portal/manifesto))