

Chicago 1919 Confronting the Race Riots

#chi1919

Learn more about the riots, and events throughout the year, at chicago1919.org.

Opening Event

Saturday, February 23, 2:00 – 5:00 pm

DuSable Museum of African American History

The Chicago 1919 race riots, the most violent week in Chicago history, were sparked by the death of Eugene Williams, an African American teenager stoned and drowned by a white man for floating his raft over an invisible line into a whites-only South Side beach. The police refused to arrest the white perpetrator, and the city erupted in several days of arson and looting leading to 38 deaths, 23 black, 15 white, until the National Guard was called to restore order. The riots inflicted lasting scars on the city, still visible in the lines of segregation and oppression throughout the city's built environment, schools, media, and selective policing.

The Opening Event of our year-long series of conversations on the history and legacy of the 1919 race riots poses questions we will explore throughout the year: What happened 100 years ago on a Chicago beach during a sweltering summer day? How and why did violence erupt across the city? How did the riots continue to affect Chicago over the ensuing decades? And what can we learn from the past that might help us imagine a better future?

Speakers and Facilitators

Christopher Benson, JD, Journalist, Lawyer, Screenwriter, and Associate Professor at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism

Lee Bey, Architectural Critic, Writer, and Photographer

Officer Michael Chuchro, Policing Historian

Dr. Eve L. Ewing, Writer, Visual Artist, and Assistant Professor in the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration

Dr. Armand Gonzalzes, Author, Doctor, and Teacher

Erica Griffin, Director of Education, DuSable Museum of African American History

Claire Hartfield, Education Policy Specialist and Coretta Scott King Award Winning Author

Dr. Christopher Reed, Emeritus Professor of History at Roosevelt University

Robin Robinson, Special Advisor for Community Affairs at the Chicago Police Department, and former Chicago news anchor

2:00 What Happened in 1919?

Illinois Black Legislators Auditorium

Multi-Media Presentation about the 1919 Chicago Riots

- **Jabari Chiphe as Eugene Williams**
- **Narrated and directed by Robin Robinson**

2:45 Interactive Breakout Sessions

Locations Across the Museum

Join a session for hands-on, active discussion of one of the topics below, led by experts in their fields. Each breakout session will occur twice, starting at 2:45 and again at 3:25.

- **Housing and Color Lines**, facilitated by Lee Bey
Illinois Black Legislators' Community Lobby
- **Policing and Violence**, facilitated by Robin Robinson and Officer Michael Chuchro
Illinois Black Legislators Auditorium, Upper Level
- **Media and Race**, facilitated by Christopher Benson
Ames Auditorium
- **World War I and Chicago's Black Soldiers**, facilitated by Christopher Reed
Harold Washington Skylight Gallery, Level 1
- **An Artifact and Archival Show-and-Tell of the DuSable Exhibit**, *Two Colored Women in the US Expeditionary Forces: The Story of Kathryn Johnson*, led by Armand Gonzalzes
Studio A
- **Young Adult Book Reading and Discussion**, *A Few Red Drops*, with author Claire Hartfield
Studio B
- **Video Booth: Record Your Own Great Migration or Family Migration Story**, Drs. Charles V. and Dona C. Hamilton
Institute for Research and Civic Involvement Reading Room and Library

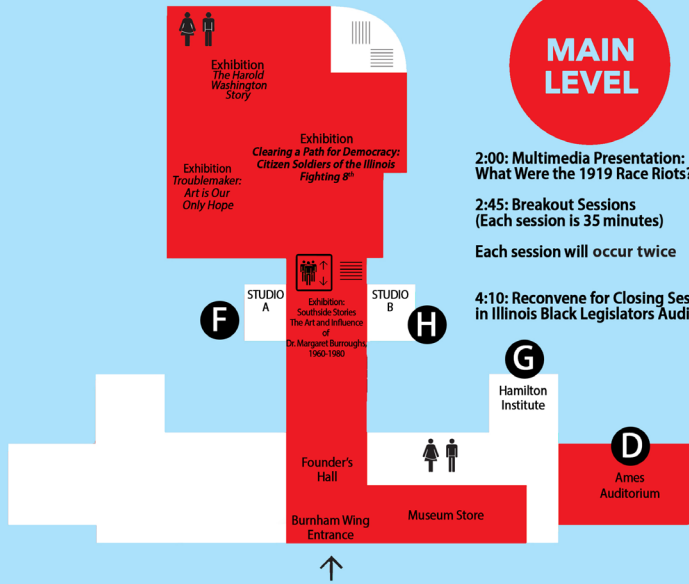
4:10 What Have We Learned, and Where Do We Go from Here?

Illinois Black Legislators Auditorium

- **Breakout sessions debrief**, led by Robin Robinson
- **Eve L. Ewing, reading from 1919**, her forthcoming book of poems about the riots

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- A** Multimedia Presentation:
What Were the 1919 Race Riots
Illinois Black Legislators Auditorium
2:00 p.m.
- B** Housing and Color Lines
Facilitated by Lee Bey
*Illinois Black Legislators
Auditorium Lobby*
- C** Policing and Violence
Facilitated by Robin Robinson
Illinois Black Legislators Auditorium
- D** Media and Race
Facilitated by Chris Benson
Ames Auditorium



MAIN LEVEL

2:00: Multimedia Presentation:
What Were the 1919 Race Riots?

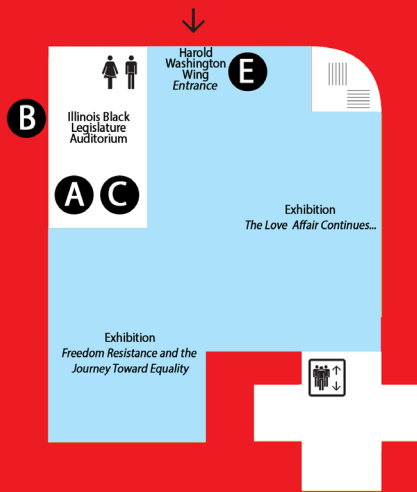
2:45: Breakout Sessions
(Each session is 35 minutes)

Each session will occur twice

4:10: Reconvene for Closing Session
in Illinois Black Legislators Auditorium

- E** World War I and Black Soldiers
Facilitated by Christopher Reed
*Harold Washington Skylight
Gallery I*
- F** Two Colored Women in the
US Expeditionary Forces:
The Story of Kathryn Johnson,
an artifact and archival show and tell
Facilitated by Armand Gonzalzes
Studio A
- G** Record your own Great Migration
or Family Migration Story
*Hamilton Institute for Research
and Civic Involvement*
- H** "A Few Red Drops:
The Chicago Race Riot of 1919"
A Young Adult Reading
with Claire Hartfield
Studio B

BREAKOUT SESSIONS



GROUND LEVEL

2:00: Multimedia Presentation:
What Were the 1919 Race Riots?

2:45: Breakout Sessions
(Each session is 35 minutes)

Each session will occur twice

4:10: Reconvene for Closing Session
in Illinois Black Legislators Auditorium



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
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Chicago 1919: Confronting the Race Riots has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the human endeavor

Made possible in part
by the generous support of
Edith Rasmussen Ahern
and Patrick Ahern.



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