

home. In a weird twist, the logistics revolution that had led to the homogenization of store food shelves has come to aid mutual-aid programs!

Back in the Bronx, Grullón, the artist who had given up counting the unending sirens, was part of a mutual-aid group, the North Bronx Collective, formed along with Vani Kannan, LoriKim Alexander, Lucy Mercado, and Francheska Alcantara. The group started a food distribution program that was eventually handed off to a local church. They then focused their energy on restoring, remediating, and starting to garden in a disinvested area owned by the park district, which Grullón has been involved with for several years.[9] Anecdotaly, this kind of engagement in mutual aid by artists seemed to blossom widely—which could be read, depending on who you ask, as adding an increased centrality of activism to today’s art activism, or conversely, as meaning that that artists might be inclined to make greater distinctions between what constitutes solidarity and what constitutes their art.

At the start of the pandemic, Grullón began a new series of self-portrait photographs produced in her home, where she was quarantining. In the series “March to June: At Home with Essential Workers” (2020), the title of each work includes the date when it was taken and a hyperlink to a picture of the essential worker whom Grullón dresses as in the portrait. For instance, there is “March 31, 2020: Rikers Island Prisoners Are Being Offered PPE and \$6 an Hour to Dig Mass Graves <https://theintercept.com/2020/03/31/rikers-island-coronavirus-mass-graves/>”, in which the artist stands, barefoot, in what appears to be a household entryway or hallway, wearing an orange prison jumpsuit, her arms hanging at her side and gaze looking slightly to the right of the camera, while to her left hangs a chandelier with some missing bulbs.

And then there is “April 28, 2020: As Amazon, Walmart, and Others Profit amid Coronavirus Crisis, Their Essential Workers Plan Unprecedented Strike—<https://theintercept.com/2020/04/28/coronavirus-may-1-strike-sickout-amazon-target-whole-foods/>”. In this image, the artist mounts a bicycle, a helmet

and a bag hanging over the handlebars, again with her gaze directed at the camera, her facemask hanging below her nose but covering her mouth. This time, the setting is a kitchen, complete with dishes in a dish rack and a microwave in the background.[10] Rather than oscillating between private and public, the images hold both spheres in the same photograph. One figure is depicted simultaneously as an iconic essential worker who is transported from their workplace to a personal, domestic space. The URLs and article headlines incorporated into the titles of the artworks add an additional register, that of media representation and dissemination, where the reported narratives offer context. In these images, Grullón becomes the essential workers outside—a postal worker, food delivery person, and a nurse—in an act of empathy, but she also remains physically distanced inside her own home in an act of solidarity. These aesthetic choices say a lot about the artist’s analysis of the interconnectedness of struggles, and also reflect the practical parameters of a pandemic lockdown.

To the extent that a defining characteristic of the pandemic-era artwork may be emerging, it can be directly connected to the politics of care. While earlier advocacy and theorization focused on valuing all of the things that care work and essential work enable, there is now a push to reframe care work as vital and central to the meaning of life itself—to understand care work as the work of being human. The pandemic has promoted a reappraisal of the ways in which we live. It has led to heightened scrutiny about how public health systems have historically informed the development of the communities in which we live, and it has made clear that this largely invisible system of institutions and infrastructures is precarious and disinvested. The pandemic has also led to a reappraisal of work, about what is valued and who is valued. Looking ahead, the premise that our work could be seen and valued as socially useful, and that the towns and cities we live in could be places where people feel safe and cared for must guide how we approach public policies, as well as the ways in which we simply relate to one another. The aesthetic, social, and political experiments of this moment will undoubtedly have lasting effects on what art and activism look like moving forward, so let’s give them the care they deserve now. Our future will be better for it. ♦

Footnotes

1 See R. K. Wadhera et al., “Variation in COVID-19 Hospitalizations and Deaths across New York City Boroughs,” *JAMA* 321, no. 21 (April 2020): 2192–95, doi:10.1001/jama.2020.7197.

2 Alicia Grullón, “Hot City: At Home with Essential Workers,” *Verso* (blog), August 27, 2020, <https://www.versobooks.com/blogs/4841-hot-city-at-home-with-essential-workers>.

3 Jennifer Klein, “Essential Workers—Definition, History, and Importance,” *WSHU*, September 25, 2020, <https://www.wshu.org/post/essential-workers-definition-history-and-importance#stream/0>.

4 Student projects on this theme included “Levels of Care” (@levels.of.care), Instagram, 2021, <https://www.instagram.com/levels.of.care/>; and “Care Crisis: A Time Capsule about Art & Curating during a Pandemic from Students at Moore College of Art & Design,” *Care Crisis* WordPress, 2021, <https://carecrisis.wordpress.com/>.

5 “Nearly One-Third of U.S. Coronavirus Deaths Are Linked to Nursing Homes,” *New York Times*, June 2, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-nursing-homes.html>.

6 “Ai-Jen Poo: The Work that Makes All Other Work Possible,” *Ted.com*, December 7, 2018, https://www.ted.com/talks/ai_jen_poo_the_work_that_makes_all_other_work_possible.

7 Donatella Di Cesare, *Immunodemocracy: Capitalist Asphyxia* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2021), 85.

8 Boston Review, ed., *Politics of Care from COVID-19 to Black Lives Matter* (Brooklyn: Verso Books, 2020); *The Care Collective, Care Manifesto: The Politics of Interdependence* (Brooklyn: Verso Books, 2020); Emma Dowling, *The Care Crisis: What Caused It and How Can We End It?* (Brooklyn: Verso Books, 2021); Dean Spade, *Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity during this Crisis (and the Next)* (Brooklyn: Verso Books, 2020).

9 Hakim Bishara, “Bronx Artists Collaborated to Refurbish Community Park until the City Locked Them Out,” *Hyperallergic*, April 6, 2021, <https://hyperallergic.com/632855/north-bronx-collective-refurbish-tib-betts-tail-nyc-parks-locked-out/>. See also North Bronx Collective, “Why NYC Mutual Aid Workers Are Cutting Ties with World Central Kitchen,” *Medium*, June 18, 2020, <https://medium.com/@northbronx-mutualaid/why-nyc-mutual-aid-workers-are-cutting-ties-with-world-central-kitchen-335cfec40189>; and North Bronx Collective, “Hot City: Reimagining Food Justice in an Uprising,” *Verso Books Hot City* (blog), October 14, 2020, <https://www.versobooks.com/blogs/4875-hot-city-re-imagining-food-justice-in-an-uprising>.

10 Alicia Grullón, *March to June: At Home with Essential Workers*, online exhibition, July 23–November 23, 2020, *Bronx Museum of the Arts*, 2020, <http://www.bronxmuseum.org/index.php/exhibitions/alicia-grullon-march-to-june-at-home-with-essential-workers-online-exhibition>.



Alicia Grullón, April 13, 2020: NYC Death Toll Jumps by 3,700 after Uncounted Fatalities Are Added, <https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/albany/story/2020/04/14/new-york-city-coronavirus-death-toll-jumps-by-3-700-after-un-counted-fatalities-are-added-1275931>, 2020. Archival color dye sublimation print on aluminum, 40 × 60 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

Chicago Community Jail Support

A few Questions with Chris Walsh and Andrew Mausert-Mooney

BY NICK WYLIE



Chicago Community Jail Support (CCJS) is a daily, on the ground, grassroots mutual aid project run completely by volunteers. Their mission is to assist anyone being released from Cook County Jail, their loved ones, and the surrounding community.

CCJS focuses on providing direct aid that meets the immediate needs of those being released with phone calls, warm clothing, snacks, drinks, PPE, safe transportation home, and emergency housing. They are present outside the jail at the corner of 27th Street and California Blvd every day from 5 PM to 10 PM (and extend to 11 PM on weekends).

How and when did you get involved in CCJS? What are some other ways people have joined up?

Chris Walsh: After the George Floyd uprising, I realized I had a lot to learn after watching so much police brutality live in the streets, even at some smaller scale climate change protests I was a part of that year too. It really made me question what the point of police even is, if we can't even gather and complain about where we are heading on the climate lol.

So I started reading books to gather some context I was missing and started with black historical leaders such as Malcom X, Huey Newton and Fred Hampton which then lead me to want to learn more about community building and I ended up reading We Do this 'til we free us by Mariame Kaba. From there I decided to start my abolitionist journey with CCJS and figure things out from there and I been trying to go every Saturday I could since April 22'

What have you noticed people need most when getting out of Cook County Jail?

Chirs Walsh: Forget the material goods, people are usually just happy to be treated like a human being again after leaving the Jail. It's really unfortunate to hear about the constant neglect that goes on inside. I make sure to try to give folks a friendly interaction full of compassion because you never know if they'd been held for just a night or even longer. I feel like the most important asset we offer is our cell phones so everyone can connect with their loved ones to get back home.

What do you wish you could do to help folks getting out that you're sometimes not able to offer?

Andrew Mausert-Mooney: One thing that's meaningful to me about CCJS is that it's a specific type of need that isn't being addressed by the state or non-profits or charities or churches. If your family/friends can't make it out to ccjs for whatever reason often your only hope in getting home/out of the cold is an expensive cab ride, waiting at a dangerous Popeyes down the street (if they are open) and you don't have any cash or cellphone because the arresting cops take this from you and keep it at the arresting cop shops, purely out of cruelty (they transfer and hold belts and shoelaces for instance... So why

Photo Credit: Annette Reyna



couldn't they transfer your wallet and cell?). In this way (and that our conversations w people being released and families waiting to pick them up are immediately political given we have to distinguish ourselves from the cops and CO's that hang around, by saying stuff like "we are against Chicago police"). In this way CCJS work is at least partially responding to the important question/ criticism being asked of mutual aid projects: what's the difference between this and charity, and aren't the charities often more effective at doing this work?

The work that CCJS does not only provides aid but also advocates for the abolition of police and prisons. How do you communicate these ideas to folks getting out and the families waiting for them? Is it hard to convince people that we don't need cops or prisons?

Chris: We do talk to folks interested in hearing more about the abolition of these systems, yes. I don't feel like it's very hard to convince anyone who is outside the jail on these topics though. Folks are told the wrong time their loved ones are getting out and end up having to sit out there for hours with no update, the energy is pretty clear that the system is broken. If anything we just make sure to provide everyone out their care and make it clear that we, the people, are helping each other, while the systems continue to harm everyone in its path. Abolition of these systems becomes the natural path forward afterwards.

Andrew: CCJS includes a wide range of ideological stances among it's members including those (like me!) who aren't prison/ cop abolitionists (I support Cuban police for instance, I support locking up us killer cops and war criminals in prisons). There aren't any determined ideological lines that one follows as a condition of being a CCJS volunteer. Members of jail support are broadly progressive, including socialists, communists, anarchists and radicals. Many volunteers are prison abolitionists while others think those prisons are adequate buildings to, under a different people-powered leadership, lock up police and other war criminals who currently never seem to need a ride home from cook county.

How can people get involved?

There are infinite opportunities to get involved with our work (You don't need a car! You can work from home!). Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join our community.

You can learn more and help amplify Chicago Community Jail Support's message by visiting their webpage or following their Instagram account (@chicommunityjailsupport). You can support the group by donating here or on CashApp (\$ChicagoJS). Readers can also purchase needed supplies from the Target registry here.

Finally, you can sign up to volunteer with Chicago Community Jail Support by emailing chicommunityjailsup@gmail.com.

How can people support this work from afar (with money, time, word-spreading)?

Although CCJS particularly needs drivers and weekend shift coverage, volunteers can adapt their contributions to match their schedule/capacity and can also provide remote support through various working groups. Other ways that Chicago Community Jail Support hopes that you can support their goals are:

1. Calling/emailing Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, or Mayor Lori Lightfoot and demand that they improve conditions at Cook County Jail.
2. Support the Coalition to End Money Bond and other abolitionist efforts to dismantle the system of mass incarceration and inhumane treatment.
3. Support other mutual aids in your neighborhood/community and keep your community members safe by giving of your time and resources and meeting people where they are. We are surviving and sustaining jail support efforts because of our connections and partnerships with other mutual aids. ♦

Love Fridge Chicago

A Conversation with Eric Von Haynes of Love Fridge Chicago

BY EMILY GREEN



Love Fridge, Mc Kinley Park

The Love Fridge Chicago is a volunteer mutual aid organization launched in July 2020 in direct response to the precarity of food access as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Love Fridge was founded on the principle that feeding oneself is a right, not a privilege. Love and generosity are the underlying tenets of Love Fridge, as well as connecting deeply with different communities and neighborhoods throughout the city.

Emily: Tell me about the founding of Love Fridge Chicago?

Eric Von Haynes: In the early days of the pandemic, I was simply thinking of being of service to my community in any way I could. I was producing printed matter for individuals on the streets; bringing attention to topics including police brutality, the teachers' strike, Black & Brown Solidarity, and Self Determination to create awareness and raise capital for groups working on the front lines. I work nationally with a group of Risograph printers in a group called the Print Justice League. The Love Fridge Network was sparked after having conversations with Ramón Norwood (Radius Etc), a dear friend and a co-founder of the Love Fridge program, about creating community fridges in Chicago after seeing fridges appearing in the boroughs of New York. He was there at the time. He helped connect us to others in the NY movement. We worked on building a team and starting to launch sites. We attended national meetings with individuals interested in creating locations in other states. Those meetings helped shape the tactics of The Love Fridge Network. I'm grateful for the council of Ernst Bertone Oehninger who helped co-found Freedged, which in 2014 started with 10 community fridges in Northern California. Ernst offered support in those early days that helped me work on tactics that fit Chicago. I was inspired as well by the work of the Black Panther's Free Breakfast Program, the German Community Fridge movement, Food Not Bombs, and a big inspiration is the work of Krzysztof Wodiczko, specifically the design of the Homeless Vehicle (1980).

We began creating a space to organize that summer. We set up our first community Fridge within a few weeks. The Love Shack, our Flagship, was installed in Little Village by James Wurm in July 2020, and within those first few months, we launched a dozen fridges. James Wurm is a Host, a Spoke, and a co-founder. James builds shelters and pantries and moves fridges across Chicago. I assisted my daughter Ella to paint sites. Ella picked the colors, and we painted the shelters at the Love Shack (Little Village) and the Fridge on Marz (Bridgeport). Host and the community are key to the community fridges. Presently, Love Fridge Spokes include James Wurm, Lisa Armstrong, Velma Smith, Risa Haynes, Anna Spektor, and Eric Hotchkiss. We work with mutual aid groups

across Chicago and are part of the Chicago Food Sovereignty Coalition. The list of individuals that provide support for sites is long. I've met many through food distribution days, our Town Halls, and meetings I have with Coalition Members. While we work with volunteers across Chicago, community members clean, repair, and offer food to sites independently. The Fridges belong to the community.

What projects outside of the fridges themselves is Love Fridge engaged in?

Outreach is a major component of our work. We set up Town Halls across Chicago and interact via farmers' markets and gatherings. We recently participated in a group art show at UIC Gallery 400 about community care. Currently, I'm working with a group of students at UIC on a solar build and We are working on integrating aggregate data collection into our Love Fridge Map. We have a program called Full Circle, where we work with chefs to create meals that are distributed to sites. I'm currently working on a kit for Houseless individuals that we will distribute with our MA partners.

What are your thoughts on the intersection of nonprofits and mutual aid work?

...it's practicing mutual aid within this larger group scenario. It's an anarchist space- most people who have agency within it are coming from other sectors and using their skill sets to help the community in this way, not wanting anything. And then the reciprocal part is what we're always working toward. I think that there are some technicalities to mutual aid when you start talking about it as an organ, as a structure. And one of those is, how you make decisions and who has access to the information. How transparent is it?

Even for grants, we had to get set up with Open Collective. We had to get that [fiscal sponsorship] to move fluidly. People are donating money to us, which is something we respect and are grateful for. It was never set up for that. So, it became an issue we had to start dealing with because we'll utilize the funds, but we never wanted to create a scenario where we were building something that required outside funds. And that's the thing with an NFP; it's built on a system where you have to prove- for grants and things- you have to show some kind of

return. The way our fridge works specifically, we don't ask for your data.

I don't think there's a good or bad. The reality is we spend capital- like the initiatives we do- those are only created through extensions through capital. Like being able to pay chefs for their time, help a volunteer when their car breaks down, and provide emergency funds. We're not built for giving people straight funds, that's not our mission. But there have been scenarios, where it was important to have that fluidity, to be able to help a person. That's a lot harder when you have a different model.

We wanted to create systems where we can pay neighborhood volunteers stipends. We just want people in their neighborhoods to be able to have agency. It's important for us not to reinforce systems that already exist. We're trying to empower those [alternatives]. The Love Fridge launched in Englewood- it was clutch that everyone involved was from the area. Keyante Aytch installed the solar system. He is a young man with connections to the neighborhood that works for Grow Greater Englewood and Getting Grown Collective.

So, there are ebbs and flows- which is the human condition anyway. It's far from perfect. We're always learning. That's the fun of it too. It is "the beautiful struggle," right? It is. What we're doing- it's absurd that we have to do it. The other thing is just how much skill-sharing there is. I'm not saying that an NFP can't do that, but it's built for the efficiency of meeting a goal, and not everything Love Fridge does, if you put it underneath that model, is efficient. I like systems and things like that, but what I love about what this program does for me is it keeps me humble and present in the idea of what it is to be human. So that's the method- just being present, looking, watching, and learning from that.

What about sustainability?

What sustainability means to the Love Fridge is a lot of things: optimal fridges, optimal pantries, off-grid so they can go places and not be tethered to a structure or a host, making sure that it's accessible. There's a young man that I work with, Jackson Schorer, who designed an accessibility handle that allows you to open the

fridge with little leverage. Long term, it's about creating something that builds trust because that's a lot of what our program is built on- trust and cultural capital. And I think that's mutual aid, too; we're dependent on the support of the community versus grants, and that can waiver.

Things took off for you quickly. You went from 3 fridges to dozens in a matter of a few months.

We had to slow down intentionally. We never intended to have as many. We started early. There was a lot of energy, there were a lot of allies, and with that came a lot of exuberance. We seized the moment, but within that, we learned a lot. We stubbed our toes a bit. There're a few sites that don't exist anymore, but there's even poetry in that because the fridges were moved to other spots, and so their stories continue. As a group, we had to understand that we want these sites to be permanent- as permanent as possible- but they may not always be. So, we have a system for if we do have to move and how we engage with the community. Because it's the relationship people form with that space. And then we're moving this [fridge] and now folks have to go further- which is enough to deter them from getting resources. Just learning all those things was important early on. And I don't know if it would have happened if we had one or two fridges. But we decided that if we were going to do that, we had to have the host.

Can you expand on that?

There's a system of vetting and figuring out hosts. Sometimes, we have onboarding, and we'll go through sessions with people and make suggestions as on how to start a community fridge, and we'll give them all our specs and all the information. Everything we do is open source. That's the plan- to always share all of this. But sometimes, we just don't align on all of our values- that's not always important, but it's important if they're going to be in the Love Fridge network. And sometimes, we try to tell people that this is anarchy. Do whatever you want, but if you want to be within our network, there are things that we just don't do. It all comes down to making sure that we are community-focused; we don't turn into a marketing campaign.



Love Fridge, Back of the Yards

Right, there's not a lot of Love Fridge branding in general, that I see.

Purposefully. We do a tremendous amount of hand-to-hand fliers, Riso, custom... there are six languages we print all our guides in. But it's all like a 20-foot rule- it's on-site, around sites, or individuals from MA groups handing them out. I've printed hundreds of thousands of items at this point and passed all over Chicago to inform people of these things. But that's the energy. That's the way we like hand-to-hand. So, we do some marketing, our newsletter, things like that. It's all community-focused. Sometimes I think that social media can make people feel like they have a larger reach than they do based on just the popularity of things. And I enjoy the communication we get from our IG. But that's not necessarily the population that's out there volunteering.

To a certain extent that "popularity" feels hopeful to me, but I also wonder about potential pitfalls.

It's nomenclature, right? At the end of the day, humans will- when something's on

trend- they will use that to their advantage. I mean it's just part of human nature. I see individuals' language sometimes invoking mutual aid where I disagree- it's like MA is "give me some money." But where is the reciprocal part? I'm not an expert. I'm learning all the time and unlearning. Part of that core belief for me is not policing. No one should be trying to define it narrowly. If you're working towards something reciprocal, that's the core part of it- you're trying to sustain or create at least a system where it can be reciprocated and not transactionally. It's not like I'm trading you a can of beans for a can of coffee. It's also understanding that time is so valuable.

I just try to use my skill- it makes me feel connected. During the height of the Pandemic, I was happy to have my studio, and have that place to burn off anxiety. It felt great to be able to be of service and to be able to use that anxiety and push it into something that could be useful versus talking to some of my comrades, and they're like, "it's over, man, game over." No, it's just a different chapter. There are other ways of dealing with anxiety in this imposed scarcity

that's going on. I hope that comes out in our food sovereignty work- to reinforce that it's absurd that we have fridges out in the streets and people are daily getting their meals from [them]. We've been doing it for almost three years and it's community-focused- just says a lot to me about civilization. That's what mutual aid is to me.

Long term, we want to have spaces where people can grow and other common areas. That's why we work with community gardens and within the [Chicago Food Sovereignty] Coalition's larger mission- we're in alignment with that. Getting some land out south and spaces like that would be great. That's kind of the long-term strategy because of the issues those areas can have, that owning a space would be optimal there. We're independent, but Open Collective operates as our fiscal sponsor. And that allows us to think long-term. They're international, which was important to me. They sponsor MA groups around the world.

Why is that important to you?

As they learn, we learn. Which is another part of this, to learn together. ♦



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Market Box: A Case Study in Mutual Aid

Interview with Maira Khwaja and Hannah Nyhart

BY ERIN DRAIN

In the spring of 2020, a small group of colleagues, friends, and neighbors responded to the emerging pandemic while challenging the assumptions and presumptions of traditional food aid. Three and a half years and three hundred volunteers later, the Market Box mutual aid project supports a south side network of free, healthy food, all based on these core principles: community care, ethical food systems, trust, people-powered info-sharing, and the idea that a community can determine and satisfy its own wants needs.

Erin Drain (*STOCK Journal*, *Lumpen Times*, *Mash Tun*) met with two of Market Box's cofounders, Maira Khwaja and Hannah Nyhart, to learn about the history and vision of the organization. The selections from their interview have been edited for length and clarity.

Background

Many of the Market Box cofounders work in Woodlawn at the 61st and Blackstone Experimental Station campus, which is home to the 61st Street Farmers Market, Build Coffee, the Invisible Institute, the Southside Weekly, and other community organizations. When most public spaces in Chicago closed in late March 2020, they asked themselves, "Who is a part of our ecosystem that we're not seeing anymore, and what do they need?"

LUMPEN, ISSUE #141, VOL. 32

The group was inspired by online conversations about network mapping hosted by abolitionist scholars Mariame Kaba and Dean Spade, and developed a strategy that would allow them to start hyper-locally while moving swiftly.

Maira Khwaja recalls,

What we landed on is: the farmers markets had shut down. We knew that a lot of people shop at the market on Link, and [at that time] the pivot to online grocery ordering didn't allow you to use Link. Our initial goal was: what if we're able to just source food from all the vendors that we know and essentially try to get a box of stuff from the farmers market to 40 families in Woodlawn?

**According to the Illinois Department of Human Services website, Link cards now can be used to purchase SNAP-eligible groceries online from some retailers, but the benefits do not cover delivery costs. -Erin*

Today, Market Box delivers food and resources to over 400 households. The sustainability of this operation relies in part on a network of rotating volunteers and consistent wholesale supply—primarily from Local Foods, Chicago's first wholesaler of exclusively local foods. But more than this, the team credits their expansion of service to the recipients themselves, who share what they know about who is in need in their neighborhoods. As Hannah Nyhart describes, this example of mutuality is not just ethical, it works.

When we think about mutual aid, we think about this ecosystem that involves overlapping communities of volunteers and recipients, that involves the farmers that are sourcing to us. And everyone in that community is putting different things in and getting different things out. Being trust-based, allowing for referrals, allowing for people to say, 'Hey, can I grab an extra bag for my neighbor?' allows us to use the network far beyond what we could do by ourselves.

And so, it's not just about meeting people where they're at. Many systems of aid that rely on means testing or rely on ID verification are missing out on this huge resource of networks and the interconnectedness

Fall 2023



that people in community with each other already have. I spent one morning, my whole morning doing this reverse phone tree where every lady that I talked to would have a neighbor, or somebody from her church, or her sister or her aunt, and say, 'Oh, she should be on the [Market Box distribution] list, you should call her.' I didn't know those people, right? And they didn't necessarily all know each other. It was like links in this chain.

COMMUNITY NETWORKS AT WORK

During the protests against the murder of George Floyd in May and June 2020, many south side grocery stores shuttered, and Chicago Public Schools halted its food distribution program. One of the first groups to respond to this sudden acceleration of food apartheid on the south side was The People's Grab-n-Go, which provided free food and toiletries each Monday in front of Burke Elementary in Washington Park, just two miles northwest of Woodlawn. By

49

partnering with this group, and meeting the neighbors who were picking up supplies, Market Box initiated its "slow and steady building of relationships."

According to Khwaja,

I would be there every Monday basically walking through the line and signing people up for Market Box, and [those signups] tended to be not just the people that were in line, [but people asking] 'Can I sign up this person in my life that I know needs it?'

And that is really a big part of how that list grew; we really made those connections on the ground ourselves, but also as an act of mutuality: people on the list signing up their friend, their neighbor, their cousin. And so, while we might not personally have a deep relationship with everyone on the list, you could network map out the entirety of Market Box, and all the people have a connection.

When Jamie Phelps Proctor, senior account executive at Local Foods, read about Market

THE MUTUAL AID ISSUE

Box in Block Club in September 2020, he immediately understood that this model could benefit the farmers and other small businesses he represents just as much as it would the recipients of the food aid. Market Box pays a wholesale business rate for the fresh food (eggs, meat, produce) it purchases through Local Foods—the same as a grocer or restaurateur. In contrast to organizations that rely on donations from food suppliers; these are nearly always nonperishable goods, and while they are appreciated, there is a countrywide vacuum of fresh food—food that people actually want and deserve to eat—for people receiving food aid. The fundamental feature that distinguishes mutual aid from charity is that it is an ecosystem of multidirectional benefits that work for everyone involved. Maira Khawaj commented on this advantage of mutual aid as well:

Farmers were also facing a big economic hit during the beginning of the pandemic. And so, we were a steady source of income and support for the farmers we were buying from. When we make fundraising pitches,



we're always saying, 'Your dollar is going two ways. You're not only supporting healthy food networks within the south side, but you're also supporting local agriculture.' It feels more critical and crucial than ever to make sure we have a vibrant, healthy, local Midwest agriculture system.

Mutual Aid As A Model of Care

The issue of getting food to people who need it is a highly public national conversation that largely relies on convoluted public, private, and nonprofit local solutions. The state of Illinois was among the first in the US to embrace a benefits matching program (Link Up Illinois), which doubles the value of every dollar used to buy produce at a farmers market, farm stand, food co-op, or independent grocer. Illinois is also home to prominent food aid organizations, often staffed by wonderful people trying their best to solve this enormous problem within long-ingrained operational constraints, such as means testing, i.e. income thresholds, proof

of work, proof of residence. Many organizations doing good work for people may be stuck using means testing resources to measure their impact, which is a burden placed on them by state and institutional funders.

Means testing is just one of the cruel twists built into legacy systems of food aid: the burden of accessing basic human necessities falls on the people in need. The level of bureaucracy to prove eligibility and sign up for programs like SNAP, Link, WIC, and other programs that rely on means testing is a serious barrier to so many. On top of eligibility requirements, getting the food itself can prove a bigger challenge, even without a global pandemic to contend with. Securing transportation to a physical place at a limited time and date presents intense challenges for many people, and most of all for community elders, caregivers, unhoused people, and parents of young children.

As Khawaj notes,

Part of why people can't just go to the food bank and pick up a bag for their neighbor is that it's just 'One bag, one ID.'

People always say, 'You can work your way out of poverty,' right? But once you cross a certain [income] threshold, now all of a sudden you can't afford health care, and you won't be given health care; you can't receive aid, and you won't be given aid.

MMarket Box ethics assert that accessibility and trust work well together, and that means testing is anathema to a standard of trust-based care. Less philosophically, if the goal of food aid is to feed people, then means testing and the "morass" it creates is actually less efficient. Says Nyhart,

I think that it's easy to have this framing: 'One of these [options] is efficient and data-oriented and truth-oriented, and it's preventing fraud. And you need this to be well-run and tight and accountable.'

[But] the thing that I keep coming back to over and over again, is that not only does that not align with our ethic, it also doesn't work very well. [If] your goal is to get food to people who need it, there are all kinds of ways that [means testing's] going to get in your way either because the standards that you set are super unrealistic in terms of what people actually need, but also, because it means that there's going to be a whole chunk of people who would qualify for the things that you're saying would qualify them for this aid, and [they] can't make it through the morass of paperwork and proof that they need, just to tell you that they need this thing.

Within our network, roughly 50% of people in our most recent survey qualify for some form of government benefits, whether that's Snap or Medicaid or Medicare. 86% said that Market Box was very important to their family having enough to eat each month. Often people will come on to our waitlist because they've just gotten some kind of job, [and] they've gotten knocked

off of their benefits, and they don't have enough to make ends meet.

The Market Box project demonstrates that means-based systems should not be presumed as necessary standards for all food aid. In that case, their challenge to everyone in this country, from funders to farmers to volunteers and beyond, is simple: imagine systems beyond what we have, because "we as an entire country could do this. We don't actually need hunger." ♦

Learn More

Market Box connects neighbors across the south side from their home base in **The First Presbyterian Church of Chicago** at 64th and Kimbark, which has a long radical tradition of its own. The church shares its space, including several city lots, with Woodlawn Community Garden and many other community groups, while also serving as a home base for artists-in-residence, activists, and young theologians.

Market Box is a project of Ecosystems of Care, a 501(c)3. Market Box deliveries take place twice a month, and each bag contains produce, meat, product sourcing list, a short newsletter with resources, and a copy of the South Side Weekly. To learn more, sign up for the waitlist, make a donation, or volunteer, visit www.MarketBoxChi.org.

Mutual Aid Groups

Chicago has a couple dozen known mutual aid groups mostly based in specific neighborhoods. Many mutual aid networks are not listed publicly as members are linked/informed and organize via whatsapp and other social apps.

Mayfair Mutual Aid
www.mayfairmutualaid.com

19th Ward Mutual Aid
<http://19aid.com>

Albany Park Mutual Aid
www.mayfairmutualaid.com

Avondale Mutual Aid
www.avondalemutualaid.org

Bronzeville-Kenwood Mutual Aid
<http://bkmachicago.com>

Edgewater Mutual Aid Network (EMAN)
<https://edgewatermutualaid.org>

Gage Park Latinx Council
<https://www.gplxc.org>

Humboldt Park Solidarity Network
www.instagram.com/hpsolidaritynetwork/

Irving Park Mutual Aid
www.facebook.com/groups/irvingparkmutualaid

Jefferson and Gladstone Parks Mutual Aid
www.facebook.com/groups/jeffmutualaid

PROFILE
Albany Park Mutual Aid:
Website: albanyparkmutualaid.com
312-854-9741
Email: apmutualaid@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/groups/1317900055267586
www.instagram.com/albanyparkmutualaid/

When was your group or organization founded and what inspired its creation?
Originally formed in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Within a few weeks of the initial shelter in place order, a small group of neighbors had created a website, a call-in number, a block-by-block canvassing plan, and a GoFundMe campaign that raised tens of thousands of dollars.

What is your mission?
Our mission is to build and maintain a network of neighbors dedicated to supporting all the people who call Albany Park home. We extend a hand to anyone in need, and let them know that they have support from their neighbors. We encourage every one of us to think about what community means, what it means to be in solidarity with neighbors of diverse backgrounds and identities.

What activities does your group or organization engage in?
Our core focus is making sure any individual in need can find us, make their voice heard, and get their basic needs met. We answer direct support requests placed through a phone line, email, social media, or word of mouth. We also raise funds and supplies with events like diaper drives.

What community or population is most helped by your group or organization?
We answer any call for support from anywhere in our diverse neighborhood. In recent history, our direct support primarily goes to families, especially those with newborns or young children.

What feedback have you received from the community you serve?
People are very happy that a group like this exists in their neighborhood. Some find it hard to believe at first that such a group can exist at all; they think we must be affiliated with some religion or political cause or the like. Our only cause is mutual aid, plain and simple. We exist to ensure everyone can meet their basic needs so that residents of Albany Park can feel supported in this vibrant community.

What are your thoughts on the relevance of Mutual Aid?
Mutual Aid as a concept offers a valuable lens on social organizing. There is no requirement for members or participants to align on political, religious or economic ideology. There are large structural issues discussed, and these are important, but the mutual aid lens focuses work on immediate and concrete actions that benefit real people in the here and now, while bringing those larger structural issues more and more into the light with each small action, and strengthening the bonds between people, which improves our ability to come together and better address those more complex structural issues.

PROFILE
Portage Park Mutual Aid
www.facebook.com/groups/1195127357553811

When was your group or organization founded and what inspired its creation?
Portage Park Mutual Aid began connecting neighbors in March 2020 as a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The original team of PPMA volunteers were brought together through citywide organizing efforts led by Kelly Hayes and others. We were inspired by the then-emerging COVID-19 crisis to ensure that Portage Park neighbors had everything they needed to be well, including food and medical supplies, safe social connections, and financial assistance.

What is your mission?
Portage Park Mutual Aid connects northwest-side neighbors to advance community wellness.

What activities does your group or organization engage in?
Our primary focus for the past year has been helping people fill their basic needs with donated food and other essential items. We rely on donations from individuals and work with other mutual aid projects to pool resources. Every two weeks, Portage Park-based volunteers take food to 96 people in 39 households in the neighborhood.

What community or population is most helped by your group or organization?
PPMA focuses food distribution efforts across the northwest side, primarily in Portage Park, but also Jefferson Park, Dunning and Belmont-Cragin.

What feedback have you received from the community you serve?
Throughout our nearly three years of connective service, we have received immense gratitude from people in our community who are able to thrive thanks to the social connections and life-saving resources our community provides. We also often hear that neighbors wish there were more resources to go around, particularly cash assistance, and that there were more volunteers helping make connections and support our residents.

What major obstacles have you had to overcome?
Investment of time and energy has gradually waned over the past three years; the urgency and other unique circumstances of the height of the COVID-19 pandemic called people to action to help one another. Today, that energy seems to have been invested elsewhere. We continue to receive several requests for housing, utility and other types of financial assistance from people in the neighborhood each month. While we connect those folk to experts and services to help them out, we do not typically have resources to make direct cash donations to requestors.

How does your group or organization fit into the larger Mutual Aid movement?
PPMA is one of several northwest-side mutual aid networks that collaborates with the Chicago Food Sovereignty Coalition. Through CFSC, we are able to maintain our biweekly food distribution, conduct food rescue and distribution out of our warehouse space in Hermosa, and stay connected to other vital mutual aid movements in Chicago.

What are your thoughts on the relevance of Mutual Aid?
The concept of mutual aid encourages us to look to our human connections as the most vital source of security, safety and wellness. This life practice and message will be relevant as long as we keep investing in systems that prevent us from achieving equitable distribution of resources.

Lincoln Square Ravenswood Solidarity Network
www.lsrns.org

Logan Square Mutual Aid
www.logansquaremutualaid.org

McKinley Park Mutual Aid
www.facebook.com/McKinleyParkMutualAid/

Northwest Side Solidarity Network
www.northwestsidesolidarity.com

Portage Park Mutual Aid
www.facebook.com/groups/1195127357553811

Suburban Solidarity Network
www.facebook.com/SuburbanSolidarityNetwork

Ukrainian Village Mutual Aid
www.ukvmutualaid.com

West Town Mutual Aid
www.facebook.com/Westtownmutualaid

Wicker Park & Bucktown Mutual Aid
www.wickerparkmutualaid.org

Cooperative Housing: A Form of Mutual Aid?

BY ANNIE COLEMAN

There is an amazing statistic that Americans move on average 11 times in their life, while Europeans move on average 4 times. In this country, we live in a culture of shift and change as we strive to fully embody who we are and innovate with our individualistic voice. There is a lot to admire in that, however, even as we pursue our full potential as individuals, it is crucial to remember that we need community along the way. Having community is an important part of living a healthy and satisfied life. It creates a sense of belonging, builds social connections, and offers support and a safety net. A compelling way to create community is through co-housing or cooperative living.

Part of the American Dream is to grow up and seek independence, to stand on our own two feet and to make it in this world. For many people that vision of long term stability includes property ownership. It allows for both a fixed cost stability in monthly housing costs, long term financial investment, and the security of knowing that you are rooted in a place. That said, over the last several years we have watched housing prices increase, inventory get tighter, and therefore the opportunity to own property become increasingly more challenging. This is where it can be helpful to think outside of the box, consider your community, and reimagine what property ownership can look like. Enter cooperative housing.

The word “cooperative” means involving mutual assistance to reach a common goal.

Cooperative housing has been around as far back as records have been kept. It is when people pool resources to share property as a method to have affordable housing and other benefits of living in a community. These resources can be any combination of **financial, skill, or service** that make sense for what the members have to offer and mutually agree on. An example: if there are two people that want to buy a property together and one person has more financial resources than the second person, but the second person has more home improvement skills, each party can bring the resources they have in an equitable agreement to reach their goal of sustainable property ownership.

A cooperative can be as simple as a legal structure for building ownership and feel more like a condo. We see examples of this in many large buildings along Chicago’s lakefront. Or they can take the form of an intentional community where members develop the philosophy and structure that supports their common values and goals. I am addressing the latter form in this article.

A beautiful aspect of cooperative housing is it can take any form structurally and legally that the members choose and agree upon; at its core it is there to serve them. That said, it takes communication and compromise to reach mutual agreement and develop the foundational structure of the ownership arrangement.

The cooperative legal structure was developed during the 19th century in England. In this structure, a property is owned by a corporation and the members own shares in the corporation. Shares are tied to the part of the property the owner of the shares lives in/owns. When a member sells their unit, they are actually selling these shares rather than a deed to the property. This model allows for one entity to own the property and makes it easier for transfer of ownership. However, this legal model might not work in all situations. For smaller intentional communities with 2-4 households, it may make better legal sense to own the property in their names to be able to benefit from homeowners property tax exemptions and capital gains tax exemptions.

Some questions that members should ask themselves when considering the possibility of cooperative housing include:

Fall 2023

How many members is your cooperative going to have?

You can have as few as 2 households and up to as many as you want. The one thing to note is that with fewer members it is much easier to find common commitment and agreement. The bigger the organization the more it can serve, and the larger commitment it takes from the founding members. On average it takes 1-3 years to create a larger cooperative.

What are the founding principles?

This can be anything that the founding members want. Is it a commitment to affordable housing, having a large garden, intergenerational living, having creative studio space? This is important to identify as it’s one of the foundational blocks and will attract like-minded people.

How is the property ownership going to be set up?

Will everyone have their own units or will common living spaces be shared?

What is our yearly building budget?

It’s important to understand the numbers and get consensus with the founding members. There are models, resources, and consultants available to help with this.

Where is this property going to be?

Identifying where the property is going to be located is pivotal to move forward. I have witnessed numerous cooperatives identify this later in the process and realize they don’t have consensus and therefore didn’t move forward.

What level of work are we up for?

Renovating a property can be incredibly rewarding and also incredibly challenging. An advantageous part of housing inventory in Chicago is we have many multi-units. There are many multi-units in Chicago with deferred maintenance as landlords took the “band aid approach” to caring for properties. This presents an opportunity to create a place that particularly fits members’ needs. It does require full commitment and clear division of tasks.

How is conflict going to be resolved?

Conflict is inevitable in life and, while uncomfortable, is a key component in growth and metamorphosis. Having a conflict resolution model in place allows you to lean on it when the time arises. Employing your

55



agreed-upon model brings you back to commonality and is the first step in bringing you to resolution.

It’s easy for the unlimited possibilities to feel overwhelming, and sometimes conflict can arise with members’ competing needs or desires. I have been told that nothing worth doing isn’t hard, and that’s certainly the case for cooperatives. Spending the time doing the work in the early stages of formation will pay off tenfold later on. The good news is that since the heyday of 1960s communes there have been resources created to guide your group to answer these questions, create a sustainable structure, and learn best practices.

So what are the first steps in creating an intentional cooperative community? The key in starting any great endeavor off on the right foot is to find experts and resources to help you build the foundation. The North American Students of Cooperation (NASCO) is a national organization based in Chicago that provides education and guidance to cooperatives. This organization is particularly good for larger cooperatives, but even a 2-household intentional community can benefit from the resources they have compiled. Another first step is researching cooperative communities around the US (and world) and talking to a representative to

discuss their structure, what they learned, etc. It’s also important to talk to a lender and a realtor experienced in cooperative housing to understand your financing options and discuss the market.

While cooperative housing can pose some challenges, let’s go back to why it’s an empowering and rewarding model of living. Cooperative housing can provide affordable housing and mutual aid. It also provides community. You can share a garden, meals, groceries, child care, transportation, a woodshop, a bike repair, a music room... the sky’s the limit in building the life and community you want to be a part of. In the end, you accomplish the goal of owning property, and have a built-in community of like minded people.

If the idea of this sounds romantic, full of potential and exciting, it is. ♦

Annie Coleman is Founder and Managing Broker of LivingRoom Realty. LivingRoom Realty offers a Co-Housing class at their West Town office. If you have any questions or want to start a housing cooperative contact annie@livingroomrealty.com, or visit their website at livingroomrealty.com for upcoming classes and events.

THE MUTUAL AID ISSUE



I AM AN ALLY



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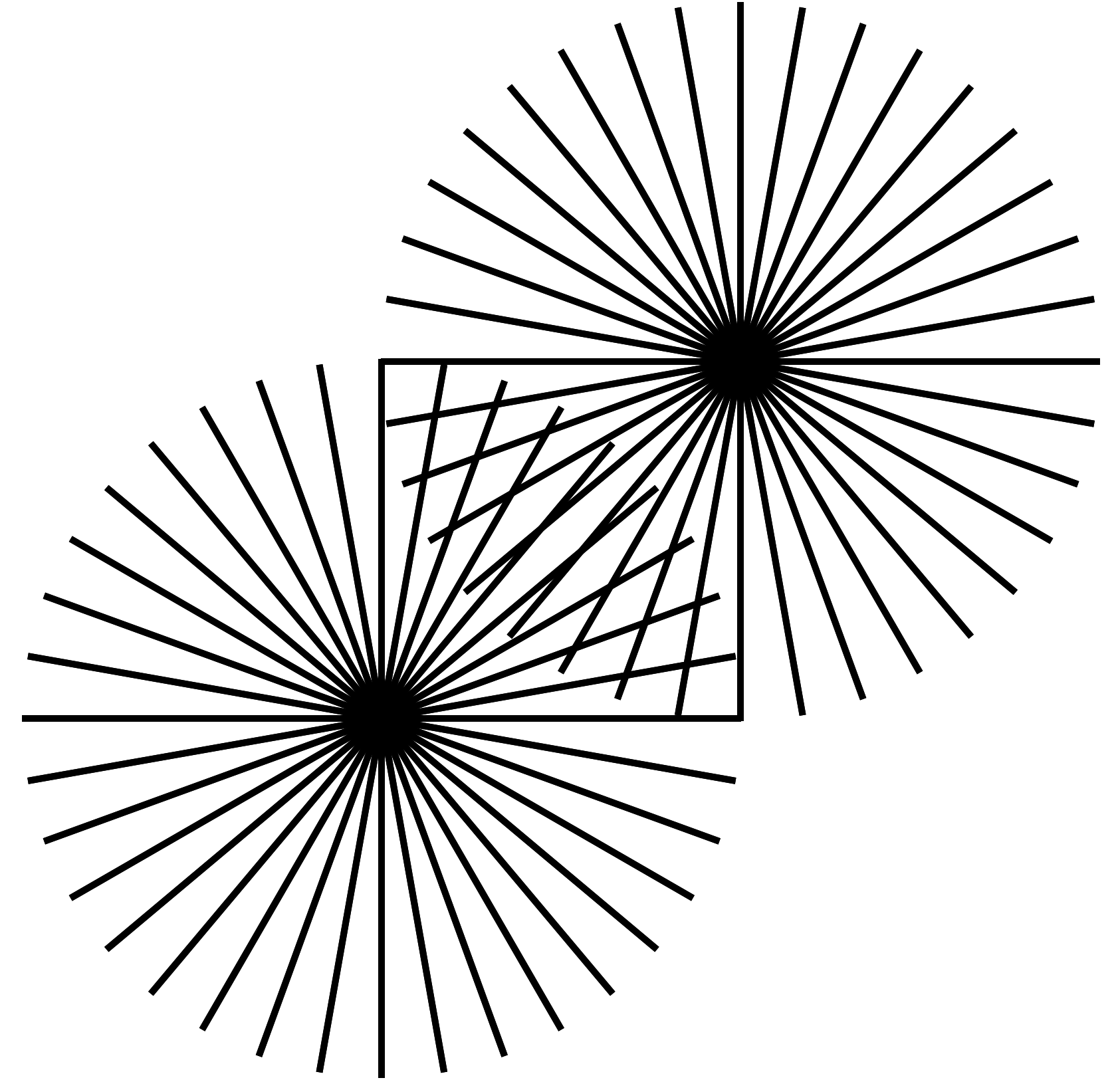
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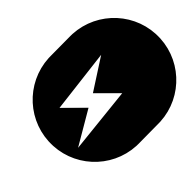
Chicago

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RADIO



Music, Community,
News, Art, Culture



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lumpenradio.com



Lumpen Radio

MONDAYS

Vapor Radio

Monday-Thursday / 6-7AM

Let the vapor embrace you. New moods. New attitudes. New music.

The Jams

Mondays and Friday / 7-8AM

Classic, Old School and more... these are the JAMS!

News, Weather and Traffic with Jamie Trecker

Mon-Friday / 7:40AM

Your weekday update to help you start the day.

Democracy Now

Monday-Friday / 8-9AM

Daily national news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan González.

Hitting Left with the Klonsky Brothers

Monday / 9-10AM

Hitting Left takes on issues of education, politics and social justice. We're joined in-studio each Friday from 11 to noon, by an interesting and provocative assortment of fellow activists, poets, musicians, journalists... or any friends who happen to pop in. Rebroadcast.

This is Hell! with host Chuck Mertz

Mondays / 10-11AM

This is Hell! is a weekly longform political interview program broadcast in Chicago since 1996. Rebroadcast.

Labor Express Radio with Jerry Mead-Lucero

First, Third and Fourth Mondays / 11AM-Noon
Rebroadcast of Labor Express Radio.

Midday Mix Vibes

Mondays / Noon-2PM

Hyper-curated mix sessions from local and international DJ talent.

Trqpiteca FM with La Spacer and Cqqchifruit

First and Third Mondays from 4-6pm

TRQPITECA FM is a radio show hosted by TRQPITECA co-founders and resident DJs, La Spacer & Cqqchifruit. We're talking all things dance music and art, with DJ sets, interviews, performances, and more from us and our special guests. Tune in to catch the Rush Hour Rave, where we'll be turning your Mondays up with our favorite new underground dance music and classic party tunes from Chicago and around the world!

The Isms Show with Betty Heredia

Second and Fourth Mondays / 4-6PM

Transmitting ideas via a curated collection of songs from the past, present, and future. mixcloud.com/BHerelsms

Planet CatieO with Catie Olson

Fifth Mondays / 4-6PM

Planet CatieO is always an exciting adventure to other places in our galaxy. DJ catieo is a free form DJ & spins a wide range of eclectic of tunes including Anatolian psychedelic rock, disco, French Boogie, space rock, electronic, minimal wave, and soul. She has hosted a variety of musicians on her show from Jazz, rock n' roll to Gypsy. DJ catieo hopes to share unexpected music and always includes a bit of whimsy. www.catieolson.com/

Out of Vogue with Kisston

First and Third Mondays / 6-8PM

Playing a different version of punk rock each and every week. Sometimes poppier, sometimes more hardcore-ish! 8tracks.com/kisston
lumpenradio.com/outofvogue.html

The Ponderers with Sandra Trevino & Stephanie Manriquez

Second and Fourth Mondays / 6-8PM

The Ponderers feature global tracks, with a focus on Latin America, spinning an eclectic and dance-friendly medley of womxn-fronted

sounds, in both digital and vinyl formats. The show includes musical guests, empowering interviews with womxn doing extraordinary things in arts and culture, and the freshest cuts in Latin alternative music. Hosted by Stephanie Manriquez (#FanitaBanana) and Sandra Treviño (#DJAngelfuk), members of Future Rootz.

Post Modern Talking with Bobby Conn and DJ LeDeuce

Mondays / 8-10PM

The end times are here - come celebrate the funeral of Western Civilization with fond musical memories selected by hosts Bobby Conn and DJ LeDeuce. It's hopeless - but it doesn't have to sound that way. Exactly the same playlist as MeTV FM but with lots of Suicide, J Dilla, Strangled Beatoffs and Throbbing Gristle mixed in. Plus regular guest appearances by Reuben Kincaid, Bill Mummy, Stevie Wayne and Lil' MQCL77MQXL!

Release the Hounds with Lidia Vomito and Bryan Chump Change

First and Third Mondays / 10PM-Midnight

Release The Hounds brings you Lidia Vomito spinning Metal and Hard Rock on vinyl for the first hour and Punk, Hardcore, etc. the second hour from cohort, Bryan Chump Change. Release The Hounds airs every first and third Monday of the month from 10 pm to Midnight. Tune in and howl out... Awoooo!

Dusty Sparkles' Spectacular Soundhouse

Second and Fourth Mondays / 10PM-11PM

Enter the Soundhouse, a sanctuary for the misfits, the outsiders, and the seekers of musical transcendence. From the depths of krautrock's hypnotic embrace to the outer reaches of heavy psych's trippy transcendence, this show is an expedition into the untamed territories of sound. Dusty Sparkles fearlessly unearths hidden treasures from every corner of the globe, unveiling the world's best-kept secrets in heavy rock, where obscure sonic explorations bloom into sonic revolutions.

Screams of Combat with El Cardenal de Aztlán

Second & Fourth Mondays / 11PM-12PM

SCREAMS OF COMBAT is a bilingual radio show in which the midnight chronicles by El Cardenal de Aztlán explore the intersection of sports and modern mythology incorporating music, journalism, poetry and performance art. GRITOS DE COMBATE is inspired by the XXth Century Mexican avant-garde art movement known as "movimiento estridentista."

TUESDAYS

Vapor Radio

Monday-Thursday / 6-7AM

Let the vapor embrace you. New moods. New attitudes. New music.

Mashed Potato Time with Karin Fjellman

Tuesdays / 7-8AM

Kick back with the grooviest tunes from the 50s and 60s. Perfect to make breakfast to!

News, Weather and Traffic with Jamie Trecker

Monday-Friday / 7:40AM

Your weekday update to help you start the day.

Democracy Now

Monday-Friday / 8-9AM

Daily national news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan González.

Groove 5 with Neil Gainer

Tuesdays / 9AM

Groove 5 is a musical experience that puts the groove first, always pocket, and always going. In a world void of compassion and care, Groove 5 will make you feel some kind of way.

News From The Service Entrance with host Mario Smith

Tuesdays / 10-11AM

Hour-long rebroadcast of News From The Service Entrance.

Contratiempo Radio

Tuesdays / 11am-12PM

Contratiempo radio is a cultural program that showcases Latin American and immigrant art and thought in the United States, and Chicago in particular. Functioning as an extension of and a complement to Contratiempo magazine, the program creates a conversational space featuring poetry, music, art, cinema, literature, politics, immigrant stories and much more. contratiempo.org.
Rebroadcast of Contratiempo Radio.

Midday Mix Vibes

Tuesdays / Noon-2PM

Hyper-curated mix sessions from local and international DJ talent.

Lumpen Radio Specials

Tuesdays / 2-3 PM

One hour of conversations, panel discussions and other special coverages from local events.

Mutual Aid Report with hosts Stephanie Manriquez and Mario Smith

Second and Fourth Tuesdays from 2-3PM (Seasonal)

The Mutual Aid Report is a radio and live stream series that delves into the concept of mutual aid. Our hosts, Stephanie Manriquez and Mario Smith, will unpack its historical significance and its role in local communities by spotlighting individuals who are making a real difference at the grassroots level in the city of Chicago. Our goal is to elevate the profile of mutual aid, shed light on these community-based initiatives, and motivate others to either join or back existing ventures.

Tete a Tete (in Cantonese)

Tuesdays / 3-4PM

Rebroadcast of Tete a Tete

Chicago Current Events

Tuesdays / 4-6PM

A potpourri of the best and freshest programs and interviews from Lumpen Radio.

bel_Air presents with Todd Carter

Tuesdays / 6-8PM

Music from Chicago, the Milky Way Galaxy, and beyond A variety of studio and live musical tracks with special guests.

SONORAMA with Charly Garcia, Edgar Baca & Marlowe Baca

First and Third Tuesdays / 8-10PM

A real sonic treat traveling back through Latin America during the 50's, 60's, 70's. With some contemporary surprises along the way. Our language is the music from those Vintage Latin Sounds past and present. mixcloud.com/sonoramachicago
sonoramachicago.com

Q.C. with King Hippo

Second and Fourth Tuesdays from 8-10PM

Q.C. is for listeners who are interested in how soul, jazz, r&b, funk, and hip-hop are shaping new underground music from around the world. Listeners will also enjoy interviews, guest-mixes, and in-studio performances by potent new artists.

Buen Viaje Radio with Buen Viaje DJs Dain & Andres

First and Third Tuesdays from 10PM-midnight

Buen Viaje Radio is an extension of our live performances where we get a chance to explore new sounds and host guests that inspire us. Our record selection aims to celebrate the essence of dance music roots to create a timeless sound. You can expect sounds ranging from expressive feel-good house, to expansive jazz-infused rhythms, to deep hypnotic zones.

Slice off Pie with Pie (Henk Bakker)

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

Sounds, music, musicals mixed with interviews, collages, life synths and the occasional bit of cheese all lightly thematically linked.

WEDNESDAYS

Vapor Radio

Monday-Thursday / 6-7AM

Let the vapor embrace you. New moods. New attitudes. New music.

Global HiFi

Wednesdays / 7-8AM

The Global Get Down!

News, Weather and Traffic with Jamie Trecker

Mon-Friday / 7:40AM

Your weekday update to help you start the day.

Democracy Now

Mon-Friday / 8-9AM

Daily national news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan González.

Lumpen Week in Review

Wednesdays / 9-10AM

Rebroadcast of Lumpen Week in Review.

Perceptions of the Real with host Sarah Conway and Eli Ramirez

Wednesday / 10-11AM

Rebroadcast of Perceptions of the Real

Bad at Sports Center with hosts Dana Bassett, Ryan Peter Miller, Brian Andrews, Jesse Malmed and Duncan MacKenzie

Wednesdays / 11AM-Noon

Contemporary art talk without the ego. The Midwest's largest independent contemporary art talk show.
facebook.com/badatsports

Midday Mix Vibes

Wednesdays / Noon-2PM

Hyper-curated mix sessions from local and international DJ talent.

Wattz Up! and La Mesita with Yollocalli Youth

Wednesdays / 2-4PM

Rebroadcast of Wattz Up!

Country, My Way with Lawrence Peters

Wednesdays / 4-6PM

Underplayed classics, and small-label gems, spanning all eras of honky tonk, bluegrass, outlaw, western swing, country soul/funk, Ameripolitan. Stubbornly curated by Chicago's country-est mofo: singer & songwriter Lawrence Peters.
lawrencepeters.com
mixcloud.com/lumpenradio/playlists/country-my-way

Guillermo Gómez-Peña's Mex Files: Audio Art & Strange Poetry from the US/Mexico Border

First and Third Wednesdays from 6-7PM

The series Gómez-Peña's Mex Files: Audio Art and Strange Poetry from the US/Mexico Border are a multi-lingual live radio and archived audio program by performance artist, writer, activist, and MacArthur fellow Guillermo Gómez-Peña addressing the multiple pandemics of racism, sexism, militarism, and colonialism..

Chicago Printers Guild with hosts Dud Lawson and Manny

Second and Fourth Wednesdays from 6-7PM

Chicago Printers Guild presents Halftone Radio Supershow. Join your pals Dud Lawson and Manny of the Chicago Printers Guild & your favorite printmakers from across the city to chat inky paper and play funky jams!
www.chicagoprintersguild.org

Communities Amplified (in Spanish)

Wednesdays from 7-8PM

Communities Amplified presents original Spanish content as part of the expanded multilingual programming on the WLPN airwaves each week. Some of our special segments and programs are: Entre sonidos y almas, Adentro de la voz hay un poema, Neta con Rebeca Fernandez y De inmigrante a inmigrante.

The Butter Hours with Scott & Eric

First and Third Wednesdays from 8-10PM

The butter boys hit the airwaves every 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month as they play their favorite underground electronic and dance music as well as deep cuts from all genres.

InbetweenRadio/Stations with Glenn Russell

Wednesdays / 10PM-Midnight

Chicago's only show for and about DJs, vinyl collecting, and Sound Disbursement. Host DJs Glenn Russell and DJ Mykol discuss and play hidden gems of all musical types from all decades. They share tracks from recent vinyl finds and favorite tracks from their DJ events. Each show features a musical theme and/or musical guest!
Distributing the sounds you'll only hear InBetweenRadio/Stations.

Spirit World Radio with DJ Heaven

First and Third Wednesdays from 10PM-Midnight

Spirit World is a genre-fluid curation of otherworldly and dreamy music. Sounds that are designed to transport you to another world - a spiritual, ethereal and psychedelic world that we cannot see, but feel. A world that is happening around us all of the time and all we have to do is listen.

THURSDAYS

Vapor Radio

Monday-Thursday / 6-7AM

Let the vapor embrace you. New moods. New attitudes. New music.

Good Morning Mix

Thursdays / 7-8AM

Tunes to get you to work and back! LOL

News, Weather and Traffic with Jamie Trecker

Monday-Friday / 7:40AM

Your weekday update to help you start the day.

Democracy Now

Mon-Friday / 8-9AM

Daily national news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan González.

Pocket Guide to Hell with Paul Durica and Elliot Heilman

First and Third Thursday / 9-10AM

Pocket Guide to Hell explores the intersections of art, politics, and culture as illuminated by Chicago's past. Along the way, hosts Paul Durica and Elliot Heilman talk with fine folks doing the work of keeping the past present and show you the places where the city's history resides today.

This is Hell! with host Chuck Mertz

Thursdays / 10-11AM

A brand-new episode of This is Hell! This is Hell is a weekly longform political interview program broadcast in Chicago since 1996.

Eye 94 with hosts Jamie Trecker, Jeremy Kitchen and Mike Sack

Thursdays and Sundays / 11AM-Noon

Dubravka Ugresic called them the "Three Musketeers of Literature." Eye 94 is Lumpen Radio's books and literature show, covering reading worldwide. Interviews with authors, publishers and creators from contemporary literature and beyond. With readings by Shanna van Volt and music from some of Chicago's finest artists. More information and archives at eye94.org

Mashed Potato Time with DJ Karin

Thursdays / Noon-2PM

Mashed Potato Time is all about the glory days of the recording culture that left us with stacks and stacks of forgotten 45s. Karin dusts off her favorite '50s & '60s singles for an all-vinyl show filled with carefree soul grooves, early R&B movers, dance crazes that never were, scuzzy garage gems, and much more!
mixcloud.com/karin-fjellman

News From The Service Entrance with Mario Smith

Thursdays / 2-4PM

Music, interviews and people from all walks of life. Famous and infamous. Radio with a purpose. Mario is joined most weeks by Michilla Blaise and producer Jamie Trecker.

Skerd To Dance with Jimmy Kaps

First and Third Thursdays / 4-6PM

Skerd To Dance is mixed live by Jimmy Kaps, featuring special guest local DJs and producers who take over the FM airwaves with vinyl/digital DJ sets and/or live gear performances.
mixcloud.com/skerdtodance

Idiot Business with Mike Esposito

Second Thursdays from 5-6PM

Idiot Business is primarily an experimental electronic music show, although hip hop, rock, and comedy do slip in sometimes. The music is sometimes mixed together, sometimes collaged, and sometimes played one track at a time. For Idiot Business, experimental electronic music includes IDM, techno, jungle, electro-acoustic music, noise, and electronic pop, for starters. The goal is simply to provide good experimental electronic music irrespective of (sub-)genre.

The Mutant Hit Parade with Lawrence Peters

Fourth Thursdays / 4-6PM

The Mutant Hit Parade is a selection of classic power-pop and rock that would have been big hits had only anyone given it a chance. Lawrence Peters does.

Attention Deficit Radio with Sergio Rodriguez

First and Third Thursdays / 6-8PM

Bringing you an eclectic mix of jams not bound to one genre. ADR host Sergio brings you gems (old and new) from the worlds of indie rock, soul, jazz, hip-hop, world. ADR comes to you every 1st and 3rd Thursday's from 6pm-8pm. Tune in and you might discover a new favorite artist.

Bi-Lengua Radio with Osvaldo Cuevas

Second Thursdays from 6-8 PM

Bi-Lengua radio bridges the gap of the Americas with themed episodes that explore the collision of culture. Expect an eclectic tour of music and conversation in English and Spanish.
bilengua.org

Beer Temple Insiders Roundtable with Chris Quinn

First, Third and Fifth Thursdays from 8-10PM

Chris Quinn, owner of the Beer Temple, sits down with craft beer insiders to discuss the topics that matter most to them. Each week features different guests sharing their insights and giving you an insider's view of the evolving craft beer scene.

CHANDO RADIO with the Chandeliers

Thursdays / 10PM-12AM

Presenting the best in modern electronica, Chando Radio combines underground and rare electronic, experimental, and progressive dance music hand picked by Chicago synth ensemble Chandeliers (Lisa Armstrong, Harry Brenner, Chris Kalis, Scott McGaughey) and special guests.

FRIDAYS

Vapor Radio

Fridays / 6-7 AM

Let the vapor embrace you. New moods. New attitudes. New music.

The Jams!

Fridays 7-8 AM

Classic, Old School and more...these are the JAMS!

News, Weather and Traffic with Jamie Trecker

Monday-Friday / 7:40AM

Your weekday update to help you start the day.

Democracy Now

Monday-Friday / 8-9AM

Daily national news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan González.

Soothing Sounds by UNCanned Music

Second Fridays / 9-10AM

Soothing Sounds is curated by the fine folks at UNCANNEdmusic. This series aims to present calming tones for our stressed-out times. UNCANNEd curates extra-ordinary sound experiences for the hospitality industry, creating unique designs to enhance any situation through music. Lumpen Radio and UNCANNEd hope that this special programming helps you find your center.. Kick back, relax and chill with music curated by Joe Darling and UNCanned.

Pocket Guide to Hell with Paul Durica and Elliot Heilman

Fridays 10-11PM

Rebroadcast of Pocket Guide to Hell.

Hitting Left with The Klonsky Brothers

Fridays / 11AM-12PM

Hitting Left takes on issues of education, politics and social justice. We're joined in-studio each Friday from 11 to noon, by an interesting and provocative assortment of fellow activists, poets, musicians, journalists... or any friends who happen to pop in.

Lumpen Radio Specials

Fridays / 12-1PM

One hour of conversations, panel discussions and other special coverages from local events

News From The Service Entrance with host Mario Smith

First and Third Fridays / 1-2PM

Hour-long rebroadcast of News From The Service Entrance.

Sala with host Silvia Inés González

Fridays from 2-3PM

Rebroadcast of Sala

Staff Pick of the week

Fridays from 3-4PM

Rebroadcast of a show chosen by one of our staff members

Gridlock Sound Lab with Saddle Woods

First and Third Fridays from 4-6PM

Sadie Woods brings you rush hour radio featuring House, Afro Latin Rhythms, Worldbeat, Disco, Funk, Soul, Electro, and Indie Dance music.

Lumpen Week in Review

Fridays / 6-7PM

Lumpen Week in Review is the show that covers the past week of news, happenings and programs presented on Lumpen Radio. Each week we present a sampling of news, programs and interviews with guests that were presented on Lumpen Radio.

Weird Lady Music by Jodie Baltazar

Fridays from 7-8PM
Host Baltazark (Jodie Baltazar) brings you WEIRD MUSIC made by ladies and music made by WEIRD LADIES spanning genres, geographies, and generations. This show is about finding and celebrating the curious ways in which women confront social or artistic banality with sonic self-expression.

Star Creature Vibes Radio with Tim Zawada

Fridays / 8-10PM
Star Creature Vibes Radio is a penetrative exploration into the alternative world of Disco. The show begs to answer one of the defining questions of the last 1000 years: “What is Boogie?” Host Tim Zawada alongside notable guests from across the globe, play an assortment of underrepresented and left leaning with a large focus on the later 70s to early 80s Boogie Phenomenon with a healthy dose of contemporary Boogie Styles, House and Spaced Out Modern Funk.
<http://starcreatureuniversalsvibrations.com>

Hello Weekend!!

Fridays from 7-8PM
Start your weekend with danceable selections from the Lumpen Radio cool cats.

SATURDAYS

Soothing Sounds by UNCanned Music

Saturdays / 6-7AM
Soothing Sounds is curated by the fine folks at UNCANNEDmusic. This series aims to present calming tones for our stressed-out times. UNCANNED curates extra-ordinary sound experiences for the hospitality industry, creating unique designs to enhance any situation through music. Lumpen Radio and UNCANNED hope that this special programming helps you find your center.. Kick back, relax and chill with music curated by Joe Darling and UNCanned.

This is Hell! with host Chuck Mertz

Saturdays / 7-8AM
Rebroadcast of This is Hell!

Lumpen Week in Review

Saturdays 8-9AM
Rebroadcast of Lumpen Week In Review.

Saturdays morning talks

Saturdays 9-10AM
The best of our Lumpen Radio talk shows and special programs

Bad at Sports Center

Saturdays from 10-11AM
Rebroadcast of Bad at Sports Center.

Perceptions of the Real with host Sarah Conway and Eli Ramirez

Second and Fourth Saturdays from 11-12PM
Perceptions of the Real is an exploration of what swims beneath our consciousness and how it surfaces through writing. Every 2nd and 4th Saturday @ 11AM, hosts Sarah Conway and Eli Ramirez are joined by a guest who produces a piece of writing live on-air. Together we will detangle the question of why we make what we make.

Wattz Up! and La Mesita with Yollocalli Youth

Saturdays from 12-2PM
Wattz Up! is a youth produced and hosted variety talk show that reflects their culture and their communities. After Wattz Up! listeners can enjoy the sweet sounds of La Mesita, bringing independent and upcoming musicians to Yollocalli Studio Y, for a concert live performance and interview. Broadcasting live from Studio Y in the heart of Little Village, youth ages 13 to 24 take over the airwaves with unique stories, cool jams, and lots of lolz.
<https://soundcloud.com/yollocalli>

Sala with host Silvia Inés González

First and Third Saturdays from 2-3PM
Sala: A living room of ideas. Sala invites artists, cultural workers, and civically minded people to discuss liberation, education, organizing, community, and practices toward healing, from the perspective of Artists' and their artistic process.

Staff Pick of the week

Fridays from 3-4PM
Rebroadcast of a show chosen by one of our staff members

News From The Service Entrance with host Mario Smith

Saturdays from 4-5PM
Hour-long rebroadcast of News From The Service Entrance.

The Minimal Beat with Bill Ocean & Caitlin Mahoney

Saturdays 5-7PM
The Minimal Beat is Chicago-based music blog. We blog about relevant artists of the day, with no particular genre-specific focus. In addition, The Minimal Beat hosts a weekly radio show on 105.5 WLPN-LP ‘Lumpen Radio’ every Saturday from 5-7PM CDT. We also release music on the private press label TMB Limited. If you would like more information or want to get involved with The Minimal Beat, please write to us.
themiminalbeat.com

Lumpen Week in Review

Saturdays from 7-8PM
Lumpen Week in Review is the show that covers the past week of news, happenings and programs presented on Lumpen Radio. Each week we present a sampling of news, programs and interviews with guests that were featured on the station.

EurekaCast NOW! With Kai Hubris and Rowan Meadowlark

Saturdays from 8-9PM
ECN! is a New Media collaboration between Tech Brothers New Media Labs and the Simon Amy Institute of Spirit Science. Each week, join Media Disruption Developer Kai Hubris and Professor Rowan Meadowlark as they bring you the latest breakthroughs in science and technology.
www.awcyfm.com/eurekacast/
INSPIRE CURIOSITY, IMAGINE SCIENCE!

Lumpen Radio Twitch Live

9PM-12AM
Live DJ sets from Life on Marz Community Club

CHANDO Radio with the Chandeliers

Saturdays from 10PM-Midnight
Presenting the best in modern electronica, Chando Radio combines underground and rare electronic, experimental, and progressive dance music hand picked by Chicago synth ensemble Chandeliers (Lisa Armstrong, Harry Brenner, Chris Kalis, Scott McGaughey) and special guests.

SUNDAYS

Soothing Sounds by UNCanned Music

Sundays from 6-7AM
Soothing Sounds is curated by the fine folks at UNCANNEDmusic. This series aims to present calming tones for our stressed-out times. UNCANNED curates extra-ordinary sound experiences for the hospitality industry, creating unique designs to enhance any situation through music. Lumpen Radio and UNCANNED hope that this special programming helps you find your center.. Kick back, relax and chill with music curated by Joe Darling and UNCanned.

Lumpen Week in Review

Sundays from 7-8AM
Rebroadcast of Lumpen Week In Review.

Contratiempo Radio with Stephanie Manriquez and Contratiempo's Contributors

Sundays / 9-10AM
Rebraodcast of Contratiempo radio

This is Hell! with host Chuck Mertz

Sundays / 10-11 AM
A brand-new episode of This is Hell! This is Hell is a weekly longform political interview program broadcast in Chicago since 1996.
soundcloud.com/this-is-hell

Eye 94 with hosts Jamie Trecker, Jeremy Kitchen and Mike Sack

Sundays 11AM-12PM
Rebriadcast of Eye 94 is

Radio Muévelo with host La Janesita and Violeta Vara

First Sundays from 12-2 PM
Radio Muévelo is a bilingual show carefully curated to showcase the most exciting and cutting-edge music from Latin American artists on the rise. Join us monthly as we take you on a captivating journey through the vibrant world of emerging Latin American music and the stories of the people behind it, exploring genres like Electronic, R&B, Indie, Juke, House, Afrobeats, Club Latino and more.
<https://juke.mx/category/radio/radio-muevelo>

The Eastern Block/Wschodni Blok with Andrea Jablonski

Second Sundays / 12-2PM
Music of all genres from Poland (and other Eastern Block countries.)

Sunday Record Club with Kevin Hsia

Third Sundays 12-2PM
Sunday Record Club is a show about records—the music, and the collectors and DJs playing them. Special guests join in-studio to dig deep, sharing their most beloved records. No frills and no fillers, SRC is just about playing great records on a Sunday.
mixcloud.com/lumpenradio/playlists/sunday-record

Foreign Accents with Maria Tz & Josh Fox

Fourth Sundays / 12-2PM
Dedicated to the pure enjoyment of home listening. The show aims to juxtapose various genres together from different parts of the world, both past and present.
mixcloud.com/lumpenradio/playlists/foreign-accents

Pocket Guide to Hell with Paul Durica and Elliot Heilman

Sundays 2-3PM
Rebroadcast of Pocket Guide to Hell

Tete a Tete (in Cantonese)

Sundays 3-4PM
A Cantonese talk show hosted by Anita Luk, covering news and current affairs from Chicago and beyond.

Divisive with Leah Gipson and Craig Harshaw

First and Third Sundays 4-5PM
DIVISIVE explores the intersections and interactivity between politics and cultural work. It's divisive.

Who Gives a S••t? with Host Matt Muchowski

Second and Fourth Sundays 4-5PM
Is it a commentary of the Sisyphean task of life as exemplified by the internet emoji “_ ()_ /” or a question we answer every show with guests such as heavy metal musicians, elected officials, union activists, comic book creators, and other oddballs? Who gives a shit? Either way WGAS is a rollicking 2 hours of surrealist fun, deep conversations. and musical mayhem!

Paid Time Off with Andrew Joseph and Laura Caringella

First and Third Sundays / 5-7PM
The crew behind Chicago-based dance music label Leisure Records doesn't slack off when it comes to leisure time. Ease out of the weekend with smooth grooves and chilled out floor fillers courtesy of the Paid Time Off DJs. Sleazy yet sophisticated, like a party in your cool uncle's rec room. It's the real deal — keep it locked, y'all.
mixcloud.com/paidtimeoff

This is Hell! with host Chuck Mertz

Sundays 7-8PM
Rebroadcast of This is Hell!

Labor Express Radio with Jerry Mead-Lucero

Sundays / 8-9PM
For almost 25 years, Labor Express Radio has been the only English language labor news and current affairs radio program in Chicago... “News for working people, by working people.” The program covers issues in the labor movement locally, nationally, and internationally. The program also addresses issues of concern to working people such as housing, education, health care, immigrants rights, the environment and U.S. foreign policy, from a working class viewpoint. Labor Express Radio is a member of the Committee for Labor Access, a non-profit entity which is also responsible for the production of the Labor Beat TV program on cable access television in Chicago.
<https://www.laborexpress.org>

Lumpen Week in Review

Sundays 9-10PM
Rebroadcast of Lumpen Week In Review.

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