

Impact Report



Partner



Building on from the first program in 2019, Chicago200 was a huge success in 2020. We brought together and asked Chicagoland's young leaders: "What will your generations legacy be?"

At a time when young people are having their work lives and education disrupted and when it is almost impossible to build new networks due to COVID-19 restrictions, Common Purpose, with the support and sponsorship of Chicago Community Trust and Allstate, ran the second Chicago200 program.

Originally planned to run in March 2020 as a face-to-face program, Chicago200 had to be postponed due to COVID-19. Rather than wait until it would be possible to bring people together in person again the decision was made to pivot to online and provide this opportunity to Chicago's next generation of leaders at a time of great need.

Chicago200 convened online a diverse cohort of 18-25 year olds from across the city, for a powerful leadership experience that brought together established leaders with young Chicagoans and challenged them to develop their leadership skills, their Cultural Intelligence and to work together to develop their vision for the city as it turns 200 in 2037.

"Working with such a diverse group of people who all have different passions has been so enlightening for me. I feel that moving forward I will choose to think a lot more critically about my own beliefs. I also will work on becoming a better listener."

Celeste Santiago, Chicago200

"I feel more confident in my ability to share as well as even guide a team. I will continue to put in effort into factoring in all perspectives that could potentially go into a decision."

*K'Liya Coopwood
Chicago200*



The participants developed 4 ideas in response to the challenge ‘What will we make our city known for by its 200th Birthday?’



We are delighted that 5 of these ideas were immediately picked up by foundations supporting the program. They will support the participants to further develop and implement their ideas. These ideas were:

- **H.O.M.E.—Housing Outreach and Mediation Enterprise:** H.O.M.E. aims to provide support to shelters in an effort to improve living and resources for homeless youth across Chicago. By 2037, we hope to provide support to Chicago shelters through direct community training and an ecosystem of support for our homeless youth.
- **Chicago Police:** Creating a greater sense of transparency and improving the relationship between public, Chicago Police Department,

and public officials. With Chicago being one of the most violent and corrupt cities, this initiatives will hope to create community involvement with decisions and tactics being made by departments. This will be achieved through engagement of community meetings, awareness of data and information, and through community-police training. Training can include mental health assessments, diversity and inclusion, biases, and other factors that can create barriers in protecting our neighbourhoods.

- **Social Emotional Learning Program (SELP):** To develop a 9 week program that will assist students in developing empathy, compassion, and regulating emotions through art, mentorship, and workshops. This program will take CPS youth between 5th and 8th grade and pair them with mentors to help foster healthier lifestyles for youth as they go through key developmental years.
- **The Promise Project:** Through thoughtful curriculum, community connection, and networking opportunities, The Promise Project will address the gaps in education and opportunity that exist for young people transitioning into adulthood. This will include professional etiquette, financial literacy, housing, vocational skills, and planning for success. We seek to make Chicago known for a true city of promise and opportunity by the city’s 200th birthday for any young person by providing needed and missing curriculum from our schools.



The participants assessment results:



“Chicago200 helped me work with my peers from different backgrounds who have different perspectives. Now, I know that I need to step out of my comfort zone/shyness and voice my opinion in a respectful manner. I loved my group!”

*Maheen Jabeen,
Chicago200*

- 93%** I feel more confident that my generation can create the legacy we want for our city/country
- 89%** I will commit to working on a project with at least 1 fellow participant
- 96%** I will volunteer and support future legacy programs in my city
- 95%** The legacy network will help me to make a more positive contribution
- 93%** I feel better prepared to work with people who are different from me
- 90%** I feel better prepared to solve complex problems
- 89%** I feel better prepared to lead a diverse team
- 73%** I feel more able to work with different generations of leaders
- 88%** I feel better prepared to challenge my assumptions



Chicago200 Outcomes

Human Capital

This was evidenced through the assessment at the end of the program, asking participants to reflect on the leadership skills and Cultural Intelligence they had developed.

“Before Chicago200 I never really thought about a complex problem like this challenge and now I know the importance of making connections and having feedback from others. I learned about collaborating with different ideas.”

“I learned how to tackle complex issues and think about the multifaceted nature of these problems. My group and I fostered discussions that required critical thinking rather than just one simple answer. I hope to use these same skills in the real world, both in my personal and professional life.”

Social Capital

Chicago200 brought together (virtually) a diverse of young adults from across Chicago at a time when networking and building new connections has been almost impossible due to Covid-19 and related restrictions.

Participants connected not only with a diverse peer group, but also with a vast range of senior leaders from the city.

“The Diversity of people with thoughts, backgrounds, and dreams was such a great thing for me during Chicago200.”

The aspiration of all Common Purpose Online Legacy programs is that in ten years time, our participants will reflect and say:

I often go back to remind myself what kind of leader I committed to being

I have worked with people I would never have come across, let alone worked with.

We knew then that it was up to our generation to do things differently.

Chicago200 Outcomes

Civic Capital

The ideas generated, connections formed and knowledge developed enable the participants to not only show a greater interest in their City but to also play an active role in making a difference in Chicago.

“I'll be thinking about how I can serve as a pillar of impact in my community. About how to further be of service. About who I can better serve. About what I can do to be a better addition to Chicago.”

Next Steps:

In six months we will conduct interviews with 10% of the participants and contributors to gather insight to the longer term impact of the program in relation to the leadership learning, the ideas/projects that were generated and broader engagement in shaping the future of Chicago.

In 2021, we plan to run Chicago200 and Chicago200 Online multiple times, giving hundreds more young leaders the opportunity to take part.



Chicago200 gave me the opportunity to learn from and listen to experts in many different sectors throughout the City of Chicago's provided us with invaluable perspective and wisdom. This will help us to solve these problems.

*Maheen Jabeen,
Chicago200*



We would like to thank all the incredible Chicago200 Contributors:

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