Impact Report

Partner

Chicago200

April 2019
Chicago200, Common Purpose’s first US Legacy Program in partnership with The Chicago Community Trust, was a huge success. We asked Chicagoland’s young leaders: “What will your legacy be?”

With the support of; City Colleges of Chicago, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, University of Chicago, Northern Trust, and Chicago Public Media. We convened an extremely diverse cohort of 18-24 year olds from across the city, for a powerful leadership experience that brought together established leaders with young Chicagoans and challenged them to work together to develop their vision for the city as it turns 200 in 2037.

The curriculum also drew on perspectives from across different communities, sectors and generations of Chicago’s leaders, including a diverse range of immersions, from Chicago PD to an Urban Farm to Groupon.

“Chicago200 has helped me understand what kind of leader I am, and the way I should think as I move through my leadership journey. Being able to discuss with young people around the city, I was inspired by the goals, visions and work many people have planned.”

Oluwaseyi Adeleke, Chicago200

“Chicago200 has developed me as a leader by challenging me to have deeper conversations with people who don't look like me.”

Liliana Villa, Chicago200
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:

- **200 Lots, 200 Opportunities**: Amplifying communities through revitalization, connection, and collaboration by utilizing the many vacant lots in neighbourhoods to create space for activities that will support mental health, financial literacy, and nutrition.

- **Commitment to 50**: A pledge for businesses and institutions in the city to commit to engaging and providing equitable opportunities to communities across the 50 wards of Chicago.

- **Deep Dish-Cussions**: Giving young people from different parts of the city the opportunity to physically get together and connect for discussions and pizza. Open to everyone, this is a safe space where people can share the challenges they face in their neighbourhoods, share ideas and together develop ways to tackle them.

- **Chicago Youth Trust**: A youth council that aims to equitably allocate funding and build the capacity of future leaders. The trust aims to empower Chicago’s youth to be politically active leaders and financial decision makers. This council would be comprised of youth age 16 to 25 who will work directly with philanthropic organizations to use their background and experiences to make informed decisions about how best to democratically funnel capital into Chicago’s most vulnerable communities. Young people are nominated by community leaders, institutions and organizations throughout the Chicago land area. This program not only calls for direct change to Chicago’s non-profit funding process but also promotes mentoring and training. This will empower youth to become the political leaders that will implement the policies and changes we need for an equitable and socially prosperous Chicago.

- **The Collective**: A collective of young people from all across Chicago who create events and spaces to bridge divides across neighbourhoods, races, of classes as well as a culture of civic engagement among young Chicagoans.
The participants assessment results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Statement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94%</td>
<td>I am more able to lead or work within diverse teams of people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93%</td>
<td>I am more able to talk to and understand people who are different to me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>I will now actively seek out diverse opinions when trying to solve a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88%</td>
<td>I am more aware of how I respond in different situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>I will actively seek out feedback from different people to help develop my self awareness</td>
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<tr>
<td>79%</td>
<td>I will keep in touch with at least 8 participants from different parts of the city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91%</td>
<td>I will keep in touch with at least 1 of the contributors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73%</td>
<td>I feel more able to work with different generations of leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94%</td>
<td>I feel more connected to my city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>I feel a responsibility to shape the future of Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92%</td>
<td>The network I built on Chicago200 will enable me to make a difference in Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89%</td>
<td>I will recommend Chicago200 to my friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86%</td>
<td>Chicago200 was good value for time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“It's given me a space to practice my listening skills. Especially when dealing with people who I might not want to hear initially.”

*Tyler Thompson, Chicago200*
Other outcomes of the program include:

- **Dear Chicago**
  WBEZ radio station is going to host a segment called Dear Chicago, giving alumni the chance to speak about and share their ideas for Chicago.

- **Chicago Police Department**
  Chicago PD is inviting a group of alumni to work with them over the next year to challenge them on how they can change perceptions and build community relations.

- **Northern Trust**
  Northern Trust will support alumni through mentoring, access to careers fairs for jobs and internships and résumé help/support.

- **University of Chicago**
  Will invite alumni to be part of the many events, functions and programs that it is involved in.

- **Chicago Community Trust**
  Will host a group of the participants to act as a youth trust over the course of the year and aid in their decision making around how and where grants should be invested in community.

- **Kearney**
  Will offer shadowing and mentoring with Kearney employees.

- **Driving of Chicago200**
  The participants have been invited to take part in the steering committee for next years’ program, making this youth led.

- **Online Alumni Legacy Program**
  Chicago200 alumni will have access to a global online Legacy Program that will link them with all of the alumni of Common Purpose’s legacy programs taking place across the world.

**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 2020, we will run the next Chicago200 program, giving another cohort of young leaders the opportunity to take part.

For further information on Legacy Programs please contact; Pippa Burke, US Executive Director, Common Purpose: pippa.burke@commonpurpose.org