



CHICAGO 2012

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12th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates Commences in Chicago

Chicago welcomes Nobel Peace Laureates, government leaders, international dignitaries, celebrities and students to a public forum on peace, human rights and the power of the individual

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CHICAGO—The Permanent Secretariat of the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates and the 2012 Chicago Host Committee today joins government leaders, international dignitaries, celebrities, students and the general public in welcoming 21 Nobel Peace Prize winners to Chicago for the first World Summit to be held in North America.

The World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, a prestigious international event recognized for its contributions to the global discourse on peacemaking, has been previously held in Paris, Berlin, Rome and Hiroshima. Chicago was selected as the host city for the 2012 World Summit due to the city's rich heritage, international profile and strong ties to the Nobel Prize. The summit, themed "Speak Up, Speak Out for Freedom and Rights," will be held over three days at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Chicago Symphony Orchestra Hall from April 23 to April 25.

The World Summit is chaired by His Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and co-chaired by The Honorable Walter Veltroni, former mayor of Rome. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel serves as the 2012 World Summit honorary co-chair. The Chicago Host Committee is co-chaired by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn; Chris Kennedy, chairman of Joseph P. Kennedy Enterprises; Kerry Kennedy, president of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights (RFK Center); Terry Mazany, president and CEO of The Chicago Community Trust; and Michael Sacks, CEO of Grosvenor Capital Management, L.P. and vice chairman of World Business Chicago.

21 NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES

The 12th World Summit's 21 attending Nobel Peace Laureates, among them eight individuals and representatives for 13 organizations, will be personally introduced by high school students from Chicago Public Schools who have been studying them in their social studies classes. The full list of attending laureates is:

Individual Laureates: His Excellency Lech Wałęsa, former president of the Republic of Poland (1983); His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tibet (1989); His Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (1990); His Excellency Frederik Willem de Klerk, former president of the Republic of South Africa (1993); Professor Jody Williams, United States (1997); The Honorable Jimmy Carter, former president of the United States (2002); Dr. Shirin Ebadi, Iran (2003); Professor Muhammad Yunus, Bangladesh (2006)

Organizational laureates: International Peace Bureau (1910); International Committee of the Red Cross (1917); American Friends Service Committee (1947); United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (1954); United Nations Children's Fund (1965); International Labour Organization (1969); Amnesty International (1977); International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War (1985); PUGWASH Conferences (1995); International Campaign to Ban Landmines (1997); Médecins Sans Frontières (1999); United Nations (2001); Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2007)

"Chicago is honored to be the first North American city to host the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates. This Summit reflects Chicago's profile as an international leader in civic dialogue and community engagement," said Mayor Emanuel. "I'm honored that Nobel Peace Prize winners will visit Chicago's public schools to discuss their crusade for human rights and peace throughout the world, giving our students an experience that will both inspire them and give them something to aspire to. This Summit, through its partnership with Chicago Public Schools, will have a local impact and leave a lasting legacy on our city."

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The 12th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates is a robust three-day event that includes: individual visits by laureates to 18 Chicago Public Schools; a compelling opening ceremony featuring a star-studded *Speak Truth To Power* play developed by the RFK Center; moderated panel discussions between Nobel Peace Laureates on the topics of world peace, universal human rights and the impact that one person can have on the world; awards presentations to Sean Penn and a young activist from South Africa; video messages from laureates and students; and private lunch and dinner events featuring keynote remarks by notable international figures such as President Bill Clinton.

School Visits

Summit organizers have partnered with Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (RFK Center) to connect laureates in sharing their powerful stories directly with local students. This morning, 16 Nobel Peace Laureates traveled to CPS high schools to share their experiences working for peace and human rights directly with students who have been studying them as part of the RFK Center's *Speak Truth To Power* human rights curriculum and other similar lessons. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Youth Leadership Peace Program arranged for 16 high school students and four educators from Bangladesh, Liberia, Timor-Leste and Yemen to join four of the Nobel Peace Laureates on their visits to Chicago Public Schools this morning.

Opening Ceremony and *Speak Truth To Power* Play

The opening ceremony of the World Summit will include welcome remarks by President Gorbachev, Mayor Veltroni, Mayor Emanuel and Kerry Kennedy, as well as Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams. The ceremony will also feature a special video message from United States President Barack Obama. In addition to the welcome remarks from the Chicago Host Committee and student introductions of all attending laureates, the opening ceremony of the World Summit will feature a short play, "*Speak Truth To Power: Voices From Beyond the Dark.*" Students from Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company will join award-winning actors such as Laura Innes, Gloria Reuben, Richard Kind, Trevor Donovan and Alfre Woodard to portray Nobel Peace Laureates and their achievements for the audience at the summit.

"The Nobel Peace Prize winners who are gathering in Chicago this week are powerful examples of the impact that a single individual can have on human rights," said Kerry Kennedy. "These bold leaders, and others like them, are the basis of the RFK Center's *Speak Truth To Power* global education initiative. Over the past six months, thousands of Chicago students have been studying these stories of courage, and learning to be defenders themselves. I'm delighted that they will have the opportunity to meet the laureates first hand, and I'm proud to help welcome this fantastic event to Chicago, a city with a rich history of social activism."

Panel Discussions

The Summit program is comprised of six panel discussions that will be held among Nobel Peace Laureates, and moderated by prominent journalists such as Chris Jansing (MSNBC), David Martin (CBS), Fionnuala Sweeney (CNN) and Jim Frederick (TIME). These panel sessions will be punctuated by questions from the audience. Individual laureates and representatives from laureate organizations have been placed on panels based on their experience and expertise with each topic.

Today, following the opening ceremony, laureates will engage in two panel sessions: “New Challenges for Peace,” a conversation about promoting peace and justice in a multination strategy, and “Investing in Peace,” a discussion of the responsibility of businesses and governments to build a fair and sustainable world. Day two panel discussions will include a conversation on the impact than an individual can have on the world, entitled “One Person Can Make A Difference,” and a session on the achievements in peacemaking by women all around the globe, called “Women Forging Peace.” On the final day of the summit, panel sessions will cover the implications of nuclear arms, in “A World Without Nuclear Weapons,” and a closing panel simply titled “A Final Conversation with the Laureates,” which will include His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama in conversation with other Nobel Peace Laureates.

Video Messages

In addition to the video message from Nobel Peace Laureate and U.S. President Barack Obama during this morning’s opening ceremony, the summit will showcase video messages from President Martti Ahtisaari of Finland, President José Ramos-Horta of Timor Leste, and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon.

Award Ceremonies

The World Summit will feature two award ceremonies to recognize global humanitarian leaders. The 2012 Peace Summit Award will be presented to actor Sean Penn for his work on behalf of the people of Haiti. Past recipients of this award include Annie Lennox (2009), Bono (2008) and George Clooney/Don Cheadle (2007). The 2012 Peace Summit Medal for Social Activism will be awarded to Michaela Mycroft, a young South African activist noted for her commitment to the rights of disabled children. Mycroft was also awarded the International Children’s Peace Prize in 2011 for her work.

Lunches and Dinners

Summit organizers are hosting private lunches and dinners to honor the Nobel Peace Laureates during their time in Chicago. Tonight’s opening night dinner at The Field Museum will feature a special performance by Monica Yunus, a renowned Metropolitan Opera Soprano, as well as a keynote address by President Bill Clinton. Tuesday’s closing night dinner at The Art Institute of Chicago will feature performances by notable local figures in entertainment – including Mavis Staples of The Staple Singers. While all meals are by invite only, recordings will be packaged for public viewing and posted online following the event.

FOCUS ON YOUTH AND EDUCATION

The 12th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates places a special emphasis on engaging and empowering youth to action in their schools and communities. Approximately 2600 high school and 700 university students from the Chicagoland region are attending the summit, along with teachers and students from other areas of the United States and the world.

Speak Truth To Power and Chicago Public Schools

Speak Truth To Power, a project of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, is a multi-faceted global initiative that uses the experiences of courageous defenders from around the world to educate students and others about human rights and urge them to take action. Issues range from slavery and environmental activism to religious self-determination and political participation.

The Speak Truth To Power human rights education curriculum has been disseminated to hundreds of thousands of students in the U.S., Europe and Africa. In collaboration with Amnesty International, the U.S. version of the curriculum has been widely distributed throughout North America. In 2011, in partnership with the Chicago Public

Schools and the Chicago Teachers Union, 16 new lessons were created based on Nobel Peace Laureates, many of whom are attending the 12th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates. Today, the curriculum continues to be used throughout Chicago Public Schools, the third largest school district in the country.

Scholastic

Scholastic, the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books and a leader in educational technology, has partnered with summit organizers to reach thousands of classrooms across the country with an educational and informative microsite that will feature a full live stream of all summit events. Following the summit, recordings of all panel sessions, supplemental video content, and educational resources will also be made available at the microsite, <http://www.scholastic.com/speakupspeakout>. A live webcast of all summit events will also be featured on the [U.S. State Department's microsite](#) for foreign embassies and classrooms around the world to tune in.

Other Education Partners

In addition to the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, Chicago Public Schools and Scholastic, summit organizers have partnered with multiple education organizations that have contributed greatly to the event by sharing curricula and resources with nationwide teacher networks, spreading the humanitarian messages of the event, and filling the summit audience with talented and engaged young people.

Education partners include: PeaceJam, Southern Poverty Law Center, Human Rights Watch, Mikva Challenge, the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Chicago, and Facing History and Ourselves. Today, many of these organizations are participating in a day-long professional development seminar for high school teachers hosted by the Spencer Foundation in conjunction with the summit.

“The 12th World Summit’s strong emphasis on education and community involvement closely aligns with The Chicago Community Trust’s core goals,” said Mazany. “We are proud to collaborate with the City of Chicago, the Robert F. Kennedy Center, the Permanent Secretariat of the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, and all our other partners to bring this historic event to Chicago.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For background on the organizers of the World Summits, the Permanent Secretariat and the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, visit www.nobelforpeace-summits.org. To learn more about the Chicago Summit, visit www.nobelsummitchicago.org. For video content, educational materials and other resources beyond the summit, please visit <http://www.scholastic.com/speakupspeakout>.

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The Permanent Secretariat of the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates together with the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, The Chicago Community Trust, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, City of Chicago and World Business Chicago are collaborating to organize the 12th World Summit. Sponsors include: Grosvenor Capital Management, L.P.; Jeep®; Coventry; Vista Equity Partners; Bank of America; Clear Channel Airports; BMO Harris Bank; DePaul University; Harris Associates L.P.; JW Marriott Chicago; Robert R. McCormick Foundation; Scholastic; Spencer Foundation; Wendy and Jim Abrams; The Joyce Foundation; Northern Trust; Liz and Eric Lefkofsky; University of Illinois at Chicago; Cristian and Jonah Goodhart; ASCA; Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center and 1871; State of Illinois, Office of Tourism; JP Morgan Chase & Co., Leslie Bluhm and David Hefland; Susan Crown and William Kunkler; Ambassador Fay Hartog Levin and Daniel Levin; The Field Museum; the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association and the Art Institute of Chicago.