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Second Annual Richard J. Daley Urban Forum Draws 700 Participants to Examine Effects of Urban Globalization

Mayor Richard M. Daley, former New York City Mayor
Rudolph W. Giuliani, worldwide mayors and other urban leaders highlight key challenges, opportunities facing today’s cities

CHICAGO — Addressing topics ranging from immigration to urban architecture, and from pandemics to international trade, mayors from across the nation and around the world, along with 700 scholars, students, and civic and business leaders, gathered today at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) for the second annual Richard J. Daley Urban Forum, entitled “Globalizing Cities: Chicago and the World.” UIC and the Daley family hosted the forum, which explored the challenges, opportunities and threats shaping the economic and cultural identities of today’s metropolitan centers.

Former New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani delivered the forum’s keynote address. “The Richard J. Daley Urban Forum represents a tremendous opportunity for today’s cultural, business, academic and civic leaders to identify universal challenges facing today’s cities and exchange ideas for effectively addressing them,” Giuliani said.
Mayor Giuliani was joined at the forum by mayors of some of the world’s major urban centers, who discussed the challenges and effects of globalization on their respective cities and citizens. Participants included Miami Mayor Manuel A. Diaz; Mobile, Alabama, Mayor Samuel L. Jones; Toronto Mayor David Miller; Durban, South Africa, Mayor Obed Mlaba; and Galway, Ireland, Mayor Brian Walsh. Kemer Borisovich Norkin, advisor to the Mayor of Moscow, also participated in the discussion, which was moderated by Bernard Shaw, CNN principal anchor emeritus.

Other speakers and panelists examined globalization as an agent of growth and change within and among the world’s cities, and addressed the specific economic, political and social factors that accelerate or impede globalization. They also compared Chicago’s experience of globalization to other cities worldwide.

Launched in 2005 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Richard J. Daley’s first inauguration as Mayor of Chicago, the Richard J. Daley Urban Forum at UIC is an annual symposium for students, scholars, public officials, civic leaders, policymakers and commentators to discuss important issues and share insights into American urban history and urban studies.

“In his first inaugural address in 1955, my father said, ‘we, too, can be pioneers, pioneers of a greater city of the future—just as our forefathers were,’” said Mayor Richard M. Daley, who welcomed participants to today’s forum. “Now, 51 years later, representing the junction of commercial and technological innovation, vibrant culture and academic excellence, Chicago has cemented its status as one of the great cities of not only America, but of the world. It is with great pride that we continue my father’s pioneering spirit and legacy in this second annual forum—recognizing, celebrating, collaborating with and learning from the world’s other great urban centers.”

In addition to the mayors’ plenary session, the forum featured four panels: “Urban Spectacles,” moderated by Chicago Tribune columnist John McCarron,
which addressed large-scale urban projects such as festivals and skyscrapers; “The World Metropolis,” moderated by Bloomberg News executive editor Albert Hunt, which explored how global cities intersect via trade, culture and education; “Fragile Cities,” moderated by Chicago Tribune senior correspondent and senior editor Charles Madigan, which examined threats facing today’s cities; and “The New Urban Experience,” moderated by David Perry, director of UIC’s Great Cities Institute, which addressed cultural dynamics and communications.

Participating panelists included former U.S. Senator Adlai Stevenson III; Mexico’s Consul General to Chicago Carlos Manuel Sada Solana; Mobile, Alabama, Mayor Samuel L. Jones; Manchester City Council deputy chief executive Eamonn Boylan; architect Helmut Jahn; Pulitzer Prize finalist Suketu Mehta, author of Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found; James Cuno, president of the Art Institute of Chicago; James L. Cook, chief of infectious diseases at UIC’s College of Medicine; Susan Fainstein, professor of planning at Columbia University; Gary Slutkin, research professor in the UIC School of Public Health; Ernest Wilson, professor of government and politics and African American studies, University of Maryland; Mellody Hobson, president of Ariel Capital Management; Carlos Tortolero, president of the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum; Lisa Lee, founder of the Public Square; Carol Coletta, president and CEO of CEO’s for Cities; and UIC artist Inigo Manglano-Ovalle, among others.

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Richard J. Daley was first inaugurated as Mayor of Chicago on April 20, 1955. He served as Mayor for more than two decades, during which time he oversaw the rebirth of Chicago’s downtown, construction of McCormick Place, development
of O’Hare International Airport, and creation of UIC, among other notable achievements.

Establishing UIC—originally known as the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle when it opened in 1965—was described by the late mayor as his greatest contribution to the life of the city. Circle Campus merged with the university’s Medical Campus in 1982 to form UIC. The activities of the forum are linked to the Richard J. and Eleanor Daley Archive at UIC’s Richard J. Daley Library, which houses the late mayor’s papers and memorabilia.

UIC is Chicago’s largest university with more than 24,000 students, 12,000 faculty and staff, 15 colleges and the state’s major public medical center. The campus ranks among the nation’s top 50 universities in federal research funding. UIC has more than 145,000 alumni, more than 110,000 of whom live in the Chicago metropolitan area. A hallmark of UIC is the Great Cities Commitment, through which faculty, students and staff engage with community, corporate, foundation and government partners in hundreds of programs to improve the quality of life in metropolitan areas around the world.

“Global cities create the jobs, the culture, and the way of life of the future, and they interact with one another in ways that transcend national boundaries,” said UIC Chancellor Sylvia Manning. “We need to understand the characteristics that make our cities great and the measures we must take to keep them great, and to do what we can to bring together academic, social, political and commercial viewpoints in a dialogue of joint assessment.”

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