

Chicago: The New Mu\$ic Capitol?

Chicago Music Commission to present landmark panel of Chicago music movers and shakers

Thursday, January 24th, 2008

On Thursday, January 24, the Chicago Music Commission will convene a diverse panel of experts for a groundbreaking public conversation on the economic opportunities being generated by Chicago's growing music industry. The event will take place at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance at Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph Street at 6 p.m., and is open to the public free of charge. Never before has a panel of such caliber come together in public to discuss Chicago's music industry, its future, and its impact on Chicago's economy at large.

The CMC is convening the panel in response to publicity surrounding the recent publication of the CMC's groundbreaking economic impact study "Chicago: Music City," conducted by the Cultural Policy Center at the University of Chicago. The study exposes the strengths and weaknesses of Chicago's music industry in comparison with those of other North American cities. Along with co-authors Dan Silver and Sarah Lee, Lawrence Rothfield, faculty director of the Cultural Policy Center, will summarize the study's findings to open the event and the panelists will address the steps Chicago must take to be recognized as a world-class music city.

The panel of experts will include industry leaders representing many facets of Chicago's music economy, including media, promoters, venues, performers, educators, government, urban planners, record label owners, trade associations, recording studio executives and music industry unions. Confirmed panelists to date include:

Moderator: CMC Member Dan Lurie

Confirmed Panelists:

- * Shala Akintunde The Movement Worldwide (Producer and Performing Artist)
- * Martin Atkins Invisible Records, Columbia College
- * Julie Burros Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs
- * Laura Chmielewski Chicago Department of Tourism
- * Kenard Karter WGCI radio
- * Rita Lee Nu Face Entertainment
- * Gary Matts President, Chicago Federation of Musicians
- * Jerry Mickelson Jam Productions
- * David Miranda Univision Radio
- * Sean Murphy ASCAP
- * Paul Natkin Photo Reserve, Inc.
- * Heather M. Nelson-Beverly Entertainment Attorney
- * Henry Perritt, Jr. Chicago Council on Global Affairs
- * Lawrence Rothfield Cultural Policy Center at the University of Chicago
- * Alan Salzenstein De Paul Music Business School
- * Chris Schneider Pressure Point Recording Studios
- * Michael Yerke Live Nation, House of Blues

“Chicago: Music City” is the first serious comparative study of music industries and music communities in the 50 most populous metropolitan areas in the U.S. The study provides an accurate portrait of the power of music to influence Chicago’s economic health and will serve as a benchmark for measuring the future growth of the city’s music community. The authors found that Chicago’s music community is a significant economic engine:

- * Chicago has the third largest number of music businesses among its peer national competitors;

- * Chicago has the third largest music-related workforce, with over 53,000 people generating over \$1 billion in payroll;

- * Chicago’s live music scene generates \$80 million in revenues—dwarfing better known scenes such as Austin (known as the “Live Music Capital of America”).

- * It is an “omnivore’s paradise” with affordable and diverse music offerings, and an aggregate concert capacity larger than any other city besides Los Angeles.

The Chicago Music Commission is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation founded in 2005 by a group of concerned Chicagoans dedicated to heightening the local, national and international visibility of Chicago music; nurturing Chicago’s vibrant music community; and organizing and advocating independently on behalf of the Chicago music community in the government and private sectors.

The Cultural Policy Center at the University of Chicago was founded in 1999 as a joint initiative of the Harris School of Public Policy Studies and the Division of Humanities. The Cultural Policy Center at the University of Chicago is an interdisciplinary research center and nationally recognized leader in the emerging field of cultural policy research and education. Its mission is to provide research and inform policy that affects the arts, humanities and cultural heritage.