



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Citizen Diplomacy, One Handshake at a Time





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WorldChicago is a nonprofit organization that fosters citizen diplomacy and global understanding through people-to-people exchanges and events.

Our mission is to:

- Facilitate professional and personal interactions for international leaders during official visits to Chicago
- Enhance respect and communication through international exchanges and alliances
- Promote the City of Chicago and State of Illinois as important centers of business and culture.

Founded as the International Visitors Center of Chicago in 1952, WorldChicago connects the Chicago community with international professionals, experts, and youth participating in U.S. Department of State and other federal exchange programs in Chicago.

WorldChicago offers Chicago-area citizens opportunities to forge partnerships with these emerging leaders, who explore their fields of interest and expertise through meetings with Chicago’s leading voices in the public, private, nonprofit, and tech sectors.

Our international visitors participate in volunteer activities that help enhance and improve the Chicago community and engage with Chicago’s diverse, globally-minded citizens through a variety of cultural events. More than 20% of our visitors also reside with host families during their stay in Chicago, providing a full immersion cross-cultural exchange experience.

WorldChicago is an affiliate of Global Ties U.S., a nonprofit membership association with more than fifty years of leadership in citizen diplomacy. Together with more than 90 community partner members and the U.S. Department of State, WorldChicago helps shape international relations “one handshake at a time.”

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WorldChicago is pleased to acknowledge that this Annual Report is funded in part by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State, under the authority of the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961, as amended.

“A reminder that conflict isn’t just moving pieces around on a chessboard.”

— HOMESTAY HOST

Dear WorldChicago Members & Friends,

Thank you for your active support and participation in Citizen Diplomacy in Chicago in 2015!

We had an exciting year as we partnered with the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs in our many programs focused on entrepreneurship.

We were delighted to welcome our first two groups of Professional Fellows in the technology and entrepreneurship sector from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Slovenia, as well as an amazing delegation of 70 entrepreneurs from all over the world on the International Visitor Leadership Program. Even the Youth Leadership program had a strong entrepreneurial focus this year!

While the WorldChicago staff work hard to coordinate all the logistics for these groups while they are in Chicago, none of our efforts would be effective without the warm welcome that you — our WorldChicago members, home stay hosts and donors — make possible.

Thank you for making Chicago the warm and welcoming city that it is, and for all of your special efforts on behalf of WorldChicago. We look forward to working with you in 2016 — and again, thank you.

Sincerely,

*Peggy Parfenoff
President, WorldChicago*

ABOVE: Peggy Parfenoff (second from right) at a WorldChicago Coffee Conversation event with delegates in the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program Women in STEM project.



Connecting Cultures Through Innovation

Exchange programs highlight global entrepreneurship from Chicago to Shanghai, Bosnia to Botswana

For the second straight year, entrepreneurship and innovation was a central theme among WorldChicago’s citizen diplomacy exchange programs.

In July, we hosted the **African Women’s Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP)** for 40 women business owners from 34 countries across the continent. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, AWEP engages African women entrepreneurs to promote business growth, increase trade, create better business environments, and empower other African women business owners. The program opened with an inspirational keynote speech from Amy Hilliard, CEO of Fashion Fair. Delegates then branched out around the city to meet with local experts in textiles, fashion, interiors, cosmetics, and agricultural products.

In November, WorldChicago welcomed 70 leading global entrepreneurs and business officials from 62 countries around the world for a U.S. Department of State **International Visitor Leadership Program** on “Entrepreneurship as the Engine of Prosperity.” The three-week U.S. exchange opened in Chicago with a rousing keynote speech from Troy Henikoff of Techstars Chicago. Then to gain greater insights into the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Chicago, delegates met with local leaders from the organizations around the city such as the Chicago Department of Technology and Innovation, the Greater Pilsen Economic Development Council,

Women Tech Founders, and many more.

This year WorldChicago also launched a U.S. Department of State **Professional Fellows Program** with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Slovenia focused on tech innovation and entrepreneurship. In May and October, WorldChicago hosted 19 entrepreneurial leaders, with plans to host 40 more over the next two years.

“It seems the more you fail the more you succeed”

“What I’ve learned through the program is that failure is acceptable in the tech world, and it happens so often that it almost seems that the more you fail the more you succeed,” observed Tanja from Bosnia. “Optimism is also something that I’ve learned about, and the power of technology is powered up by people who use and benefit from it.”

Mersed, another fellow from Bosnia noted, “It was great to see a culture here

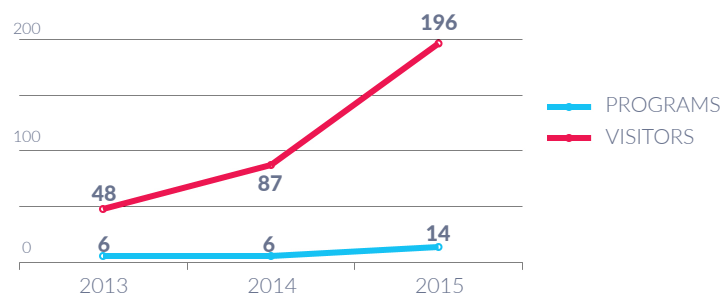
of open transparency in sharing and collaboration of ideas.”

Several Chicago fellowship hosts have since had the opportunity to participate in reciprocal exchanges to explore the tech ecosystems in Bosnia, Croatia, and Slovenia, growing the impact of the program even more.

Looking forward to tomorrow’s leaders, WorldChicago once again hosted an entrepreneurship exchange for students in the **Pan-Africa Youth Leadership Program**, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Fifty-seven young leaders from 14 countries across sub-Saharan Africa learned how they could make an impact on their communities using principles of entrepreneurship.

WorldChicago is honored to play a role in the State Department’s efforts to support entrepreneurship around the world, while also promoting the great city of Chicago as a hub for innovation.

Entrepreneurship-based Exchanges, 2013–2015



Welcoming the World to Chicago

In 2015, WorldChicago hosted 691 international emerging leaders from 140 countries around the world for exchange programs ranging in length from two days to two months. Learn a little more about our visitors!

Afghanistan	9	Chad	5	Hungary	1	Mexico	3	South Africa	3
Albania	2	Chile	1	India	6	Moldova	3	South Korea	10
Algeria	4	China	45	Indonesia	5	Mongolia	1	South Sudan	1
Angola	5	Colombia	5	Iran	1	Morocco	22	Spain	67
Argentina	6	Congo	2	Iraq	13	Mozambique	1	Sri Lanka	3
Armenia	2	Cote d'Ivoire	9	Ireland	1	Namibia	3	Sudan	1
Australia	1	Croatia	12	Israel	7	Nepal	4	Swaziland	2
Austria	1	Cyprus	1	Italy	3	Nicaragua	3	Sweden	1
Azerbaijan	3	Czech Republic	1	Japan	6	Niger	1	Syria	1
Bahrain	1	Democratic Republic of the Congo	8	Jordan	5	Nigeria	9	Taiwan	3
Bangladesh	3	Denmark	1	Kazakhstan	10	Norway	2	Tajikistan	4
Belarus	14	Djibouti	1	Kenya	2	Oman	2	Tanzania	7
Belgium	1	Ecuador	2	Kosovo	1	Pakistan	17	Thailand	1
Belize	1	Egypt	10	Kuwait	1	Palestinian Territories	3	Togo	7
Benin	2	Estonia	1	Kyrgyzstan	8	Peru	3	Trinidad & Tobago	1
Bhutan	1	Ethiopia	2	Lebanon	4	Philippines	9	Tunisia	6
Bolivia	2	Finland	2	Lesotho	1	Poland	4	Turkey	1
Bosnia-Herzegovina	6	France	3	Liberia	1	Portugal	2	Turkmenistan	4
Botswana	6	Gabon	9	Lithuania	1	Qatar	5	Uganda	4
Brazil	6	Gambia	1	Macedonia	1	Russia	21	Ukraine	12
Bulgaria	1	Georgia	1	Madagascar	3	Rwanda	7	United Arab Emirates	4
Burkina Faso	2	Germany	22	Malawi	5	Sao Tome & Principe	1	United Kingdom	16
Burundi	1	Ghana	8	Malaysia	6	Saudi Arabia	4	Uruguay	1
Cabo Verde	1	Guatemala	14	Maldives	1	Senegal	3	Uzbekistan	1
Cambodia	2	Guinea	2	Mali	4	Serbia	1	Venezuela	1
Cameroon	3	Haiti	1	Marshall Islands	1	Sierra Leone	1	Vietnam	1
Canada	1	Honduras	3	Mauritania	5	Slovakia	1	Zambia	5
Central African Republic	2	Hong Kong, S.A.R.	1	Mauritius	5	Slovenia	6	Zimbabwe	11



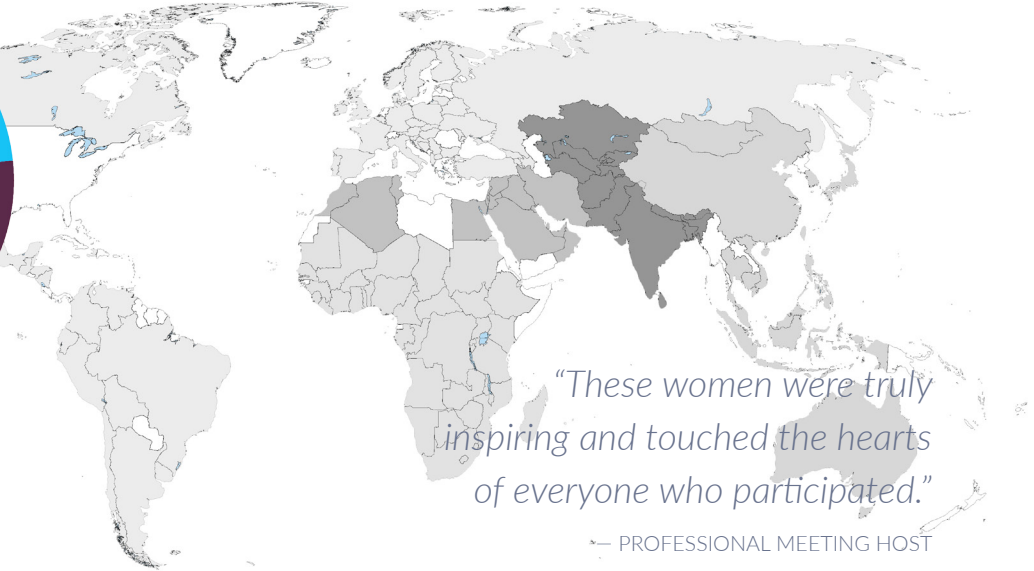
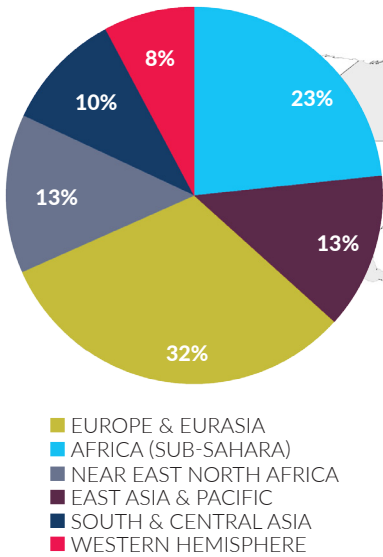
Top 10 Countries

1. Spain*
2. China
3. Germany
4. Morocco
5. Russia
6. Pakistan
7. United Kingdom
8. Belarus
9. Guatemala
10. Iraq

*WorldChicago was happy host two special programs from the government of Spain



2015 Visitors by Region



2015 Exchange Programs

Program Name	Programs	Visitors
1. International Visitor Leadership Program	72	459
2. Youth Leadership Program	5	81
3. Professional Fellows Program	7	42
4. Community Connections	1	9
5. Open World Leadership	1	6
6. Other Programs	8	94
TOTALS	94	691

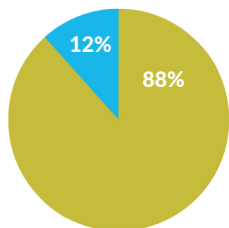


Top Meeting Host: City of Chicago

WorldChicago extends a special thank you to the City of Chicago – 61 officials from 26 city departments hosted meetings with 264 visitors from 114 countries this year, showing that Chicago is truly a global city!

Top 10 Program Themes

1. Entrepreneurship	6. Education
2. Governance, Policy, Politics	7. Civic Engagement
3. Journalism & Media	8. Arts & Culture
4. Law	9. Environment
5. Trade & Investment	10. Crime & Security



Average Program Length
8 DAYS

Longest Program
58 DAYS
Shanghai Management Fellows

Read more stories from our hosts and visitors at worldchicago.org/your-stories

Citizen Diplomacy in Action

WorldChicago relies on the generosity, openness, and collegiality of the Chicagoland community to successfully implement our citizen diplomacy exchange programs. We are grateful for and thankful to our professional meeting hosts, homestay hosts, and hospitality hosts – whether providing a meeting, a home, or a meal, our hosts contribute directly to enhancing cross-cultural understanding, awareness, and tolerance in Chicago and around the world.

Professional Meeting Hosts

From judges to journalists, engineers to curators, hundreds of Chicago-area leaders and professionals exchanged expertise and ideas with WorldChicago’s international visitors in 2015.

In one such meeting, South Central Asia Interfaith Leaders (pictured below) visiting Chicago through the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program met with Commissioner Mona Noriega (center) and staff of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations to discuss the role of local government in protecting citizens from discrimination and CCHR’s efforts to bring people from different ethnic and religious groups together through educational programming.

Meetings by the Numbers

- 324** Unique Chicago-area meeting host organizations
- 504** Professional meetings with WorldChicago visitors
- 866** Chicago professionals who met with our visitors
- 3,519** Hours volunteered by Chicago meeting hosts
- 11** Elected officials who met with international visitors



Photo courtesy Chicago Commission on Human Relations

Hospitality Hosts

For our visitors staying in hotels, often a highlight of their exchange is a dinner or cultural outing with local Chicagoans. What better way to interact than over a meal or a jazz performance?

Hospitality by the Numbers

- 51** Dinners hosted for WorldChicago visitors
- 38** Unique Chicago-area hospitality hosts
- 216** WorldChicago visitors hosted

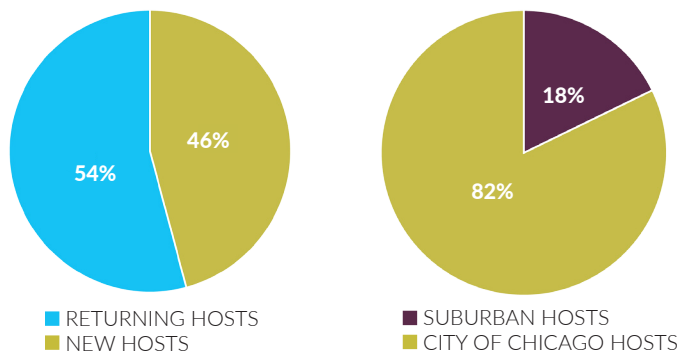
2015 Hospitality Hosts

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Chicago Sister Cities International | Isobel Neal & Julie Stagliano |
| Casablanca Committee | Maren Nelson & David Lawrie |
| Mary Rob Clarke | Mary Owen |
| Anne & Rob DeBock | Rudy Pamintuan |
| Samantha & Tom DeKoven | Carol & John Rappel |
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| Claire & Ryan Kettelkamp | Marilyn Susman |
| Aditya Khanna | Hao Tan |
| Dana Koll | JJ Tang |
| Stephen Komie | Todd Wells & Virginia Pace |
| Catherine Leyser | Russell & Christine Zanca |
| Megan Mozina & Patrick Laux | Richard Ziegler & Paula Tironi |
| Janet Murphy | Constantine Zografopoulos |

Homestay Hosts

Dozens of WorldChicago homestay hosts opened their homes to our international professional and youth visitors this year. Short-term homestays ranged from one week to one month. Homestay hosts took on a special role as cultural ambassadors, providing not just a place to sleep, but a glimpse into everyday life in Chicago and the U.S.

<i>Home Hosting by the Numbers</i>	
85	Unique Chicago-area homestay hosts
22%	International visitors staying in homestays
45	Unique zipcodes of homestay hosts
60625	Zipcode with the most homestay hosts
2,578	Nights spent by visitors in homestays



“We love hosting, especially because of what our son gains from meeting people from all over the world – he’s learning bits of language, trying different foods, and developing a world view all in the comfort of his living room!”

— HOMESTAY HOST

2015 Homestay Hosts

- Jack & Sarah Ailey
- Barbara Anderson
- Magdalena Arguelles & Charles Kiser
- Katie Aune
- Sandra Barnett-White & James White
- Barry & Colleen Berk
- Karen Brown
- Keli Campbell & Jeffery Rhodes
- Lainey Canevaro & Kevin Weinstein
- Jocelyn & Les Carter
- Mary Case
- Craig & Mireille Cernek
- Larry Cherry
- Josh & Bridget Collier
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- Marquita Cunningham
- Lourdes & James Danaher
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- Barb & Dwight Decker
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- Kristina & Carlos Lowenstein
- Cedric & Michele McCay
- Ann McKenzie & John Wischnewsky
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- Pat & Dave Meyer
- Ellie Moore
- Debbi Nick
- Angela & Dana O'Banion
- Osei Omoike
- Iliana Perea
- Dakota Prosch & Fernando Regueiro
- David Reithoffer
- Darby Resha
- Marisela & Rafael Reyes
- Alex & Jennifer Rifman
- Lorraine Schmall
- Marnie & Keith Schwartz
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- Abby & Howard Simon
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- Connie Speake
- Kevin & Tracy Staniel
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- Laurel Stradford
- Alma Tirado
- Andrea Versenyi & David Keown
- Jennifer Viets
- Todd Wells & Virginia Pace
- Lucy Wojdyla
- Barbara Wolf

Engaging Chicago in Citizen Diplomacy

Each year WorldChicago hosts hundreds of international leaders, educators, scientists, architects, economists, students, and more from 100+ countries, providing a unique insider's perspective on global affairs and issues in locales near and far. Our outreach events and activities offer one-of-a-kind opportunities for our local community to join the global conversation right here in Chicago.



FROM THE TOP: Spring Diplomacy Luncheon at the University Club; Peggy Parfenoff (left) with Spring Diplomacy Luncheon emcee Linda Yu of ABC7 Chicago, and keynote speaker Deborah Bekken of The Field Museum; U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program delegates have some photobooth fun at Invitation to Innovate at 1871; Women in STEM Coffee Conversation attendees at the Chicago Cultural Center.

2015 Events

Many of WorldChicago's 2015 events reflected the theme of global entrepreneurship and innovation prevalent in our exchanges, and engaged the local tech community in our mission of citizen diplomacy. The first event in our 2015 Coffee Conversations Series featured a panel discussion on Women in STEM with leading scientists, engineers, and researchers from Botswana, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico, and Poland. Our annual Young Professionals International Careers Night was held at coworking space OFFSITE, while leading digital tech incubator 1871 hosted WorldChicago's Annual Fall Fundraiser, *Invitation to Innovate*.

Like our international visitors, our events also explored perspectives on other global issues. WorldChicago celebrated International Women's Day with a distinguished panel of leaders discussing immigration, empowerment, and economics. Our Spring Diplomacy Luncheon featured curator Deborah Bekken of The Field Museum sharing a behind-the-scenes look at the international cooperation necessary to mount their new permanent exhibition, the Cyrus Tang Hall of China.

Outreach by the Numbers

- 15** WorldChicago citizen diplomacy events in 2015
- 1,029** Local, national, and international attendees at WorldChicago citizen diplomacy events
- 5,500+** Subscribers to WorldChicago e-newsletter
- 59%** Increase in Twitter followers
- 36%** Increase in Facebook likes

Get Involved!

WorldChicago receives about 60% of our funding through U.S. Department of State program grants and contracts. The remaining 40% is achieved through membership, event proceeds, in-kind donations, and sponsorships. Your support helps us close this funding gap and create more opportunities to bring the world to Chicago, and Chicago to the world.

Visit www.worldchicago.org/get-involved to learn how you can get involved today.

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Partners

Our partners collaborate with us on programs, events, and special initiatives. In addition, many of WorldChicago's programs are initiated and overseen by national program agencies based in Washington, D.C.

Local

1871
AKPD Message and Media
American Association of University Women - Illinois
BDG International, Inc.
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Canada-US Business Council Chicago
Chicago Commission on Human Relations
Chicago Council on Global Affairs
Chicago Humanities Festival
Chicago Sister Cities International
City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events
Consulate General of Canada in Chicago
Consulate General of Sweden
DePaul University
The Field Museum of Natural History

Fulbright Association
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Pontarelli Car Service
Regina Taylor
Revolution Brewery
Sat Nam Yoga Chicago
The Second City & Up Comedy Club of Chicago
Sofitel Hotel Chicago
Southwest Airlines
Story Studio Chicago
Wendella Boat Tours
WorldFinds

*Donations as of November 23, 2015

2015 Professional Host Honor Roll

WorldChicago would like to recognize our fellowship hosts and overall most frequent hosts for going above and beyond in their dedication to our mission of citizen diplomacy, one handshake at a time.

2015 Fellowship Hosts

Access Living
Anixter Center
Between Friends
BLUE1647
Catalyze Chicago
Center for Tax and Budget
Accountability
Chicago Council on Science and Technology
Chicago Foundation for Women
Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network
Chicago Public Schools
Department of Civic Engagement and Service Learning
Chinese American Service League
City of Chicago Board of Ethics
City of Chicago Department of Innovation and Technology
City of Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
Clean Energy Trust
Columbia College School of Journalism
Context Media
Cook County Public Defender's Office
DataMade LLC
DePaul University, Driehaus
College of Business/Department of Management
Digital 4 Startups Inc.

Easter Seals of Metropolitan Chicago
El Valor
Family Resource Center on Disabilities
Georama
Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation
Illinois Institute of Technology IPRO
Illinois Institute of Technology University Technology Park
Illinois Technology Association
Indo-American Center
Internship Desk
Little Black Pearl
Metropolitan Planning Council
Partners in Community Building
Pathfinder Software Development
Project Tech Teens
Seven Generations Ahead
Illinois State Representative Ken Dunkin Office
The Shift
University of Illinois Chicago Department of Bio-Engineering
University of Illinois Chicago Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies
Watermark Property Management
Windy City Real Estate
World Business Chicago
Youth Guidance

Top 25 Meeting Hosts

City of Chicago
State of Illinois
Northwestern University
University of Chicago
Illinois Institute of Technology
U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit
Heartland Alliance
Chicago Council on Global Affairs
International Trade Association of Greater Chicago
American Bar Association
Argonne National Laboratory
Chicago Tribune
Columbia College Chicago
Cook County
Metro Chicago Exports
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission
Capital Communications Group
Chicago Public Media WBEZ Worldview
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Kurth Lampe
Little Black Pearl
Loyola University Chicago
John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Mikva Challenge



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