

SOAPBOX JUDGES

FRED SASAKI, Poetry Foundation: Fred is the Art Director of *Poetry Magazine*, a magazine he discovered on his first day of work as a page at the Newberry Library. He is also a gallery curator for the Poetry Foundation.

JORGE MUJICA, Arise Chicago: Jorge is a labor organizer and activist originally from Mexico City. He is currently the Strategic Campaigns Organizer for Arise Chicago, an organization that builds partnerships between faith communities and workers to fight workplace injustice through education, organizing, and advocating for public policy changes.

CAROLINA MACIAS: Carolina works at the Metropolitan Water Council, supporting the Transportation, Research, and Communications Directors. She previously worked at the Chicago Park District as Program and Event Facilitator, where she developed numerous cultural and nature-inspired events in partnership with community organizations. Carolina is constantly seeking ways to support and advance equity work in Chicago and around the world.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENCROACHMENT MARCHING BAND

Chicago brass band and performance art group *Environmental Encroachment (EE)* uses mobility, costumes, and antics to create unique entertainment environments. EE's mission is to create playgrounds for the body and mind through dance, music, and art. Visit www.encroach.net for more information.

GENESIS ACADEMY SUMMER INSTITUTE

The Genesis Academy Summer Institute brings together pre-university Chicago students, ages 15-19, and youth from conflict and post-conflict zones around the world. The students meet with thought leaders, activists, and artists and participate in an array of experiential learning opportunities and field studies in order to examine those forces that play a part in perpetuating conflict and preventing it.

SOCIETY OF SMALLNESS

The Society of Smallness is a collective of enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds who explore the potential for small actions to generate creative opportunities.

ABOUT BUGHOUSE SQUARE

Bughouse Square, as Washington Square Park has historically been known, was Chicago's most boisterous and radical free-speech space during the first half of the twentieth century. Bohemians, socialists, atheists, and religionists of all persuasions mounted soapboxes, spoke to vocal crowds, and competed for attention and donations. For many years, the square's core contributors were Industrial Workers of the World labor union members whose radical views and acerbic wit made them perennial crowd favorites. During the park's heyday in the 1920s and 1930s, thousands of people gathered there on summer evenings to hear speakers debate the vital issues of the day, while busloads of tourists looked on. However, the crackdown on socialists and communists that followed World War II led to Bughouse Square's decline, and, by the mid-1960s, its free-speech culture had all but ceased to exist. It was only in 1986 that the Newberry decided to work with community activists to revive the spirit of the park by organizing the first Bughouse Square Debates.

ABOUT THE DILL PICKLE AWARD

The Dill Pickle Award honors the year's champion soapbox orator and commemorates the Dill (sometimes spelled Dil) Pickle Club, founded by labor activist and Bughouse soapboxer Jack Jones in 1914 to provide an indoor forum for free expression. By 1917, the Dill Pickle had relocated to a space at 22 Tooker Place, just around the corner from Bughouse Square and the Newberry. Picklers attended lectures, plays, dances, concerts, and (of course) did plenty of talking and debating. Carl Sandburg, Clarence Darrow, Maxwell Bodenheim, Lucy Parsons,

Ben Hecht, Charles MacArthur, Sherwood Anderson, and Ben Reitman were just a few of the literary, political, and social luminaries who regularly attended. The club closed in 1933.

BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES COMMITTEE

The Newberry Library thanks the Bughouse Square Debates Committee for organizing this year's event: Karen Christianson, Matt Clarke, Elizabeth Cummings, Paul Durica, Will Hansen, Marcos Herrera, Cate Harriman, Mary Kennedy, Alex Teller, Georgina Valverde, Karen Williams, and Sarah Wilson.

HECKLING

Responding to speakers is a Bughouse Square tradition, and interaction is part of the fun. Please keep it civil and friendly.

#BUGHOUSE2019 / #CHI1919

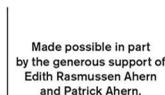
Want to supplement your heckling with some online commentary? Share your thoughts and opinions with us on social media.

The Bughouse Square Debates are supported by a grant from the Chicago Free for All Fund at the Chicago Community Trust.



Chicago 1919: Confronting the Race Riots is a year-long initiative to heighten the 1919 Chicago race riots in the city's collective memory, engaging Chicagoans in public conversations about the legacy of the most violent week in Chicago history.

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in these programs do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



TALK, LISTEN,
★ ★ ★ ★
HECKLE, REPEAT.



The 2019
BUGHOUSE SQUARE
DEBATES

SATURDAY, July 27
Noon to 4 pm

Across from the Newberry in Washington Square Park

#Bughouse2019 / #Chi1919

BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES

Noon – **MUSIC** by Environmental Encroachment

12:45 pm – **PERFORMANCE** by Genesis Academy Summer Institute Students

1:05 pm – **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES** by journalist, radio host, and longtime Bughouse advocate **Rick Kogan**

1:15 pm – **PRESENTATION OF THE 2019 JOHN PETER ALTGELD FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD**

Recipient: **Derrick Blakley**, longtime broadcast and print journalist

David Spadafora, President of the Newberry, and Karen Christianson, Director of Public Engagement, will present the award.

We recognize Derrick Blakley for his longstanding and uncompromising advocacy of free speech and his excellent work as a journalist and reporter in Chicago. Blakley recently retired from a 41-year career in television news, including prominent runs as a CBS network correspondent and as a local reporter for CBS 2 Chicago. Prior to working in television, Blakley was a print reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*. He is a native of Chicago’s South Side and has won multiple Emmy Awards.

The Altgeld Freedom of Speech Award is dedicated to the memory of the former Illinois governor (1892-96) who pardoned the surviving anarchists wrongfully convicted of the Haymarket bombing of 1886. The award is presented each year to an organization or person who has achieved distinction as a defender of free speech and ideas.

1:35 pm – **MAINSTAGE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

The Legacies of 1919

NATALIE Y. MOORE is WBEZ’s South Side Reporter. She covers segregation and inequality, and her reporting has tackled race, housing, economic development, food injustice, and violence. Natalie is the author of *The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation*, winner of the 2016 Chicago Review of Books award for nonfiction and a BuzzFeed Best Nonfiction Book of 2016.

CHARLES WHITAKER is Dean of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, where he has taught since 1993. He was previously a senior editor at *Ebony Magazine* and has published widely on cultural, social, and political issues. He is one of the co-curators of the Ida B. Wells Award, presented by both Medill and the National Association of Black Journalists to individuals who are working to increase newsroom diversity and improve the coverage of communities of color.

A **Q&A** with the audience will conclude the main presentation.

SOAPBOX SPEECHES

SOAPBOX 1

2:30 pm – Daniel Epstein, “At Least the Witches of Salem Got a Trial”

2:40 pm – Marissa Gaines, “Water, Water Everywhere?”

2:50 pm – Justin Tucker, “7 Points to Improve Chicago”

3:00 pm – Scott Priz, “Trump’s Camps are What We are as a Nation, but It’s Not What We Have to Be”

3:10 pm – Adam Peterson, “Moving Chicago Forward 1gb/sec at a Time”

3:20 pm – Vicki White, “The Right to Read in Prison is Under Attack!”

SOAPBOX 2

2:30 pm – Rose Gomez, “Carbon Emissions Fee”

2:40 pm – Ellen Lee, “A Korean Rapper’s Question: Malicious Comments vs. Freedom of Speech”

2:50 pm – Rita Maniotis, “Vaccine Safety: An Oxymoron”

3:00 pm – Bill Bergman, “Our Government’s Finances are a Disaster”

3:10 pm – Michael Brennan, “How to Guarantee Healthcare as a Human Right”

3:20 pm – Michael Burack, “Cannabis is Good for Your Money, Health, and Taxes”

SOAPBOX 3

Open Mic – Moderated by the Society of Smallness

Step up, one and all!

SOAPBOX 4

Youth Soapbox – Organized by students from GCE Lab School

Youth, ages 25 and younger, will speak individually and give three-minute lightning speeches on pressing issues.

Breana Austin (*Mental Health*)

Ella Bueno (*Immigration and Poverty*)

Maritsa J. Guerra (*Police Brutality*)

Shay Guerra (*Black and Brown Communities*)

Yemina Kebede (*Systemic Racism*)

Gimena Servin (*Injustices against Women, POC, and LGBTQ People*)

Maeve Shaffer (*Equality for LGBTQQA+ People*)

Gregg Williams (*On Being Black in America*)

AFTER THE SOAPBOX SPEECHES

3:45 pm – **PRESENTATION OF DILL PICKLE AWARD FOR BEST SPEECH**

SOAPBOX SPEAKERS

BILL BERGMAN serves as Director of Research for Truth in Accounting, a nonprofit dedicated to informing citizens about government financial reporting. He has more than 30 years of experience in financial markets and also teaches finance at Loyola U. Chicago.

MICHAEL BRENNAN is a retired researcher and former President of the now-defunct Metro Seniors in Action, a coalition of 100 Chicago community organizations. He has given talks at the annual Bughouse Square Debates for years.

MICHAEL BURACK is the founder of kannariskmanagement, a cannabis finance and insurance consulting company in Chicago. A graduate of the University of Chicago public policy program, he has been advising doctors, hospitals, and generic pharma companies for 35 years and cannabis companies for four. He believes that cannabis (without THC) has important health care applications and can improve many chronic conditions.

DANIEL EPSTEIN is a candidate for the Illinois Supreme Court and is working to eliminate ethical loopholes, bad incentives, bias, and barriers to access by advocating the reform of the Court’s rules. Before taking on the Supreme Court, he was an associate of Jenner & Block. He received his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School in 2015.

MARISSA GAINES is a political and communications strategist who calls Chicago home.

ROSE GOMEZ has been involved with the Citizens Climate Lobby organization for over a year. She believes that only by reducing our carbon footprint immediately can we avoid further destruction of our planet.

ELLEN LEE is a rapper who goes by the name of KASPER. Originally hailing from South Korea, they are interested in the fine line between free speech and hate speech.

RITA MANIOTIS is a special education teacher and Secretary of the Illinois Vaccine Awareness Coalition, a coalition of groups for parents’ rights, informed consent, and health and medical freedom that includes parents of vaccine-injured children and vaccine-injured individuals. In 2004, she led the successful effort to have the Illinois PTA vote to ban the Hepatitis B vaccine for children at their annual convention.

ADAM PETERSON is a junior studying political science and economics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He currently interns for Alderman Brian Hopkins of the 2nd Ward.

SCOTT M. PRIZ is a Chicago-based attorney and Insurance Pirate. In his spare time, he is a Shakespearean Circus performer who enjoys dressing up like Alderman Bathhouse John Coughlin. He also thinks kids should not be held in concentration camps.

JUSTIN TUCKER is an activist living in Chicago. He currently serves as Chair of the Libertarian Party of Chicago.

VICKI WHITE is the coordinator of Chicago Books to Women in Prison, which distributed nearly 13,500 free books to women and trans people in prisons across the country last year. Vicki is a graduate of the University of Chicago and aims to live up to what her dad liked to call her—an agitator.

YOUTH SOAPBOX SPEAKERS

BREANA AUSTIN is a young Chicagoan woman from the South and West Sides. Bre is hoping to inspire others to reach out for support and chase dreams that may be hard to achieve due to lack of opportunities, resources, or emotional support.

ELLA BUENO is a seventh grader passionate about reforming immigration policies. As a Mathlete and a poet, she is a master at harnessing the power of the right and left sides of her brain! .

MARITSA GUERRA, aka **MARI2K** or **The YOUNG PB**, is a resident of Rogers Park, where she has lived for nearly 11 years. Maritsa hopes to engage with her peers from all walks of life and change their views of what is attainable and what are acceptable standards for the ways that many young adults her age view themselves, their place in society, and their engagement with their city and institutions at large.

SHAY GUERRA is a rising sophomore at Loyola University’s Arrupe College. She is one of the lead organizers of this year’s Youth Soapbox Debates. She is a senator in the student government and the Secretary for the Black Student Union at Arrupe.

YEMIMA KEBEDE, aka **YOUNG POETIC QUEEN**, is a youth poet representing Loyola Academy. She is passionate about poetry as a tool to reform the injustices she sees and experiences in her world.

GIMENA SERVIN served as the Youth Bughouse Mayor last summer , and they return this year as one of the event’s lead organizers. They are a rising junior at GCE Lab School, a Daniel Murphy Scholar, a Louder Than a Bomb slam poet, and the creator of the original tabletop game, Husks.

MAEVE SHAFFER is a rising freshman at Lawrence University. They are passionate about advocating for LGBTQQA+ rights and educating those around them about LGBTQQA+ culture and history. They aspire to be a successful civil rights lawyer.

GREGG WILLIAMS is a rising sophomore at Arrupe College and is the Vice President of Arrupe’s Black Student Union. As a Black kid from the West Side, Gregg strives not be a statistic.