

# Notes for a People's History of Chicago

To accompany our Notes for a People's Atlas of Chicago project, AREA is launching a historical research initiative so that we can collectively make sense of our city's past.

Please join AREA to develop future articles, events and projects about our local history.

City As Lab Timeline June 2008

This timeline is the work of many people. It is an attempt to provide a historical context for the labor and education policies that are discussed in AREA Chicago #5.

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Please get in touch if you are interested in contributing to expanding this timeline and making future Notes for a People's History of Chicago projects in the future.

Designed by Dave Pabellon

1871

# The Chicago Fire Population: 325,000

- '74 Workingman's Party of Illinois formed at Turner's Hall in Eisen.
- '77 Battle of the Viaduct at 16th and Halsted. Thirty workers killed and 100 wounded in a battle with police and federal troops.
- '86 Police open fire on strikers at McCormick Reaper Works at 26th and Damen. 1 Haymarket.
- '89 Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr found the Hull House.

'92

University of Chicago opens.

1893

Inland Steel opens in Chicago Heights. | A stock market crash creates financial panic and economic depression which continues through 1898.

'94 Pullman Strike begins when company refuses to pay higher wages, lower rents, and not recognize a Union.

'96 Chicago Federation of Labor is founded.

'98

DePaul University founded.

1900

# Start of the 20th Century Population: 1,698,575

'03 Reform groups and labor unions work together to help pass a bill to limit child labor.

'05 Industrial Workers of the World founded at Brand's Hall.

'06 US Steel (founded by JP Morgan in 1901) opens a steel mill in Gary, Indiana. At US Steel's South Chicago plant, 46 workers are killed and 368 are permanently disabled.

Upton Sinclair's The Jungle is published.

'09 "Barber Shop Law" passed; journeymen barbers' Union now effectively control who may legally cut hair in Chicago. | Legislature passes "Health, Safety & Comfort Act" to encourage reduction of industrial accidents.

'10 40,000 garment workers strike against Hart, Schaffner & Marx Co., who had annual sales of \$15 million. Strike begins at 19th and Halsted. | Illinois Occupational Disease Commission established.

'11 Illinois Workers Compensation Law passed.

'12

'14

'17

1919

# Chicago Race Riot Population: 2,701,705\*

'27 Norris-LaGuardia Act of 1932 passed, allowing workers the freedom to organize, strike, and use other leverage without judicial interference. A prohibition is placed on federal injunctions.

'32

1933

# Great Depression Population: 3,376,438

'34 Committee (later the Congress) for Industrial Organizations founded. | National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) passed, providing the right to organize. | National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) oversees union elections.

'35 Artist Union formed, during the WPA out of the legwork of the John Reed Club.

'36 Unemployment insurance first provided to Illinois residents. | Republic Steel strike and Memorial Day Massacre; 10 killed by police gunfire.

1937

# Chicago Housing Authority Founded Population: 3,396,808

'45

Roosevelt University established. It admits non-white students immediately.

'46 Milton Friedman joins the faculty of the University of Chicago.

'47 Taft-Hartley Amendment to the NLRA is enacted (overturning Norris-LaGuardia Act of 1932), allowing federal judges to enjoin unions from striking.

1950

# City Residency Peaks Population: 3,621,092

'52 Approximately 80,000 Chicago steelworkers engage in two-month walk out. | United Electrical Workers unions shut down International Harvester (formerly McCormick Reaper Works).

1955

Congress of Industrial Organizations merges with the American Federation of Labor, creating the AFL-CIO.

# Population: 3,620,962

'59 Tens of thousands of Chicago steelworkers join nationwide strike for better wages, benefits, and improved work rules. Strike lasts four months. | Armour Company slaughterhouse closes.

'60

During the late 1960s and early 70s progressive ideas reemerge in the "open classroom" movement, whose ideology was closely tied to the romanticism of the 1960s.

'64 Members of the Students for a Democratic Society form JOIN (Jobs or Income Now) Community Union to focus on economic justice in neighborhoods like Uptown.

'65

University of Illinois opens new Chicago campus at Halsted and Harrison following demolition of housing in the location.

'66 Undergraduate women are allowed to take classes on Loyola University's Rogers Park campus for the first time.

1968

# Police Riot Population: 3,362,947

'69 Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) established, setting national safety standards for private-sector employees, overseen and enforced by the U.S. Department of Labor.

'70 Union Stockyards close. | Stewart Warner Company factory organized by militants from Sojourner Truth Organization and other new left groups. The corrupt union is successfully kicked out.

'71

Bilingual Education Act passed, providing federal funds to start first modern bilingual programs.

First state income tax passed, providing a significant increase in educational funding.

New State Constitution passed, failing to include education as a fundamental right or mandating full state funding. Article 10 limits state to a flat income tax, guaranteeing a permanent shortage of education funding.

'72 Education Amendments (Title IX) passed, outlawing all discrimination in educational programs on the basis of sex.

'73 Midwest Academy for Organizing is founded.

'74 Coalition of Labor Union Women founded.

# 750-Crisis Population: 3,369,359

'79 Amalgamated Meat Cutters merges with Retail Clerks, creating the United Food and Commercial Workers.

'81 Rudy Lozano organizes Tortilla Del Rey workers.

'83 Rudy Lozano shot and killed.

'85

'87

'88

'89 Mayor Richard M. Daley Elected (and has never left).

'90

'91

'93 1600+ activists in Chicago support the Deatur union in the Staley lock-out by fundraising, "adopting" families, civil disobedience, and Chicago Symphony Orchestra benefit concerts, strengthening labor groups that still collaborate today.

1994

# '94 NAFTA Population: 2,783,726

'95

'96

'97

'98 United Steel Workers strike for 18 weeks after being ask to take a \$10,000 pay cut.

'99

'01 Chicago Center for Working Class Studies Established.

'02 The Trans-Atlantic Business Dialogue holds its annual meeting in Chicago.

'03 Congress Hotel strike begins in June.

'04 City Colleges of Chicago Strike - 500 Teachers walk out across the city for first time in 27 years.

'05 A.F.L.-C.I.O. split at national meetings held in Chicago. SEIU and the Teamsters form the "Change To Win" Federation with UNITE HERE, UFW, LIUNA, UFCW and UBC joining later.

'06 Living Wage Ordinance passed in City Council and vetoed by Mayor Daley. | IWW organizes second U.S. Starbucks union in Logan Square. | UNITE HERE wins agreement to improve wages for 2,600+ hotel workers.

'07 The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) takes on Chicagoland McDonald's and win improved wages and conditions, the culmination of a long struggle with the support of many local organizations. | Organized Labor has major influence on City Council elections following a coalition of unions organizing support for pro-union candidates. | The Working Hands Legal Clinic established as a joint venture by three local day-labor worker centers.

# What If I Were Born in Chicago? Population: 1,099,850

John Dewey begins teaching at University of Chicago.

John Dewey's Laboratory School is founded.

Ella Flag Young, who worked with Dewey at the Lab School, becomes superintendent of schools in Chicago till 1915.

DePaul University admits women.

The Chicago Public Schools introduces new curriculum requiring sixth graders to choose either an academic or industrial track.

Loyola University admits women, but only on its downtown campus.

Illinois adopts a Foundation Level (Strayer-Halg) system of funding schools, distributing state aid inversely to property tax wealth and representing a significant increase in state support.

West

Hubbard/Hickrod formula for Illinois education funding adopted, guaranteeing that districts with equal tax rates will have equal expenditures per pupil, representing the largest increase in state funding in recent history.

Chicago School District declares bankruptcy. School Finance Authority (SFA) created to oversee budget.

Chicago school teachers strike for fifteen days. | 'A Nation At Risk' report published, leading to a new emphasis on basics, national learning standards, and standardized tests.

Legislation establishes statewide school accountability. | Illinois General Assembly adopts Omnibus Education Reform Act of 1985.

CPS endures 19-day strike. | Mayor Harold Washington convenes Education Summit. He dies later that year. | US Secretary of Education William Bennett says Chicago has the "worst schools in the nation."

The monumental Chicago School Reform Act is passed, decentralizing governance of CPS. Shifts sources and authority to schools by creating Local School Councils; mandates school improvement plans.

First Local School Councils (LSC) elected: 17,236 people run for seats; 312,600 cast ballots; 6,000 members elected. | State income tax increased to 3.0 percent, resulting in significant increase in education funding.

LSC voting process declared unconstitutional. Legislature enacts law creating new LSC election process.

Attempt to amend Article Ten to the state constitution to include the statement, "a fundamental right to an adequate education," fails on a close vote, largely due to opposition by Governor Jim Edgar.

CPS budget in crisis; schools don't open on time. Parent and community protests spur court intervention to open schools. Budget balanced with bonds. State Chapter 1 money, teachers' pension fund, and SFA reserve fund.

The Committee v. Edgar case decided (6-1) for defendant. Illinois Supreme Court declares that education is not a constitutional right in Illinois.

Chicago School Reform Act revised.

15 new charter schools authorized. | CPS begins using "Iowa Test of Basic Skills" (ITBS) as the high-stakes metric for judging individual students, schools, and system-wide progress.

Second generation of standards-based reform (Illinois Learning Standards) adopted by Illinois State Board of Education

CPS Begins administering Chicago Academic Standards Exam.

CPS system restructured by legislation. | Illinois FIRST (Fund for Infrastructure, Roads, Schools, and Transit) signed by Gov. Ryan.

Phase-in of Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) commences.

Hunger strike by Little Village mothers for new school. | "No Child Left Behind" passed federally. | Literacy program deployed in poorest performing CPS schools.

Renaissance 2010 passed. | "No Child Left Behind" initiates wave of school reform, requiring annual progress in ethnic and social-economic groups, school choice, and student information be distributed to the military.

First year of required "annual progress" by schools and school districts in both reading and math and in all demographic sub-groups. | System-wide math and science initiative launched.

# Millennium Population: 2,896,016

First Renaissance 2010 school opens. | First year when chronically failing Illinois schools may be moved into "state intervention status."

All teachers and paraprofessionals, without exception, must be "highly qualified" under NCLB. | Yearly ISAT reading and math testing required statewide for all students in grades 3-8.