

SAMPLE GALLERY CONVERSATION CARDS

Please note: This PDF is provided to help you prepare for your field trip. One set of actual gallery conversation cards will be given to each teacher and chaperone upon your arrival at the Museum.

Directions

- 1. Share the cards.** Give one to each student or pair of students.
- 2. Read each card aloud.** Ask students to share the contents of their cards and take a few minutes to discuss the themes.
- 3. Explore the exhibition.** Using the “find” prompt, ask students to choose an object, photograph, or document that relates to their theme. Before dispersing, agree on a time and a place to gather back together.
- 4. Tour the gallery.** Lead one another through the exhibition, stopping once at each of the seven artifacts selected by members of the group. At each stop, read the discussion question aloud. Give everyone a chance to respond.
- 5. Repeat.** Visit a second exhibition. Mix up the cards to give each student or pair a chance to work with a new theme.

Chicago**History**Museum

People

COMMUNITY

Place

People

“Probably the most influential person, to me, was my eighth-grade teacher . . . First of all, she helped me learn to write. I used to write this little column that was published in the local newspaper every week. It was called ‘Sanders Meanders.’”

Sister Sue Sanders

Find an object, photograph, or document that tells a story about an interesting person.

For discussion: Think of an important person in your life. How does he or she inspire you to be your best?

Place

“The lake. I have a dog, and I go to the lake. It’s at the lake where I generally can find some temporary peace and stability and reflection . . . You can just walk over and sit on a bench and watch the water and clear your head . . .”

Dominic Ferri

Find an object, photograph, or document that relates to a special place or location in Chicago.

For discussion: Where do you go to think or dream? Why is it a special place?

After Your Visit

Continue your exploration of life in Chicago by completing these activities. The activities can be used by individuals, pairs, or small groups.

Universal Dialog: Choose a quote from one of the gallery conversation cards. Create a personal response to it by writing a journal entry, poem, or spoken-word lyrics. Share responses by reading them aloud. Alternatively, interview one another to elicit responses to one of the themes. Discuss the insights gained from sharing different perspectives.

Found Poetry: Look at the quotes on the gallery conversation cards and choose words or phrases that you find interesting, powerful, or moving. Make a list of the words and phrases, and using this list, create a poem. You may add or remove words from the list to make the theme clearer or add more feeling, but remember to use only words from the quotes.

COMMUNITY

“ . . . When church was over, sometimes, we gathered at the school hall, and we had tamales and coffee, and we could talk to other people there, talked about everything, about family life, about how the priest’s homily went, things like that.”

Tony Perez

Find an object, photograph, or document that tells a story about a community.

For discussion: Describe a community to which you belong. In what kinds of activities does your community participate?

EDUCATION

Reform

Work

Celebration

Reform

“ . . . We [the Catholic Church] are truly a worldwide organization that on a daily basis feeds people, counsels people, marries people, buries people, baptizes people, attends to people’s spiritual hunger and need, 95 percent of this for no cost, and that rich sense of service and ministry is very inspiring to me.”

Father Terry Keehan

Find an object, photograph, or document that represents an effort to improve life in Chicago.

For discussion: How and why do people work together to change things for the better?

Celebration

“ . . . We’d always go to our Christmas Eve service . . . There were about six different families. Each year, we would go to [one family’s] house afterwards and stay there until 4:30 or 5:00 in the morning and cook breakfast. It was a family tradition with a church tradition that were connected.”

Father Michael Pflieger

Find an object, photograph, or document that was part of a celebration or special occasion.

For discussion: Think of a special occasion in which you participated. What activities, food, or clothing did the celebration include?

EDUCATION

“ . . . I sort of felt like when I came to school that it was a real haven for me, sort of a sanctuary where I could really learn . . . I loved books and I loved reading so that was something I really embraced.”

Laura Washington

Find an object, photograph, or document that tells a story about a school experience.

For discussion: Describe your school. What is it “known for”? Who attends?

Work

“ . . . I knew from an early age that I wanted to be a teacher. It might have been buried deep down for awhile, but I knew that that’s what I wanted to do. I wanted to help people, I wanted to work with children . . . and I think this comes from my Catholic education.”

Danielle Pierce

Find an object, photograph, or document that has to do with work.

For discussion: What or who influences people to choose their jobs or professions?