Chicago-Focused Topics for Breaking Barriers in History

How did breaking the barrier(s) of ______________ create important, impactful change?

CULTURE – ART, MUSIC, LITERATURE, EDUCATION

- Streamlining America*
- Vivian Harsh and the Saving of Black History and Culture
- Charlemae Rollins and Multicultural Books for Students
- AfriCOBRA—Black Arts Movement Makes its Own Rules
- Many Hats of the Artist Ralph Arnold
- Jazz (Many stories: early jazz, black and white musicians, AACM, etc.)
- When the Blues Came to Chicago*
- Gospel: BB Blues and Spiritual or Sacred and Secular
- Black Chicago Renaissance (Consider artists, writers, etc)
- Exiled Design: New Bauhaus*
- Chicago Sinfonietta
- Worlds Columbian Exposition (Many stories: African-Americans, women, consumer products, reputation)
- Frederick Stock and the Groundbreaking CSO
- Hull House and the Small Theater Movement
- Compass Players and Second City
- Black Theater Movement: ETA or Kuumba
- Katherine Dunham Transforms Dance
- Ebony magazine
- Chicago Defender
- Artemisia: Women, Feminism and Art
- Hull House, Immigrants, and Art
- The Surrealists of Chicago
- Charles White: A Universal Artist
- Marion Mahoney Griffin
- Marianne Willisch – A Woman Designer Designing Homes?*
- Architecture: (Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Bertram Goldberg, etc.)
- African-American and Mexican Artists Cross the Border
- Maria Tallchief
- Hairy Who
- Mural as Community Builders
- Origins of the Museum of Contemporary Arts

MEDICINE, SCIENCE, & TECH INNOVATION

- Zephyr: Breaking the speed barrier*
- Diabetes: The Insulin Question
- Killing Cancer with Killer Chemicals
- Trains and railways*
- Motorola (cell phones, car radio, mobile communications)*
- Standardization of Time
- Western Electric Connects America
- Barbed Wire
- Disability Rights: ADAPT
- Tucker Auto: What Happens to a Maverick?

*In CHM exhibitions
- Abbott Laboratories
- Virginia Ohlson and International Nursing
- Keeping Neonatal Babies Alive
- Inventing the Pill
- James Henry Breasted Translates Egyptian Hieroglyphics
- Hubble and the Expanding Universe
- Blood! Banking It, Preserving It
- Salmon in the Great Lakes
- Medical Committee for Human Rights

**POWER, AUTHORITY**
- Ida B Wells-Barnet Speaks the Truth Power
- Ben Hecht and Rescue of European Jews
- Parks for All: *The Chicago Park District and Consent Decree, Women and Sport CWLU, From Olmstead to Working Peoples’ Parks*
- Addie Wyatt: Fighter on Four Fronts
- Harold Washington Mayoral Election and Leadership
- Free speech Dil Pickle Club
- CHA Plan for Transformation
- Joanne Alter: Getting in the Boys’ Room
- Annexation and the Growth of Chicago
- Starving for a Home: Pilsen Fights for a High School
- Clarence Darrow
- Gautreaux and Section 8 Housing
- School Boycotts and Freedom Day
- Pullman Town: Whose Utopia?
- Urban Indians Claim Space
- Breaking Gerrymandering, Building Latino Power
- The Treaties that Made Chicago
- Chicago Anti-Apartheid Movement
- Campaigns to abolish the death penalty
- Fair Housing and Oak Park
- Illinois Legislative Black Caucus
- Black Panther Party
- Saul Alinsky: Community Control
- Fellowship of Reconciliation
- We Won’t Go: Fighting the Draft During Vietnam War
- Sister Cities Program
- Pontiac Prison Riot Prompts Reform Efforts
- Division Street as the Center of Early Puerto Rican Power
- From Howell House to Casa Atzlan: A Community Makes Its Home

**ECONOMICS, BUSINESS, LABOR**
- Zephyr and Transportation*
- Equal Pay for Equal Work: Ellen Roberts Sues Texaco
- Marquette, Joliet and the Global Economy
- CIO: Black & White, Unite and Fight
- IWW and One Big Union
- Michael Jordan and Marketing

*In CHM exhibitions*
• Advertising of the Container Corp of America
• Reversal of the Chicago River
• Leo Burnett
• Chicago Women in Trades
• Coalition of Black Trade Unionist (CBTU)
• Coalition of Labor Union Women
• Sears, Wards mail order catalogs
• Barbed Wire
• Black Expo 1973
• Chicago Bungalow: Path to Home Ownership for the Working Class
• Meatpacking Industry / Stockyards (mass production, food safety
• Eugene Debs
• Save our Jobs Coalition Takes on the Steel Industry
• Gale Cincotta and Neighborhoods Take on the Banking Industry
• Crosstown Expressway? No Way!
• Environmental Justice (consider Hazel Johnson, Mary McDowell, etc.)

RACE AND CIVIL RIGHTS
• African Americans and Century of Progress
• Restrictive Covenants / Shelley v Kraemer
• Chicago Freedom Movement*
• George Leighton: “Lawyer for Hopeless Cases?”
• Chicago Joins the Freedom Riders, Freedom Summer
• Integrating Summer Camp: The Bowen Country Club
• Howalton School and other community-led alternative schools
• Contract Buyers League
• Operation Breadbasket: Who’s Minding the Store?
• Original Rainbow Coalition
• Abolition of Slavery, the Chicago Contributions
• Afro-American Patrolmen’s League
• Rainbow Beach Wade-In
• Truman Gibson and the Integration of the Armed Forces

WOMEN, GENDER
• Women’s Movement or Labor Movement: The Women’s Trade Union League
• Women’s Suffrage (consider differing periods, strategies, tactics, race/gender/class) and Beyond
• Birth Control* The Pill and Beyond
• Reproductive Rights
• The Women’s World Fair
• Women’s Sanitary Fairs during the Civil War
• ACT-UP
• Pride Parade as Political Power
• “Homesteading” Women
• Women’s Work? Sears vs EEOC
• Prison Project of the Chicago Women’s Liberation Union
• Chicago Catholic Women: Feminists Religious
• Bari-Ellen Roberts vs Texaco
• Women Peace Party

*In CHM exhibitions
• Latina Feminists *(for example, on 18th Street, in NOW, etc.)*
• International Women’s Year, 1977
• Providing Safe Abortions pre- Roe v Wade: *(Lonnie Meyers and the Abortion Rights Association, Clergy Consultative Service, etc.)*
• Spaces of our Own: Lesbian Feminist Community in Chicago
• Mary Alice McWhinnie at Antarctica

**SOCIAL HISTORY**
• Storefront Churches: Bringing the South, North
• Playgrounds—Not Alleys! A Progressive Era Achievement
• Bilingual Education
• Sex Education
• Esther Loeb Kohn and the Protection of Refugees
• Japanese Relocation, Resettlement in Chicago
• Gray Panthers
• Ben Reitman—hobo doctor, hobo professor
• Making of the ADA Act – Disabilities Rights

**SPORTS AND RECREATION**
• Title 9
• Ernie Banks
• Special Olympics
• All American Girls Baseball league
• Loyola “Game of Change”
• Harlem Globetrotters
• Nisei Sports League
• Chicago Hosts the Pan-American Games

**IMMIGRATION, ETHNIC**
• The Immigration Act of 1965
• The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986
• Hull House (or other settlement houses) and the Immigrant Communities
• Indian Removal Act, or encroachment upon/destruction of indigenous communities more broadly
• Chicago neighborhood development – immigration, integration, displacement*
• Carlos Montezuma
• Working on the Railroads: Roots of Mexican Labor in Chicago Area

**WAR, MILITARY**
• Fort Dearborn: Massacre? Battle?*
• Chicago Involvement in the Civil War
• Double V Campaign

**When Breaking Barriers mean “Barriers Against” (i.e., to Protect)**
• Saving the Game of Baseball after Scandal
• Citizen Groups Take on Pollution
• Protecting Democracy: Chicago Committee for the Bill of Rights

*In CHM exhibitions  CHICAGO TOPICS  August 26, 2019
• Fighting Food-based Diseases
• Epidemics and other infectious diseases
• Women’s Christian Temperance Union
• Our Lady of Angels and Life Safety Laws
• Don’t Kill Your Babies and other campaigns to end child mortality
• Abraham Lincoln – attempts to keep nation from division
• Shakman Decree and Patronage Jobs
• Civil Defense Hysteria: A Reaction to the Bomb
• Skokie, Nazis, and the ACLU