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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE PRAGUE-CHICAGO RELATIONSHIP

“Forming the partnership with the City of Chicago, shortly after our country regained its freedom, has always been considered highly significant and I am convinced it will continue to successfully develop to benefit the citizens of both our cities.”

Adriana Krnáčová, Mayor of Prague

“This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of Chicago’s Sister Cities relationship with the City of Prague in the Czech Republic. The City of Chicago is proud of the Sister City partnership it has formed with the City of Prague, and its long history of friendship and cooperation with the people of the Czech Republic.”

Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of Chicago

PROGRAM OF THE GOLDEN PRAGUE GALA
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2015

6:30  Cocktails

7:00  Official Opening of the Golden Prague Gala
• National anthems of the Czech Republic and the United States of America
• Presentation of the Prague Days Chicago 2015 festival
• Welcome by the Mayor of Prague
• Addresses by representatives of the Czech Republic and the United States of America

Gala Dinner
• Accompanied by the music of Ondřej Havelka and His Melody Makers

Honoring of distinguished representatives of Czech history in Chicago
• Presentation of the medals of the Mayor of Prague

Unveiling of the sculpture Nature
• By Jarmila Mucha Plocková, granddaughter of Alphonse Mucha, and Peter Nižňanský, co-author of the sculpture

Untill 10:30 p.m.  Silent Auction

Untill 12:00 a.m.  Music by Ondřej Havelka and His Melody Makers and Dancing
• Ondřej Havelka and his Melody Makers is a synonym for authentic interpretation of popular music of the swing era, i.e. music dating back to the beginning of the 1930s to swing’s heights in early 1940s.

Their variegated repertory includes a broad spectrum of attractive tunes, sweet and hot, ranging from Hollywood musicals to big bands’s top swing numbers.

A concert is more than that; it is a show designed in the minutest detail to emulate the typical manners of those times, complete with the costumes and hairdos, and rounded off by overall direction of the performance.

• Unveiling of the sculpture Nature, originally created by Alphonse Mucha and recreated recently by his granddaughter Jarmila Mucha Ploeková in cooperation with Prague sculptor Peter Nižnianský.

This presentation was made possible by Richard and Inese Driehaus
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy the interpretation of the United States anthem by Jim Peterik and the other original members of the Ides of March, Larry Millas, Mike Borch and Bob Bergland.

All original members of the Ides of March are of Czech ancestry and grew up in Berwyn, at the time, a largely Czech neighborhood.

Learn more about Jim Peterik’s achievements as a singer and songwriter in his biography in this booklet and at jimpeterik.com

HONORING CZECH HISTORY IN CHICAGO

“Not many nations can say that there is a place on the other side of the planet where their countrymen became a Mayor of one of the world’s most powerful cities, as Anton Cermak; got to walk on the moon, as Eugene Cernan; founded the most successful sports enterprise in the world and one of its major teams, as “Papa Bear” George Halas; created the largest global food chain, McDonald’s, as Ray Kroc; taught the world during a space mission to never give up, as Jim Lovell; became the symbol of Hollywood charm, as Kim Novak; wrote songs, which dominated the music charts all over the globe, as Jim Peterik; created a statue placed next to one of the world’s most respected art museums, as Albin Polasek; and became, as stated by President Obama, “an institution in Illinois politics,” as Judy Baar Topinka.

That is why we dedicate the Golden Prague Gala to the great Czech history in Chicago. I hope that you will enjoy the life stories of the most famous representatives of this history featured in the booklet.”

Bořek Lízár, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago
Antonín Čermák
(1873–1933)

Mayor of Chicago

Antonín Josef Čermák - Anton Joseph Cermak was Chicago’s 36th mayor (1931 – 1933).

He was born near Prague in the town of Kladno, Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) and emigrated to the United States as a child. After working in coalmines near Joliet, he came to Chicago at the age of 16. He worked as a railroad brakeman and a teamster, a job which would later earn him the nickname “Pushcart Tony”.

Cermak began his political career as a precinct captain, and in 1902 was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives. Before the mayoral election in 1931, he politically organized several major ethnic groups, including Czechs, Poles, Ukrainians, Italians and African-Americans. On April 7, 1931, Cermak won the election, defeating Republican incumbent “Big Bill” Thompson by nearly 200,000 votes. He built the Democratic machine that still runs the city to this day. All of the city’s mayors since Cermak have been members of the Democratic Party.

In February of 1933, Cermak was shot by Guiseppe Zangara who most likely aimed for President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt. Before he died, Cermak is reported to have said to the President, „I am glad it was me instead of you.“

After the shooting, the Chicago Tribune published the following statement: “We think he (Cermak) faced his problems courageously and did the best that was in him to put this punch drunk city back on its feet, to restore its reputation in the eyes of the world, to re-establish its credit, to relieve its taxpayers and to pay its debts.”

Anton Cermak’s son-in-law, Otto Kerner Jr., served as the 33rd Governor of Illinois and a federal circuit judge. Cermak’s great niece Kajon Cermak is a broadcaster for a Southern California radio station. His grandson, Frank J. Jirka, Jr. also marked an impressive career (see his bio bellow).
Eugene Cernan (*1934)

“The Last Man to Walk on the Moon”

Eugene Cernan was one of fourteen astronauts chosen by NASA in 1963. He participated in Project Gemini as a pilot, Apollo 10 as a lunar module pilot, and Apollo 17 as spacecraft commander. In addition, he also served as a backup for several missions.

Cernan (Čerňan) was born to a Slovak father and a Czech mother; he was raised in Chicago’s suburbs.

Cernan has logged 566 hours and 15 minutes in space. 73 hours were spent on the moon. He is the last man to have left his footprint on the moon’s surface.

Cernan retired from NASA in 1976. He became a businessman and started his own managing and consulting service, The Cernan Corporation, in 1981. His book, The Last Man on the Moon, was at the top of the New York Times best-seller list for many months. In 2014, he shared his story also in a full-length documentary with the same title directed by Mark Craig.

Cernan Earth and Space Center on the campus of Triton College in River Grove, Illinois, was named in honor of Captain Cernan. He is a member of the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame and one of only three men who traveled to the moon twice.
George Halas
(1895-1983)

“Papa Bear”

George Halas was the founder, owner, and coach of the iconic Chicago Bears National Football League (NFL) team. He is also credited with cofounding the NFL.

George Halas was born in Chicago to Czech immigrants from the town of Pilsen (Plzeň), Bohemia (now the Czech Republic).

Halas coached the Bears for 40 seasons, pausing briefly three times, once from 1942-1945 to serve in the military during World War II. Under his leadership, the team won six NFL titles, three divisional titles, and finished second 15 times.

“Papa Bear,” also known as “Mr. Everything,” was the first football coach to run daily practice sessions, analyze videos of opponents’ games, and air his team’s games on the radio. He remained executive officer of the Bears until his death.

George Halas received numerous impressive honors. In 1997 he was featured on a U.S. postage stamp as one of the legendary coaches of football. He has been recognized by ESPN as one of the ten most influential people in sports in the 20th century, and as one of the greatest coaches.

To this day, the jerseys of the Chicago Bears bear the initials “GSH” on their upper left sleeves in commemoration of Halas. The George Halas Trophy is awarded by the NFL to the National Football Conference champion. The Chicago Bears retired number 7 in his honor, and the Pro Football Hall of Fame is located on George Halas Drive.
Frank J. Jirka, Jr.  
(1922–2000)

President of American Medical Association and Hero of Iwo Jima

Frank J. Jirka Jr., the grandson of Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak, served as a lieutenant in the Navy. He was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart after becoming wounded in the Battle of Iwo Jima, a battle that cost him both legs.

Jirka was a third-generation physician and opened his own practice in 1954. He served as President of the American Medical Association (AMA) among other titles in the Illinois State Medical Society, the Chicago Medical Society, the Suburban Cook County Tuberculosis Sanitarium District, and the Governor’s Committee on Employment of the Handicapped in the State of Illinois.

“You would always see Frank sitting in at our meetings,” said Neil Winston, chairman of the council at the Chicago Medical Society. “He was always encouraging diversity and encouraging women physicians to get involved.” (Chicago Tribune)
Ray Kroc  
(1902-1984)  

Founder of “McDonald's Empire”  

Ray Albert Kroc was born to parents of Czech origin, Rose Mary (Hrach) and Louis Kroc, in Oak Park, Illinois. His father was from the village Bíšy near Pilsen (Plzeň), Bohemia (now the Czech Republic).

Kroc participated in World War I as a Red Cross ambulance driver, and lied about his age to begin serving at 15. Following World War I, Kroc explored a number of career options, including being a paper cup salesman, pianist and DJ on a local Oak Park radio station. He first put his restaurant knowledge to use as a traveling milkshake machine salesman. The machines that Kroc sold made five shakes at a time, increasing restaurant efficiency. It was in his role as a milkshake machine salesman that Kroc first became involved with McDonald's. The McDonald brothers were clients who had purchased multiple mixers.

Grasping the franchising potential of McDonald's, Kroc offered to work as a franchising agent for a cut of the profits. Ultimately, Kroc's ambitions for the restaurants eclipsed those of the McDonald brothers. In 1955, Kroc became president of McDonald's Corporation. He bought out the owners entirely six years later. In 1977, after leading McDonald's past archrival Burger King, Kroc reassigned himself to the role of senior chairman. He held this position until his death in 1984.

Kroc was included in Time 100: The Most Important People of the Century, and amassed a fortune during his lifetime. Kroc's foundation supported research and treatment of alcoholism, diabetes, and other diseases. He established the Ronald McDonald House foundation and was a major donor to Dartmouth Medical School.
James Lovell
(*1928)

Hero of Apollo 13

Former NASA astronaut and retired United States Navy captain James Arthur “Jim” Lovell, Jr. was born in Cleveland, Ohio to a Czech mother, and presently lives in Chicago. After graduating the United States Naval Academy in 1952, he entered the United States Navy. Following his career as a captain, Lovell was accepted into NASA Astronaut Group 2 in 1962. In December 1965, he was assigned to be the pilot of Gemini 7. In November 1966, he went on to his second flight and first command with Gemini 12. His two Gemini flights gave him more time in space than any other person as of 1966. Lovell then went onto Apollo 8 alongside Frank Borman and William Anders on December 21, 1968, becoming the first men to travel to the Moon.

His next and most famous mission was Apollo 13 in 1970. On April 13, during a routine cryogenic oxygen tank stir in transit to the Moon, damaged electrical insulation on wiring created a spark and started a fire inside the tank, which required an immediate abort of the Moon landing mission. Apollo 13 returned safely to Earth following incredible efforts of the crew and mission control on April 17. The story inspired the “Apollo 13” film, in which James Lovell was played by Tom Hanks.

James Lovell accrued over 715 hours of time in space, and had seen a total of 269 sunrises from space on his Gemini and Apollo flights. This was a personal record that stood until the Skylab 3 mission in July through September of 1973. It is also probable that Apollo 13’s flight trajectory also gives Lovell, Haise, and Swigert the record for the farthest distance that humans have ever travelled from Earth.

Lovell is a recipient of the Congressional Space Medal of Honor and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He is one of only 24 people to have flown to the Moon. He was also the first person to fly into space four times. The Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center was completed in October 2010, merging the Naval Health Clinic Great Lakes and the North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center.
Kim Novak (*1933)

1957 Golden Globe World Favorite Female Actress

Kim Novak (Marilyn Pauline Novak) was born February 13, 1933 in Chicago, Illinois, to Blanche Kral and Joseph Novak, both of whom were of Czech descent.

She won two scholarships to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and during the summer of her last semester of junior college, Novak went on a cross-country tour modeling for a refrigerator company at trade shows. While in Los Angeles, she was discovered by an agent who signed her to a long-term contract with Columbia Pictures. She made her screen debut in The French Line (1954), then starred in The Pushover, and soon became a leading box-office attraction of the 1950s. Her most famous films include The Man With The Golden Arm (1955), Pal Joey (1957), the Alfred Hitchcock film Vertigo (1958) The Amorous Adventures of Moll Flanders (1965), and The Mirror Crack’d (1980).

In 1955 she won the Golden Globe Award for Most Promising Newcomer - Female. Two years later she won another Golden Globe for World Favorite Female Actress. In 1995, she was included among the 100 sexiest stars in film history. In 2012, Novak was honored in a handprint and footprint ceremony at Grauman’s Chinese Theatre. For her contribution to motion pictures, she was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, at 6332 Hollywood Boulevard.

Novak continues her creative endeavors today as a photographer, poet and accomplished visual artist who paints in watercolor, oil and pastel. Her paintings are impressionistic and surrealistic. The first public exhibition of Novak’s art, “Life is But a Dream,” was held at the Old Mint in the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society in 2012. In May 2014, Novak appeared for a solo show of her paintings at the Butler Institute of American Art. Her art can be seen at www.kimnovakartist.com.

In March 2015, Kim Novak visited the Febiofest film festival in Prague where she received the Kristian award for her contribution to world cinematography. Upon arrival she said: “This is my country. I feel that I am coming home.”
Jim Peterik
(*1950)

Rock Star with the “Eye of the Tiger”

James Michael “Jim” Peterik was born in Berwyn, Illinois. The singer, songwriter, guitarist, and keyboardist of Czech ancestry was the lead singer and sole writer of the Ides of March’s hit „Vehicle.“ He co-wrote and co-produced the Grammy-winning double-platinum number one pop hit and theme song from Rocky III „Eye of the Tiger“ and number two pop hit and theme song from Rocky IV „Burning Heart“, which went platinum in late 1985. Both song were performed by Peterik’s band Survivor.

Survivor 1984 album Vital Signs featured the Top 10 hits „High on You“ (No. 8) and „The Search Is Over“ (No. 4), plus another sizable hit in „I Can’t Hold Back“ (No. 13), „The Search Is Over“ (No. 4), „Is This Love“ (No. 9) and „The Moment of Truth“ from the movie The Karate Kid belong to the most famous Survivor singles. In 1986, Peterik left Survivor and reunited with the original members of the Ides of March recording the albums Ideology (1992) and Age Before Beauty (1997). Peterik returned to active recording in 2006, releasing the solo Above the Storm album.

Jim Peterik has co-written songs for 38 Special, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Blackhawk, Cheap Trick, Sammy Hagar, Cathy Richardson, Van Zant, Brian Wilson, REO Speewagon, and the Beach Boys. While continuing to play with the Ides of March, he also fronts melodic rock band Pride of Lions, smooth-jazz project Jim Peterik’s Lifeforce, and has a regular series of yearly concert performances with an all-star cast as World Stage. He is also active as a producer and mentor to young, developing talent.
Albín Polášek
(1879 – 1965)

One of America’s foremost sculptors of the twentieth century

Albín Polášek was born in Frenštát, Moravia (now the Czech Republic). He immigrated to the United States at age 22 and became an American citizen in 1910.

In 1909, Polášek won the Rome Prize competition; in 1913, he received honorable mention at the Paris Salon for The Sower and in 1915, he took the Widener Gold Medal from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts for his sculpture, Aspiration. At age 37, he was invited to head the sculpture department at the Art Institute of Chicago, where he remained for nearly thirty years. In early 1927, Albín Polášek was elected as an Associate Member of the National Academy of Design; this honorary degree is reserved for America’s top painters, sculptors, printmakers and architects.

Albín Polášek created more than four hundred works during his career. Many can be seen in Chicago: The Spirit of Music in Grant Park right next to the Art Institute of Chicago, The Blanik Knight - Thomas Garrigue Masaryk Memorial (1927) at the campus of the University of Chicago, and The Pilgrim and The Mother (1941) in the Bohemian National Cemetery. Several of his best known works can also be found in the Czech Republic, including the President Woodrow Wilson Memorial (1928), Radegast (1929), and Sts. Cyril and Methodius (1929).
Judy Baar Topinka
(1944 – 2014)

“An Institution in Illinois Politics”

Judy Baar Topinka was born in the Chicago suburb of Riverside to first generation Czech- and Slovak-Americans Lillian and William D. Baar. She spoke excellent Czech. She never ceased to be a part of the Czech-American community in Chicago, supporting projects aimed at preserving the Czech history here, attending cultural events and famously instructing other politicians on how to polka, whether they enjoyed it or not.

After graduating from Northwestern University, Topinka became a reporter for several suburban Chicago newspapers. Her impressive political career dates back to 1980, when she won a seat in the Illinois House of Representatives. She achieved many “firsts.” After serving in the Illinois Senate, she was the first woman to become State Treasurer, as well as the first woman to be elected to three consecutive terms, and the first Republican to hold the post in more than 32 years. During her last term as Treasurer, she was the only Republican to hold statewide elected office in Illinois. In 2002, she was elected Chair of the Illinois Republican Party, holding that office until 2005. In 2006, she became the first Republican woman to be nominated for Governor of Illinois. In spite of the defeat in the election, she came back as the Illinois State Comptroller, thus becoming the first woman in Illinois to hold two different statewide elected offices. She was re-elected State Comptroller in 2014, however, never assumed the office due to a sudden passing. President Barack Obama issued a statement in which he called her “an institution in Illinois politics.”

“Topinka’s one-of-a-kind, magnetic personality brought a smile to everyone she met, and she had a servant’s heart, always only caring about what was best for the people of our state.” These words of Illinois Governor, Bruce Rauner, truly capture how she is remembered.

William Blair & Company is proud to support the Golden Prague Gala, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the sister cities relationship between Prague and Chicago.

We honor Czech history in Chicago and its most famous representatives.
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We welcome The Honorable Adriana Kmáčová, Mayor of Prague and extend Congratulations on 25 years of friendship between Prague and Chicago.

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Best Wishes to the Sister Cities of Chicago and Prague

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Congratulations to the Prague Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International and the cities of Prague and Chicago in celebration of the 25th anniversary of their sister cities relationship.

The Bohemian Lawyers Association of Chicago
Join us for our 150th Anniversary Weekend
November 13-15, 2015

Friday, November 13, 2015
• Special Number Event – Max Sports Complex, McCook IL
• Social – Max Sports

Saturday, November 14, 2015
• Volleyball – Max Sports Complex, McCook IL
• Bowling for Fun
• Sokol Anniversary Party (evening) – Hilton, Lisle with Dinner & Dancing
• 150th Anniversary Gala – 5pm @ Women’s Athletic Club Chicago with Dinner & Presentation, Silent Auction, A Tribute to Sokol History

Sunday, November 15th, 2015
• World Sokol Federation Meeting – Hilton, Lisle

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Prague Days Chicago would not be possible without the help of many friends of the Czech Republic in Chicago, including many Czechs and Czech-Americans. Please allow us to express our deep gratitude to them as well as to those who helped make the festival happen from Prague. They all dedicated days and nights to the project. We wish to apologize to those who are not listed. We are aware that many of them contributed greatly to the festival as well. We deeply appreciate their support.

Edward Dellin, co-chair, Prague Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International
Judith Munson, co-chair, Prague Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International and co-chair of Golden Prague Gala committee
Kateřina Lízová Kulhánková, co-chair, Golden Prague Gala committee and fundraising coordinator
Rolf Achilles, curator, “Treasured Legacy – Alphonse Mucha and Jarmila Mucha Plocková”
Veronika Balingit, curator, “Eggnoise in the Millennium Park”
Bruce Bendinger, producer, editor and writer, “Czechs & Chicago” newspaper
David Beneš, co-coordinator, Prague Days films
Irena Čajková, coordinator, “This is Pilsen: Bohemian Past, Latino Present”
Marian Hajda, co-coordinator, Prague Days films
Julie Harris, Columbia College, PR coordinator
John Ilits, media coordinator
Erik Kinnhammer, Manager of International Programs, Chicago Sister Cities International
Vojtěch Molda, designer, Prague Days Chicago website
Klára Moldová, coordinator, “Treasured Legacy – Alphonse Mucha and Jarmila Mucha Plocková”
Theodore Polashek, coordinator, “Prague Rock Fest”
Karel Scherzer, graphic designer

“Golden Prague Gala” - fundraising and silent auction: Anne Marie Brunner, Michelle Miller, Joseph Vosicky, Janet Ilits

Media consultants: Lester Munson, Argela Sheridon

Maya Polsky Gallery – co-organizer of “Treasured Legacy – Alphonse Mucha and Jarmila Mucha Plocková”: Maya Polsky, Mark Cresswell
Columbia College – official academic partner: Susan L Smith, Sandra Kumorowski, Jade Lun (newspaper), Lindsey Kos (newspaper), Bethany Hexom (writing), Patrick Clae (social media), Kathryn Walters (design), Jessica Shoman (design)


“Prague Rockfest”: Beth Drost, George Drost, Michael Drost, Jiří Cafourek, Jana Hurdesová

Town of Cicero - co-organizer of “Prague Rockfest”: Larry Dominick, President; Marian Punzo-Arias, Town Clerk; Patti Dominick, Special Event Director; Jeff Pesek; Craig Pesek; Lido Manetti; Dominick Buscemi, Fire Chief; Jerry Chlada, Jr.; Chief of Cicero Police Department

“This is Pilsen: Bohemian Past, Latino Present”: Thomas Gaulkin, curator of the history exhibit; Hon. Carlos Jiménez Macías, Consul General of Mexico in Chicago; Alderman Danny Solís, Hon. Lisa Hernandez, Illinois State Representative; Anel Montes, Director of International Programs, Chicago Sister Cities International Program; Alejandro Silva, chair, Mexico City Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International Program; Bruce Finkelman, Pete Falknor

“Treasured Legacy – Alphose Mucha and Jarmila Mucha Plocková”: Richard and Inese Driehaus, Jaroslav and Míla Kynčl, Jaroslav Moravec, Joyce Lee, Anna Dvořáková, Jana Orlíková, Helena Koenigsmarková, Radim Vondráček, Robert and Mary Edith Arnold, Jiří Fajt, Marek Junek, Patrik Košický, Michal Lukeš, Martin Sekera, Inka Vostřezová

“A Heart for Václav Havel”: Josef Toušek, owner of Alpine Banquet House; Chicago Czech Center – host of Ambassador Michael Žantovský in Chicago: Kristýna Driehaus, Chairman; Mark Kutek, President; John Pellochoud, Treasurer

Chicago Chapter of Czech-North American Chamber of Commerce: Otto Masek, President; Michal Cenek

Czech Mission: Rev. Dušan Hladík

Czechoslovak Radio Hour: Ed Vodicka, Vlasta Kučerová Gorski

American Sokol: Jean Hruby, President; Juanita LoGiudice, Pavlína Dropka, Mary Cushing, Larry Svěstka, President, Sokol Tabor; Judy Souldies, President, Sokolice Tabor; Vera Witt, President, Sokol Spirit; Richard L. Vachata, President, Sokol Stickney; Lynda Filipello, President, Sokol Naperville; Marry Ellen Newsom, President, Sokol Chicagoland; Mike Dropka, President, Sokol Town of Lake; Scott Pracko, President, Sokol USA, lodge 306; Czechoslovak American Congress; John Pettis, President; Bohemian Lawyers Association: Frank Saibert, President; Bohemian National Cemeteries David Pimm, President and CSA Fraternal Life: John Kieleczewski, President; Czech & Slovak American Genealogy Society of Illinois: Glen Schapman, President, Dolores Benes Dwy; Joseph Hartzell; Czech and Slovak National Museum and Library in Cesar Rapids: Gail Naughton, President/CEO; Charity Tyler; Czechoslovak Musicians Club; Otto Schaden President; Dobrovský Club; Friends of Bohemian National Cemeteries: Magne Stueckemann, President; Evelyn Krenke Penge, Director; Eastland Centennial Commemorative Committee: Chuck Michalek, Chair; United Moravian Societies: Roman Bobčík, President; John Škach; Moravian Cultural Society; Jean Menšík, President; Angela Clyتك; T.G. Masaryk School: Andrew Bultas, President; Ray Capek, Kenneth Dvorsky; Roberta Kulich; Sharon & Ron Davis; Bill Hosna


World Business Chicago: Jeff Malchorn, President and CEO, Denis Vicchiarelli, Managing Director; Choose Chicago Cathy Domanico, Vice President of Tourism & Leisure Sales; Chicago Sister Cities International: Leroy R. Aallia, Executive Director, Adrienne Tongate, Deputy Director

Prague Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International: Marketa Allison, Dagmar Bradac, Angela Bultas, Paul Byron, Barbara Hoffman, Tomas Hurka, Diane Janura, Ann Melichar, Jan Polz, Laddie Polz, John Uhlír, Diane Wagner and others already listed

City of Prague: František Cipro, Director of the Department for culture, foreign relations and tourism; Jana Voborníková, Berenika Vávrová, Jana Hudcová, Jan Dobrovský, Luděk Burian

Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago: Milana Ličková, Deputy Consul General; Vlasta Poděbradská, Monika Hofschneiderová, Greg Fierro, Stěpánka Hasilová, Hana Marešová, Eva Matoušková, Martina East

CzechTrade: Radomil Doležal, CEO; Jan Kubata, Director of CzechTrade Chicago

CzechTourism: Monika Palatková, CEO; Marek Mráz, Marketing Director; Michaela Pálková Claudino, Director of CzechTourism New York

CzechInvest: Karel Kučera, CEO; Jan Fried, Director of CzechInvest New York