

2026

MONTHLY PROGRAMMING GUIDE



Chicago United



Good Business Includes Everyone.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMMING

The work of Chicago United is grounded in a simple truth: **Good Business Includes Everyone**. Our signature programming supports leaders at every level of an organization — from young professionals to the CEO and the boardroom. The leaders of your organization are invited to engage in our programs and events for professional development, insight and collaboration.

Chicago United’s 2026 Programming Includes:

C-Suite Sessions: C-Suite Sessions is an exclusive series of four panel discussions led by CEOs and senior leaders who are implementing innovative strategies within their respective industry.

Business Leaders of Chicago (BLC) Programming Series: This series supports Chicago United’s BLCs with a lineup of topics designed to provide innovations and ideas that support these leaders to become prime candidates for Corporate Board service.

Employee Resource Group Symposiums: A prime opportunity to learn best practices from experts on creating models for highly effective resource groups that advance business imperatives.

Emerging Leader Series: Focused on the advancement of young professionals, this series features insight and guidance from executives on navigating corporate culture toward career growth.

People & Culture Roundtables: Peer-to-peer learning sessions that investigate current trends and leading practices for less common challenges.

Mid-Level Manager Series: Programming developed to equip managers with the leadership skills to establish collaborative and effective teams while building a solid foundation for career growth.

Small Business Partnership Program: This series of programming bolster small businesses by engaging the corporate community in our common goal of strengthening our local economy and enhancing job creation throughout Chicagoland.

The Corporate Inclusion Institute (CII): A nine-month leadership development program that provides the learning and leadership development experience necessary for retaining talent, strengthening internal mobility and performance.

About Chicago United

Chicago United is a corporate membership organization and longstanding partner to the Chicago region’s business and civic community. Our Members range from Fortune 500 companies to small businesses and nonprofits, representing a wide array of industries and sectors.

Our Vision

A Chicago region that is the most inclusive business ecosystem in the nation.

Our Values

Excellence
Transparency
Integrity
Collaborative
Inclusion
Innovative



Tiffany Hamel Johnson
President & CEO



2025-2026 CHICAGO UNITED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Board Chair
Kathy Scherer
Vice Chair and Chicago Managing Partner
Deloitte LLP

Secretary
Aurora Austriaco
Shareholder
Valentine Austriaco & Bueschel, P.C.

Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair
Sam Pambah
Principal
KPMG LLP

Membership Chair
Kimberley Goode
Senior Advisor

BOARD MEMBERS

David Andalcio
Founder & CEO
Wynndalco Enterprises, LLC

Kimberly Evans
Executive Vice President, Corporate Sustainability,
Inclusion & Social Impact
Northern Trust

Sylvia Garcia
Chief Operating Officer
The Chicago Community Trust

Maurice Grant
Principal
Grant Austin, LLC

Nidhi Kapoor
President
RK Management Consultants, Inc.

Kam Kniss
Executive Vice President, Senior Market Head
Wintrust Banks

Dr. Gwendolyn Oglesby-Odom, Ed.D.
Vice President of Community Engagement, Enterprise
Advocate Health

Nichole Owens
Vice President, Distribution Operations, Chicago Region
ComEd, An Exelon Company

Tony Robinson
US Central Region Tax
Managing Partner/Principal
EY

Laura Thonn
Chicago Office Managing Partner
PwC

Manika Turnbull
Senior Vice President and
Chief Human Resources Officer
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois



C-Suite Sessions

C-Suite Sessions is an exclusive series of four panel discussions led by CEOs and senior leaders who are implementing innovative strategies within their respective industry.

Attend if you are:

- A member of Chicago United’s CEO Council, including senior leaders within a Member Company with company-wide responsibility.



State of the Economy

📅 Tuesday, April 14

Engineering - How Engineering Leaders Navigate Risk, Talent & Technology

📅 Tuesday, September 22

AI – Revolutionizing the Workforce

📅 Tuesday, June 16

Succession Planning – The Silver Tsunami is Here

📅 Tuesday, October 20

Business Leaders of Chicago (BLC) Programming Series



This programming series supports Chicago United’s BLCs with a lineup of topics designed to provide innovations and ideas that support these leaders to become prime candidates for Corporate Board service.

Attend if you are:

- A Chicago United BLC

Board Governance Essentials

📅 Thursday, April 23

The Board Bio Advantage: Defining Your Brand

📅 Thursday, June 25

Boardroom Access: Build Your Network

📅 Thursday, September 3

You’re on a Board—Now What? Hot Topics

📅 Thursday, October 8

People & Culture Roundtables



Peer-to-peer learning sessions that investigate current trends and leading practices for less common challenges

Attend if you are:

- A Human Resources Executive
- An Inclusion Officer
- A business leader responsible for inclusive talent development

AI, Productivity & People

📅 Wednesday, April 22

Employee Experience & Engagement

📅 Wednesday, June 10

Retention by Design: Keeping High Performers and Emerging Leaders

📅 Wednesday, September 16

Inclusion Evolution & Compliance

📅 Wednesday, October 14



Emerging Leader Series



Focused on the advancement of young professionals, this series features insight and guidance from executives on navigating corporate culture toward career growth.

Attend if you are:

- A CII Fellow
- Employee Resource Group Member/Leader
- Employee of a Chicago United Member Company

Goal Setting, Skill Building & Visibility

📅 Wednesday, April 29

Power Skills for Emerging Leaders

📅 Wednesday, July 29

Emotional Agility at Work: Connecting Generations

📅 Wednesday, September 9



Employee Resource Group Symposiums

A prime opportunity to learn best practices from experts on creating models for highly effective resource groups that advance business imperatives.

Attend if you are:

- A Chief Human Resources Officer
- An Executive or Senior Human Resources professional responsible for resourcing and/or developing ERGs
- An ERG Executive Sponsor
- An ERG Chair/Leader



ERG Governance & Leadership Essentials
 📅 Wednesday, June 3

ERGs as Strategic Business Partners
 📅 Wednesday, August 26

Mid-Level Manager Series (Hosted by Wintrust)



Programming developed to equip managers with the leadership skills to establish collaborative and effective teams while building a solid foundation for career growth.

Attend if you are:

- CII Corporate Guide
- Employee Resource Group Leader
- Employee of a Chicago United Member Company

Build Teams That Stay
 📅 Thursday, May 14

Leading AI-Enabled Teams
 📅 Thursday, July 16

Accountability, Engagement, and Culture Without Burnout
 📅 Thursday, October 22

2026 PROGRAMMING CALENDAR

AT-A-GLANCE

■ CII-Cohort IX ■ C-Suite Sessions ■ BLC Series ■ People & Culture ■ Mid-Level Manager Series ■ ERG Symposium ■ Emerging Leader

MARCH

CII - COHORT IX

Mar 27 Virtual Orientation

JUNE

ERG SYMPOSIUM

June 3 ERGs Governance & Leadership Essentials

SEP.

BLC SERIES

Sep 3 Boardroom Access: Build Your Network

APRIL

CII - COHORT IX

Apr 10 Opening Breakfast & Academic Sessions

CII - COHORT IX

Jun 5 Academic Sessions

EMERGING LEADER SERIES

Sep 9 Emotional Agility: Connecting Generations

CII - COHORT IX

Apr 10 Opening Breakfast & Academic Sessions

PEOPLE & CULTURE ROUNDTABLE

Jun 10 Retention by Design: Keeping High Performers

CII - COHORT IX

Sep 11 Managing Organizational Change

C-SUITE SESSIONS

Apr 14 State of the Economy

C-SUITE SESSIONS

Jun 16 AI - Revolutionizing the Workforce

PEOPLE & CULTURE ROUNDTABLE

Sep 16 Employee Experience & Engagement

BLC PROGRAMMING SERIES

Apr 23 Board Governance Essentials

BLC PROGRAMMING SERIES

Jun 25 The Board Bio Advantage: Defining Your Brand

C-SUITE SESSIONS

Sep 22 Engineering: Navigate Risk, Talent & Technology

EMERGING LEADER SERIES

Apr 29 Goal Setting, Skill Building & Visibility

JULY

PEOPLE & CULTURE ROUNDTABLE

Apr 22 AI, Productivity, & People

CII - COHORT IX

Jul 10/15 Experiential: Subtleties of Inclusion & Exclusion

OCT.

BLC PROGRAMMING SERIES

Oct 8 You're on a Board - Now What?

MAY

CII - COHORT IX

May 8 Experiential: Emotional Intelligence

MID-LEVEL MANAGER SERIES

Jul 16 Leading AI-Enabled Teams

PEOPLE & CULTURE ROUNDTABLE

Oct 14 Inclusion, Evolution, & Compliance

CII - COHORT IX

May 8 Experiential: Emotional Intelligence

CII - COHORT IX

Jul 22 Peer-to-Peer Roundtable: Sharing Best Practices

C-SUITE SESSIONS

Oct 20 Succession Planning: The Silver Tsunami

MID-LEVEL MANAGER SERIES

May 14 Build Teams That Stay

EMERGING LEADER SERIES

Jul 29 Power Skills for Emerging Leaders

MID-LEVEL MANAGER SERIES

Oct 22 Accountability, Engagement & Culture Without Burnout

AUG.

CII - COHORT IX

Aug 7 Academic Sessions

CII - COHORT IX

Oct 29 Closing Reception

ERG SYMPOSIUM

Aug 26 ERGs as Strategic Business Partners

 300 East Randolph Street
Suite 40.200
Chicago, IL 60601-5075

 (312) 977-3060

 www.Chicago-United.org

 @ChgoUnited

 @ChgoUnited

 @ChgoUnited

Chicago United



Good Business Includes Everyone.