

# 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

## Chicago United



# 2026-2027 CHICAGO UNITED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Board Chair

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

### Secretary

**Nidhi Kapoor**  
President  
RK Management Consultants, Inc.

### Membership Chair

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

### Vice Chair

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

### Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair

**Sam Pambah**  
Principal  
KPMG LLP

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Stephen Cornejo Garcia**  
Head of Global Inclusion  
UL Solutions

**Kam Kniss**  
Executive Vice President, Senior Market Head  
Wintrust Banks

**Rich Diaz**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Advanced Resources

**Josh Levin**  
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer  
and Treasurer  
ComEd - An Exelon Company

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

**Laura Thonn**  
Chicago Office Managing Partner  
PwC

**Sylvia Garcia**  
Chief Operating Officer  
The Chicago Community Trust

**Ann Marie Wright**  
US Chief Administrative Officer  
BMO

**Michael Guerra**  
Vice President of External Affairs  
Nicor Gas



## 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

# Chicago United



Good Business Includes Everyone.

## 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

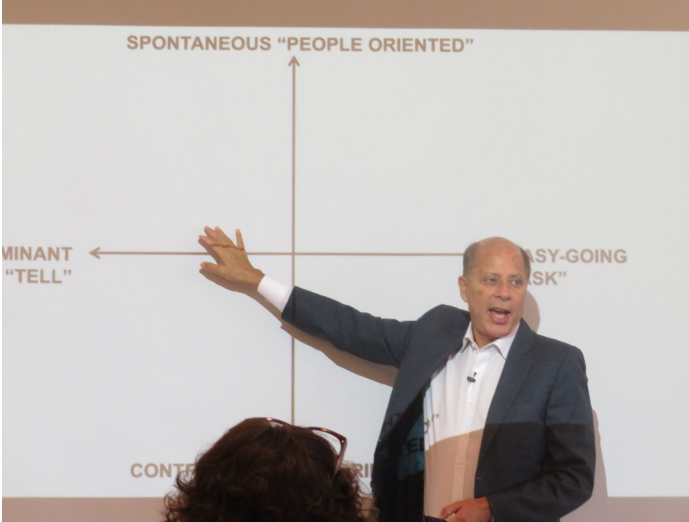


## Employee Resource Group Symposiums

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](http://www.Chicago-United.org)

 @ChgoUnited

 @ChgoUnited

 @ChgoUnited

**Chicago United**



**Good Business Includes Everyone.**