

Cultural Connections is a unique way to experience and learn about the rich cultural diversity in Chicago. As a participant, you will travel to wonderful ethnic museums and cultural centers in and around Chicago to explore the reasons for cultural differences and to uncover connections to people you may think of as very different from yourself. The theme for the 2005-06 program year is **The Language of Looks**. With anthropology to guide your experience, you will be exposed to the technique of participant observation as you become an "urban anthropologist." You will view collections and artifacts, hear presentations by museum curators and staff, get first-voice accounts of specific communities in our city, participate in discussions and taste delicious ethnic foods. You will grow to understand and appreciate other cultures...and hopefully share something about your own!

Fall 2005 CALENDAR of Events

SEPTEMBER

How Do I Look?

Kick-off Assembly!

Cultural Connections partnership

Wednesday, September 21st, 6pm-8:30pm
at The Field Museum, Stanley Field Hall
1400 South Lake Shore Drive

Center for Cultural Understanding and Change

Join us at The Field Museum to launch the *Cultural Connections* theme for 2005-06, **The Language of Looks!** We will be exploring how our appearance communicates who we are. Twenty-three *Cultural Connections* partner museums and cultural centers will each feature an aspect of how we alter our appearance to tell the world who we are. See multiple examples of ethnic dress and adornment and learn the reasons behind some of these cultural practices and trends. Come to dance, hear a story, and meet the *Cultural Connections* partners!

TEACHERS can receive 2.5 Continued Professional Development Units (CPDUs) as approved by the Illinois State Board of Education for each *Cultural Connections* program attended. Teachers can also enroll in the *Cultural Connections* Lane Credit/CPDU course, which begins in October and in February each year.

CPS parents can also participate in a guided *Cultural Connections* Field Trip series to two different museum partners plus a focus group workshop with an anthropologist to explore how museums are used as cultural and educational resources!

Please call 312.665.7475 for more information about either of these initiatives.

OCTOBER

Wear Are You From?

American Indian Center and
Ukrainian National Museum

Wednesday, October 19, 6pm-8:30pm
at the American Indian Center, 1630 West Wilson Avenue
Thursday, October 20, 6pm-8:30pm
at the Ukrainian National Museum,
721 North Oakley Boulevard

Sometimes looks are not so deceiving, especially if you pay attention to detail. Sometimes, in fact, the clothing or adornments we wear - or the way we wear them - communicate very specific information about where we are from. Learn how to identify these clues found in the traditional dress and adornment practices of Ukrainian and Native American cultures and also find out about the different contexts in which these practices are kept.

NOVEMBER

Dressed For The Part

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture and
Korean American Resource and Cultural Center

Saturday, November 12, 11:30am-2pm
at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture,
6500 South Pulaski Avenue

Who defines what is beautiful or acceptable to wear? "Tradition"? The media? Our grandmothers? We will compare generational differences in perspective about what is beautiful and the ways in which our ideals change through the immigration experience and over time. We will also explore the depth at which outside influences have shaped our fashion trends and self-image.

DECEMBER

Looking Like an American

Chicago Historical Society and
Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

Saturday, December 3rd, 11:30am-2pm and 3:30pm-6pm
at the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian,
2600 Central Park Avenue, Evanston

For hundreds of years immigrants to the "New World" have traded in their traditional clothing to dress in "American" style. Their desire to create a visual connection to their new country is echoed by non-American Indians who wear American Indian clothing and adornments to identify with our nation's original inhabitants. Through our collections and resources, we will illustrate both the positive and negative aspects of adopting the fashion - but not necessarily the cultural values - of others.

UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS!

Brochure will be available in January 2006.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Arab American Action Network and
Swahili Institute of Chicago

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Indo-American Center and
Chicago Japanese American Historical Society

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 AND THURSDAY, APRIL 20

Filipino American Historical Society and
Swedish American Museum Center

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17 AND THURSDAY, MAY 18

Brazilian Cultural Center of Chicago
DuSable Museum of African American History and
Italian Cultural Center

Capacity at each museum varies so please be sure to **REGISTER EARLY** by phone or mail! **NO REFUNDS**. General admission is \$15, \$10 for teachers and students. Children under 12 are always admitted for free. A sampling of traditional foods is always served. Late registration may not be accepted due to limited space. Reservations are made on a first received basis. You will receive a confirmation letter two weeks before the event. Please note that event locations and times vary. For more information, please call 312-665-7474 or e-mail ccuc@fmnh.org.