Are you looking for an opportunity where you can make a difference? Are you interested in helping to bridge the educational opportunity gap for Chicago Public School students by providing them with an after-school program that supports their academic, career, and leadership success? If so, consider joining the Chicago Debates Board.

For twenty-five years, Chicago Debates has partnered with Chicago Public Schools to provide debate programming across its district. Through the transformational activity of debate, students are empowered to find their voice, succeed in college and career, and become community leaders. As the largest of the 22 urban policy debate leagues in the country, our goal is to serve up to 3,000 students by 2027.
Mission & Vision

Our mission is to advance the educational achievement, community contributions, and life success of Chicago's youth through the transformative power of academic debate.

We envision a world in which Chicago youth are empowered to find their voice, succeed in college and career, and become leaders in their community.
Many urban lower-income CPS students lack access to key educational opportunities that are available to their suburban and middle/upper-income peers. This inequity, amongst others, ultimately limits CPS students' academic, leadership, future career, and economic potential.

Only 38% of CPS juniors meet or exceed the SAT college readiness benchmark of 1010, contributing to the 20% of CPS graduates who are likely to complete a bachelor's degree within six years of high school graduation. While the data shows Black and Hispanic/LatinX students perform lower than their White and Asian counterparts, it is most disheartening for Black students in particular.

Only 21% of Black students meet or exceed the SAT college readiness benchmark with current projections that 19% of Black females and 10% of Black males will earn a bachelor's degree within six years of high school graduation.
Our Impact

WHO WE ARE
LARGEST URBAN
DEBATE LEAGUE
IN THE COUNTRY

CHICAGO DEBATES

At a Glance

CHICAGO
Public
Schools

66
Schools

1040
students

72%
Title I
Schools*

In partnership with CPS since 1997

*Title I schools have at least 40% of students classified as low-income

WHY WE DO IT

Improved GPA's
Increased ACT scores
Higher Grad Rates

300% more likely
to graduate high school

80% more likely
to graduate college

Cultivate Academic, Social-Emotional, Career, & Leadership Skills
Critical Thinking, Research, Data Synthesis, Writing, Empathy, Listening, Relationship Building, Advocacy, Problem-Solving, Communication, Collaboration, Creativity.

Cultivate Civic Engagement
92%
Said debate increased their interest in politics & community engagement
The Associate Board’s objective is to support the overall mission and activities of Chicago Debates by acting as ambassadors for the organization, introducing the organization to new potential supporters and volunteers, and raising funds via events and social media campaigns targeted at young professionals.

Service on the Associate Board is an excellent professional development opportunity and can also provide a pipeline to eventual membership to the Governing Board of Directors.
Member Requirements

• Increase awareness about Chicago Debates in the community and to potential donors.
• Attend and contribute to four meetings a year.
• Volunteer at no less than three (3) Chicago Debates tournaments, fundraisers or events.
• Participate on one standing committee of the Board and serve on ad-hoc committees as necessary.
• Attend and invite guests to Associate Board hosted fundraising events.
• Help communicate, promote, and research new avenues to promote Chicago Debates’ mission, vision, and programs to the community.
• Financially support Chicago Debates by donating $500 a year AND raise an additional $500 from your network.
• Chicagoland residency not required, but you must be able to meet the above requirements.
Membership and Engagement Committee

The Membership and Engagement Committee is responsible for recruiting, retaining and engaging Members.

- Fulfill the goals of the Membership and Engagement Committee.
- Develop an annual membership plan and membership objectives.
- Review and approve Member applications and provide membership recommendations to the Executive Board.
- Maintain a roster of all Members and track individual Member engagement.

Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee is responsible for overseeing the fundraising efforts of the Associates Board.

- Fulfill the goals of the Fundraising Committee.
- Become familiar with Chicago Debates’ development department’s efforts to raise funds.
- Work with Chicago Debates staff members to establish an annual fundraising plan that incorporates a series of appropriate vehicles such as events, direct mail and crowdfunding.
**Marketing Committee**

The Marketing Committee is responsible for developing the marketing strategy used to promote the Associate Board’s mission.

- Fulfill the goals of the Marketing Committee.
- Coordinate and support marketing efforts of the Fundraising, Volunteer, Membership and Engagement, and ad hoc Committees.
- Design the marketing materials used for the Associate Board event invitations announcements, and promotional materials.
- Assist in the management of Associate Board social media, email distributions and web presence.
- Provide support for Chicago Debates’ marketing initiatives, in coordination with the Development and Communications Manager and Executive Director.

**Volunteer Committee**

The Volunteer Committee is responsible for overseeing the volunteer activities of the Associates Board.

- Fulfill the goals of the Volunteer Committee.
- Develop an annual plan for volunteer efforts.
- Work with Chicago Debates’ Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator to organize regular volunteering opportunities and training sessions for all Members.
- Identify community groups (classes, service clubs, etc.) for volunteer recruitment.
The continued success of Chicago Debates depends on the generous support of donors who believe in our students and their potential as future leaders. Thank you for supporting our mission and for investing in deserving Chicago youth.

A Bigger World Foundation
Adtalem Global Education
AF Group
Albert Pick Jr. Fund
AlixPartners
Allstate
Andrew & Alice Fischer Trust
Charles River Associates
Colonel Stanley R. McNeil Foundation
Crown Family Philanthropies
Ernst & Young
Euromonitor International
Exelon
FedEx
GTCR
Helen Brach Foundation
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Massey & Gail
Mayer Brown
McClellan Family Foundation
McDermott, Will & Emery
Morten Group LLC
New Frontiers Foundation
Paul M Angell Family Foundation
Sanders Family Foundation
Shippy Foundation
W.P. & H. B. White Foundation
White & Case LLP
Wintrust
Amanda Amert  
Wilkie Farr & Gallagher

Alejandra Contreras  
Massey & Gail, LLP

Rachel Haig  
Kirkland & Ellis

John Hammond  
McDermott Will & Emery

Tony Howard, III  
Chicago Public Schools

David Nadig, Chair  
Allstate Insurance Company

Eli Kay-Oliphant  
Sparacino, PLLC

Aneesh Sohoni  
Teach for America

Cindy Stuyvesant  
Wintrust Financial Corporation

Amber Thomas  
R1 RCM

Tania White  
Canary HR Consulting
Associate Board of Directors (FY22)

Amit Bindra, Fundraising Chair  
Prinz Law Firm, P.C.

Blake Cannon  
Origami Risk

Dan Charles, Volunteer Chair  
Boeing

Joe Deegan  
Jobs for the Future

Renee Fell  
Asonye & Associates

Matt Fisher  
MoloLamken, LLP

Nick Greiner  
McDermott Will & Emery

David Gobberdiel  
Performance Trust Capital Partners

Onica Matsika  
Ice Miller

Sharone Mitchell  
Cook County Public Defender

Carlos Penikis, Chair  
Charles River Associates

Louis Reeves  
Beam Global

Eve Robinson  
Boston Consulting Group

Nina Ruvinsky, Membership Chair  
U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission

Max Silberman  
GTCR Private Equity

John Tao  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of IL

Arjun Vellayappan  
Geneva Capital Management

Brianna White  
Allstate

Josh Wolken  
EY
To Apply

New Board members will begin tenure in April 2022.

Interested candidates should submit a Letter of Interest by March 15, 2022 to Executive Director, Dr. Toinette Gunn, at tgunn@chicagodebates.org. Additional application information will be provided at that time.

Candidates do not need to live in Chicagoland to apply.

www.chicagodebates.org