GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Opportunity Guide

CHICAGO DEBATES

Today's Debaters. Tomorrow's Leaders.
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.
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.
WHO WE ARE

LARGEST URBAN
DEBATE LEAGUE
IN THE COUNTRY

WHY WE DO IT

300% more likely to graduate high school
80% more likely to graduate college

Improved GPA’s
Increased ACT scores
Higher Grad Rates

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

Our Impact

CHICAGO DEBATES

At a Glance

66 schools
1040 students

72% Title 1 Schools*

*Title 1 schools have at least 40% of students classified as low-income

In partnership with CPS since 1997
Determine and articulate the organization’s vision and mission.

Select, support, and evaluate the Chief Executive ensuring that s/he has the assistance needed to further the goals of the organization.

Ensure effective organizational planning.

Monitor and strengthen the organization’s programs and services.

Ensure adequate financial resources through fund development activities.

Protect assets and provide financial oversight.

Recruit prospective Board members to build a competent and diverse board.

Ensure the Board of Directors has the necessary skills, competencies and connections to ensure the organization’s success and sustainability.

Ensure legal and ethical integrity.

Articulate and enhance the organization’s public image.

Assess its own performance as the governing body of Chicago Debates.
Board Member Requirements

- Commitment to the Chicago Debates mission.
- Serve as advocates and ambassadors for Chicago Debates.
- Leverage one's connections and networks to identify and secure the partnerships and financial resources necessary to advance the Chicago Debates mission.
- Actively support the fundraising activities of the organization, specifically with a personal donation included as a part of a Give or Get of $10,000.
- Prepare for, attend and actively participate in all quarterly board meetings and applicable committee meetings.
- Commit 5-8 hours a month to board activities.
- Actively serve on at least one committee.
- Attend at least two Chicago Debates events each year (other than Board and committee meetings), including the annual Make Room for Debate event.
- Familiarize self with programs and services in order to advocate for Chicago Debates across one's network.
- Serve at least one term. Board members may serve two 4-year terms.
- Chicagoland residency not required.
FY22 Revenue

1.23M

- Foundations: 24%
- Corporate: 16%
- Chicago Public Schools: 23%
- Individuals: 10%
- Events: 24%
- Other: 3%
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
GTMR
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
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White & Case LLP
Wintrust
FY 22 Board of Directors

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Arjun Vellayappan
Geneva Capital Management

Brianna White
Allstate

Josh Wolken
EY
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.