

UNSUNG *Bronzeville* A MUSIC HISTORY EXHIBITION

AT HAROLD WASHINGTON COLLEGE THROUGH JUNE 2019

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BY THE **CHICAGO BLUES MUSEUM**™

The Exhibit examines through selected photographic images and memorabilia how the historic district served as a rich cultural incubator in the emergence of Chicago as a birthplace of electric blues, jazz, gospel and R&B music, shaping the evolution of American Popular music.

Monday through Friday from 9am-4pm, Saturday 9am-2pm
Free and open to the public - For Info email hwcinfo@ccc.edu
30 EAST LAKE STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

HAROLD WASHINGTON COLLEGE, CITY COLLEGE OF CHICAGO

Press Release

Harold Washington College Explores Chicago's Music Roots in Bronzeville Exhibit at its 11th Floor Gallery

Chicago, IL. June XX, 2019 – As Chicago prepares to kick off its annual Blues Fest (starting Friday), Harold Washington College's 11th Floor Gallery (30 E. Lake Street, in the Loop) is presenting an exhibit of archival photographs curated by the Chicago Blues Museum called *Unsung Bronzeville—Cultural Incubator of Sound*, which provides a glimpse into the beginnings of popular music in Chicago.

Unsung Bronzeville, which officially opens June 6th and runs through the end of the month, explores Chicago's Blues, R&B and Soul music scene of the 1940s through 1970s with its early beginnings in Bronzeville, the same neighborhood former mayor Harold Washington, and college namesake, was born and raised.

The exhibit showcases a selection of Chicago Blues Museum archival photographic images of homegrown Chicago musicians, entertainers, and performers, as well as places and companies where this popular music originated and evolved.

The exhibit's images document music icons in historic neighborhood nightclubs and venues like the Club DeLisa, Checkerboard and the 708 Club where talented artists honed their skills and later recorded much of their work for the music studios and labels on Record Row, first located in Bronzeville, then on South Michigan Avenue. Featured are (among others) Chicago Blues pioneers Big Bill Broonzy, Howlin' Wolf, and Muddy Waters; DeLisa jazz legends Red Saunders, Joe Williams, Sun Ra, and the celebrated chorus line; R&B greats Dinah Washington, and Jackie Wilson; gospel/soul innovators Sam Cooke, the Staple Singers, and Chaka Khan; and Record Row legends The Chi-Lites, The Dells, and Producer Carl Davis.

The exhibit also highlights artists at the famed Regal Theater, where over four decades Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Dinah Washington, B.B. King, Sam Cooke, Nat King Cole, Aretha Franklin, James Brown, the Jackson 5, and many others performed.

“This is an opportunity to educate our students and the public about the music’s social and cultural impact. These musical genres are significant to our city’s identity and culture, which is why this exhibit is so important. The exhibit is extra special because Harold Washington was a big supporter of the arts and blues music,” says Ignacio Lopez, Harold Washington College president.

“The Chicago Blues Museum is pleased to present *Unsung Bronzeville* at the college to share with students, faculty and the public during Black Music Month,” said Gregg Parker, who founded the Chicago Blues Museum in 1991. “Bronzeville, with its rich musical and cultural legacy, has been the heart of Chicago’s African-American community for a century; I grew up in this neighborhood, as did Sam Cooke and many others.”

Harold Washington College remains committed to community and culture and the arts, just as the former mayor was. The college offers basic certificate programs in Music Business and Music Technology, as well as programs in dance (and a partnership with the Joffrey Ballet). The college is also recognized as the City Colleges of Chicago’s Center of Excellence for Business and Professional Services.

To kick off African-American Music Appreciation Month and the 36th annual Chicago Blues Festival, a reception will be held at the college on Thursday, June 6, at 1:30 p.m. featuring Chicago Blues Museum curators. Tickets are free and available [here](#).

Exhibit hours are Monday through Friday from 9am-2pm, Saturday 9am-4pm. School groups and exhibit tours can be scheduled by calling 312-553-3150.

For more information on the Chicago Blues Museum call 773-723-5031.

Harold Washington College is a student-centered institution that empowers all members of its community through accessible and affordable academic advancement, career development and personal enrichment. Harold Washington College is City Colleges’ Center of Excellence in Business and Professional Services, partnering with industry leaders to ensure the curriculum reflects employer demand, to provide internships, and give students the opportunity to interview for jobs in the field. The college also offers a comprehensive portfolio of academic programs including fine, applied and performing arts, as well as transfer to four-year institutions as part of a robust liberal arts education.

The Chicago Blues Museum, a registered international copyright and trademark, promotes the preservation and evolution of the blues and related music genres through education and performance programs to foster worldwide appreciation of this music as an indigenous American art form, to focus attention on the rich living tradition of the blues. It is the only music museum in Chicago and in Illinois - is the only historic institution dedicated to the history of the blues and African-American popular music as it relates to Chicago. Since its foundation 1991, the museum has been dedicated to the preservation of the legacy and the rich living tradition of the blues, its pioneers and places it emerged from and evolved in, and to the education of the public