The Economic Club of Chicago
The Economic Club of Chicago has always been at the heart of what makes Chicago work. For 91 years, members have convened with a distinct mission: to cultivate future generations of civic leadership through dialogue on major economic and social issues. The ECC’s distinguished legacy is enhanced by hosting global thought leaders, who engage with our members on these key issues. I am honored to lead the Economic Club and carry on this proud tradition.

While serving on the Economic Club board, I have witnessed what a unifying force the ECC can be when our members join to debate and experience the ideas of accomplished leaders from the business, public service, entertainment and academic spheres. As life-long learners and motivated doers, we are inspired by these achievers who drive solutions to the challenges we face across the globe. We are encouraged by their enthusiasm to exchange knowledge, and we are compelled to ask ourselves how we can also excel for the benefit of our companies, communities and the broader world.

There is transformative power in a shared vision. The founders of the ECC recognized that in 1927, and today we continue to live that vision, founded on dialogue and respect. I thank those who have elevated the ECC to its enviable position, and look forward to creating insightful experiences and energizing conversations for fellow ECC members. When we come together, there’s no telling what we can accomplish. I’m eager to find out.

* * *

DEBRA A. CAFARO
Chair
The Economic Club of Chicago
The Economic Club of Chicago’s membership is a curated composition of business and civic leaders that reflects the diverse leadership of the city. With over 2,000 members representing every industry in Chicago, the Club convenes thought leaders with varying perspectives to consider the public responsibility inherent to their roles in the city. This underscores the ECC mission to, “foster meaningful connections among Chicago leaders to encourage dialogue on important economic and social issues and to cultivate the next generation of civic leadership.”

A key pillar of our membership is this demonstrated commitment to civic engagement, a trait that sets the Chicago business community apart. Additionally, more than 70% of our members are C-suite executives, representing the top leaders of their respective fields.

After seven years serving as the Club’s president and chief executive officer, I can attest to the vitality of our organization and our members’ consistent appeal for programs that will challenge and educate. The Club itself could not function without the contribution of its members, who donate their time to various committees. And perhaps most significantly, our members continue to cultivate a community of thinkers and innovators who will impart the Club’s vision to the next generation of Chicago leaders.

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Donna F. Zarcone
President & CEO
The Economic Club of Chicago
Day-to-day Club operations are run out of our office space located at 33 N Dearborn, Suite 1700. Club staff annually hosts over 300 members in the space for committee meetings and member-related programming. If you are ever in the area, stop by and say hi!
PROGRAM OFFERINGS

1. DINNER MEETINGS
   The formal black-tie meetings occur four times a year and feature global leaders who share their views on contemporary issues.

2. FORUMS
   Held periodically throughout the year, forum meetings are subject-driven and often feature a panel of experts.

3. YOUNG LEADERSHIP FORUMS
   These meetings provide members 45 years and younger the opportunity to meet senior leaders and connect with peers.

4. DISCUSSION SERIES
   Led by the Aspen Institute’s Henry Crown Fellows, the discussion series brings together members for small group conversations on a specific topic over dinner.

5. LEADERSHIP DINNERS
   Our most highly rated program, the Leadership Dinners allow members the opportunity to attend private small group dinners hosted by past and present leaders of the Club.

6. ROUNDTABLES
   Held throughout the year as opportunities arise, these breakfast meetings offer our members an exclusive opportunity to engage with timely speakers on a more intimate level.

7. SPECIAL MEETINGS
   Occasionally, Special Meetings are held when notable or timely opportunities arise.

8. FIFTH NIGHT
   The program year ends with ECC’s annual Fifth Night social event which celebrates a cultural or educational institution in Chicago.
The Microsoft CEO spoke to future elaborated on current global affairs. In Institution and former four-star general The President of The Brookings and repositioning Microsoft. trends in Artificial Intelligence members at dinners around the city. Established leaders of the Club hosted Reconstruction. 

**September 2018**

09/07 Roundtable feat. His Excellency Dirk Wouters
Belgian Ambassador Wouters provided remarks on bilateral relations between the U.S. and the European Union.

09/13 Discussion Series Ulysses S. Grant Discussion Series
October 13, 2018

**October 2018**

10/03 Dinner Meeting featuring Satya Nadella
The Microsoft CEO spoke to future trends in Artificial Intelligence and repositioning Microsoft.

10/11 Roundtable featuring John R. Allen
The President of The Brooking Institution and former four-star general elaborated on current global affairs.

10/30 Fall Leadership Dinners
Established leaders of the Club hosted members at dinners around the city.

**November 2018**

11/02 Special Meeting featuring Lawrence A. Kudlow
As Assistant to the President and Director of the National Economic Council, Director Kudlow spoke to the country’s economic outlook.

11/14 Forum featuring John W. Hickenlooper
The Colorado governor presented on the accomplishments of his tenure, including marijuana legalization and gun control. Continuing the Conversation
After the forum, Young Leaders had the opportunity to ask Governor Hickenlooper additional questions in a small-group setting.

**December 2018**

12/06 Dinner Meeting featuring Bono
Chair Meldy Hoshon moderated a conversation with the rockstar that touched on his childhood, U2 and the mission behind his organizations ONE and (RED).

12/04 Roundtable featuring Joshua Skule
As Executive Assistant Director for Intelligence at the FBI, Mr. Skule provided a sobering presentation on cybersecurity risks in the private sector.

12/14 Special Meeting featuring Ganesh Bell
The Uptake President hosted young leaders at the company’s office space where he highlighted the foreseeable advances of big data.

12/19 Young Leadership Forum Holiday Party
Young Leaders gathered at the Christkindlmarket in Daley Plaza for a holiday celebration.

**January 2019**

01/04 Forum Planning for Chicago’s Next Tech Revolution
A panel of Chicago tech leaders discussed plans for P33, an initiative to expand the city’s presence as a tech leader.

01/14 Special Meeting The Art of Innovation
The Club partnered with Chicago Innovation and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago to host a panel of creative on artistic lessons that can be applied in the business sector.

01/12 Roundtable featuring Joshua Skule
As Executive Assistant Director for Intelligence at the FBI, Mr. Skule provided a sobering presentation on cybersecurity risks in the private sector.

01/18 Special Meeting featuring Jane Case
The conversation centered on Ms. Case’s new book, Be Fearless: Five Principles for a Life of Breakthrough and Purpose.

01/31 Consular Corps Luncheon featuring Betsy Ziegler
Consuls General gathered at 1871 to learn more about the world’s top-ranked university-affiliated tech incubator.

**February 2019**

02/07 Special Meeting Annual Auto Show
President & CEO of Jaguar Land Rover North America Joe Eberhardt debuted the new 2020 Range Rover Evoque to members on the showroom floor.

02/09 Roundtable featuring Tina Trues
At this women-only roundtable, the Buckley LLP Partner led the White House Initiative on Women and Girls, discussed gender inequity and diversity issues in the workplace.

**March 2019**

03/09 Young Leadership Forum in the Boardroom featuring Patrick M. Magoon
Young Leaders were inspired by the accomplishments of his tenure, including marijuana legalization and gun control. Continuing the Conversation
After the forum, Young Leaders had the opportunity to ask Governor Hickenlooper additional questions in a small-group setting.

03/11 Special Meeting featuring Patrice Austin
The conversation centered on Ms. Case’s new book, Be Fearless: Five Principles for a Life of Breakthrough and Purpose.

03/19 Forum featuring Dan Gilbert
The Chairman of Quicken Loans, Rock Ventures and the Cleveland Cavaliers discussed his work in helping to revitalize his home city of Detroit. Continuing the Conversation
After the forum, Ms. Gilbert answered additional questions from Young Leaders and shared wisdom from his own entrepreneurial journey.

**April 2019**

04/10 Dinner Meeting featuring Debra A. Cafaro
Announced as the incoming Chair of the Club that night, Ms. Cafaro gave remarks and discussed the drive and determination that has successfully propelled her career.

**May 2019**

05/02 Special Meeting Nonprofit Showcases
This job-fair-style event brought together 35 nonprofits looking to fill board seats with rising stars of the Chicago business community interested in increasing their civic engagement.

05/15 Thank You Reception
Beer, wine, cocktails and conversation served as a thank you to Club members who helped make the program year possible.

05/29 Fifth Night Chicago Architecture Center
Members had the opportunity to explore the exhibits of the organization’s new home, voted one of the best new venues in Chicago.

**June 2019**

06/10 Spring Leadership Dinners
Young Leaders joined established leaders to host small dinner discussions at The Chicago Club and the University Club.
the honorable barack obama  – december 5, 2017

“America at its best has stood for the narrative of pluralism, tolerance, democracy, rule of law, human rights, freedom of the press, freedom of religion—that’s a more powerful narrative. And a majority of people around the world aspire to that narrative, which is the reason why people still want to come here. But we have to fight for it [...]. I always want to emphasize not to take for granted the institutions, norms and values that we have built. It’s not so much that they’re fragile, but they are reversible.”

the honorable jerome h. powell  – april 6, 2018

“In 2008 and 2009, we had a big shock to the financial system, and the financial system was not strong enough to hold up against that shock and a number of institutions had to be bailed out by the government. So, we set to work to make sure that doesn’t happen again. We look back and now we have an incomparably stronger financial system with higher capital, higher liquidity, better risk management and better governance.”
“Every single person in this room has power. Every single person in this room is going to be hiring people if they are not already. Every person in this room has influence, because by virtue of being in The Club, I know you have influence. So the question becomes, how do you decide that that’s important? That you want to see something that pushes you into new ideas and new perspectives that you wouldn’t have if everyone is the same. Challenge the status quo. I truly believe that leads to a better outcome.”

“I think the thing that offends me, and makes me angrier than anything in the world, is the squandering of human potential, including my own. I think that love, if we had to define it, is the realizing of potential in others and indeed in yourself. [...] You never see human potential more squandered than in the dire despair of poverty and extreme poverty. And to realize - I’ve said this before, but I hope it’s still not a cliché – that where you live can never decide whether you live.”

**Bono – December 6, 2018**  

**Mellody Hobson – January 10, 2018**
PAST SPEAKERS

Please note
The titles and companies are represented as they were at the time of the speaker’s program with ECC.

01 MICHAEL BLOOMBERG
Owner, Founder & CEO
Bloomberg

02 ILENE G. GORDON
Chairman, President & CEO
Ingredion

03 DAN GILBERT
Founder & Chairman
Quicken Loans and Rock Ventures
Chairman
Cleveland Cavaliers

04 BAN KI-MOON
Secretary-General
United Nations

05 HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
Former Secretary of State
United States of America

06 BEN SILBERMANN
Co-Founder & CEO
Pinterest

07 GEORGE W. BUSH
43rd President
United States of America

08 SHERYL SANDBERG
COO
Facebook

09 SATYA NADERBERG
CEO
Microsoft

10 GINNI ROMETTY
Chairman, President & CEO
IBM

11 RAHM EMANUEL
Mayor
City of Chicago

12 PENNY Pritzker
Secretary of Commerce
United States of America

13 TONI PRECKWINKLE
President
Cook County Board

14 LAURENCE D. FINK
Founder, Chairman & CEO
BlackRock

15 MARY T. BARRA
Chairperson & CEO
General Motors Company

16 HENRY M. PAULSON
Secretary of the Treasury
United States of America

17 PAUL D. RYAN
U.S. Congressman
State of Wisconsin
Chairman
House Budget Committee

18 THOMAS S. RICKETTS
Executive Chairman
Chicago Bulls
CEO
Incapital

19 STEPHEN J. EASTERBROOK
President & CEO
McDonald’s Corporation

20 TINA TCHEN
Partner
Buckley LLP

21 JAMIE DIMON
Chairman & CEO
JPMorgan Chase

22 MARY DILLON
CEO
Ulta Beauty

23 DAVID RUBENSTEIN
Co-Founder & Co-CEO
The Carlyle Group

24 MICHELLE OBAMA
First Lady
The United States of America

25 YO-YO MA
Cellist, Judson and Joyce Green
Creative Consultant
The Chicago Symphony Orchestra

26 SHRADHA AGARWAL
Co-founder & CEO
ContextMedia

27 OSCAR MUÑOZ
CEO
United Airlines

28 HOWARD SCHULTZ
CEO
Starbucks

29 GEORGE LUCAS
Founder
Lucasfilm

30 KENNETH C. GRIFFIN
Founder & CEO
Citadel

31 DAVID AXELROD
Director
University of Chicago
Institute of Politics

32 TONY BLAIR
Prime Minister
The United Kingdom

33 LAWRENCE A. KUDLOW
Assistant to the President
Director of the
National Economic Council

34 INDIRA NOOYI
President & CEO
PepsiCo

35 ELON MUSK
Co-Founder & CEO
Tesla, Inc.
Founder & CEO
SpaceX

36 BEN S. BERMANKE
Chairman
Board of Governors of the
Federal Reserve System

37 DAMBISA M. MOYO
Global Economist & Author

38 ROBERT A. IGGER
Chairman & CEO
The Walt Disney Company

39 ELLEN J. KULLMAN
Retired Chair & CEO
DuPont

40 ARNE DUNCAN
Managing Partner
Chicago CRED

41 AL GORE
Former Vice President
United States of America

42 MICHAEL V. HAYDEN
Former Director
The Central Intelligence Agency

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WE ARE AT THE HEART OF WHAT MAKES CHICAGO WORK.
The Economic Club of Chicago has consistently maintained itself as one of the most connected clubs in the city. With a membership of prominent leaders from every Chicago industry, the Club brings together representatives of some of the most significant Chicago institutions that continue to shape the city.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- DEBRA A. CAFARDO, Chair
- MELLODY HOBSON, Ex-Officio
- ROXANNE M. MARTINO, Member
- JOHN R. W. ROGERS, Jr., Member

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- TANYA BURNELL, Young Leaders Chair
- MARY DILLON, Nominating Chair
- DONNA F. ZARCOME, President & CEO

ECC TEAM

- DONNA F. ZARCOME, President & CEO
- MELLODY HOBSON, Ex-Officio
- ROXANNE M. MARTINO, Member

RECENT PAST CHAIRS AND HONORARY BOARD DIRECTORS

- MELLODY HOBSON
- JOHN R. W. ROGERS, Jr.
- WILLIAM M. DALEY
- PHILLIP B. ROONEY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- JOHN B. GALLAGHER, Jr.
- KATHY QUINN
- LAWRENCE A. FIELDS, Jr.
- DOUGLAS M. STACEY
- W. JAMES FARRELL
- ARNOLD R. WEBER
- CHARLES L. EVANS
- BRIAN D. FABES

*Deceased
The Membership Committee consists of over 80 members who serve on 10 subcommittees, each one representing specific industries and occupations. The entire Membership Committee meets four times a year to elect new members. The subcommittees are responsible for reviewing proposals that members submit for consideration. Their foremost objective is to fill each available Club membership with the best candidate possible. An individual may remain a candidate for several years. The Club has worked to attract a diverse membership by age, profession, and background, with a particular emphasis on identifying younger members so that the ideas and ideals of one generation will be passed on to the next. All decisions with respect to membership admission, retention and revocation are at the discretion of The Economic Club of Chicago Board of Directors.
2018-2019

FEATURED ARTIST

In an effort to engage the rich artistic community of Chicago, the Club launched a new initiative for the 2018-2019 Program Year that features portraits of each dinner meeting speaker on the cover of the printed program. To launch this special initiative, the Club was honored to work with Chicago-based artist Julius Dizon-Cruz Bautista, whose portraits are below.

Clockwise from upper left corner: Satya Nadella, Bono, Debra A. Cafaro, Stephen J. Easterbrook

Julius Dizon-Cruz Bautista is a USMC veteran and Filipino-American visual artist based in Chicago. Since pursuing a BFA at the University of Illinois at Chicago, he has worked in various artist collectives with the goal of increasing accessibility to the arts. His work infuses the traditional representational arts with elements of urban and pop culture.

THE ECONOMIC CLUB OF CHICAGO
33 N Dearborn Street, Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60602
econclubchi.org 312.726.1628

General Questions: ecc@econclubchi.org
Membership Inquiries: membership@econclubchi.org
Reservation Inquiries: reservations@econclubchi.org
Speaker Inquiries: speakers@econclubchi.org

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