



History of Exchange

Moscow, Russia
Chicago's Sister City Since 1997

Co-Chairs: Aleksandra Efimova and Piotr Galitzine

1997

Focus: Signing Agreement

Mayor Yuri Luzhkov formalized a Sister Cities agreement between Moscow and Chicago with Mayor Richard M. Daley.

1998

Focus: Medical & Social Service

The Moscow Committee hosted a party for Russian foster children.

Focus: Medical & Social Service

The Moscow Committee hosted a Russian sociologist, an Eisenhower Exchange Fellow.

Focus: Economic Development

The Russian Ambassador of the United States visited Chicago for the 6th annual U.S-Russian Business Council meeting.

Focus: Culture

The Russian National Orchestra performed at Orchestra Hall at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Focus: Culture

A World in a Weekend featured Moscow.

1999

Focus: Culture

The program, "Generations United: Russian Avant Garde Poetry," was held at the Chicago Cultural Center in conjunction with Northwestern University. Legendary Russian poet Andrei Voznesensky and Professor Ilya Kutik from Northwestern University united for a historic recital

of their original works entitled Generations United, representing two generations of Russian literary art.

For the first time in the United States, Voznesensky publicly aired a historic recording of a 1963 meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party discussing questions of culture with leading cultural figures. The recording included a speech given by Voznesensky, in which he stated that he was proud to say that he was not a member of the Communist Party.

Focus: Environment

The Andreyev Acoustics Institute in Moscow worked with the City of Chicago Department of Environment and UIC Great Cities Institute on a Great Lakes Contaminant Transport Monitoring project.

Focus: Culture

The Moscow Committee held its first fundraiser at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Center for the Shostakovich Festival. Yuri Ushakov, the Russian Ambassador to the United States, attended the fundraiser, which consisted of dinner in Grainger ballroom, concert and post concert champagne reception with Mstislav Rostropovich. June 3 was proclaimed "Rostropovich Day in Chicago" by Mayor Daley.

2000

Focus: Culture

The Moscow Committee hosted a reception at a performance by the Bolshoi Ballet.

Focus: Arts and Culture

"Kremlin Gold," a collection of more than 100 pieces of gold, silver and precious gems, told Russia's tale through the precious metals and stones of the Kremlin, at a 5 month exhibit at the Field Museum. The Moscow Committee hosted a breakfast and a press conference at the Field Museum before the opening and hosted the curators that came from Moscow to install it.

2001

Focus: Culture

The Moscow Committee held an opening for the Kandinsky Exhibit at the Chicago Cultural Center.

Focus: Education

The Moscow Committee hosted educational administrators from Chicago's Sister Schools in Moscow.

Focus: Culture

The Chicago Days Festival in Moscow was comprised of a photo exhibition on Chicago's cultural and commercial history, a medical exchange, theatrical and musical performances, children's programs, including a twinning of orphanages in Chicago and Moscow, and economic development and tourism initiatives.

Focus: Culture

The Moscow Committee hosted a reception for the Moscow Theater Southwest performance at UIC Theater. UIC Theater performed at Moscow Theater Southwest in May as part of the "Chicago Days" festival.

Focus: Education

A group of teachers from Moscow spent 10 days visiting their Sister Schools in Chicago.

2002**September 1****Focus: Sports**

Chicago runners Monica O'Hara and Jerry Vondruska participated in the Moscow Marathon as part of the Moscow Committee's Marathon Exchange Program.

2003**February 28****Focus: Culture**

Working in collaboration with the UIC Theater, the Moscow Committee assisted with the visit of the Shadow Theater of Moscow to perform their original work Metamorphosis. Following the opening performance, a reception with the cast was held.

March 19**Focus: Culture**

The Moscow Committee held a benefit reception immediately following the Eifman Ballet's performance of Who's Who at the Auditorium Theater. Boris Eifman and members of the company attended at the reception and Russian Tea Time provided entertainment and food.

2006**April 3-6****Focus: Government**

The visit of Kemer Norkin, representative from Mayor Luzhkov's office participated in the 2006 The Second Annual Richard J. Daley Urban Forum - Globalizing Cities: Chicago and the World. In addition to Mr. Norkin's participation in the forum, he had meetings with Chicago Technology Park, the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the Moscow Committee.

May 10-14**Focus: Government & Business Development**

A small delegation representing the Moscow Committee traveled to Moscow to renew contacts with their counterparts in the fields of government, health, education, culture and economic development. Following the appointment of Bob Langlois as the new Chair of the Moscow Committee in fall 2005, this was an initial step in reestablishing the relationship between both cities.

2007**September 28****Focus: Government**

The Moscow Committee cosponsored a lecture, "200 Years of U.S.-Russian Relations and the Road Ahead," by the Honorable William J. Burns, U.S. Ambassador of the Russian Federation. This luncheon event was organized by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and was held at the Chicago Hilton.

October 8-13

Focus: Government

The Committee assisted with the visit of a 9-person delegation from Moscow City government who were in Chicago to attend the International Women's Forum.

The head of the delegation, First Deputy Mayor Ludmila Shvetsova spoke with Mayor Daley about possible education initiatives between the two cities.

October 30

Focus: Economic Development

The Committee launched a "Russian Business Forum" series of panels focusing on specific industries in Russia, with an emphasis on providing networking opportunities. The first panel discussion "Real Estate Development and Investing in Russia" was sponsored by Baker & McKenzie; approximately 25 people participated. Speakers included Arthur George, Baker & McKenzie; Robert A. Halvorson, Halvorson and Partners; Fritz Kaegi, Columbia Wanger Asset Management and Patrick T. King, Chicago Design Ltd., Moscow.

2008

April

Focus: Government

The delegation from Moscow, headed by Mr. Vladimir Platanov, Chairman of the Moscow City Council and Ambassador Georgy L. Muradov, Head of Moscow City Department for Foreign Trade and International Relations attended 2008 Richard J. Daley Urban Forum.

July 7-28

Focus: Music

The Moscow Committee Member Marina Kalinina conducted a Gospel Summer School at the Moscow College of Improvised Music, featuring Chicago Jazz and Gospel singer, Tecora Rogers. The goal of the program was to bring Chicago Gospel culture to Russia and in the future to bring guest artists from Moscow to Chicago.

This three-week program consisted of teaching, workshops, master-classes, meetings, performances and consultations with gospel artists and educators from Chicago.

September 17

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Moscow Committee worked with the Chicago Architecture Foundation and the Center for East European and Russian and Eurasian Studies at the University of Chicago to help promote the exhibition, "CCCP: Cosmic Communist Constructions Photographed," shown in the John Buck Company Lecture Hall, July 10 – October 3, 2008.

On September 17, the Moscow Committee jointly hosted a panel discussion that explored the 70' and 80's era of architectural history, making comparisons of Communist and Capitalist innovative approaches to early post-modern design.

Speakers: Frédéric Chaubin, photographer; Malynne Sternstein, Associate Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago; and Tim Wittman, architectural historian, School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

September 17

Focus: Architecture

The Chicago Architecture Foundation and Moscow Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program explored the 70's and 80's era of architecture history, making comparisons of Communist and Capitalist innovative approaches to early post modern design.

September 28

Focus: Business

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, cosponsored by the Moscow Committee, hosted the Honorable William J. Burns, United States Ambassador to the Russian Federation, for a luncheon lecture. The lecture examined the past relationships and looked for future opportunities the United States and Russia have in working together to address global challenges.

October 30

Focus: Business

The Moscow Committee launched a Russian Business Forum series of speakers and panels focusing on specific industries in Russia. The first panel discussion, "Real Estate Development and Investing in Russia," included the panelists: Arthur George, Baker & McKenzie; Robert A. Havorson and Partners; Fritz Kaegi, Columbia Wagner Asset Management; Patrick T. King, Chicago Design Ltd., Moscow.

December 5

Focus: Business

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs presented His Excellency Yegor Gaidar, economist, former acting prime minister of Russia, and director of the Institute for Economy in Transition, Moscow.

2009

April

Focus: Government

The First Deputy Mayor of Moscow, the Honorable Vladimir Resin, attended the Chicago Global Cities Forum. The Moscow Committee hosted dinner and cultural tours for the Deputy Mayor and his accompanying delegation of Business leaders from Moscow.

May 14

Focus: Government

The members of the Moscow Committee participated in leadership breakfast held by the Chicago Executive's Club titled "U.S. and Russia: Prospects for Cooperation" with the guest speaker H.E. Ambassador of Russia to the United States Sergey I. Kislyak.

June

Focus: Culture

Member of the Committee, Aleksandra Efimova represented Moscow at the opening flag ceremony of the International Sister Cities Festival at Daley Plaza and gave a presentation on Russian cuisine in collaboration with Kendall College cooking demonstrations.

July

Focus: Business Development

A group of Moscow Committee members traveled to Moscow and held several networking meetings aiming to further advance Chicago – Moscow exchanges.

September 17**Focus: Arts & Culture**

The Chicago Architecture Foundation and the Moscow Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International explored the 1970's and 1980's era of architectural history. They made comparisons of Communist and Capitalist approaches to post modern design. These changes were documented by photographer Frederic Chaubin who spoke and displayed his works for the event.

October 1-4**Focus: Medical**

Doctor David Naskhletashvili, MD PhD, from the Russian N.N Blokhin Cancer Research Center participated in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium – Sister Cities Medical Initiative.

November 18-21**Focus: Government**

His Excellency Ivan Materov, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade visited Chicago to further develop an existing business climate.

Focus: Government

Moscow School of Political Studies Young Leaders

2010**April****Focus: Government & Business Development**

Moscow Committee and Russian Foundation hosted a welcome reception in honor of the visiting vice mayor of Moscow, Vladimir Platonov, and the delegation of Moscow Duma members and city officials. Apart from participating in the Global Cities Forum, the group also had several meetings with the City Departments and local companies.

Focus: Education & Culture

A group of students and staff from St. Gregory the Great High School, located in the Edgewater neighborhood of Chicago spent a spring break in Russia. While in Russia, the group visited several high schools and universities to study the similarities and differences between American and Russian education, visited culturally and historically significant landmarks, and learned firsthand the value of cross-cultural exchange as they lived with host families.

July**Focus: Education & Culture**

A group of five students and a teacher from Noble Street College Prep traveled to Moscow to attend the Russian Language Summer School from July 5-28, 2010. This language immersion opportunity was made possible by the Moscow Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International and Mayor's Office of Special Events.

2011**February 2011**

Focus: Arts & Culture

Members of the Moscow Committee met with Archimandrite Zacchaeus, Representative of the Orthodox Church in America to the Moscow Patriarchate to discuss plans for developing a American and Russian cultural year 2012 and the role that Chicago will play in developing programs and exchanges with Moscow, given the important connections between our cities as sister cities.

June 13**Focus: Business and Culture**

The Moscow Committee hosted the first Russia Day celebration in Chicago. It took place at the Chicago Cultural Center and was attended by over 300 guests. His Excellency Sergey Kislyak, Ambassador of Russia to the United States, was the guest of honor at the event. While in town, the Ambassador met with the Moscow Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International and the Mayor's Office of International to discuss future collaboration between the City of Chicago and its Sister City in Moscow.

October 19**Focus:**

The Adler Planetarium in Chicago commemorated the 50th anniversary of Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin's historic mission in 1961, when he became the first human to venture into outer space. The event included a dedication of a statue of Gagarin, donated by the Russian government, one of 11 that were donated to cities all over the world in honor of Gagarin's world-changing flight. The Moscow Committee of CSCI helped to coordinate the logistics of the gift, and worked with the museum on the press conference and an opening reception.

2012**February 12****Focus: Culture & Music**

The Moscow Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted an elegant pre-performance reception for internationally renowned Russian musicians Vladimir Spivakov and Olga Kern at the Symphony Center.

April 16-19**Focus: Business Development**

A delegation representing World Business Chicago (WBC) and Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI) traveled to Moscow to establish relationships with Russian companies and spur new business development opportunities. The trip was in conjunction with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's (CSO) performance at the Moscow Conservatory.

June 12**Focus: Culture & Music**

WFMT celebrated Russia's Independence Day with a day-long broadcast featuring Russian music.

June 14**Focus: Culture**

More than 250 Russian nationals and Americans joined together to celebrate Russia Day at a black-tie gala at the Chicago Cultural Center on Thursday, June 14. Hosted by the Moscow Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, chaired by Aleksandra Efimova and Prince Piotr

Galitzine, the event honored Russia's national holiday, which is celebrated on June 12 and commemorates the day in 1990 when the Russian parliament formally declared sovereignty over Russia. This is only the second year that Russia Day has been celebrated in Chicago, and the first year the event included a black-tie gala.

Sergey I. Kislyak, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States, gave the keynote speech of the evening, highlighting the importance of strengthening the relationships between the United States and Russia and focusing on the similarities between Chicago and Moscow.

June 15

Focus: Culture & Education

The Moscow Committee organized a Russian Language Story Time Celebration showcasing Russian language books, educational materials and accessories at Russian Pointe.

August 6-10

Focus: Culture

The 7th Annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival transformed Daley Plaza into an international village filled with merchants, food, music, and dance from Chicago's 28 Sister Cities. The Golosa Choir performed traditional Russian and Siberian folk songs representing the culture and heritage of Moscow.

October 4-7

Focus: Medical

The 14th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium was a professional educational event highlighting the most recent clinical and scientific advances in breast cancer research. Dr. Ekaterina Ignatova from N.N. Blokhin Russian Cancer Research Center of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences participated and represented Moscow in the 2012 symposium.

2013

March 15

Focus: Culture

The Moscow Committee of CSCI hosted a reception for Russian-Austrian soprano Anna Netrebko at The Graham Room at the Civic Opera House, following Netrebko's debut performance at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Guests were treated to wine, champagne and hors d'oeuvres, and they had the chance to meet Netrebko, as well as other stars of the Lyric.

May 18

Focus: Culture

The Moscow Committee of CSCI hosted a private pre-performance reception with Boris Eifman in honor of the opening night of the Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg's production of *Rodin*. The performance of *Rodin* will followed the reception at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University.

June 13**Focus: Business**

In connection with the 3rd Annual Russia Day Gala, the Moscow Committee of CSCI presented the 3rd Annual Russian-American Business Forum. The Russian-American Business Forum is one of the premier business-to-business events for information and networking with Chicagoland's Russian community. The keynote speaker was Sergei Kislyak, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States. Other speakers included Mikaihl Kalugin, Head, Economic Department of the Russian Embassy; Trade Representative, Minister Counselor – Rinat M. Dosmukhamedov, and Piotr Galitzine, chairman of TMK IPSCO.

June 13**Focus: Culture**

The Moscow Committee of CSCI, in partnership with the US-Russia Chamber of Commerce, hosted the Third Annual Russia Day Gala at the Drake Hotel's Gold Coast Ballroom. The black tie gala honored His Excellency Sergey I. Kislyak, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States. The event honored Russia's national holiday, which is celebrated on June 12 and commemorates the day when the Russian Parliament formally declared sovereignty over Russia in 1990. The Russia Day celebration in Chicago is unique in that it is the only Russian National Day celebration organized by a non-governmental body in the United States.

July 9-12**Focus: Governmental Delegation**

A delegation from Moscow's Departments of Culture and Commerce visited Chicago to learn about the City's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, the Chicago Park District, Millennium Park and the Taste of Chicago. The delegation was given exclusive tours of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Shedd Aquarium, Lincoln Park Zoo, Millennium Park and the Taste of Chicago. They also met with representatives from these institutions in addition to meetings with DCASE and the Illinois Restaurant Association.

2014**January 8****Focus: Culture**

The Moscow Committee of CSCI had their First Annual Holiday Party at the Drake Hotel's Palm Court on Wednesday, January 8, 2014, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. The evening included cocktails & hors d'oeuvres and a concert performance.

2015**2016****March 10****Focus: Business**

The Moscow Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International celebrated International Women's Day with Women in Leadership on the evening of Thursday, March 10, 2016, at the Union League Club of Chicago. With over 80 guests, including Russian-speaking and American guests, both ladies and gentlemen, Women in Leadership featured a panel of distinguished women who

have succeeded as entrepreneurs and business leaders in Chicago, along with networking and dinner.

May 14

Focus: Culture

Chicago Sister Cities International hosted a Eurovision Song Contest viewing party at Old Crow Smokehouse. Since 1956, the Eurovision Song Contest has been one of Europe's most popular television programs and one of television's longest running music shows. Over 200 people came to cheer on their country.