

Building a Thriving Chicago Tech Ecosystem

March 2022



According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, occupations in IT are on track for double digit growth while, at the same time, our country faces an acute shortage of tech talent. Our panel of experts shared insight into how Chicago organizations and individuals are creating awareness, breaking barriers, and leveraging technology to ensure future success, access, and equity for all.

[Watch the full discussion](#)

TAKEAWAYS

The City of Chicago + World Business Chicago P33 are working to reinvigorate Chicago's tech community by increasing opportunity for employment within neighborhoods that traditionally don't have access to jobs, which is the number one thing most challenged neighborhoods need.

ChiHackNight.org is a great resource for anyone interested in learning more about tech, including their weekly free events which brings hundreds of designers, academic researchers, data journalists, activists, policy wonks, web developers and curious citizens together to make Chicago more just, equitable, transparent, and delightful to live in through data, design and technology.

RESOURCES & LINKS

Microsoft Nonprofit Resources & Discounts: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/nonprofits?activetab=pivot1%3aprimar3>

Chi Hack Night: <https://chihacknight.org/>

Chi Hack Night YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/chihacknight>

Chi Hack Night Tech and Data Help Desk info: <https://chihacknight.org/blog/2020/07/31/tech-and-data-help-desk.html>

Chi Hack Night blog post "Intro to being anti-racist in civic tech": <https://chihacknight.org/blog/2021/03/25/2021-intro-to-being-anti-racist-in-civic-tech.html>

"Characteristics of White Supremacy Culture" guide: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XR_7M_9qa64zZ00_JyFVTAjmjVU-uSz8/view

Chi Tech For Good (Adam Hecktman): <https://chitechforgood.com/>

3Points Comm (Katie O'Shea): <https://www.3ptscomm.com/>

GET Chicago (Elle Ramel): <https://www.getcities.org/chicago/>

GET Cities is the first initiative to come out of a \$1 billion pledge by Melinda Gates's Pivotal Ventures to increase women's power and influence: <https://www.fastcompany.com/90456474/melinda-gates-pivotal-ventures-has-a-new-initiative-to-get-equal-representation-in-tech>

Latinas in Tech: <https://latinasintech.org/chapter/chicago/>

P33 Launches the Chicago Tech Talent Coalition & Debuts Report on Chicago Tech Talent and Workforce Diversity Data: <https://p33chicago.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Talent-Insights-Report-2021-Press-Release-v2-1.pdf>

MRelief blends mission and technology to help needy Chicago residents: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/business/blue-sky/chi-mrelief-rose-afriyie-bsi-20150112-story.html>