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## City of Chicago & World Business Chicago Announce “c Ukraine” Cultural Showcase Pop-Up Opening June 29

Wrigley Building pop-up showcases art, food, drink, events, and international goods by local independent Ukrainian retailers

CHICAGO, June 26, 2023 — The City of Chicago and World Business Chicago announce the opening of the first 2023 Cultural Showcase Pop-Up, c Ukraine, in the Wrigley Building at 410 N. Michigan Ave.

c Ukraine opens with a community celebration Thursday, June 29, from 5:30 p.m. until close at 7 p.m. Media are invited to attend and take photographs and video.

c Ukraine is one of two planned Cultural Showcase Pop-Ups, an innovative strategy that is deepening the city’s global connections and its commitment to supporting local, diverse small businesses.

The c Ukraine pop-up celebrates Ukrainian culture and Chicago’s Ukrainian community. Occupying a ground-floor retail space in the Wrigley Building’s North Tower, it was designed by local Ukrainian architect Vladimir Radutny. Following Thursday’s opening event, c Ukraine will be open seven days a week, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., through Oct. 13.

The experience is a collaboration between the consulate general of Ukraine in Chicago and participating small businesses [Shokolad Pastry & Café](#), offering homemade pastries, and Casapolis, offering handmade Ukrainian goods.

The opening event on June 29 will be an opportunity to see the beautiful new retail space, and to meet c Ukraine’s vendors and Ukrainian consulate staff.

"Chicago has always been a tapestry of diverse cultures, a place where unique stories intertwine. Our city's global identity is shaped by the many cultures that converge here,

bringing richness and vitality to our network of 77 neighborhoods. The opening of the newest Cultural Showcase Pop-Up celebrating Ukraine perfectly reflects this," explains Kenya Merritt, Deputy Mayor of Business and Neighborhood Development, City of Chicago. "We eagerly look forward to hosting residents and tourists into the new Ukrainian pop-up, celebrating the country's enduring connections that are woven into the fabric of Chicago, especially important during this challenging time in that country's history. I extend my appreciation to World Business Chicago for their tireless efforts implementing innovative strategies like these pop-ups, which continue to play a pivotal role in helping to rejuvenate the Mag Mile."

c Ukraine's opening will be followed in mid-July by the opening of a second Cultural Showcase Pop-Up, the Culture Exchange Market, which will feature Chicago-based retail and food businesses from Colombian, Kyrgyz, Pakistani, and Polish cultures.

Funded by COVID-19 relief grants to World Business Chicago through the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, the Cultural Showcase Pop-Ups are transforming once vacant storefronts by promoting small businesses, and offering visitors an enriching, immersive experience highlighting the city's culturally diverse communities.

Michael Fassnacht, President & CEO of World Business Chicago and the first-ever Chief Marketing Officer for the City of Chicago, emphasized the city's commitment to diversity and inclusivity: "Chicago is a city that embraces everyone and celebrates our differences. These innovative and culturally relevant pop-ups are an incredible platform for local businesses to showcase their unique talents, creativity, and products to a wider audience on one of the world's most iconic streets. The c Ukraine pop-up offers a unique experience for visitors and residents to not only show their support for Ukraine, but also immerse themselves in the richness of Ukrainian culture."

"We are proud to celebrate Ukrainian culture, its contribution to the vibrant Chicago multicultural community, and the city's people, who stand with the people of Ukraine all over the world," said Serhiy Koledov, Consul General of Ukraine in Chicago. "Through these pop-up experiences, we can support the work of local Ukrainian businesses and bring them an incredible platform through which to reach Chicagoans and visitors."

The Summer 2023 Cultural Showcases build on the success of prior pop-ups, including Colores Mexicanos in 2021 and the Argentine Connection and Nordic House, which opened in October 2022. Colores Mexicanos has since transitioned to a commercial lease with independent operation at 605 N. Michigan Avenue; and Argentine Connection and Nordic House welcomed more than 20,000 guests during the six months between October 2022 and April 2023.

#### ABOUT WORLD BUSINESS CHICAGO:

World Business Chicago serves a critical role in driving inclusive and equitable recovery throughout the city's 77 neighborhoods, focused on high growth sectors: transportation, distribution, & logistics; manufacturing; healthcare & life sciences, and our local innovation,

startup, & venture ecosystem. As the City of Chicago's economic development agency, World Business Chicago leads corporate attraction & retention, workforce & talent, community impact, and promotion of Chicago as a leading global city. Supported by a council of 300+ local leaders, World Business Chicago's portfolio of innovation & venture programs include: the Chicago Venture Summit series, Startup Chicago, ThinkChicago, and Venture Engine with the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition (ISTC). Follow World Business Chicago on LinkedIn for daily news and announcements on company relocation and expansion; industry and ecosystem growth, U.S. and world rankings, and more about Chicago's economic progress.

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#### Event Details: Opening, c Ukraine Cultural Showcase

When: Thursday, June 29, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Where: c Ukraine, Wrigley Building North Tower, 410 N. Michigan Ave.

- 5:30 p.m. - Doors open
- 6:00 p.m. - Remarks
  - Yevgeniy Drobot, Deputy Consul General of Ukraine in Chicago
  - architect [Vladimir Radutny](#) and members of his creative team sharing insights and inspiration on the design of the c Ukraine space
- Evening includes tours of the space, a reception with refreshments including Ukrainian foods, and entertainment by Tima Fei, Ukrainian-born artist, music producer, and DJ