

**Report of the 2020-21 SSSP Chicago Local Arrangement Committee (LAC)
Drs. Steven H. Corey and David G. Embrick, Co-Chairs
July 12, 2021**

We have the pleasure of presenting the 2021 Local Arrangement Committee (LAC) Report in the same manner that we have conducted the bulk of our business for this year's annual meeting—remotely in a digital/virtual format. Indeed, the current worldwide Covid-19 pandemic that forced the 2021 Chicago annual meeting to go remote has meant that the 2021 LAC has had to be nimble and go beyond traditional face-to-face communication and planning in completing those assigned tasks appropriate for this year's meeting format. As such, this overview will be a bit different from previous LAC Reports to reflect the unique situation that we find ourselves in during this current phase of the global pandemic.

The Local Arrangement Co-Chairs met several times with President Corey Dolgon, individually and together. Meeting of the President and Co-Chairs were between sixty to ninety minutes in duration and involved a great deal of brainstorming and problem solving to prioritize the work of the LAC, attend to challenges of doing a virtual meeting, and reconfigure tasks to meet a virtual conference format.

Planning meetings with President Corey were held on:

August 6, 2020

September 21, 2020

December 3, 2020

February 26, 2021

April 16, 2021

Several additional meetings were held between the LAC Co-Chairs. Difficulties in scheduling resulted in correspondence between LAC Co-Chairs and committee members taking place over email. In addition, there was a lack of enthusiasm for conducting business via Zoom. Fortunately, this widespread Zoom-fatigue was not a serious issue given the paired down task list for a virtual conference and, as such, the LAC Co-Chairs successfully relied upon email to reach LAC members and complete its most pressing tasks.

The LAC completed a “Chicago Restaurant Guide” before the conference went remote. After, we made some edits to the restaurant guide in realization that even though we would not have our meetings physically in Chicago, we should still do our due diligence with respect to connecting and highlighting places in the city to the overall theme of the meetings. Thus, we were selective in which restaurants to highlight in the guide.

Additionally, the LAC completed an extensive “Welcome to Chicago” guide that connected various selected sites in the city to the themes and activities of the conference. The welcome guide was edited several times by the LAC Co-Chairs, the LAC committee, and a final time by President Corey Dolgon.

The LAC secured local academics, writers, filmmakers, and other participants including:

- Writer Michelle Duster (great granddaughter of Ida B. Wells) for a session on her new book on Ida B. Wells.
- Michelle Yates for the documentary film Rebel Bells.
- Dominic Pagyga, professor emeritus at Columbia College Chicago, for a PowerPoint tour of the social history, economic development, and grass-roots political organizing for the Back-of-the-Yards neighborhood.

The LAC (via Co-chair Steven Corey) hosted President Corey Dolgon's visit to Chicago in mid-May 2021, providing him with official workspace at Columbia College Chicago as a base for him to connect with local participants and plan his radical history tour. While physically in Chicago, LAC Co-Chair Steven Corey assisted with the following tasks:

- Secure local documentary film maker Charles Hawkins who performed the following tasks.
- Assisted President Corey in making his President's Address.
- Edited videos from Social Action Award recipients for the virtual conference.
- Filmed and then edited video of President Corey and several local activists giving a Radical History Walking Tour that documented Chicago's labor/political heritage.

Finally, after long deliberations, The LAC selected the Chi-Nation's Youth Council as the 2021 Indigenous Peoples' Social Justice Award winners. The recipients reflect the very best of an organization who prides itself on being and remaining grassroots oriented, intersectional, and deeply engaged in past and current issues of inequality(ies) in our larger global society, to include anti-Blackness in Native communities, issues of accountability, legacies of imperialism and genocide, Columbus statue removal, youth resistance, decolonization, and much more. They are an active, decentralized (by choice), organization that seeks change through the arts, education, and activism.

The LAC co-chairs provide this year's written LAC report.