

- **Suzanne Ghez**, Director and Chief Curator for nearly 40 years, The Renaissance Society
- **Barbara Gaines**, Founder and Artistic Director, Chicago Shakespeare Theater
- **Jacqueline Russell**, Founder and Artistic Director, Chicago Children's Theatre
- **Ruth Page**, Dancer, Choreographer and Founder, Ruth Page Center for the Arts
- **Lois Weisberg**, Longest-serving Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs
- **Maggie Daley**, Longest-serving First Lady of the City of Chicago
- **Jackie Taylor**, Founder and CEO, Black Ensemble Theater
- **Monica Haslip**, Founder and Executive Director, Little Black Pearl
- **Abena Joan Brown**, Founder, eta Creative Arts Foundation
- **Margaret Burroughs**, Founder, DuSable Museum of African American History
- **Harriet Monroe**, Founder, Poetry Magazine
- **Cheryl Lynn Bruce**, Co-founder, Goodman Theatre / Dearborn Homes Youth Drama Workshop
- **Sandra Delgado**, Founding Ensemble Member, Collaboracion
- **Jane Saks**, Founding Director of the Ellen Stone Belic Institute and Project&
- **Barbara Jones-Hogu**, Founding Member, AfriCobra
- **Gwendolyn Brooks**, Literary Icon
- **Sandra Cisneros**, Literary Icon
- **Achy Obejas**, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist
- **Oprah Winfrey**, Cultural Icon
- **Joan Gray**, Dancer and Longtime President of Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago