

OFF-AIR event series

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5TH ANNUAL OFF-AIR EVENT SERIES ANNOUNCES LINEUP HIGHLIGHTING INTERNATIONAL FOOD, MUSIC, ACTIVISM AND COMMUNITY SERVICE!

**Series Kicks Off with Internationally Flavored Chef Battle Royale
in West Town on Wednesday, October 24 from 6:30-9:30pm**

CHICAGO (September 18, 2012) – WBEZ-Chicago and Vocalo.org (Chicago Public Media) are thrilled to announce the stations' fifth annual *Off-Air Event Series*, beginning this October and continuing through June, 2013. Extending the listening experience, the four-part series allows public radio listeners and others to come see what they've been hearing and celebrate Chicago! This year's consolidated *Off-Air Event Series* features bigger events and adds to the lineup a new, region-wide day of community service.

Off-Air Event Series kicks off with an internationally flavored **Chef Battle Royale** where local chefs from diverse Chicago neighborhoods will be challenged to create dishes using one of Goose Island's beers as an ingredient. Audiences are invited to taste a world of food in one evening with *The Morning Shift* host **Tony Sarabia**, and six outstanding chefs representing multiple ethnic traditions from different neighborhoods across the city. The audience will have the chance to taste each dish—meat and/or vegetarian—and be the judge, with prizes for the winning chef. Last year Chef **Leonard Hollander** of Oak Park's Marion Street Cheese Market took home the winning prize for his indisputable crowd favorite of Goose Island Harvest Ale brined goat, fall squash cider puree, verjus of pickled apples and smoked pecans. This year's participants' cuisines include traditional Polish, an Indian curry and soul food from the South Side, among others, all made with select Goose Island beer and fresh ingredients from Whole Foods Market. Sarabia will host lively discussions with local food bloggers and personalities, as well as live music and audience participation. At the end of it all, the audience chooses which neighborhood and food are the best! Intelligentsia Coffee will be serving fresh brewed coffee. Added to the line-up this year will be Goose Island Root beer and Matilda Beer Floats made by Black Dog Gelato. To accommodate each year's increasingly larger crowds, the Battle will now take place in a new location: the multi-floor **Salvage One**, 1840 W. Hubbard St., on **Wednesday, October 24 from 6:30-9:30 p.m.** Tickets—\$15/general admission, \$12/WBEZ members, and \$10/students—go on sale September 18 and are available at www.wbez.org/events.

Founded in 2008, the *Off-Air Event Series* presents four unique experiences, from October through June, taking place throughout the Chicago region. Events cover a spectrum of topics from food and music to politics and community. Last year's series attracted nearly 8,000 people, and since its launch *Off-Air* has reached more than 30,000 people. Popular events—the *Chef Battle Royale*, the annual *Winter Block Party for Chicago's Hip-Hop Arts* and *Global Activism Expo*—will again be presented, while *WBEZ's Day of Service* has been added to this season's lineup. Tickets for the entire *Off-Air Event Series* season will go on sale beginning September 18.

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“The *Off-Air Event Series* is an amazing opportunity to connect with people that goes beyond what’s possible on the radio or web,” says **Vanessa Harris**, Executive Producer of the series. “We aim to create live, meaningful experiences where people can discover new loves, have thought-provoking conversations and walk away feeling – Wow, that was really special.”

The 2012-2013 event series continues through June with:

5th Annual Winter Block Party for Chicago’s Hip-Hop Arts

Saturday, Jan 26, from noon-6 p.m. Evening program at 8 p.m.

Metro, 3730 North Clark Street

Hip-hop has long brought people together who've fought for social justice. Celebrate its present and future during the day with dance, film, MC Olympic battle, B-boy/B-girl dance battle, a Hip-Hop Marketplace and a ticketed evening concert featuring Chicago's most revered MCs. Hosted by **Jesse Menendez** of Vocolo and **Psalm One** with **Kevin Coval**. Check out the House After Party with **Jesse de la Pena** and Vocolo's DJ Collective. Day events are FREE. Evening concert: \$15, \$12 for WBEZ members, and \$10 for students with valid ID.

6th Annual Global Activism Expo

Saturday, April 6, from noon-6 p.m.

UIC Forum, 725 West Roosevelt Road

Eat, drink, dance and learn at WBEZ's largest event of the year! Here, attendees will explore what activists are doing in Chicago to make an impact across the world, and have an opportunity to join in. In its sixth year, the event aims to be bigger, more interactive and provide more opportunities to positively change the world. Each week, *Worldview* host **Jerome McDonnell** introduces engaged, world-focused people on *Worldview*'s long-running series, “Global Activism.” Here you can meet them while taking in performances and activities, including world music & dance, international food, circus arts and art displays gathered from across the globe. The day will also include lectures and panel discussions exploring issues of global justice and activism. Co-presented by the University of Illinois Chicago Social Justice Initiative. FREE, but RSVP is strongly encouraged.

WBEZ’s Day of Service

Saturday, June 1, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., including lunch. Evening concert at 8 p.m.

Throughout Chicago and region

WBEZ is teaming up with local organizations to give back to our community beyond the radio. Join us for a **Day of Service** around our community bureaus and the west suburbs. We'll be cleaning up, painting and building a better Chicago. *The Afternoon Shift* will host a reflection of our work after and then a celebrated Chicago musician will play a concert in the evening. FREE for Daytime service; RSVPs are required. Evening concert is FREE for day participants or \$15, \$12 for WBEZ Members, or \$10 for students with valid ID. RSVPs will open and tickets will go on sale for this event in spring 2013.

For tickets and a complete listing of all four events go to: www.wbez.org/events

About Chicago Public Media

Chicago Public Media is an institution that creates award-winning content for people seeking to learn more about the issues and ideas that affect our community, our nation and our world. Chicago Public Media produces programs such as *This American Life*, *Sound Opinions*, *Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!* (a co-production with NPR), *The Morning Shift with Tony Sarabia*, *Worldview*, and *Radio M*. It operates WBEZ 91.5 FM, one of the country’s premier public radio stations, and Vocolo 89.5 FM, an experimental web/radio service that seeks to expand the reach of public media. For more information, please visit www.chicagopublicmedia.org.