

Chicago Publishers Resource Center (CHIPRC) Closes August 31

Local literary and arts community center CHIPRC will close its doors August 31. The center was a home to Chicago's self-publishing community of zine makers, comics artists, writers, poets, and illustrators.

In July, the center celebrated 5 years of operation. Founder and executive director John Wawrzaszek has been part of the self-publishing community for the past decade, as an organizer of the Chicago zine fest and a fiction writer. The idea for the center was to highlight the work being done across diverse communities -- zine makers, comics artists, writers, fine artists, graphic artists, academic students, continuing education seekers, filmmakers, and musicians -- in the interest of discovering intersections in the processes and creation of the work. Through all-volunteer run public programming, CHIPRC hosted readings, exhibitions, documentary screenings, residency programs, and music showcases. The center welcomed guests from across the Chicagoland area, as well as from around the country and the world.

CHIPRC gave a platform to artists and writers so they could learn, share, and continue to create their work. Notable programming like the Wasted Pages Writing workshop and Saturday Night Drink N Draw will continue on after CHIPRC closes.

There will be programming throughout the month of August for patrons to stop by and visit the center before it closes. Popular events like the Saturday Night Drink and Draw, a Zine book club, and a Doodle Jam will be back. There will be readings, collage making, a music showcase, and open studio events.

The final event will be a reading on Thursday, August 30, at 7pm featuring many of the events coordinators who made CHIPRC the space it became. Readers include writer Ben Spies (co-founder of the Wasted Pages Writing Program), poet Elizabeth O'Connell Thompson (CHIPRC Literary Coordinator), musician Jonathan Stutz (CHIPRC Print Coordinator), comics artist Alex Nall (CHIPRC Comics Coordinator) and zine maker Cynthia E. Hanifin (CHIPRC Zine Coordinator).

Thank the space by coming to one of their final events. And if you haven't been there before, now's the time. Visit chiprc.org for a calendar of final programming. CHIPRC is located at 858 N. Ashland Ave.

Executive Director John Wawrzaszek is available for comment. Reach him at chicagoprc@gmail.com

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