Chicago-Focused Topics for Breaking Barriers in History

How did breaking the barrier(s) of ______________ create important, impactful change?

CULTURE – ART, MUSIC, LITERATURE, EDUCATION
- Streamlining America*
- Vivian Harsh and the Saving of Black History and Culture
- Charlemae Rollins and Multicultural Books for Students
- AfriCOBRA—Black Arts Movement Makes its Own Rules
- Many Hats of the Artist Ralph Arnold
- Jazz (Many stories: early jazz, black and white musicians, AACM, etc.)
- When the Blues Came to Chicago*
- Gospel: BB Blues and Spiritual or Sacred and Secular
- Black Chicago Renaissance (Consider artists, writers, etc)
- Exiled Design: New Bauhaus*
- Chicago Sinfonietta
- Worlds Columbian Exposition (Many stories: African-Americans, women, consumer products, reputation)
- Frederick Stock and the Groundbreaking CSO
- Hull House and the Small Theater Movement
- Compass Players and Second City
- Black Theater Movement: ETA or Kuumba
- Katherine Dunham Transforms Dance
- Ebony magazine
- Chicago Defender
- Artemisia: Women, Feminism and Art
- Hull House, Immigrants, and Art
- The Surrealists of Chicago
- Charles White: A Universal Artist
- Marion Mahoney Griffin
- Marianne Willisch – A Woman Designer Designing Homes?*
- Architecture: (Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Bertram Goldberg, etc.)
- African-American and Mexican Artists Cross the Border
- Maria Tallchief
- Hairy Who
- Mural as Community Builders
- Origins of the Museum of Contemporary Arts

MEDICINE, SCIENCE, & TECH INNOVATION
- Zephyr: Breaking the speed barrier*
- Diabetes: The Insulin Question
- Killing Cancer with Killer Chemicals
- Trains and railways*
- Motorola (cell phones, car radio, mobile communications)*
- Standardization of Time
- Western Electric Connects America
- Barbed Wire
- Disability Rights: ADAPT
- Tucker Auto: What Happens to a Maverick?
• Abbott Laboratories
• Virginia Ohlson and International Nursing
• Keeping Neonatal Babies Alive
• Inventing the Pill
• James Henry Breasted Translates Egyptian Hieroglyphics
• Hubble and the Expanding Universe
• Blood! Banking It, Preserving It
• Salmon in the Great Lakes
• Medical Committee for Human Rights

POWER, AUTHORITY
• Ida B Wells-Barnet Speaks the Truth Power
• Ben Hecht and Rescue of European Jews
• Parks for All: (The Chicago Park District and Consent Decree, Women and Sport CWLU, From Olmstead to Working Peoples’ Parks)
• Addie Wyatt: Fighter on Four Fronts
• Harold Washington Mayoral Election and Leadership
• Free speech Dil Pickle Club
• CHA Plan for Transformation
• Joanne Alter: Getting in the Boys’ Room
• Annexation and the Growth of Chicago
• Starving for a Home: Pilsen Fights for a High School
• Clarence Darrow
• Gautreaux and Section 8 Housing
• School Boycotts and Freedom Day
• Pullman Town: Whose Utopia?
• Urban Indians Claim Space
• Breaking Gerrymandering, Building Latino Power
• The Treaties that Made Chicago
• Chicago Anti-Apartheid Movement
• Campaigns to abolish the death penalty
• Fair Housing and Oak Park
• Illinois Legislative Black Caucus
• Black Panther Party
• Saul Alinsky: Community Control
• Fellowship of Reconciliation
• We Won’t Go: Fighting the Draft During Vietnam War
• Sister Cities Program
• Pontiac Prison Riot Prompts Reform Efforts
• Division Street as the Center of Early Puerto Rican Power
• From Howell House to Casa Atzlan: A Community Makes Its Home

ECONOMICS, BUSINESS, LABOR
• Zephyr and Transportation*
• Equal Pay for Equal Work: Ellen Roberts Sues Texaco
• Marquette, Joliet and the Global Economy
• CIO: Black & White, Unite and Fight
• IWW and One Big Union
• Michael Jordan and Marketing

*In CHM exhibitions
- Advertising of the Container Corp of America
- Reversal of the Chicago River
- Leo Burnett
- Chicago Women in Trades
- Coalition of Black Trade Unionist (CBTU)
- Coalition of Labor Union Women
- Sears, Wards mail order catalogs
- Barbed Wire
- Black Expo 1973
- Chicago Bungalow: Path to Home Ownership for the Working Class
- Meatpacking Industry / Stockyards (mass production, food safety
- Eugene Debs
- Save our Jobs Coalition Takes on the Steel Industry
- Gale Cincotta and Neighborhoods Take on the Banking Industry
- Crosstown Expressway? No Way!
- Environmental Justice (consider Hazel Johnson, Mary McDowell, etc.)

**RACE AND CIVIL RIGHTS**
- African Americans and Century of Progress
- Restrictive Covenants / Shelley v Kraemer
- Chicago Freedom Movement*
- George Leighton: “Lawyer for Hopeless Cases?”
- Chicago Joins the Freedom Riders, Freedom Summer
- Integrating Summer Camp: The Bowen Country Club
- Howalton School and other community-led alternative schools
- Contract Buyers League
- Operation Breadbasket: Who’s Minding the Store?
- Original Rainbow Coalition
- Abolition of Slavery, the Chicago Contributions
- Afro-American Patrolmen’s League
- Rainbow Beach Wade-In
- Truman Gibson and the Integration of the Armed Forces

**WOMEN, GENDER**
- Women’s Movement or Labor Movement: The Women’s Trade Union League
- Women’s Suffrage (consider differing periods, strategies, tactics, race/gender/class) and Beyond
- Birth Control* The Pill and Beyond
- Reproductive Rights
- The Women’s World Fair
- Women’s Sanitary Fairs during the Civil War
- ACT-UP
- Pride Parade as Political Power
- “Homesteading” Women
- Women’s Work? Sears vs EEOC
- Prison Project of the Chicago Women’s Liberation Union
- Chicago Catholic Women: Feminists Religious
- Bari-Ellen Roberts vs Texaco
- Women Peace Party

*In CHM exhibitions
• Latina Feminists (for example, on 18th Street, in NOW, etc.)
• International Women's Year, 1977
• Providing Safe Abortions pre- Roe v Wade: (Lonnie Meyers and the Abortion Rights Association, Clergy Consultative Service, etc.)
• Spaces of our Own: Lesbian Feminist Community in Chicago
• Mary Alice McWhinnie at Antarctica

SOCIAL HISTORY
• Storefront Churches: Bringing the South, North
• Playgrounds—Not Alleys! A Progressive Era Achievement
• Bilingual Education
• Sex Education
• Esther Loeb Kohn and the Protection of Refugees
• Japanese Relocation, Resettlement in Chicago
• Gray Panthers
• Ben Reitman—hobo doctor, hobo professor
• Making of the ADA Act – Disabilities Rights

SPORTS AND RECREATION
• Title 9
• Ernie Banks
• Special Olympics
• All American Girls Baseball league
• Loyola “Game of Change”
• Harlem Globetrotters
• Nisei Sports League
• Chicago Hosts the Pan-American Games

IMMIGRATION, ETHNIC
• The Immigration Act of 1965
• The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986
• Hull House (or other settlement houses) and the Immigrant Communities
• Indian Removal Act, or encroachment upon/destruction of indigenous communities more broadly
• Chicago neighborhood development – immigration, integration, displacement*
• Carlos Montezuma
• Working on the Railroads: Roots of Mexican Labor in Chicago Area

WAR, MILITARY
• Fort Dearborn: Massacre? Battle?*
• Chicago Involvement in the Civil War
• Double V Campaign

When Breaking Barriers mean “Barriers Against” (i.e., to Protect)
• Saving the Game of Baseball after Scandal
• Citizen Groups Take on Pollution
• Protecting Democracy: Chicago Committee for the Bill of Rights

*In CHM exhibitions
• Fighting Food-based Diseases
• Epidemics and other infectious diseases
• Women’s Christian Temperance Union
• Our Lady of Angels and Life Safety Laws
• Don’t Kill Your Babies and other campaigns to end child mortality
• Abraham Lincoln – attempts to keep nation from division
• Shakman Decree and Patronage Jobs
• Civil Defense Hysteria: A Reaction to the Bomb
• Skokie, Nazis, and the ACLU