

# What Critical Urban Issues, History, & Skills Should Students Learn More About in School?



(Note: all historical topics below are covered in *Urban Renewal or Urban Removal: A Grassroots Look at Chicago's Land Grabs and the Struggle for Home and Community*, 2012, curriculum published by CGCT).

1) What **critical urban issues** do you want to learn more about in school? Rank the **TOP 10** by placing a #1 next to the one you want / need to learn most about, then a 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 for other important issues. Add your own too... see **Other**.

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> immigration / deportations  | <input type="checkbox"/> high unemployment          | <input type="checkbox"/> lack of low-cost housing           | <input type="checkbox"/> fighting drugs / alcohol abuse     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> police profiling / abuse    | <input type="checkbox"/> adult distrust of youth    | <input type="checkbox"/> rising poverty / tougher times     | <input type="checkbox"/> gentrification of communities      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STD's                       | <input type="checkbox"/> poor health / bad care     | <input type="checkbox"/> not enough youth programs          | <input type="checkbox"/> global corporate power / control   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> family instability problems | <input type="checkbox"/> parents too busy           | <input type="checkbox"/> racism / discrimination            | <input type="checkbox"/> sexism against girls / women       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> internalized oppression     | <input type="checkbox"/> foreclosures / moving      | <input type="checkbox"/> stop the school to prison pipeline | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation hassles / high fees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mass media influence        | <input type="checkbox"/> lack of political power    | <input type="checkbox"/> respecting our elders more         | <input type="checkbox"/> food deserts / low quality food    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> environmental pollution     | <input type="checkbox"/> overly materialistic       | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic violence / abuse          | <input type="checkbox"/> depression / psychological issues  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> homophobia / LGBTQ rights   | <input type="checkbox"/> government corruption      | <input type="checkbox"/> attitude of hopelessness           | <input type="checkbox"/> low quality schools / education    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> teen pregnancy              | <input type="checkbox"/> community segregation      | <input type="checkbox"/> reducing child abuse / harm        | <input type="checkbox"/> causes of violence & gang peace    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rising homelessness         | <input type="checkbox"/> school closings / charters | <input type="checkbox"/> need for more parent teacher unity | <input type="checkbox"/> self-care and community service    |

**Other** (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think most or all of the topics are important to learn more about and help solve in school? **NO** **YES**

2) Of the 20 Chicago historical topics listed below (URUR), rank your **top 5 choices** that seem important or interesting to study more in school. Do this by placing a #1 next to the topic of MOST INTEREST... then continue with 2, 3, 4, and 5.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the indigenous peoples of Chicago (Native Americans) past & present           | <input type="checkbox"/> use of laws / racism to cheat & segregate Blacks, Latinos, Asians     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable, the Black founder of Chicago, the town         | <input type="checkbox"/> the Daley Machine and corrupt "patronage" politics (1950s – 2000s)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chicago's first ghettos & why some areas became richer / others poorer        | <input type="checkbox"/> rise of strong Black, Latino, and Asian community groups              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Chicago Fire and how it led to greater inequalities / homelessness      | <input type="checkbox"/> beginnings of moving Blacks and Latinos out of central city areas     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> early Black, Latino, & Asian communities in Chicago & segregation             | <input type="checkbox"/> Arson for Profit – the burning of peoples homes by landlords for \$\$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> major labor movements, strikes, & protests for better pay & more rights       | <input type="checkbox"/> peoples power movements and struggles for justice (1960s – 70s)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> racism and discrimination at the 1893 World's Fair and Black protests         | <input type="checkbox"/> rise of Harold Washington coalition and his election as mayor         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1919 Race Riot – started by a stoning death at 31 <sup>st</sup> Street Beach  | <input type="checkbox"/> arrival of drugs, weapons, gangs, & violence – find root causes       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Metropolis and a strengthened community (+ <b>Blues, Jazz, Gospel</b> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> mass gentrification in the city with more condos / less affordability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the building and destruction of public housing "projects" (1940s – 2000s)     | <input type="checkbox"/> economic crisis, less jobs, and many home foreclosures (2000s)        |

Do you think *most* or *all* of the topics are important to learn about and help solve in school? **NO** **YES**

3) What are some **real world skills** you think schools should emphasize to prepare all students for **community leadership, cooperation, and social justice**? Think of three (3). Brainstorm with your neighbor or facilitator if needed.

Idea #1	Idea #2	Idea #3

4) Do you think your school learning is preparing you to solve real world problems and fight for justice? Circle a #.

Yes, my school is really preparing me --- 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 --- No, my school is not at all preparing me

**Optional** – you can get involved with Chicago Grassroots Curriculum Taskforce (CGCT) in helping to change the curriculum to make your learning more relevant and powerful! **Check All That Apply:**  **Parent**  **Student**  **Admin**  **Community**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_