

# Le savez-vous? Did you know?

The Alliance Française de Chicago is the city's link to French cultures.

For over 120 years, we have brought world leaders, cultural icons, and groundbreaking intellectuals to Chicago.

## Our mission

We are Chicago's center of French language and French speaking cultures. By promoting exchange between Americans and French speaking people, we connect our patrons to a world of 220 million francophones, helping Chicagoans develop a wider view of the world.

## Our history

Founded in 1897, our institution became a place of support during France's darker days. During the World Wars, the Alliance gave financial and humanitarian aid to France, including offering free classes to American G.I.s headed for the front.

## Our space

We have two buildings at Dearborn Street and Chicago Avenue with 17,000 square feet, connected by a garden. In 2017, the courtyard and adjacent alleyway were used for a SAIC exhibit.

## Our outreach

Since 1998, our Awards Towards Excellence program with the Chicago Public Schools has brought students from 6 CPS high schools for immersion classes and Day Experience field trips all through the school year.

## Our commitment to quality

All of our instructors are native speakers specially certified in teaching French as a second language.

## Our classes

We offer instruction for children, teens and adults alike. Classes are given in general French at all levels, from beginner to advanced, with specialty courses on culture and travel. We also offer training to French teachers.

## Our events

Programs cover much of the cultural spectrum: talks by well-known authors, musical performances, current event lectures, film screenings, wine tastings, and more.

## Our médiathèque

As the largest private French library in the Midwest, we hold over 18,000 volumes. Members can borrow items fit for every age, language level, and interest.

## Our impact

120+ years of French-speaking culture in Chicago  
1,500 members  
3,000 enrollments  
13,000 email list subscribers  
60+ public programs per year  
4,000 cultural program attendees  
1,700 students attending field trips  
50 partner institutions

The Alliance Française is a non-profit 501(c)(3) institution and is not a French government agency.