



## INCREASING THE COMBINED IMPACT OF CHICAGO'S LITERACY AGENCIES BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREATIVE AND EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

The **Chicago Literacy Alliance** (CLA) is a 501(c)(3) association whose 80+ member organizations are dedicated to meeting literacy needs for people of all ages and backgrounds. Working together, we envision a future in which **100%** of Chicagoland residents are functionally literate, and in which that shared literacy is a defining characteristic and point of pride for the city.

In 2015, the CLA opened the **Literacenter**, the country's only nonprofit shared workspace devoted exclusively to literacy. In addition to 41,000 sqft of colorful, creative, and affordable space, the Literacenter provides weekly programs on related topics (working with foundations, theory of change, social media best practices, volunteer management, etc.), expert office hours with nonprofit and literacy professionals, opportunities for members to present their programs to each other, open meetings for the entire community, social gatherings, and more. Literacenter is a proud recipient of Chicago Inno's **50 On Fire award** for 2015.

To build on the success of the Literacenter and accelerate the pace of change, we are now seeking professionals from the finance, real estate, insurance, banking, education, marketing, advocacy and government sectors to provide expertise and development abilities as new members of our Board of Directors.

### In Chicago...

**49% of 4th graders** are below basic levels of reading proficiency.

**18% of the population** has not completed high school or the GED.

**30% of adults (882,000 people)** have low basic literacy skills.



### Each year...

**CLA's 80+ member organizations**

serve

**3.6 million people** of all ages, from early childhood through adults,

with

**tens of thousands of hours** of literacy programming

and

**hundreds of thousands of books** given away.

### Our Board members...

Assist in active **governance** of CLA and the Literacenter

Contribute their **expertise**, sector knowledge, and **fundraising** abilities to our team and cause

Connect us to their **networks** to magnify impact

Know that their work with us **changes lives citywide** by addressing one of Chicago's most crucial challenges