

Chicago History Museum

Our Mission

**“We share Chicago’s stories,
serving as a hub of scholarship and learning, inspiration and
civic engagement.”**

(adopted November 7, 2012)

Our Vision

“Claim Chicago and shape our future.”

Our Purpose

**“To help people make meaningful and personal connections
to history.”**

**Our Vision and Our Purpose adapted from the Visioning Statement
(adopted April 16, 2008)**

Chicago History Museum

Our Past, Our Present and Our Future

- **Founded in 1856 as the Chicago Historical Society.**
- **Destroyed in 1871 by the Great Chicago Fire.**
- **Reborn in 1874 through the donor generosity of the Gilpin Bequest.**
- **Reinvented in 2006 as the Chicago History Museum.**
- **Dedicated to a sustainable future of stewardship and service to our city.**

**Our Past, Our Present, Our Future
(adopted October 22, 2014)**

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Our Approach to History -- “Challenges, Choices, and Changes”

While the “Cross-Cutting Concepts of Science” (such as “patterns”, “cause and effect”, and “scale”) has been adopted by educators at all levels, no equivalent existed in social studies. The Chicago History Museum stepped up to meet this need. Developed in collaboration with DePaul University’s Center for Urban Education, “Cross-Cutting Concepts of History” provide a thoughtful framework for analyzing history, interpreting current events, and imagining the future. This innovative approach already has been put to work in exhibitions such as “Facing Freedom in America” and in classrooms across the city. The impact on teaching and learning has great potential to resonate beyond Chicago.

**(The Cross-Cutting Concepts of History,
developed in 2014 by the Chicago History Museum)**

The Cross-Cutting Concepts of History includes as core concepts: “challenges”, “values”, “choices”, and “changes”, with related ways of analyzing past, present, and future in terms of “context”, “causes and effects”, “continuity”, “identity”, and “relationship”.