



CHICAGO HEADLINE CLUB

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FOIA Fest returns March 11 in-person and online

Our annual public records conference, FOIA Fest, is **returning as a hybrid one-day event** on Saturday, March 11!

FOIA Fest typically sells out and space is limited — so make sure to **get your tickets today!**

For the last three years, the Chicago Headline Club has provided virtual conferences due to the pandemic, and after hearing your feedback, we're doing things a little differently.

Saturday, March 11, you'll have the opportunity to join us online or in person for a full day of breakout and joint learning sessions touching on a lean but curated list of topics that will not only still allow you to hone the fundamentals and best practices of implementing the Freedom of Information Act, but you will also engage in discourse with some of the best in state and national FOIA practice about different ways the public records law is applied and the importance of its role in keeping public officials and agencies transparent and accountable.

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Halloween Display Shock October 30, 2023

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Friday, March 10, will kick off our annual Midwest conference with a celebration of FOIA that includes a keynote address and networking opportunities.

More details and a sampling of the sessions are available on the official FOIA Fest platform.

If you have questions or are interested in volunteering as a speaker or event volunteer, email us at foiafestchicago@gmail.com.

Pulitzer-Winning New York Times Investigative Reporter Megan Twohey To be Featured at Music Box Theatre to Support Journalism Scholarship

Church Leader Accused



FOIA Fest Boot Camp

The FOIA Fest Boot Camp, a mentorship opportunity that partners early-career reporters with experienced journalists for guidance on a FOIA-driven project is also returning in a hybrid format.

The Boot Camp aims to make access to investigative reporting more equitable by connecting journalists of color with informal mentoring relationships that can be difficult to find or unavailable in many newsrooms.

The program was founded in 2021 by Chicago Headline Club board members María Inés Zamudio and Alejandra Cancino, who hoped to inspire newsrooms to create mentorship opportunities to help support and retain journalists of color in the industry.

This year's FOIA Fest Boot Camp is led by Taylor Moore of the International Women's Media Foundation and Jessica Villagomez of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. Both Taylor and Jessica are Boot Camp alums.

Meet the 2023 FOIA Fest Boot Camp Cohort!

FOIA FEST BOOT CAMP

CHICAGO
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What is FOIA Fest?

As the Chicago Headline Club's signature training event, FOIA Fest gives reporters, organizers and everyday people the tools they need to turn public records into impactful insights and investigations.

Whether virtually or in person, FOIA Fest brings together award-winning investigative journalists, attorneys and experts to host a wide range of interactive trainings, panels and workshops.

While many sessions cover Illinois's state Freedom of Information Act, they also dig into federal FOIA rules and real-world examples of how journalists turn public records into news and tools people can use.

After growing from a one-day to a three-day conference, FOIA Fest went virtual during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing for it to be expanded to include 400 people.

Led by a volunteer board, the Chicago Headline Club has trained hundreds of journalists and members of the public through FOIA Fest.

FOIA Fest is made possible by the support of the MacArthur Foundation, Richard H. Driehaus Foundation and the Chicago Headline Club Foundation. Please [email our organizers](#) to inquire about sponsorship opportunities.

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