

CITY LIFE

CALENDAR

The To-Do

Upcoming events and activities you should know about

By SALEM COLLO-JULIN

It may be cold out but there's a lot to go see and do. Read on for some ideas!

World AIDS Day is a global event that serves as an opportunity to honor those we have lost and celebrate organizations and people working to end HIV-related stigma. There are a few events scheduled in Chicago on Friday, December 1 (the 35th anniversary of this commemoration). For those looking to support Black-led organizations, join the **Black Leadership Advocacy Coalition for Healthcare Equity** (BLACHE) for a press conference and rally near Illinois Department of Public Health corporate offices (122 S. Michigan) at 10 AM. BLACHE member organizations from across the city are concerned about funding inequity for Black-led organizations in the state of Illinois's HIV/AIDS budget, during a year when 48 percent of newly diagnosed people with HIV in Illinois are Black.

facebook.com/BLACHEIllinois

Later on Friday, December 1, the Black and LGBTQ+ led Lighthouse Foundation of Chicagoland hosts a World AIDS Day event featuring a panel discussion including trans advocate and author Caprice Carthans, Black queer activist Terry Dudley, and moderator Timothy Jackson of AIDS Foundation Chicago. Carthans and Dudley were two of the people featured in **HIV and the Journey Toward Zero**, a film series created by Chicago's Department of Public Health with Tessa Films that highlights the experiences of Chicagoans impacted by HIV. Food and drink will be provided. The event starts at 6 PM at Gallery Guichard (436 E. 47th), and entry is free but reservations are required.

lightfoundchi.org

Friday, December 1, is also the kick-off night for a series of screenings at Gene Siskel Film Center (164 N. State) celebrating a pioneering Japanese composer and musician who passed away earlier this year. **"The**

Sounds of Ryuichi Sakamoto" features five movies that integrated Sakamoto's often hypnotic scores, including 2015's *The Revenant* and director Nagisa Oshima's 1983 drama *Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence* (starring David Bowie and featuring Sakamoto in his feature film acting debut). The series starts with screenings of the Japanese film *Monster* (2023) showing at 3 PM, 6 PM, and 8:30 PM. More information and full screen times are available at the Film Center's website.

siskelfilmcenter.org/sakamoto

Sometimes you just need to take in flowers and get some new perspective but Chicago's late fall and early winter season can make it difficult to want to go search for inspiration from the outdoors. Fortunately, the Driehaus Museum (40 E. Erie) and exhibition curator Elizabeth Cronin (owner of Asrai Garden in Wicker Park and judge on the competition show *Full Bloom*) asked several local floral designers to create new floral installations in dialogue with art by Louis Comfort Tiffany and Tiffany Studios. The resulting **"Glass to Garden: Tiffany Inspired Floral Designs"** features contemporary takes on Tiffany's decorative arts designs from a diverse group of flower artists including John Caleb Pendleton (Planks & Pistils). The show is on view starting Friday, December 1; open hours are Wednesday from 11 AM-3 PM, Thursday 11 AM-5 PM, Friday and Saturday 10 AM-5 PM, and Sunday from 11 AM-5 PM. Admission to the museum is \$20 with discounts for seniors, students, children 12 and under, and active military members.

driehausmuseum.org

Do you have a foodie friend who craves southeast Asian flavors? Local dining entrepreneurs Kathy Vega Hardy (A Taste of the Philippines), Sam Rattanopas (NaKorn), Stacy Seuamsothabandith Gully (Laos to Your House), and Mary Nguyen Aregoni (Saigon Sisters) host a "culinary journey" and dinner experience on Monday, December 4, that will wow your culinary companion.



1996 Sakamoto, "Glass to Garden," LAO-cuterie PR/Flickr; JACQUELINE KREJNICK-RYAN; LAOS TO YOUR HOUSE



Dishes with Vietnamese, Laotian, Thai, and Filipino origins will be served in a three course (plus dessert—if you have room) set up along with beverage pairings including wine options provided by Molly Matelski of Mmmm... Enjoy Wines. It's \$150 per person and by reservation only (price includes food, drinks, tax, and gratuity). The event starts at 6 PM at Saigon Sisters (567 W. Lake).

shorturl.at/rxMNY

Are you in a giving mood? Take a look at our suggestions in this issue's **Holiday Gift Guide**, and take it on the road on Saturday,

December 9, to Empty Bottle (1035 N. Western) for the last Handmade Market event for 2023. The monthly event attracts local makers and crafters offering jewelry, handbags, paper crafts, baked goods, and more. The bar is open for you mimosa drinkers but people under 21 are welcome to attend if accompanied by an adult guardian. It's free to browse, and runs from noon to 4 PM.

handmadechicago.com. 📍

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