

Music, Museums, and Murals: Art's Healing Bridge During Social Distancing

By *Daveed Holmes*

In Chicago, the New Year was going to usher in not just a new year and decade, but 2020 was going to be the year of Chicago Music after 2019's Year of Chicago Theatre. Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events planned to launch a city-wide campaign to showcase local talents, venues. The plan included investing resources into the oft-neglected South and West Sides.

With the recent spread of COVID-19, these plans have come to a dramatic and depressing halt. As of this writing, all musicians, stagehands, sound engineers and others are out of work and venues are closed. Chicago has many summer music festivals such as Riot Fest, Lollapalooza, North Coast Music Fest, Colombia Fest, and Ravinia. The Campaign was going to be bookended by the House Music Fest and the Blues Fest

Many artists have used social media to present small concerts and jam sessions. Platforms such as Facebook, Vimeo, Youtube, and Instagram have used their technology to offer live concerts from the comfort of our homes and theirs. Many famous musicians have engaged in online live battles that have been remembered by many fans for decades. Hip hop producers Swizz Beatz battled Timbaland and DJ Premier battled the RZA, the Abbot of the Wu Tang Clan. Music fans, especially Hip Hop fans would

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