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## CHICAGO COLLECTIONS CONSORTIUM NAMES FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chicago, IL (June 24, 2013) – The Chicago Collections Consortium announced today the appointment of its first Executive Director, Jaelyn Grahl. The Chicago Collections Consortium (“CCC”) is a newly formed organization that preserves, presents, and promotes the history and culture of the Chicago region by coordinating and leveraging the collections, programs, and expertise of its members: libraries, museums, and other institutions with Chicago-focused archival collections.

Grahl comes to the CCC with significant nonprofit fundraising, communications, and management experience and a deep familiarity with Chicago’s arts and culture sector.

“I am thrilled to join the Chicago Collections Consortium, a terrific collaboration of Chicago institutions, and look forward to developing meaningful resources that will keep Chicago’s rich history and culture alive and accessible to all,” said Grahl.

As the Consortium’s Executive Director, she will work closely with the board of directors and all member organizations via an office housed at DePaul University.

“DePaul is excited to serve as host to the CCC’s Executive Director,” said Scott Walter, University Librarian at DePaul University and a member of the CCC’s Board of Directors. “DePaul is home not only to collections documenting the history of the city, but also to the ‘Chicago Quarter,’ an academic program for first-year students that encourages engagement with the city, its people, and its institutions. Our work with the CCC builds on existing DePaul partnerships with Chicago cultural institutions and reflects the University’s strategic commitment to deepen our connections to the City of Chicago.”

Mary M. Case, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Chair of the CCC Board of Directors, is also excited about Grahl’s appointment.

“We are thrilled to have Jaelyn on board,” said Case. “The CCC has grown very quickly and has great plans already under way. Jaelyn’s wonderful energy, knowledge, and expertise will help us further propel the organization and allow us to achieve our vision of bringing together, connecting, preserving, and sharing our members’ Chicago-focused collections—particularly via the highly anticipated launch of the Chicago Portal.”

The CCC was officially established following the conclusion of a one-year planning process supported, in part, by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. By promoting cooperation and collaboration across the cultural heritage community in Chicago, the CCC aims to develop a robust offering of collaborative programs that will highlight the unique collections that document both the history and the contemporary concerns of one of North America’s largest and most complex urban communities.

A major first initiative of the CCC is to develop a freely accessible, online portal to materials documenting the Chicago metropolitan area. This research portal will provide unprecedented single-point access to its members’ Chicago-related collections. Future projects will include city-wide online and physical exhibits, neighborhood guides, curricular materials, and educational programs, such as conferences, seminars, and workshops.

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Founding members of the Chicago Collections Consortium include: Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago History Museum, Chicago Public Library, Columbia College Chicago, DePaul University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Loyola University Chicago, Newberry Library, Northwestern University, Roosevelt University, The University of Chicago, and University of Illinois at Chicago.

[www.chicagocollectionsconsortium.org](http://www.chicagocollectionsconsortium.org)