THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CHICAGO AREA TEACHING FOR
SOCIAL JUSTICE CURRICULUM FAIR

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22
10:00 – 4:00
North Grand High School
4338 W. Wabansia Ave (North Ave and Grand Ave)
Chicago, IL

Theme for 2014:
Whose Schools? Our Schools! Democratize Education, Democratize Chicago!

1) What happens at the Curriculum Fair?
For those who don't know...The Curriculum Fair is like a Science or History Fair, except teachers “exhibit” their curriculum oriented toward social justice, and we have a keynote speaker and a number of workshops (and food!), and hundreds of like-minded people gather and learn with each other. It’s free—but we ask for a donation at the door and for food (except from K-12 students and their families).

2) What does it mean to “exhibit” curriculum at the CF?
Each teacher/exhibitor gets a 6-foot long table at the Fair to set up her/his materials. Many teachers exhibit curriculum by bringing a tri-fold board (like those science fair boards) and bring lesson or unit plans, student work, assignments, artifacts, video, whatever, to share their curriculum ideas. Many bring their students along who sit at the table and explain the work with their teachers. The CF is set up so that we can browse the “exhibits,” talk with each other, and share lessons.

3) Does the curriculum have to be a finished, perfect product to exhibit?
Is there such a thing? The whole point of the CF is to recognize that teachers collectively produce knowledge about, for example, how to teach for social justice, and that we have much to learn from each other. There are no blueprints here, and we can learn from our mutual experiences. We strongly encourage teachers to share work “in progress” and to give and get feedback from others in order to further develop our collective understanding of what teaching for social justice means in theory and practice. Sometimes people may feel that their work is somehow not yet “there,” and our view is that the CF is as good a place as any to strengthen it. It has been our shared experience that both exhibitors and non-exhibiting attendees have learned much from participating in the fair.

4) What are the workshops?
Although the main focus of the CF is person-to-person contact through the exhibitors at their tables, we also have a limited number of workshops. These range from curricular innovations about social justice pedagogy to, for example, using multicultural children's literature to organizing for educational justice. These provide more in-depth, interactive ways for teachers and students to share what they’ve been learning and doing in their
classrooms, and for activists/organizers to create dialogue and spaces for learning and for all of us to bring democracy to education and Chicago. These are our schools!

5) What's the difference between an “exhibit” and a “resource table?”

*Exhibitors* are usually teachers who have taught a lesson, unit, or project, or who have some developed ideas to teach. We really encourage classroom teachers who are doing this work. *Resource tables* are usually for organizations that produce curriculum and resources for teachers and want to share them w/ others.

6) Who makes all this happen?

You do. Probably 100+ people volunteer, one way or another, to make the CF a reality (we are a totally volunteer organization). There are many ways to help out—setting up, cleaning up, making copies, taking posters around, helping with outreach/media, help solicit food donations and help with lunch, and more. These are some of the various things we need to do to make this CF a success! Just contact us at the below email address to volunteer.

And we'd also like to add that Rethinking Schools is a cosponsor of the CF, and this is a great chance to meet some of the RS folks and talk with them. They will have all their materials for sale. And the Chicago Teachers Union, who we work closely with, is also co-sponsoring the CF.

For more information and photos/video of past CFs: [www.teachersforjustice.org](http://www.teachersforjustice.org)
Contact us at [teachersforjustice@hotmail.com](mailto:teachersforjustice@hotmail.com)