

Crucible of Working Class and Ethnic Cultures

Cultures came together as people moved to the Calumet region in large numbers. As they worked, played, and set down roots, they developed a significant popular culture. Strong advocates led struggles for equality, inclusion, and civil rights that achieved national prominence.

- **Working class housing and cultural traditions in the landscape.** Landmark planned communities like Pullman and Marktown exist side by side with a wide variety of homes built for workers and their families. Distinctive national architecture and traditions filled communities with expressions of ethnic identity and pride. Some humble homes launched prominent careers, like Michael Jackson's.
- **Race relations.** The region stood astride the Great Migration of African Americans from the South, and is the seat of important struggles over housing (Trumbull Park in Chicago) and political power (Richard Hatcher's election in Gary as the first big city African American mayor).
- **Living cultural traditions.** The region's first Mexican-American church, still strong today, was founded in the "steel barrio" of South Chicago in 1918. Residents actively showcase ethnic identity through festivals from Whiting's Pierogi Fest to AnnuciataFest on Chicago's Southeast Side.



Mexican Independence Day Parade (1957), South Chicago

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Pullman State Historic Site



Veterans' Memorial and Our Lady of Guadalupe, South Chicago

Photo Credit: Hannah Anderson Graver/The Field Museum



2300 N. Jackson, Gary

Photo Credit: The Field Museum



Mosaic at the A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum

Photo Credit: Hannah Anderson Graver/The Field Museum



Architecturally designed village and workers' homes, East Chicago

Photo Credit: Hannah Anderson Graver/The Field Museum



Pierogi Fest, 119th Street, Whiting

Photo Credit: Jessica Jaffe/The Field Museum

