



2021

Year in Review

 CHICAGO FAIR TRADE

Director's Statement

There is no doubt that 2021 was a year for the history books. I am happy to share that in spite of enormous challenges of operating a non-profit organization during a global pandemic, Chicago Fair Trade (CFT) had a banner year. As you look through this report, you will see that we creatively continued to carry out **our mission**:

Chicago Fair Trade cultivates a community dedicated to an economy that values the labor and dignity of all people. Educate. Activate. Celebrate.

Looking back on 2021, it is clear that Chicago Fair Trade not only survived but thrived. In 2021, our organization and our movement gained momentum. Chicago Fair Trade looks forward to building on this momentum in the coming year. We are hopeful that the fair trade movement – a movement built on dismantling oppressive systems and creating something more just-will emerge stronger than ever before.

We are so grateful for each and everyone of you who make up Chicago Fair Trade. Onward and upward!

In solidarity,



Katherine Bissell Córdova

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Overview

We started 2021 cautiously optimistic and we ended the year with much the same vibe! We spent lots of energy dealing with COVID and implementing safety measures, but we also had **one of the most successful years in Chicago Fair Trade history**.

From our partnership with After School Matters to a Holiday Pop-Up Shop that drew the largest number of participating fair trade vendor partners ever, our success in 2021 made us eager to continue advocating for social ethical production in the New Year.



The Three Pillars of CFT: Educate, Activate, Celebrate!

Everything we do as an organization focuses on two things:

- ▶ Building individual consumer demand for, and expanding the supply of, fair trade through education and advocacy
- ▶ Strengthening and broadening the community that celebrates the value of fair trade

Here are just a few of the ways we did this in 2021:



After School Matters

Chicago Fair Trade has always prioritized youth leaders and by partnering with [After School Matters](#), we engaged teens throughout the city, expanding our reach.

Build Your Brand: Ethical Entrepreneurship and Chicago Fair Trade enrolled over 100 entrepreneurial teens from the city of Chicago who participated in social justice immersion courses while learning about fair trade and the intersection between social impact work and for-profit businesses.



Andersonville Galleria

During our holiday pop up shop, SO many customers ask where they can find our products year round! In 2021 Chicago Fair Trade found the answer: we opened a permanent shop in the Andersonville Galleria, where business members from around the city showcase their items for sale all year round.

Visit [Chicago Fair Trade the Galleria](#) at 5247 N Clark St., Chicago IL



Conscious Closet Club

In 2021, the [Conscious Closet Club](#) was formed. The CCC is a community of Chicagoans with an interest in ethical clothing and fashion who learn from each other, share ideas, and have fun. Cheers to a year of education, fun events, and looking good in ethical fashion!

Globalfest

We came together at Newberry Library to celebrate our annual Globalfest, honoring member brand [WorldFinds](#) and human rights advocate and entrepreneur, [Nasreen Sheikh](#). It was an invigorating night of live music, festive food and drink, and a popular silent auction.



Holiday Pop-Up Shop

Our annual Chicago Fair Trade Holiday Pop-Up Shop was booming from November-December at our new location in Andersonville.

The shop hosted over 25 fair trade vendors and sold 22,229 fair trade items to 6,345 happy customers, totaling \$358,000 worth of fair trade goods. Ending 2021 spreading the message of fair trade to thousands of people was quite an experience!



Rethink Ethical Podcast

Chicago Fair Trade's interns from [Whitney Young High School](#), Lila, Maya, and Vivian, created an educational fair trade podcast called [Rethink Ethical](#). It follows the girls on a mission to learn more about fair trade and other issues of import to the social impact movement.



World Fair Trade Day

We challenged our supporters to Build Back Fairer. Local residents took action in educating, activating, and celebrating fair trade and earned awards to acknowledge their accomplishments. We even hosted a virtual awards ceremony!



Partners

Chicago Fair Trade wants to thank all of our sponsors and the innovative institutions, faith based organizations, businesses and members that worked with us this year. It is their support that made our success possible and we are eternally grateful for them!

Board Members

Katherine Bissell Cordova	Jocelyn Leitzinger	Robbie Klinger
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Institutions

Dominican University's Fashion Department sponsored by Made in Bangladesh

Business Members

Abby Alley	Indie-Pendant	SORA Products
Aeshaane by Shilp	Just Hati	SOS PJs
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Gracias Fair Trade	Motif	Tulia's Artisan Gallery
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Greenheart Shop	Production Mode	The Winding Road
HHPLIFT	RefuSHE	Work + Shelter
Huaywasi: Light and Leadership	Re:New Project	WorldFinds
ILAVA	Soko Space	Y'abal

Sponsors

WorldFinds	Hinshaw and Culberston LLP	Maine Root
Market Place (Handwork of India)	GOEX	Revolution Brewing
OXFAM	Natural Awakenings Chicago	Off Color Brewing
Fair Trade Campaigns	Mata Traders	Social
Fair Trade USA	FORO Global Partners LLC	FAIR
Pierce Family Foundation	Work + Shelter	

Educational Resources

The fair trade movement is rich with diverse perspectives but there is still so much to learn! Here are some of our favorite fair trade or fair trade adjacent resources. More are available on chicagofairtrade.org/fair-trade-resources for you to [watch](#), [listen](#), or [read](#).

Organizations

- ▶ [Fair Trade Campaigns](#)
- ▶ [Fair Trade Certified](#)
- ▶ [Fair Trade Federation](#)
- ▶ [Fairtrade America](#)
- ▶ [World Fair Trade Organization](#)

By Interest

- 👕 For the ethical fashion lover: [Remake](#)
- 🎧 For those who prefer to listen rather than read: [For a Better World Podcast](#)
- ☕ For the caffeine-addicted: [Black Gold](#), a documentary on the coffee industry

What's Next

We're looking forward to growing the movement in 2022 with more events, outreach, and celebrations! Visit chicagofairtrade.org/events to see what's on the schedule.

On **Saturday, May 14**, Chicago Fair Trade is hosting **Open House Chicago Fair Trade**. On this day, Chicago Fair Trade's businesses, faith-based, and school members will open their doors and invite the community in to learn more about fair trade, participate in fair trade activities, and showcase the depth and strength of our fair trade community throughout the Chicagoland area. Plans include an interactive map on our website listing participating locales. The tag line of this celebration is **Chicago Fair Trade: Putting Fair Trade on the Map**.





CHICAGO FAIR TRADE



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