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## **Current Launches Inaugural Chicago Water Week**

*Chicago Water Week will highlight the city's innovative, cross-sector water leaders from September 28 to October 2, 2020*

**Chicago, IL, September 3, 2020** — Current, Chicago's nonprofit water innovation hub, announces the inaugural *Chicago Water Week* on Monday, September 28, 2020.

Five days of events and programming will educate participants about water-related challenges in the Chicago region and highlight leaders working to solve them. Presentations will cover artificial intelligence in water research, jobs in the blue economy, Lake Michigan water quality monitoring, investment trends, emerging technologies, and more.

“Chicago's water assets stretch well beyond Lake Michigan and our rivers, meaning our water challenges can't be addressed by any one sector alone,” said Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot. “By collaborating with our industry leaders, researchers, environmental advocates, start-ups, and utilities, we will further develop the economic strength and environmental resiliency we need to tackle these challenges head on. Chicago Water

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Week is an exciting, new opportunity for us to strengthen those connections, drive the innovation we need and invite our residents into the world of water research.”

In 2016, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) teamed with the City of Chicago and World Business Chicago to launch Current, Chicago’s nonprofit water innovation hub and the organizer of Chicago Water Week. “The Chicago region’s water resources have global significance,” said MWRD President Kari K. Steele. “Thanks to 131 years of partnerships, innovation, determination, science, engineering and advocacy for our water environment, the MWRD, City of Chicago and partners have transformed a swampy wetland into a bustling metropolitan region. We appreciate Current as it is vital that we work together to protect our water resources for future generations.”

The event is presented by Greeley and Hansen. “As a global engineering firm solely focused on water-related engineering that’s been headquartered in Chicago for over 100 years, we’re very proud to continue to support Current in presenting this important water sector event,” said John C. Robak, Chief Executive Officer. “We share Current’s vision to work collaboratively with other water stakeholders to advance Chicago as an innovation leader for developing sustainable and equitable water solutions to the world’s water challenges.”

Most events are free, while some are ticketed and have a fee. All are open to the public. The Chicago Water Week schedule and more information are posted at <https://www.currentwater.org/chicago-water-week>. People can follow the events on social media by using the hashtag #ChiWaterWeek.

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“Current is a small organization with a big vision: to make Chicago a global center of innovation that will help solve the world’s most pressing water problems,” said Alaina Harkness, Executive Director of Current. “Accomplishing that goal will take powerful partnerships. Chicago Water Week is a great showcase for the cross-sector leaders who are working together to create solutions.”

Chicago Water Week is made possible by Current’s program partners and supporters, including the City of Chicago, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Argonne National Laboratory, Center for Neighborhood Technology, Faith in Place, Fermilab, Illinois Environmental Council, Metropolitan Planning Council, Northwestern University, University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC), Illinois Section American Water Works Association, Sierra Club Illinois Chapter, Halo, Chi Hack Night, Flow, Third Coast Disrupted, Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Chicago, and World Business Chicago.

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**ABOUT CURRENT** Current’s mission is to grow Chicago’s and Illinois’ blue economy – the companies developing innovative water technologies and industries that use them – to build solutions that will solve the world’s water challenges. Launched in 2016 as a nonprofit water innovation hub, Current is headquartered in Chicago, IL. We’re a collaborative that leverages partnerships with the state’s world-class utilities, research institutions, industries, and innovation community for global environmental and economic impacts. As a cross-sector connector of local and global water sector stakeholders, we build networks, organize events and convenings, and help develop pilot projects in real-world settings to solve persistent local water challenges.

**SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES & TAGS:** @CurrentWater (Twitter and LinkedIn), #ChiWaterWeek

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MEDIA AVAILABLE:



**Chicago's First Week Of Water.**  
September 28, 2020 – October 2, 2020

*Five days.*  
*Dozens of virtual events.*  
*Hundreds of cross-sector water leaders.*  
Highlighting the critical role of water in  
Chicago's environment, society and economy.

Presented by:



**GREELEY AND HANSEN**