



**wits**

**BLACKBOARD AFFAIR**

***SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022***

***THE GERAGHTY CHICAGO, IL***



# **WITS OVERVIEW**

Working in the Schools (WITS) sets students on a trajectory for success by building critical literacy skills and developing positive self-identity through teacher-led professional development and volunteer-powered mentorship programs.

WITS believes that literacy is the foundation on which all other learning is possible. However, only 35% of fourth grade students in Illinois read at grade-level, with only 20% low-income students meeting proficiency.

WITS disrupts this trend by exclusively serving CPS, where 77% of students are from low-income households and 90% are minorities. By pairing one-on-one mentorship with teacher professional development, WITS drives 63% of students to outperform the national average in yearly reading level growth.



This spring marks two years that our students' childhoods were disrupted. The pandemic forced social isolation and constant change upon them, while the adults in their lives, too, worked through unprecedented hardship. Today, schools are recalibrating support to prioritize students' social-emotional health and help bridge gaps in unfinished learning. In December 2021, The Illinois State Board of Education estimated that **only 20% of Chicago Public Schools (CPS) third graders met literacy benchmarks last year, compared to 40% in 2019.**

WITS has provided free literacy mentorship and teacher professional development to Chicago Public Schools since 1991. Program delivery shifted over the past two years, but our mission has never wavered. **Now, WITS is returning to classrooms.** We are returning to sit side-by-side, flipping pages, and discussing how books make us feel and wonder. While improving student literacy will always matter, we acknowledge the unprecedented challenges facing our schools. **We are prioritizing students' social-emotional development,** and are returning to show students and teachers that their community cares about their well-being as much as their success.

**On our own, WITS cannot address all the healing that students need. With your support, WITS will continue to be a source of opportunity, growth, and positivity for CPS.**

**Be a HERO... Join us today!**



# ***EVENT OVERVIEW***

***SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022***

***THE GERAGHTY, CHICAGO IL***

Your investment provides support for more than 5,000 students in 34 schools through the activation of hundreds of volunteers as WITS literacy mentors and training 140 teachers.

The Blackboard Affair is WITS largest fundraising event. This year, we celebrate comic books and graphic novels, as well as the heroic achievements of our Chicago school communities.

All attendees will be required to show proof of vaccination to attend the event. <https://witschicago.org/covid-19-response>



**JEREMY COLE** 

Alter and Stone Volunteer  
Award

*William Blair*

**WILLIAM BLAIR** 

Corporate Partner of  
the Year





# **PAST SUPPORTERS**

Exelon

GCM Grosvenor

NBC Chicago / Telemundo

Aon

BMO Harris

BP, Americas

Deloitte

Jackson Financial / PPM America

Bank of America

Cboe

CIBC

Segall Bryant & Hamill

William Blair

Alliant

Associated Bank

@properties

BlackRock

BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois

Breakthru Beverage Group

Chicago Athletic Association

Chicago Trading Company

Chicago White Sox

Citadel

Cooper's Hawk Winery

Crowe LLP

DLA Piper

Expedia, Inc.

FactSet

Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

GTCR

IMC

Invesco

Jones Day

Lazard

Marquette Associates

McDermott Will & Emery

McDonald's

Mesirow

Moelis & Company

Nicor Gas

Northern Trust

OTC

Pepper Construction

Patzik Frank & Samotny

PMA, Inc.

ReedSmith LLP

Revolution Brewery








The John Buck Company

Tito's Vodka

Vienna Beef

Wintrust

# SPONSOR BENEFITS

	Superman	Black Panther	Batman	Wonder Woman	Spiderman	Iron Man
<b>Recognition on WITS Website</b>	Logo	Logo	Logo	Name	Name	Name
<b>Table of 10</b>	2 Tables Preferred Seating	2 Tables Preferred Seating	1 Table Prominent Seating	1 Table Prominent Seating	1 Table	1 Table
<b>Event Invitation (logo/listing)</b>	Logo	Logo	Logo	Listing	Listing	Listing
<b>WITS Blog Feature</b>						
<b>Program Book Ad</b>	Full Page	Half Page	Quarter Page			
<b>Video Opportunity</b>						
<b>Media Recognition</b>						
<b>Recognition from Podium</b>						



## ***SUPERMAN***

### **\$50,000 Commitment**

- Two tables (20 seats)
- Preferred seating at event
- Recognition from the podium at event
- Premier logo recognition in all event materials and WITS website
- Media recognition in pre/post event materials
- Optional corporate feature on WITS blog
- Logo featured on event invitation
- Full page ad in event program book

## ***BLACK PANTHER***

### **\$25,000 Commitment**

- Two tables (20 seats)
- Preferred seating at event
- Recognition from the podium at event
- Premier logo recognition in all event materials and WITS website
- Media recognition in pre/post event materials
- Optional corporate feature on WITS blog
- Logo featured on event invitation
- Half page ad in event program book



## **BATMAN**

**\$15,000 Commitment**

- One table (10 seats)
- Prominent seating at event
- Sponsor listing in all event materials and WITS website
- Organization listed on event invitation
- Organization logo during program slideshow
- Quarter page ad in event program book

## **WONDER WOMAN**

**\$10,000 Commitment**

- One table (10 seats)
- Prominent seating at event
- Organization listing in all event materials and WITS website
- Organization listed on event invitation and program book
- Organization listed on slide

## **SPIDERMAN**

**\$7,500 Commitment**

- One table (10 seats)
- Sponsor listing in all event materials and WITS website
- Organization listed on event invitation
- Organization listed on slide during program

## **IRON MAN**

**\$5,000 Commitment**

- One table (10 seats)
- Organization listing in all event materials and WITS website
- Organization listed on event invitation and program book



## ADD ONS

Sponsor a CPS educator to attend the Blackboard Affair - \$500

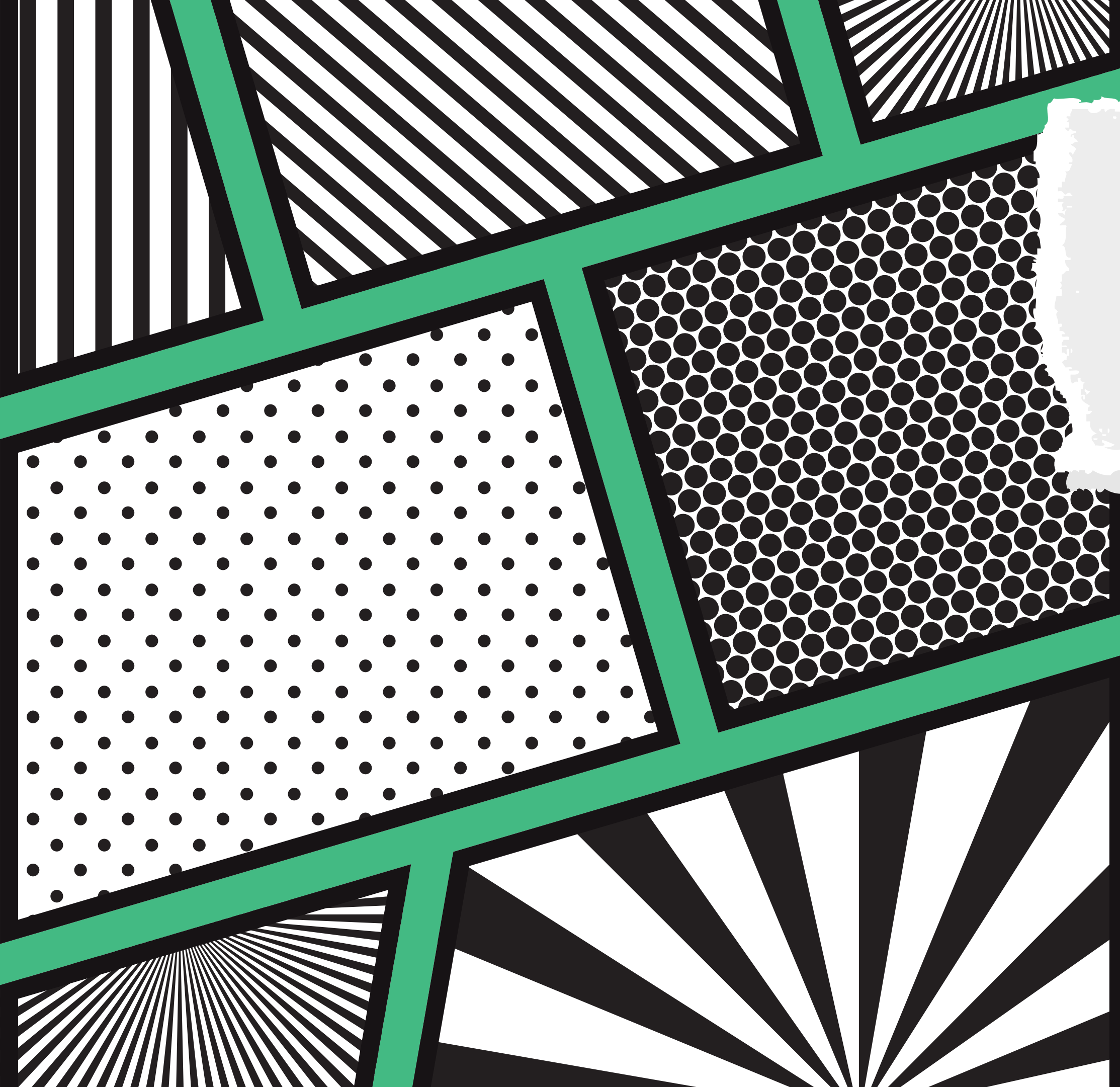
Various branding opportunities:

- Cocktail Hour/ Signature Drink
- Dance Party
- Mobile Bidding
- Raffle games/ prizes

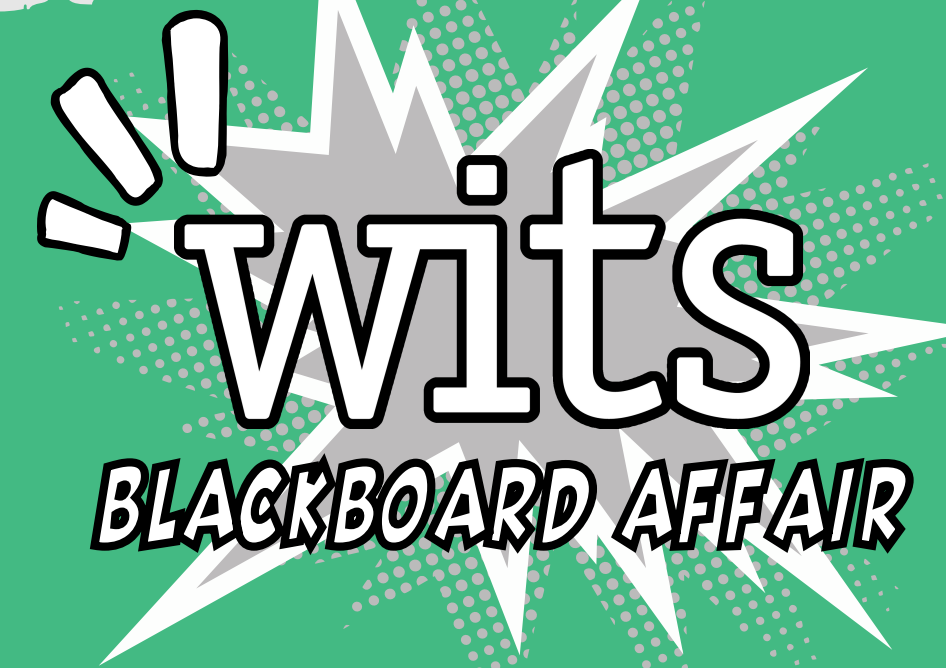
Program book advertisement:

- Full page -\$500
- Half-page -\$250
- Quarter page - \$150

*For more details on sponsorship opportunities, or to customize your sponsorship, please reach out to Alex Michel, [alexandra@witschicago.org](mailto:alexandra@witschicago.org)*



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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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