

## Cultural Showcases Request for Proposals November 2023

### Background

World Business Chicago is seeking proposals for the next round of cultural showcase activations. In 2022, WBC piloted the Cultural Showcase Program with Argentine Connection and the Nordic House. Both concepts showcased diversity and culture in Chicago, while supporting small businesses and filling vacant storefronts. In 2023, WBC is looking to select two new countries to showcase.

WBC will provide rent and necessary build out costs. Designs and build out will be developed jointly by the showcase vendors, WBC, and the selected contractor to ensure plans are cost reasonable. WBC will also provide ongoing support with marketing and programming throughout the duration of the pop-up.

### Timeline

Jan. 15, 2023 - Applications close

Jan. 31, 2023 - Finalists selected

Feb. to May 2023 - Planning and build out

May to Sept. 2023 - Pop-up open

[Application Link](#), Please also review the attachment for examples from 2022.

### Requirements and Preferences

- Participating businesses must:
  - Have been in existence since before March 12, 2020
  - Have under 500 employees
  - Be Chicago-based (Have a registered LLC in the city of Chicago, Chicago suburbs are not eligible)
  - Have experienced COVID-19 impact
- Proposals requirements:
  - Proposal must include at least **two** small businesses
  - Proposal must have a clear demonstration of a particular regional culture
  - Any plans with food **MUST** come from an existing restaurant with a commercial license. Any hot or cold food **MUST** be prepared offsite and can only be reheated on-site, and it **MUST** have minimal to no smell. We prefer plans with commercially packaged food (due to licensing requirements).
  - Participating businesses must provide staffing and inventory for the duration of the showcase
- Business participation must be ongoing throughout the duration of the showcase.
- All signage must be approved by the building landlord.
- Elements that are prohibited: Full kitchen, strong odors from food or products, large corporations or businesses primarily incorporated in a foreign country, alcohol sales (alcohol is permitted for private events)