



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL  
MAYOR

**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, 400 years after his death, on April 23, 2016, Shakespeare continues to speak to citizens of Chicago and people across the globe through his timeless words and works; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of a true dramatist and poet, The Bard shares his death day with his date of birth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago celebrates Shakespeare's spirit of audacity and inventiveness across Chicago's leading cultural institutions through a year-long international arts and culture festival including the best Theater, Dance, Opera, Music, Education Programs, Broadcast & Film, Hip-Hop, Gaming, Cuisine, Scholarship and Visual Art; and

WHEREAS, we are reminded of Shakespeare's indelible influence on the English language including the invention of innumerable phrases and words such as "eventful," "fashionable," and "bedazzled"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District partner with Chicago Shakespeare Theater to bring free Shakespeare performances to parks across the city each summer; and

WHEREAS, for the past eight years, Chicago Shakespeare Theater has celebrated Shakespeare's birthday and the legacy of his language by creating Talk Like Shakespeare Day—a day on which all citizens are encouraged to express their inner thespian, by making a "cousin" out of a "friend" and turning "you" into "thee":

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim the anniversary of Shakespeare's birth and death, April 23, 2016, to be SHAKESPEARE 400 CHICAGO DAY in Chicago, and encourage each and every citizen to enjoy The Bard's lasting influence, this and every day of this momentous festival year.

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rahm Emanuel".

Mayor