

SPLASH

CHICAGO'S DOSE OF STYLE,
SOCIETY AND CELEBRITY

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The scene: The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events kicked off its inaugural Lake FX Summit + Expo, a four-day event for creative professionals, with an opening reception at the Harris Theater (205 E. Randolph) April 16. The Splash-sponsored bash featured a panel discussion between the city's outstanding artists and creatives highlighting the "Lake Effect" — Chicago's ability to nurture and boost the careers in the arts and other creative industries.

The invite list: The keynote discussion — led by professional speaker, author and TV commentator **Laura Schwartz** — featured industry leaders like designer and creator of Cards Against Humanity **Max Temkin**, internationally acclaimed visual artist **Hebru Brantley**, playwright and TV writer **Tanya Saracho**, founder and director of the iO Theater **Charna Halpern** and award-winning journalist **Alex Kotlowitz**. After the insightful discussion, more than 300 guests stayed for a musical performance by the **Charles Heath Quartet** and a networking reception featuring bites from Paramount Events and libations from Prairie Organic Spirits, City Winery and Lagunitas Brewing.

The bottom line: The evening highlighted the creative community within Chicago, which allows diverse artists, writers and directors to flourish, and kicked off the innovative four-day conference.

