



FACT SHEET

- History:** Founded in 1912, The City Club is the oldest continuous free speech forum in the country. Over our 84 year history, many national and international leaders have spoken here, often to make major policy announcements. The City Club of Cleveland is generally considered one of the nation's top three speaking platforms.
- Philosophy:** The City Club firmly believes in the free expression of all ideas and the benefits of open and spirited dialogue. The City Club is non-partisan and does not take positions on issues. As part of a City Club Forum, speakers must answer unscreened, unrehearsed questions asked directly from the audience.
- Forum Format:** Each Forum is a one-hour program. A brief introduction, a 25 - 30 minute address by the speaker, a few short announcements and then questions from the audience for the final final half-hour complete a City Club Forum.
- Members:** The City Club is supported by a diverse membership of approximately 1,500 people from business, professional, educational and government communities. Membership is open to all; City Club philosophy and policy is (and has been since our founding) inclusive.
- Media:** The radio network spans 40 states and includes 180 stations which broadcast forums in their entirety. City Club Forums are televised on WVIZ-TV and rebroadcast several times over many Ohio cable television systems. C-SPAN frequently provides national coverage. Newspaper coverage is extensive, often with pick-up by wire services.
- Facilities:** The City Club occupies the second floor of the Citizens Building (in downtown Cleveland) including administrative space, library, main dining room, numerous meeting rooms and the main auditorium for Forums. The auditorium is completely wired and lighted for television production.
- Funding:** Incorporated as an Ohio not-for-profit organization, The City Club is recognized as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It is supported by membership dues, program revenue and grants from private foundations.
- Outreach Program:** Over 50 area high schools participate in a year-long debate series which culminates in the Annual Debate Championship hosted by The City Club. High School Students also participate in a weekly program attending Forums and meeting with speakers. A senior outreach program enables elderly inner-city residents to attend the Forums. A partnership with the people of Volgograd, Russia has led to the establishment of the Free Speech Forum of Volgograd on The City Club model, supported with financial, administrative and technical assistance.

**Recent
Speakers:**

President William Clinton (3 times)

Janet Reno, Attorney General
H. Ross Perot, Businessman, Presidential Candidate
Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House
Mr. Gerry Adams of Northern Ireland
President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti
Madeleine Albright, as U.N. Ambassador
Carol Browner, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
Henry Louis Gates, Harvard University, Professor of African-American Studies
Susan Berresford, President, Ford Foundation
John Sweeney, President, AFL-CIO
Sarah Brady, Handgun Control Federation
Judge Leon Higginbotham, Federal Judge
Amitai Etzioni, Philosopher
Haley Barbour, National Republican Chairman
Shirley Chatter, Social Security Administrator
Boris Notkin, Moscow T.V. Anchor
Frederick Hitz, CIA Inspector General
Robert Reich, Secretary of Labor
... and many more.

**Past
Speakers:**

President George Bush (5 times)	Robert Kennedy
President Ronald Reagan	F. Lee Bailey
President Jimmy Carter	Sandra Day O'Connor
President Franklin D. Roosevelt	Henry Luce
President Theodore Roosevelt	Fiorello La Guardia
Jimmy Hoffa	Geraldine Ferraro
Salvador Allende	Jane Fonda
Will Rogers	Eliot Ness
Clarence Darrow	Barry Goldwater
Douglas MacArthur	Dick Gregory
Thomas Dewey	George Wallace
Eugene Debs	Clarence Thomas
Vance Packard	Henry Morgenthau
John Kenneth Galbraith	Ralph Nader
Samuel Gompers	T. Boone Pickens
Bill Veeck	Dith Pran
Roy Wilkins	Babe Ruth
Ilya Tolstoy	Gus Hall
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver	Cesar Chavez
Dr. Benjamin Spock	Edward Kennedy
Syngman Rhee	Margaret Mead
James B. Reston	William Shockley
Bertrand Russell	William Jennings Bryan

.... and thousands of others.