



Chicago 6 Corners Contributors' Guidelines

We are a Chicago-based webzine with a commitment to covering issues, events, and people overlooked by both mainstream media and Chicago's blogosphere. Before submitting your articles, please read these guidelines closely to get a feel for our content and editorial style.

Your submissions are the lifeblood of Chicago 6 Corners. We welcome both experienced and new/first-time writers, photographers, poets and cartoonists as contributors. Please read the following contributor's guidelines and e-mail one of Chicago 6 Corners' editors (e-mail addresses below) with queries or submissions.

Reporting & Columns

We welcome in-depth coverage of local events, neighborhood news, local policy issues or electoral politics, and profiles of individuals and groups organizing on a neighborhood or city-wide level, written from a progressive, advocacy-oriented point of view - and also with a firm commitment to solid, factual reporting. We are also looking for art/music criticism, including reviews of CDs, live performances, DVDs, books, zines and comics from across the creative spectrum. We want to cover the work of new and emerging artists, performers, and media makers in the Chicago area. We also welcome interviews and profiles of artists and musicians.

Topics may include, but are not limited to: Local & Other Politics · Social Justice and Activism · Arts and Culture · Youth and Education · Sex and Gender · Popular and/or DIY Culture · Neighborhood Scenes · Media and Technology

Editorial Voice

The voice of Chicago 6 Corners ranges from hard news briefs, feature articles to personal essays. As we are a web-based publication, we understand that the voice of the Web tends to be more casual than print. What we value is a demonstrated passion for the city of Chicago, for progressive and independent issues, and for journalistic integrity. Humor is encouraged whenever appropriate.

First-person perspective is accepted, but not necessarily encouraged. If you are a major element of the story you are reporting, feel free to approach your story through a first-person perspective, but we would prefer to see "reporting out" on broader issues, rather than a traditional first-person, "what I did this afternoon" blog approach.

Submitting

Most article posts should fall between 500-2000 words. Please send submissions to: editor@chicago6corners.com. Writers may be asked to revise or expand upon their submitted work, by section editors before publication. **Currently, Chicago Six Corners cannot pay for submissions**, but contributors will receive a byline and, when appropriate, press credentials.

If you are unsure if your story idea is a good fit for submission, please e-mail a 1-2 line pitch (a description/summary of your story idea) to editor@chicago6corners.com. The more detailed your pitch is, the easier it will be for editors to give a detailed review and response to you.

How to pitch:

The Bicycle Kitchen/La Bici Cocina is a cooperatively-run bicycle culture and repair space dedicated to improving the lives of the community through environmental justice, cultural awareness, and outreach using the bicycle as its tool. <http://www.bicyclekitchen.com/index.html> I'm pitching a 1200-word feature on The Bicycle Kitchen, including interviews with the organization's founder and 2-3 participants. I can deliver a draft to you within two weeks.

Don't pitch like this!

I have written an odd article on the topic of excess. It talks about some of the people in my life and how they are finding their way through life. It's overtly dramatic and muddled at times. The title sucks. It's about 2200 words and I put into the attached pdf.

Photography

Photography is a stand-alone feature of Chicago 6 Corners. This site is an outlet for photographers to express their individual vision and contribute images that take a local vantage point on the city. Contributing to Chicago 6 Corners should be an opportunity to dig into the core of the city's neighborhoods and present its cultural, social, civil and artistic elements through the camera's eye.

We will feature the following:

- One individual artist's project in our gallery for two months at a time. The subject matter is entirely open and the photographer's must submit a project proposal.
- Monthly photo exhibits will be presented as a group show based on a call for entry on a specific subject matter. We are currently calling for photographs of Chicago neighborhoods. The images will be reviewed and chosen by our editorial staff. We may choose to utilize these images in our page design for individual neighborhood beats.
- Weekly photo blogs related to current activities in Chicago. The specific subject matter is open but must be recent (1-2 weeks old).

All images will be reviewed by the Photo Editor. For the gallery feature and monthly exhibit we will use a team editing approach to determine which entries are utilized.

On occasions we will call on photographers to support a story, and shoot assignments. This is not a requirement for Chicago 6 Corners photographers, but would be a welcomed contribution. When appropriate, writers are encouraged to take their own images and submit them to the Photo Editor.

Poetry

Chicago 6 Corners accepts poetry submissions from Chicago area writers. Please submit up to five pieces for consideration. No light verse, please. Copyrights revert to author upon publication. Please no simultaneous submissions. Submit new or recent work. C6C does not pay upon publication. Submit poems as attachments in Word form to poetry@chicago6corners.com. Poems submitted in the body of the email will not be accepted.

Comics

Chicago 6 Corners accepts comic art of all colors, shapes and styles. Humor encouraged. Original, weekly or bi-weekly submissions are preferred. Please submit full-sized, high resolution graphics to comics@chicago6corners.com or query the same address.

Fiction – New!

Chicago 6 Corners is now accepting submissions for short fiction. If you are a Chicago-area writer or a writer with work set in or pertaining to Chicago, we'd love to see your work. Submissions should utilize the unique aspects afforded by the short fiction format and should demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of your story's subtext, your characters' motivations, etc. We like strong dialogue and crisp pacing. We discourage sentimental memoirs but will consider anything that demonstrates a command of the genre. Stories can be as few as 1300 words (5-6 pages) and up to 7000 (14-16 pages). Note that C6C cannot pay upon publication at this time. Please submit your stories as attachments in Word form to fiction@chicago6corners.com. Any stories submitted in the body of an email or containing excessive grammar mistakes will not be considered.

We are also looking for reviews of new, Chicago-related works of fiction and profiles of local fiction writers. Please pitch your article prior to submitting. Send pitches and submissions to fiction@chicago6corners.com.

Arts – New!

Chicago 6 Corners accepts arts submissions of all shapes and colors. This includes music, film, and arts reviews. We also look for feature stories, news, profiles, and announcements related to short-lived or long-lasting bursts of creativity in Chicago. Regular contributors preferred. Freaks, geeks, and weirdoes most welcome. Please submit stories, reviews, hot tips, or free passes to arts@chicago6corners.com.

Contacts

Reporting & Columns: query, pitch and submit to Megan Chapman at editor@chicago6corners.com

Photography: query and submit to Adeline Sides at photography@chicago6corners.com

Poetry: query and submit to Mike Haeflinger at poetry@chicago6corners.com

Comics: query and submit to Nick Landendorf at comics@chicago6corners.com

Fiction: query and submit to Bryan McMillan at fiction@chicago6corners.com

Arts: query and submit arts-related writing and review requests to David Shuey at arts@chicago6corners.com

Calendar: submit event postings to calendar@chicago6corners.com

Other interest: send message to info@chicago6corners.com