2099
RACE TO DYSTOPIA

Press fact sheet

MARCH 16 TO 20, 2027

THE FESTIVAL

2099: Race to Dystopia is a weeklong immersive arts festival that imagines what life will be like in the year 2099, given our current trajectory.

Chicago visual artists, filmmakers, fashion creators and spoken word artists build the world of 2099 inside Hairpin Arts Center, with five themed nights, an immersive installation, a Community Afternoon and a festival finale.

THE WORLD OF 2099

Currency is held by the ultra wealthy, and the rest barter. One company, Pitnam-Walsh, controls medical technology, bionic enhancements and the systems needed to maintain them. Robots and drones have largely replaced the military and police, and surveillance limits everyone's freedom.

Underground, a community called the Have-Nots has formed: six groups (MED-TECH, Feeders, Seers, Protectors, Scavengers and Caregivers) united by a common enemy.

21H2

A first-generation prototype who transcended his programming, carrying files that can expose Pitnam-Walsh. To the Have-Nots, he is a symbol of the resistance.

21H2 DOES NOT EXIST.

WHO WE CENTER

BIPOC, women, nonbinary, gender-nonconforming and LGBTQ+ artists, honoring the diversity of voices that shape our vision of the future. Artists are strongly encouraged to use repurposed, reclaimed and waste-stream materials.

AT A GLANCE

DATES	Tuesday, March 16 to Saturday, March 20, 2027
VENUE	Hairpin Arts Center 2810 N. Milwaukee Ave., 2nd Floor, Chicago
ARTISTS	Visual art, film, fashion and spoken word
PRIZE	$500 cash Audience Choice Award on each featured evening
CALL	Chicago-based artists, 18+. Portal closes December 31, 2026.
CREATED BY	Tommy Sigmon and 21H2
PRODUCERS	Tommy Sigmon, Sarah Falkiner and Senyah Haynes
PRODUCED BY	Shytown Sugar Films LLC
WITH SUPPORT FROM	Crafted for Good, Hairpin Arts Center, Logan Square Chamber of Commerce

EVENT WEEK

Tue 3/16 Opening the World: Cosplay Party

Wed 3/17 Visual Art Spotlight

Thu 3/18 Film Night

Fri 3/19 Fashion Show

Sat 3/20 Community Afternoon and Finale Evening

WATCH THE TRAILER

vimeo.com/1182800698/167adaf4b2

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