This event is FREE.

Reservations are required and can be made at events@thepublicsquare.org or 312.422.5580.

Join The Public Square at the Illinois Humanities Council and our co-sponsors and partners at...

**Festival of Democracy: Unleashing Radical Imagination**

**Saturday, October 20**
**1:00 PM – 9:00 PM**
**Experimental Station**
6100 South Blackstone Avenue
Chicago

As the 2008 election season speeds ahead, join us to collectively imagine and grapple with issues of human rights, political power and struggles for social justice. **This gathering will launch an ongoing conversation about how can we move beyond political platforms and media sound bites to engage in meaningful dialogue about the issues during the presidential campaign.**

**1:00-1:30 PM Welcome and Opening Performances**
Performers include poets from Young Chicago Authors.

**1:30-3:15 PM Presidential Politics**
What does the presidential playing field look like right now and what is the current political landscape? What issues are the candidates talking about, and just as importantly, what aren't they saying? Panelists include Laura Flanders (Air America); Bill Fletcher, (Center for Labor Renewal); Barbara Ransby (moderator and Professor of History and African-American Studies at the University of Illinois Chicago) and Quentin Young (Health and Medicine Policy Research Group).

**3:30-5:00 PM Rashid Khalidi in conversation with Salim Muwakkil**
How does the occupation of Iraq and U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East affect us in Chicago, the U.S. and beyond? How can we promote democracy in seemingly undemocratic and violent times? Rashid Khalidi of Columbia University and Salim Muwakkil of In These Times converse on these questions and more.

**6:30-8:00 PM Resistance and Liberation, Then and Now: An Intergenerational Conversation**
What can we learn from past movements for social justice? What's different today and what's the same? What are the visions and dreams that are inspiring new generations to create social change? Panelists include Bernardine Dohrn (Northwestern University) Stan Willis (Chicago Conference of Black Lawyers), Lisa Yun Lee (moderator and director of the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum), Yunuen Rodriguez (Females United for Action), and Leena Odeh (Ella’s Daughters).

**8:00-9:00 PM People’s Party**
This celebration will feature spoken word, hip hop, and musical performances from artists including Idris Goodwin and Ugochi, and emceed by Kevin Coval, Artistic Director of Young Chicago Authors and Co-founder of The Chicago Teen Poetry Festival: Louder Than A Bomb.

Partners for this event are Experimental Station, Civic Knowledge Project, the Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media, the Women's and Gender Studies Program at DePaul University, and the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, Columbia College Chicago Television Department, portoluz, and the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture at the University of Chicago.