

# Why I'm going back.

What your friends should know about Chicago.

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## Chicago's expanding tech scene attracts top companies and talent.

**378** startups were founded over the last five years.  
Source: PitchBook Data 2021

**422** companies have expanded or relocated to Chicago in the last five years.  
Source: Choose Chicago

**34,800** software or data related jobs are available in the Chicago area right now.

**Illinois** has grown jobs more quickly than any other state among the top 10 in STEM employment—3.5% vs. 2.5% nationally since 2010.

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## Chicago continues to rapidly grow as a welcoming and inclusive city.

**26%** of Chicago's tech workforce is Black or Latinx.  
Source: [U.S. Census](#)

**34%** of the city's startups are women-owned—the highest percentage in the globe.  
Source: [Inc. Magazine 2018](#)

**#4** most immigrant-friendly out of the 100 largest U.S. cities, measuring integration efforts.  
Source: [NAE Cities Index 2021](#)

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## Chicago offers more to experience outside of the office.

**#1** Best Big City in the U.S. four years in a row.  
Source: [Conde Nast 2020](#)

**26** miles of lakefront.  
Source: [chicago.gov](#)

**250+** music venues / **200+** theatres / **8** pro sports teams  
Source: [chicago.gov](#)

**12,429** acres of parkland.  
Source: [Green City Times 2021](#)

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## Chicago's tech companies are doing work that moves the world forward.

**Tempus** is building the world's largest library of molecular and clinical data to better diagnose cancer.

**M1 Finance** is reinventing personal finance for the next generation.

**Rheaply** is working toward creating a zero-waste city.



Chicago has an opportunity to be the most inclusive tech ecosystem in the world.

**LINDSAY KNIGHT**

Venture capitalist, Chicago Ventures

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## Chicago has a lower cost of living.

**~20%** lower rents than other U.S. cities.  
Source: [Numbeo 2021](#)

**\$289,000** is the median home sale price in Chicago vs NYC's \$705,407.  
Source: [Street Easy 2019](#)

**\$5,673** in Chicago vs. \$8,300 in San Francisco to maintain the same standard of living.  
Source: [Numbeo 2021](#)