



Blackout 30: Homecoming

Attendee Safety & Conduct Guidelines

As we come together to celebrate 30 years of ONYX's history and brotherhood, we must also remain mindful of the current political climate in Chicago and across the nation. Recent events, including the increased presence of ICE and protests throughout the city, call for heightened awareness and care for one another—especially for our Latine community members and guests.

Please review and follow the guidelines below to ensure your safety and the safety of our community:

1. Travel & Movement

- Travel in groups whenever possible. There is safety in numbers.
- If you're visiting from out of town, avoid venturing into unfamiliar neighborhoods, especially at night.
- Keep your phone charged and carry an extra battery or portable charger at all times.
- Share your location with a trusted friend or fellow attendee when traveling outside event venues.
- Don't leave the hotel without identification (Drivers License, State ID (Real ID), Passport)

2. Interactions with Law Enforcement & ICE

- Be aware of the heightened presence of ICE and local law enforcement in some areas. If you encounter law enforcement or ICE, remain calm, assert your rights, and contact legal support if necessary.



- ONYX staff and volunteers cannot intervene in law enforcement matters, but we will do everything possible to connect you with support resources.

3. Protests & Political Activity

- While ONYX respects and supports the right to protest, we do not recommend attending protests during the Blackout 30: Homecoming weekend for your safety.
- If you choose to participate, you do so as an individual—you are not representing ONYX or Blackout 30: Homecoming in any capacity.
- Please make your own informed decisions and prioritize your personal well-being.

4. Hotel & Venue Policies

- The host hotel and all event venues have their own safety and conduct policies.
- Familiarize yourself with these guidelines upon check-in and follow staff instructions should any situation arise.

5. Our Shared Purpose

We recognize that it can feel difficult to celebrate while members of our extended community face persecution and fear. Yet, ONYX's 30-year legacy is one of resilience, visibility, and defiance in the face of adversity.

6. Defend Your Rights

All persons in the United States have constitutional protections, including the right to remain silent when questioned or arrested by immigration officers. Being stopped by immigration officers or other law enforcement can be frightening, but it's important to stay calm. During any encounter with law enforcement, it's important to do the following:



- Stay calm and don't run, argue, resist, or fight the officer, even if you believe your rights are being violated or you are being treated unfairly. Keep your hands where police can see them, and tell them if you need to reach into a glove compartment or for a wallet to show your papers.
- Don't lie about your status or provide false documents.
- If you are pulled over in a traffic stop: Ask if the officer is from the police department or immigration. Immigration officers often identify themselves as "police," but they are not police. Ask if they are from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Customs and Border Protection (CBP). If they are immigration officers, follow these guidelines about what information to provide.
 - If you are a U.S. citizen or have lawful immigration status: Show your passport, legal permanent resident card, work permit, or other documentation of your status. If you are over the age of 18, you should carry your papers with you at all times.
 - If you are undocumented: You have the right to remain silent and do not have to discuss your immigration or citizenship status with the police, immigration agents, or other officials. Anything you tell an officer can later be used against you in immigration court.
- If an officer knocks on your door: Do not open the door. Officers must have a warrant signed by a judge to enter your home. ICE "warrants" are not signed by judges; they are ICE forms signed by ICE officers and they do not grant authority to enter a home without consent of the occupant(s).
- If you are outdoors and think you see immigration officers nearby:
 - Move to a safe indoor space
 - If you are a U.S. citizen and feel safe to do so, record the activity with your phone or write down any relevant information about what you witness—ALWAYS being



careful to not interfere or otherwise obstruct the operation

- DO NOT:

- Post unverified information on social media
- Interfere with the investigation or otherwise put yourself in harm's way

- If You are Detained

- Use one sentence calmly over and over: "I am a U.S. Citizen, I want to speak to a lawyer, I do not consent to any questioning or signatures. Am I free to leave?"
 - Don't argue, don't explain, repeat that line!
- Say: "Please call a supervisor, you've detained a U.S. citizen."
 - Supervisors are trained to correct mistaken detentions quickly
 - Present your identification then
 - If you don't have any documentation on you, continue to state that you are a U.S. citizen and ask to call someone who can bring your ID
- DO NOT SIGN any form admitting you are not a citizen
- DO NOT SIGN anything you do not understand
 - Written statements can trap you

Our celebration is not a denial of the struggle—it is a testament to survival, unity, and love for our people.

Your safety, dignity, and joy are paramount. Let's look out for one another and embody the strength, compassion, and solidarity that define ONYX.