

Resources on the 1919 Chicago Race Riot

compiled by QUENNA L. BARRETT



A victim is attacked under a corner of a house during the 1919 Chicago Race Riot

Content Warning: Mentions of racialized violence

While *the ripple, the wave that carried me home*, navigates fictional events of racialized violence at segregated pools, actual instances occurred across the country, including right here in Chicago. On July 27, 1919, Eugene Williams, a Black teenager, crossed an invisible line into a “whites-only” section of a southside beach. George Stauber, a white man, threw stones and Williams and his friends, and Williams drowned.

This was the birth of the Chicago Race Riot of 1919.

This piece of United States history is not often taught in educational spaces and often goes overlooked. Organizations and cultural leaders are increasingly helping to fill those gaps. Below are a few notable organizations.

- [The Chicago Race Riot of 1919 Commemoration Project](#) is one organization working to honor the 38 killed during one of the most violent riots in Chicago’s history. Their site includes [history](#), discusses the event’s legacy and why it matters today, and contains photos.
- Chicago writer [Eve L. Ewing](#) penned [1919](#), which tells the story of that summer in poems and was adapted into a play by Steppenwolf Theatre in 2022. The accompanying [teaching guide](#) created by Ewing’s team includes standards-based learning activities and other related cultural/artworks.
- [Chicago1919.org](#) has [timelines](#), histories surrounding related events, and other resources contextualizing the events.