











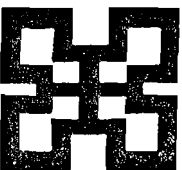
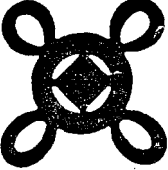



# ABOUT THE SYMBOLS

Adorning Chicago State University's Student Union building are these colorful geometric Symbols from West African cloth patterns, known as Adinkra. These symbols – inlaid in floors, free standing, and affixed to walls – express proverbs, maxims and values. They evoke African cultural and visual traditions in a distinctly American context. Most of these symbols, and more, decorate this building.

 <p><b>DWANIMEN</b> / humility and strength, wisdom and learning. Represents things pertaining to learning. (Page 1)</p>	 <p><b>ESE NE TEKREMA</b> / unity, responsibility and interdependence; the importance of each person as a unit in the link for cooperative success. (Page 11)</p>	 <p><b>PEMPAMSIE</b> / a chain and therefore, each link is important and must be strong; all persons are important in their own right. (Page 18)</p>
 <p><b>MFRAMADAN</b> / a well-built house; fortitude and readiness to face the difficulties of life. (Page 4)</p>	 <p><b>AGYINDAWURU</b> / ready to serve; signifies alertness and dutifulness. (Page 12)</p>	 <p><b>AFUNTUMMIREKU-DENKYEMMIREKU</b> / unity in diversity, democracy, oneness of humanity in spite of cultural diversities. (Page 19)</p>
 <p><b>WAWA ABA</b> / keen sense of purpose, not easily overcome or put off by difficulties. (Page 6)</p>	 <p><b>NKYINKYIMIE</b> / toughness and selfless devotion to service; an ability to withstand difficulties. (Page 14)</p>	 <p><b>NTESIE</b> / consider and keep what you learn; wisdom, knowledge and prudence. (Page 23)</p>
 <p><b>HWEMUDUA</b> / belief in the best that can be of everything. Abhorrence of imperfection. (Page 8)</p>	 <p><b>AYA</b> / a hardy plant, hence, endurance and defiance of difficulties; implies independence and resourcefulness. (Page 15)</p>	 <p><b>ADINKRAHENE</b> / greatness, prudence, firmness and magnanimity. (Page 24)</p>
 <p><b>NSAA</b> / extols excellence and discourages satisfaction with the second rate. (Page 9)</p>	 <p><b>SUNSOM</b> / reminds of the essential nature of man; purity and spirituality. (Page 17)</p>	 <p><b>BI-NKA-BI</b> / symbol of justice, fair play and freedom. Unity and avoidance of strife. (This symbol is not represented in this book, but it is one of our most prominent symbols in the Student Union building.)</p>