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April 2012

ICA Board, AC77 Meet at Chicago's Field Museum

50th Anniversary Celebration



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Members of the ICA Board and AC77 Advisory Committee listen during a tour of the Field Museum's new Restoring Earth exhibit.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs' (ICA) Board of Directors and the Advisory Committee for Accelerate 77 (AC77) met at The Field Museum in downtown Chicago on Friday, April 20, to hear updates on progress with the citywide project to connect community sustainability projects.

A total of 55 people from both groups were able to attend the presentation. Among those speaking included Advisory Committee Chair Jim Troxel of Millennia Consulting, LLC, The Field Museum's Mario Longoni, and Aaron Joseph, the Deputy Sustainability Officer for the City of Chicago.

Aaron said that sustainability is a priority for the city and his office. He added that the Chicago had won the Business Civic Leadership Committee's national Sustainable Community Award in the large city category the same week as the meeting.

Chicago's government is putting its support behind the AC77 project. "We're really looking for ways to reach out to the community and tap

into what the communities are doing and elevate that up so others can see what the communities are



doing at the very local level," Aaron said. "That's what I think is so important about this project and why Karen [Weigert, the Chief Sustainability Officer for Chicago] and the mayor are very interested in seeing Accelerate 77 succeed."

Mario spoke about the Field Museum's Environment, Culture, and Conservation (ECCo) program, which is also identifying community sustainability work in the city and looking for ways to encourage others to get involved with the cause. The museum has established the [Chicago Community Climate Action Toolkit](#) on the web to highlight what communities have done and encourage and inspire others to do the same.

Nina Winn, program coordinator for Resilient Communities, and Seva Gandhi, program coordinator for Service Learning, both spoke on the progress of cataloguing sustainability projects in each of Chicago's 77 community areas, getting summer interns for AC77, and preparing for the "Sharing Approaches That Work" conference on September 15, 2012. As of April 20, 55 of the city's community areas have been researched.

"We're really trying to make this a student-led initiative," Seva said, talking about the internship program for at least 40 students this summer. She also reminded the audience that while there is a lot of work leading up to the Share Fair in September, it's only just the beginning. "The real work begins after September 15th," she said. That's when connecting and creating a community between the city's sustainability groups and programs will begin.

Remodeled ICA Kitchen Open for Business

The community kitchen on the sixth floor at the Institute of Cultural Affairs' building in Chicago is open and ready to use!



Staff and colleagues enjoy the new kitchen at 4750 N. Sheridan Rd.

The remodeled kitchen at 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. took six months to finish, but according to those attending an inaugural potluck dinner celebration, it was worth it.

ICA Facilities Manager Lesley Showers said the kitchen before remodeling was outdated and not very welcoming. The room, meant to be used by residents of the intentional community on the seventh

floor, had been designed as a commercial kitchen and was not practical as a community space. The plumbing and wiring were redone. New energy efficient appliances and cabinets made with eco-friendly materials were added. The kitchen also received a hand-built greenhouse for growing leafy greens and herbs.

There has been a very positive reaction from those living and working in the building. More than twenty residents, colleagues and staff attended the potluck dinner in the new kitchen.

"I had been watching the kitchen go through the transformation and it was fantastic to look at," said Assistant Facilities Manager Tyra Taylor, who attended the potluck. "Not until the potluck dinner did I realize what a catalyst the kitchen could be to make a group of people into an intentional community." Lesley said that she's already been getting requests to use the kitchen for gatherings and fundraisers.

See more photos of the inaugural potluck [here!](#)

ICA Signs MOU with Oak Park, IL Group

The ICA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Green Community Connections (GCC) of Oak Park, IL to serve as GCC's fiscal sponsor.

GCC is a network of organizations and individuals who are passionate about building a sustainable and resilient community. The primary focus of the GCC network is to develop a communications web for community green initiatives, and to actively support the development of the PlanItGreen Sustainability Plan for Oak Park and River Forest.



Fiscal sponsorship is a formal agreement in which a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, like ICA, sponsors an organization or project with a similar mission. This alternative is good for GCC because it allows them to seek grants and solicit donations under ICA's tax-exempt status.

GCC is holding the One Earth Film Festival April 27 through April 29 at various venues. The first event is a Green Carpet Gala that kicks off the fest on Friday, April 27th from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., at the Oak Park Conservatory; tickets for the Gala must be purchased in advance. Due to limited seating, registration is required. Most events are free to the public with a suggested \$5 donation.

Archives Team to Contribute to 50th Anniversary Artwork

To celebrate the EI/OE/ICA 50th Anniversary, alumni and friends around the world are gathering at events to celebrate the past and to claim promises for the future. These promises are written on muslin

strips which will be woven together into a 50th Anniversary artwork by Chicago artist Gina Alicea.

The Archive Team will be writing on strips the names of those who have gone before as its contribution to the artwork and invites all colleagues to participate. You may write and decorate strips of cloth in memoriam for a colleague or to claim a promise for our future.

Here's how to do your own contribution:

- Tear 4 inch by 18 inch strips from old pillow cases or sheets (white or cream colored).
- Write on the strips with color permanent markers.
- Mail the strips to The Global Archives, Institute for Cultural Affairs, 4750 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60640.

[Forward email](#)



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