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CSLN Looks Forward to 2015

On Dec. 1st, 55 [Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network](#) (CSLN) members and newcomers gathered at the [UIC Latino Cultural Center \(LCC\)](#). The gathering began with an informative and evocative presentation by student interns from the [UIC Heritage Garden](#). The powerful and vibrant LCC mural walls shared a spirit of community, culture, and growth that provided the backdrop for a meaningful and engaging evening. During the meeting, participants were able to reflect on the progress of the CSLN over the past year, and project images for the future. In its first year, the CSLN engaged 130 members representing 95 organizations. In addition to gathering the network in 12 different spaces across the city, the CSLN also hosted 7 public events, drawing over 100 participants.



Break-out groups in the Latino Cultural Center

Following reflection on the year, the group was eager to have action-oriented goals and plan for events and discussions in 2015. Focus groups planned for four specific initiatives, including a Faith Forum, a roundtable with the City of Chicago, Sustainable Economies, and [ISEIF](#) and energy hubs. The "[Is It Just Space?](#)" discussions from the Oct.7 event continued to plan a Justice and Space event series, and small groups started to plan for events in the following topics: Houses of Worship and Underutilized Space, Justice in Our Streets, Place-based Education, Public Space and Cultural Diversity, and Transit and Accessibility.



A Hub of Activity: Raised Beds, Rooftops, Rainbarrels



Tour of rooftop garden at Weiss hospital

Sparked by the recent installation of raised beds on the [ICA GreenRise](#) rooftop, the most recent [Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network](#) hub event was held on November 16th. The event, "[Raised Beds, Rooftops, Rainbarrels](#)," was a joint effort by ICA, [Greenroof Solutions](#), [Landmarks Illinois](#), [Animalia Project](#), [Chicago Conservation Corps](#), and GreenRise tenant, [Loud Grade Produce Squad](#).

The aim of the event was to share knowledge and engage public in dialogue about ways to become change agents in their own communities using techniques demonstrated by local organizations. In leading [raised bed](#) and [rain barrel](#) installation demonstrations and a tour of [Weiss Rooftop Garden](#), event coordinators engaged the audience in an interactive learning experience. Leaving the event, attendees took something tangible to assist their future action, ranging from handout materials to be in touch with presenters and seed packets to one of three raffle-prize rain barrels.

Event coordinators and participants alike were energized by the innovative space at the event and look forward to continued hub activity. Regarding the event's success, Joseph Taylor, ICA representative for the event, said "the environment at ICA was essential for bringing together all the resources and assets for this event. All the collaborators came from contacts in the GreenRise building, the intentional community, and the CSLN. I'm looking forward to building these relationships as the ICA's presence as a hub continues to grow."



ICAI's December General Assembly

This week, The Institute of Cultural Affairs International, ([ICAI](#)) convened it's General Assembly for a bi-annual meeting that aims to guide the work of the board and to support the peer-to-peer collaboration among ICAs. The role of the General Assembly includes electing the ICAI Board and holding it accountable to the membership, including by receipt of annual finance reports. Members also discuss the progress of various ICA's as well as the network as a whole. Notable agenda items in the December 2014 General Assembly included:

- Discussions nominations for two potential Associate memberships [Emerging Ecology](#) in the United States and [The Development Institute](#) in Ghana
- Reviewing ICAI 2013 Financial Statements & Board report for information
- Election to the [Board of Directors](#), with three continuing board members and 4-5 to be newly elected
- The work and discussions of ICAI Global Conference working group
- The work and review of the near final draft of the ToP Global Policy working group
- ICAI Budget for 2015-16

In post meeting reflections colleagues commented on how great it is to stay in touch, hear one another's voices, and what is happening with ICA's around the globe. Many ICA's are looking forward to regional meetings within the next two years, and potentially an annual conference in 2016.



DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER: ToP Gathering '15

Each year the Top Network convenes to look at the networks successes of previous year, take stock on where the network is, and create a plan of action and sharpen the focus for the upcoming year. This January in 2015 the ToP Network will meet in Aurora, Colorado. Don't miss out!



[Download the preliminary schedule](#)

TRACK SESSIONS INCLUDE:

Building the Foundation Living in the House of ToP
Creating out Living Space Using our Tools

PRE/POST GATHERING WORKSHOPS:

[Accelerated Action Planning](#) January 9

[Facilitation for Innovation: Inspiring Group Creativity](#) January 12- 13

[Facilitation for Innovation \(Train Trainers\)*](#) January 13 -14

[Inside ToP Strategic Planning*](#) January 12

[Making Data Dance: A Participatory Data Gathering & Analysis](#) January 13

* Please look at the qualifications to sit in on the course on the [ToP Network](#) site

ICA Colleague Spotlight: Celebrating Pam Bergdall

ICA staff is excited to feature long-time colleague, Pam Bergdall, in this month's news. She has just returned from Zambia for a brief stay in Chicago before travelling again.

How did you find the ICA?: I first joined the ICA in 1970 while I was a student in Oklahoma City University.

What is your role?: I'd like to think that I encourage people. Others refer to me as the "Uptown Queen" or a liaison with the Uptown community.

What is your favorite thing about the ICA?: That it understands the key challenges. The best part is when it's focused on its mission and is able to inspire others.

What is an interesting fact about you?: It may seem like I'm not focused, but I am because I know that everything is related. Therefore, I am focused on true sustainability. That's why I'm interested in so many things. My five geographic areas are Mexico, Oklahoma, Zambia, Sweden, and Chicago.



Please Support the Institute of Cultural Affairs!

2014 has been a fantastic year for ICA, and we would like to thank all of you for being part of our network. This year's highlights include, but are not limited to, the 485 solar panel

installation and solar launch with over 30 Uptown organizations to celebrate sustainability, the CSLN's expansion to include 130 members who gathered in over a dozen events across the city, engagement of 2 cohorts of students in service learning programs, and the Global Archives Research Assembly. None of this would be possible without our generous supporters!



Donate Now

Help ensure another strong year at the ICA GreenRise by [donating today](#) & be a part of our success!