

INITIATIVES

PAGE 3



New & Returning Youth Service Learning Partners

PAGE 4



CSLN Cross-Community Collaborating for Action

Photo: Joe Mirza

PAGE 5



Growing GreenRise: A Hub Of Activity

Message from the Executive Director



Ted Wysocki, CEO

"If there has ever been a moment to advance a plan to heal the planet that also heals our broken economies and

our shattered communities, this is it." -- Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything*

It's been a busy few months since I posted my first *Initiatives* column last spring. I have visited ICA colleagues, Technology of Participation (ToP)® trainers, public officials, and community and sustainable development activists in the Twin Cities, Denver and Austin, Texas. The range of sustainable initiatives being pursued is diverse and strategically pertinent, including promoting community solar in Minnesota, expanding urban gardening in Denver, and improving interfaith understanding and civil discourse in Austin. You can read more about the visits by reading my blogs. [details on the next page]

To address the urgency of today's environmental crisis, comprehensive action is essential

Continued on Page 2

Fall Archives Sojourn 2015: Exploring the Future of Our Past

From Sept. 21-25th, the ICA Global Archives team came together for the largest sojourn to date, with 50 colleagues joining both in person and virtually. The sojourn had three major areas of focus:

- Historic Use of the GreenRise Building
- Training Inc.
- New Religious Mode

Historic Use of the GreenRise Building

The task before this team was to find evidence supporting the use of the building as a place where innovative social justice programs were designed, coordinated and implemented over 44 years. This work is integral to the process of the ICA GreenRise applying to become a National Historic Landmark (NHL). (read more about this in the GreenRise article to follow)

The search for documentation focused on three areas of ICA work to meet necessary criteria: Uptown 5 (local); Town Meeting '76 (national); and The Band of 24 Human Development Projects (global). The team found the necessary documentation to build a case for the use of the building and new documents were created. The next step is preparing the application for submission to become an NHL in January 2016.

Training Inc.

The Training Inc. team was called to celebrate 40 years of Training Inc. and discern what aspects of the curriculum are relevant to the future of ICA. The group was able to archive key documentation of both



Members of the Training Inc. team with timeline

the beginning and most recent years of Training Inc. and articulate the 'heart of the matter' that made Training Inc. successful. The work of this team resulted in a draft of an 'Image Transformation Toolkit' to be used in future conversations and programs related to image transformation.

New Religious Mode

This team drew in the most newcomers to the archives. The team aimed to make the wisdom of the past relevant to ICA's current sustainability work while still maintaining the depth of the original curriculum.

The teams worked during the day and celebrated each day's accomplishments with wine and cheese, reflecting on what they learned and hopes for the future. To close out the week, the three groups reported out their progress and reflected on how to proceed. Another notable accomplishment from earlier this fall was *A Chronological History of the Ecumenical Institute and the Institute of Cultural Affairs, 1952 - 1988*, published by colleagues Beret Griffith and David Dunn. They are currently working on expanding to the end of the 90s.

MESSAGE FROM CEO CONTINUED...

at all levels of society. This requires intentionally creating a space for coordinated action between policy-makers at the top and grassroots, local organizations at the bottom. Supporting this *in-between space* for government and community collaboration is the focus of ICA's 2016 city exploration.

Engagement of communities to pursue local actions is a prerequisite for the cultural paradigm shift necessary to change behavior to impact climate change. Implementing ICA's Technology of Participation (ToP)[®] facilitation methodology is key to expanding meaningful community engagement, through building consensus and creating and implementing strategic plans. ToP participatory processes draw upon decades of ICA's worldwide community development experience.

There have been two Global Archives Sojourns since I began working at the ICA. September's was the largest sojourn to date with 50 volunteers working in three teams to *Create the Future of our Past*. With the archives of original source materials, ICA is working towards having GreenRise placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is possible due to the history of social justice work that has stemmed from the building.

On October 23rd we convened a Faith & Sustainability Forum at the ICA GreenRise in order to exchange stories, ideas, and resources around what Chicago's faith communities are doing in sustainability. We focused the conversation on "How are faith groups taking care of their facilities, engaging their congregation and reaching out to their communities to actively care for the earth?" We'll update you in our next newsletter on the results and actions from the Faith Forum, as well as the work we continue to do to engage communities in Uptown and across Chicago, the US, and the globe.

As we look forward to the work ahead, let's embrace Pope Francis' call to action: "I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all." Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* of The Holy Father Francis.

To read more about each of the visits mentioned above visit my blog at: <https://u2cando49.wordpress.com>.



MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER Beret Griffith

How did you find the ICA?

A visit of my young family to my parents' home in Wisconsin in 1970 - began over a cup of coffee with my mother. The first thing out of her mouth was, "Your dad and I just went to a terrific course put on by the Ecumenical Institute (EI). You will love it." My husband and I took Religious Studies I (RS-1) in St. Paul, MN. I signed up for the Global Academy the fall of 1970,



hired a babysitter for the kids and off I went. It has been 45 years since then and work with EI and ICA has continued to enrich, challenge and bring focus to my life.

What is your current role with the ICA?

Work with the ICA Global Archives captured my attention several years ago. I currently serve on the Archives Advisory Council (AAC), participating in weekly AAC Google hangouts for planning; attend regular archive sojourns; and occasionally come to Chicago to work in the archives at other times during the year. I write about various aspects of ICA History, the ICA Global Archives, and the ICA role in launching the International Association of Facilitators (IAF). I am a member of the ToP Trainers' Network (TTN).

What are your favorite things about the ICA?

The deep bond among colleagues not talked to in years, resulting in challenging and deep diving conversations, is a treasured experience. Last summer colleagues I worked with in New York City during the 1980's, stopped overnight at our cabin. We started talking over breakfast at 7am and continued through lunch. I love working with colleagues in person and virtually. I am pleased at the current reinvention of the work of the ICA toward focusing on the environment.

An interesting fact about you?

Two facts...I went to a library science class in 1964 at the University of Minnesota. I found it dull and unchallenging. I did, however, get a list of banned books and proceeded to read them all. I love everything about books.

In 1972 I had been taking art classes at the St. Paul College of Art and Design. I had decided it was time to get serious about art. I put together a portfolio and was waiting for an appointment with the Director of the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Mulling on an upcoming EI Summer Program, in a moment of crazy clarity, I picked up my portfolio, left the office, went home and made flight arrangements to go to Summer 1972 in Chicago.

Now I take snap shots and occasionally have a show of photographs.



Beret & team at Fall 2015 Archives Sojourn

New & Returning Youth Service Learning Partners

To close out the summer, two youth ministries participated in a week-long ICA Service Learning program while staying at the ICA GreenRise. Northway Christian Church and the First Christian Church of Rowlett, both from Texas, arranged for their two ministries to learn, live, and volunteer together. The cohort of 40 youth (aged 12-17) and their youth ministers explored a deeper understanding of service work, causes of homelessness, and systemic injustice. The group's curriculum incorporated action and reflection by pairing theory and methods with hands-on volunteering with nonprofits across Chicago.

This fall, for the third year in a row, ICA is continuing its partnership with the Social Entrepreneurship from INSEEC Graduate Business School in Paris. The program aims to deepen the students' community and cultural competence, enabling them to think critically about society in the US and France. Using an action reflection pedagogy, the curriculum includes theoretical components on race, the environment and economy, an action research component and a methods training component.

The action-research component places students at social enterprises in Chicago, providing the opportunity to develop applicable skills and gain a greater context about the city. Action-research sites are connected to the ICA through the accelerate77 and CSLN projects. The action-research provides benefits to the students and host sites, as well as the ICA, through the project deliverables and strengthened organizational relationships.



INSEEC students using the Social Process Triangle to asset map

NTTA & 2016 Annual Gathering

ICA and the ToP Network have partnered to create the National ToP Training Academy (NTTA). Set to launch in 2016, the NTTA is a one-year, comprehensive, train-the-trainer model designed to qualify trainers to teach the ToP Facilitation Methods. The aim of the academy is to allow individuals to transition from Apprentice Trainers in ToP to Qualified Trainers within a one-year timespan.

To qualify for this training, individuals must already be Certified ToP Facilitators (CTF) who are experienced in the application of ToP Methods; candidates who are strongly anchored in ToP methods and well on their way to fulfilling the CTF requirements also qualify. The focus is on becoming a Qualified ToP Trainer, not on becoming a facilitator of ToP methods.

Colleagues and ToP Network members Judy Weddle, Cheryl Kartes, Dennis Jennings, and Heidi Kolbe have been working diligently on a comprehensive curriculum for the NTTA, along with recruiting the first round of participants. ICA and the ToP Network are looking forward to the program and its ability to help interested people navigate the training process.

The NTTA is just one of the exciting initiatives coming out of the ToP Network. Recently ToP Facilitation Methods and ToP Strategic Planning courses became accredited for continuing education credits by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC) and American Planning Association (APA).

Top Network Turns 25!

The 2016 Annual Gathering, Claiming Our Legacy: Shaping Our Future, is taking place on January 8-11, 2016 in Paradise Valley, AZ and will commemorate the great work of the network for the past 25 years.

Attendees will gather for several days of learning, creating, networking, and celebrating ToP. The gathering is organized to allow attendees to participate in sessions that are designed to help grow and develop their skills as ToP facilitators and share skills with one another.

To learn more and register for the annual gathering, visit <http://www.top-network.org/>.

Chicago Plans Series

Local Initiatives Support Coalition (LISC - Chicago) has launched its Chicago Plans workshop series, and partnered with ICA to co-design and lead the training workshops. The Chicago Plans workshop series is geared towards non-profit and community leaders and is designed to strengthen engagement and facilitation skills and support meaningful neighborhood engagement in place-based planning.

Chicago Plans is open to teams of up to three community leaders – including at least one full-time staff at a local community organization with a clear goal or vision specific to place-based planning. The cohort consists of 30 participants from across the city, including both seasoned community planners and leaders who are new to planning. Planning teams are all focused on communities within the City of Chicago.

LISC chose to partner with the ICA to transition from their previous planning trainings, generally focused around theoretical frameworks of the planning process, to a training focused on tools and methods for practical applications for participatory planning.

This is an exciting partnership for both organizations, and the series has received positive feedback from participants.



Chicago Plans sessions bring together organizations from across the city



Photos Credit: Gordon Walek/LISC

Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network Cross-Community Collaborating for Action

In the past few months [Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network \(CSLN\)](#) activities have exemplified the network's strength in collaborating across disciplines to effect change. Notable collaborations have been the continuation of three initiatives:

- Is It Just Space? Series
- Policy Working Group
- Smart Grid Energy Education

Is It Just Space?

This series consisted of collaboratively designed, multidisciplinary events that aimed to explore the intersection of justice and space. Since the series launched in April with the [Urban Ecology Classroom: A Tale of Two Monarchs](#), CSLN members & their communities have gathered for eight events across the city.

Highlights from the events include:

- *Do You Feel Welcome Here?:* Reflecting on the Chicago Families exhibit at the [Swedish American Museum](#) to dive deep into the question of what makes a space welcoming and brainstorm ways to cultivate more inclusive spaces;
- *From Transit to Trails:* Engaging with land, water, and city at Montrose beach in a way that connected historical and natural contexts to the current state of Uptown;
- *Sustainable September Ride Series:* Exploring the nuances of 5 communities with [Slow Roll Chicago](#) while promoting an equitable bike culture--each community area shared something unique, from a welcoming front-porch culture in Greater Lawndale to Growing Power's urban farm in Back of the Yards; and
- *Re-envisioning Underutilized Community Spaces:* Working in a reclaimed lot in Englewood with students from Urban Prep Academy. The food producing garden will add a hands-on activity to their regular curriculum.

All the events encouraged community members to explore new perspectives, either through learning something entirely new or looking at a familiar topic in a different way. With 25 partners across all events, this series made apparent the network's value as a multidisciplinary entity. Organizers and participants alike look forward to continuing to build on their insights from the series.

Policy Working Group

The CSLN 'policy' group moved forward with the round table forums with Chief Sustainability Officer of the City of Chicago, Karen Weigert. On July 17th, 21 CSLN members gathered in Clarendon Park Community Center, to discuss ways that community organizations and the city could better collaborate.

The meeting ended with the idea that a tangible next step for collaboration might be for CSLN members to offer their input on the next Sustainability Plan the city is creating ([the current plan ends in 2015](#)).

To follow up, CSLN members came together on October 14th to form consensus as a network on how City programs, policies, and partnerships could be implemented to promote CSLN values, such as equity and meaningful community engagement, in the City's next sustainability plan. ICA staff are now compiling the data to share it with the larger network; the final CSLN input will be delivered to City officials.

Smart Grid Energy Education

Last fall, five CSLN members collaboratively applied for and received an [Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation \(ISEIF\)](#) grant to create and implement culturally appropriate Smart Grid energy education in their own communities in 2015.

Grant partners include [Chinese American Service League](#), [Centers for New Horizons](#), [Sacred Keepers Sustainability Lab](#), ICA and [University of Illinois at Chicago \(UIC\)](#).

On June 14th, the partners joined at ICA GreenRise for a Cross-Community Energy Exchange that brought together over 60 community members from Bronzeville, Chinatown, UIC, and Uptown. The aim of the event was to create a space where partners and community members could meet, learn about the interactive Smart Grid education approaches each partner had developed, and creatively adapt their own Smart Grid messaging. In November another cross community event, The Past & Future of Energy, geared at youth from each of the sites, will be held at [IIT](#) and allow the participants to tour the microgrid and learn from youth working in energy innovation.



Group at ISEIF Cross Community Event



Karen Weigert and CSLN members at Policy Meeting/City Roundtable



CSLN Meeting: Planning for the future



From Transit to Trails



Bikers on Sustainable Sept. Rides



ISEIF Cross-Community Event

Photo Credit: Joe Mazza

Growing GreenRise: A Hub Of Activity

To seek greater security for ICA GreenRise and increase access to historic resources, a team of ICA staff, consultants and contractors are making the case to place the ICA GreenRise on the [National Historic Landmark](#) (NHLs) registry.

NHLs are nationally significant historic places that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Taking the perspective of a recent Archives sojourner, “this building is part and parcel to the social justice work we’re doing [and have historically done].” It is through the lens of our historical social justice engagement that the ICA is petitioning the Secretary of the Interior to designate the ICA GreenRise as a National Historic Landmark.

If granted NHL status, the ICA GreenRise would then be eligible to apply for [National Treasure status](#). National Treasures are NHLs that are found to be endangered irreplaceable buildings, landscapes, and communities. The ICA GreenRise, built in 1921, is already a Chicago Landmark and is seeking to restore the building to its original condition through Historic and New Market Tax Credits.

Restoration will involve rehabilitating the main entrance, stairwell, elevator lobbies, and executive suites, and some of the infrastructure by combining original systems

with innovative green technology. The building also has some deferred maintenance that would benefit from the preservation efforts of National Treasures status.

The historic social justice work that stemmed from the building is also linked to its future sustainability. Currently ICA GreenRise is in the process of embedding itself as a community sustainability ‘hub’ in the Northside of Chicago. The hub concept was created through the CSLN, and attempts to create decentralized spaces across the city for people to come learn skills and tools around sustainability.

ICA GreenRise is excited to announce the addition of [Stone Soup](#), a housing cooperative with a mission around social justice and action, to our 5th floor. To welcome Stone Soup to the building programming staff organized a hub day around intentional communities. Four different intentional communities, including ICA GreenRise and [Public Allies](#), [Stone Soup](#), [Benton House](#) and [Jesus People USA](#) came together to learn from one another about the various forms of intentional community life. After a potluck meal, there was a lively [World Café](#) that centered around questions each of the communities were currently experiencing along with a bicycle maintenance and organizing (organizing through origami) workshops.



Intentional Communities Coming Together



Sharing Community Skills: Bike Repair



Sharing Community Skills: Organizing

Energy & Excitement Around ICA Regional Gatherings Around The Globe

In May, ICA-USA’s international team partnered with [ICA-Tanzania](#) to host an East & South Africa regional conference. With over 23 colleagues in attendance, representing ICAs and colleagues in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Togo, Canada and the US, the gathering was a great success. The gathering enabled collaborative dialogue and engagement among the ICAs in the region; it has subsequently sparked regional conferences all across the globe.

In September, [ICA-Cote D’Ivoire](#) hosted a regional gathering for West & Central Africa with over 26 colleagues from Cote D’Ivoire, Ghana, Benin, Nigeria, Togo, Japan, and Holland in attendance. Similar to the gathering in Tanzania, attendees were explored new ideas of how ICAs, ICA colleagues, and other organizations can collaborate on change-making and community development to increase their impact and effectiveness.

A [European Interchange](#) is scheduled for November 20 - 22nd in the Netherlands, as well as an Asian Pacific Regional Conference from November 29 - December 5th in Pune, India. [ICA-Guatemala](#) is currently working with [ICA-Peru](#) to host a North and South America Regional Conference in April in Peru. The completion of the North and South America Regional Conference will signify that, within a one-year span, all regions of the world will have had the opportunity to gather with one another.

‘It is exciting to see so much energy and excitement and a reinvigoration of ICAs around the globe,’ noted ICAI Treasurer, Seva Gandhi. ‘It has been quite a while since ICAs have had this opportunity, and it is nice to see that there is a true desire for collaboration and coordination of social change efforts.’ These regional meetings will set the tone for the ICAI Global Conference, scheduled for August 2016.

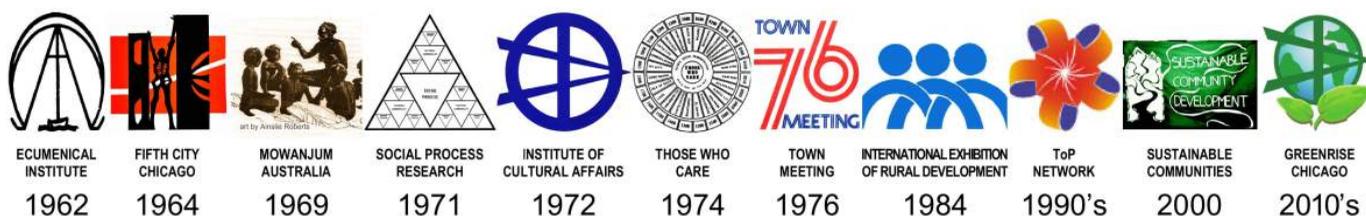


East & South Africa Regional Gathering



West & Central Africa Regional Gathering

INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
 4750 N. SHERIDAN ROAD
 CHICAGO, IL 60640



A NOTE FROM THE BOARD

SUSTAIN ICA'S "KEEPING & TILLING"

"Tilling" refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while "keeping" means caring, protecting, overseeing and preserving. This implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations.

— Paragraph # 67 Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' of the Holy Father Francis

As you contemplate end of the year donations, we ask you to consider a donation to ICA. There are several unfunded initiatives that will prove vital for our future impact:

- Exploring collaborations with communities in other cities;
- Engaging in Climate Change Action;
- Furthering access to our Global Archives; and
- Sustaining future capital improvements to our building

Click here to donate or donate by mail to "ICA-USA" at 4750 N. Sheridan Chicago, IL 60640.



Last year, thanks to the generosity of our ICA colleagues, we were able to fund the installation of 485 solar panels, making the second largest solar array on a building in Chicago.

On September 23rd, ICA celebrated **one full year of solar energy!** ICA was able to cut down 224,835 lb of CO2 emissions from using the solar energy generated at ICA GreenRise during the year.

To put that into perspective, that is the same amount of CO2 emissions generated from burning 110,113 lbs of coal!

