



Farewell letter from Terry Bergdall

On March 31, 2015, I will end a six-year journey at the Institute of Cultural Affairs as the chief executive officer in the United States. While these years have been personally gratifying for me, my plan from the beginning was to enable, sooner rather than later, a successful transition to a new generation of leadership. Now, I believe, is the right time to make the move.



My entire vocational life has been informed by the transformative work of ICA. For twenty years, 1969-1989, I served as a regional program officer of ICA in Oklahoma, Nebraska, Japan, Chicago, and Kenya. In Nairobi, I played a leadership role in the restructuring of ICA-Kenya to become a fully African staffed, managed, and governed organization and, thereby, successfully worked myself out of a job. Due to those twenty years, I consider myself, along with many other people around the world, to be a member of the "founding generation" of ICA. I define this as being one who worked for a long period while the original "founder" of this organization, Joseph Mathews, was actively at the helm.

Following my departure from ICA in 1989, I spent the next 20 years working in the professional world of international development assistance. I saw those two decades as a valuable time in applying, adapting, and integrating "ICA-inspired" principles and practices into different working environments.

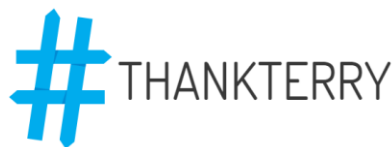
I was in the midst of a successful international consulting practice when it became widely apparent that ICA-USA had arrived at a crucial crossroads. I thought it critical for ICA's future to identify and preserve essential wisdom from its past. Otherwise, ICA risked becoming "the institute of something else." That would be unfortunate because, as I thought then and continue to think now, the profound insights of ICA are important for the world at large. This was the underlying motivation for me applying to become the executive director at ICA-USA in 2009.

It is with considerable pride that I can report upon the fresh injection of ICA's historical wisdom into the creation of vibrant new programs during the past six years. These include the [Accelerate 77](#) neighborhood program on sustainability in Chicago, ICA's leadership development program with [university students](#), continuation of ICA's [Technology of Participation](#) facilitation work, and widespread public recognition of the [ICA GreenRise Building](#) as a powerful demonstration of responsible living and working within the 21st Century. All have successfully advanced ICA's mission of building a just and equitable society in harmony with Planet Earth.

It is with confidence that I now turn over leadership of ICA-USA to my successor, Ted Wysocki. He

brings to his new assignment a 40-year commitment to community development, in-depth experience in the management of non-profit organizations, and a familiarity with, and appreciation of, ICA culture. As for me personally, I am entering a sabbatical year during which time I will determine my next phase of creative engagement in the world -- for, as I first learned at ICA as a university intern, expenditure is the key to fulfillment. Best wishes to you all as you embody yours.

As we move forward with a transition of leadership of new CEO Ted Wysocki - we want to stop and express our appreciation to our outgoing CEO, Terry Bergdall. Please join us as we reflect on the contributions that Terry has made to our organization and all the growth the ICA has seen under his leadership.



We encourage you to post to Twitter or Facebook to share your positive experiences using the hashtag **#ThankTerry**. This a great chance to honor the work of both Terry and ICA over the years.



One Earth Film Festival a Big Hit at CSLN Hubs!

On March 6, 7, & 8th Green Community Connections hosted 40 inspirational films at 30 different locations across the city as part of their 4th annual [One Earth Film Festival](#).

Participants start radish seeds

This year, ICA GreenRise held two different viewings during the festival. The morning session featured [No Land No Food No Life](#) and was held in partnership with Oxfam America and as an International Women's Day event. The film was followed by a panel and rich discussion with Oxfam America Advocacy Advisor Adam Olson as well as [Shift](#) founder and chief executive officer Tricia Martinez. The afternoon viewing was of [Edible City](#) and held in partnership with [animalia project](#) and included a panel discussion, tours of ICA GreenRise, and micro-workshops on urban gardening.

The festival was a great success and the City of Chicago is asking attendees to vote for their favorite movie so it can be shown in celebration of Earth Day this April.



Cooperation 2015 a Success!

Community members across the city joined at the ICA GreenRise on February 28th for Cooperation 2015, an 'unconference' to spark peer to peer engagement with special guest, Michel Bauwens. Participants engaged in a spectogram activity, witnessed a fishbowl style (un)panel, and a world cafe. The day was full of lively discussion, surfacing collective knowledge about untapped potential for peer to peer engagement, including place like local coops, maker spaces, and community networks.

Unconference attendees and organizers aim to grow Chicago's peer to peer presence from Saturday's small start to something truly significant, and the world cafe activity suggested that increased communication and awareness of local efforts is critical for forward momentum. Check up on the [website](#) for announcements, more pictures from the event, and further opportunities to engage virtually and in person. Email Steve Ediger at steveediger@gmail.com with any questions or to learn more about it!

ICA Colleague Spotlight: Introducing Ted Wysocki

How did you find the ICA?:

I first met ICA in 1984 when I became CEO of the Chicago Association of Neighborhood Development Organizations [CANDO]. With its work on the west side in Fifth City, ICA was a CANDO member. In addition, ICA had a contract with the City of Chicago to do strategic planning for delegate agencies, most of which were CANDO members. My first decision then as a new CEO was to retain and hire an ICA colleague, Kitty Cole, as CANDO's membership director.



What is your role?:

As the new CEO of ICA-USA, I look forward to engaging at the local level here in our home community of Uptown; at the city-wide level with our emerging Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network; at the national level as we explore how to replicate our sustainability initiatives elsewhere in the country; and internationally with ICA colleagues around the world.

What is your favorite thing about the ICA?:

ICA's mission to "build a just and equitable society in harmony with Planet Earth" resonates with me personally and professionally. We need to collaborate and advocate for action on Climate Change.

What is an interesting fact about you?:

At the end of last August, I started a weekly blog, U2Cando49, to reflect on my 40+ years of community development work and current justice issues. One of my early posts was on the launch of ICA's GreenRise Learning Lab and its 485 solar panels. More recently, I blogged a book review of Naomi Klein's This Changes Everything that was published nationally on March 24th by SHELTERFORCE WEEKLY.



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