



# ICA

The Institute of Cultural Affairs in the U.S.A.

Summer 2018

## INITIATIVES



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Spotlight



Tour of Montrose Beach Dunes on the Green Infrastructure tour.

### Uptown Education Series Raises Coastal Awareness

ICA completed *Out and About Uptown's Coast*, a year-long coastal education series focusing on our home community of Uptown, earlier in 2018. The series focused on increasing awareness, access, and stewardship of the coastal zone.

The project team used ICA's Imaginal Education theory and tools to design a transformative education series tailored to residents, workers, and visitors in the Uptown community. In particular, *Out and About Uptown's Coast* aimed to draw in participants who might not otherwise be avid coastal stewards by tapping into other interests linked to the coast. This model of intersectional approaches allowed for a dynamic series of nine distinct events, each of which paired a more traditional 'classroom' learning with a hands-on, experiential components to embed learning.

The sessions focused on:

- Urban Ecology
- Cycling Uptown
- Urban Agriculture
- Alternative Transit
- Underutilized Community Spaces
- Historic Preservation
- Mental Wellness
- Eco-Justice
- Green Infrastructure

ICA partnered with 18 local experts across the nine sessions that collectively drew over 200 participants.

Photos from the Experiential Learning Components of the:



Green Infrastructure



Urban Ecology



Mental Wellness

The series collected data from participants regarding environmental awareness, coastal awareness, and confidence in their ability to provide stewardship of the coast. Participants reported increased understanding of the coast and ways they personally can provide stewardship. One participant even reported that in the time since attending the series they became "more passionate about protecting and utilizing [the] lakefront and more proud to be an Uptown resident."

The project also aimed to provide a framework for other coastal educators to create dynamic and locally responsive ways to engage and educate others about the coast. ICA produced a toolkit on the process used to design and implement the series, that includes outlines of the process of curating topics and partnerships, educational content shared by partners, insights from survey data, and more. Find the toolkit at [bit.ly/coastaltoolkit](http://bit.ly/coastaltoolkit).

*Out and About Uptown's Coast* was supported by the Illinois Coastal Management Program (ICMP) grant administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

### In This Issue

International



ICAs Gather Worldwide

National



Activating ToP Across the US

Citywide



Broadening Chicago's Environmental Movement

Local



Conversations on Social Justice & ICA GreenRise Renovation

## Message from the CEO



Ted Wysocki, CEO

***“Surely we can learn, at least, to look at those around us as fellow men and women. Surely we can begin to work a little harder to bind up the wounds among us and to become in our hearts brothers and sisters, countrymen and countrywomen once again.”***

*—Robert F. Kennedy, April 5th, 1968*

I went to sleep the night of June 5th, 1968, having watched the projected returns from the California Democratic Primary. Having completed my college freshman year, I dreamt that night about the coming changes and what they might mean for my future.

Earlier that April, perhaps the same day RFK spoke the words, while flying home for spring break, I observed the west side of Chicago, my hometown, in flames after Dr. King’s assassination. How could I have known then how quickly tragedy would strike again only two months later?

I would still spend another year in ROTC, but the questions that Bobby Kennedy was raising about the Vietnam War were already resonating with me. His calls to combat poverty and embrace civil rights were an awakening that six years later would become my 44-year vocation for equitable community development.

I did not foresee all those changes ahead for me, let alone our country, the morning of June 6th when I arose to learn of his assassination. Yet, I was profoundly moved to search for meaning and new ways to serve my country and my brothers and sisters.

This is not the first time I have used this RFK quote from his “Mindless Menace of Violence” speech in Cleveland the morning after Dr. King’s assassination. I did so in a blog after Trump’s inauguration speech. In my alternative history, I envisioned these simple words as the core value message of the inaugural speech that President Robert F. Kennedy could have delivered in January 1969.

Given the current continued onslaught of hate-filled tweets, they should be considered imperative for the duration of the Trump Administration.

Binding the wounds will be a challenging task. Conversations are a start, but this country’s underlying contradictions are so pervasive that reaching consensus can seem like an impossibility. Demonstrating the possible is an appropriate response. But that too is no easy initiative.

Here at the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) we have launched a new series of Conversations on Social Justice. The first topic was immigration reform. Hearing from the opening panelists on the urgency of their respective initiatives, it remains incomprehensible to me that a country founded by immigrants can’t reconcile welcoming policies and practices.

Future topics such as addressing homelessness and assuring equitable development implore action not only locally here in Chicago but also nationally and internationally. When designing for the change we seek, we must imagine a better world as Bobby did 50 years ago.



## Board Member Spotlight: Jessica Payne

### **Tell us a about yourself.**

I was born and raised in Stillwater, OK with a 7-year stint in Chicago working in

the financial sector as a Senior Marketing Manager for Wintrust. I now call St. Louis my home and am a practicing macro-level social worker. I currently work in a unique shared staff position between the federally designated St. Louis Promise Zone and Forward Through Ferguson, the nonprofit that was created to carry forward the calls to action from the Ferguson Commission Report that was completed after the killing of Mike Brown in August of 2014. My job is to align the goals and work of the Promise Zone with those calls to action to ensure all of our work is completed with a racial equity lens.

### **How did you get into your current line of work?**

I jumped into social work and community development after realizing that I could use my skill sets in communications for more than just corporate marketing.

In August of 2014, I left my full-time job to become an AmeriCorps VISTA in St. Louis for the Old North St. Louis Restoration Group. One year of service turned into a second as I also started classes for my Master of Social Work degree from the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. My coursework specialized in social and economic development, and I completed internships with the Grace Hill Settlement House and the St. Louis Metropolitan Equal Housing and Opportunity Council.

### **What are you most looking forward to as an ICA board member?**

I am most looking forward to learning from my fellow board members and the incredibly talented ICA staff. The wealth of knowledge and lived experience in the room at any given time is astounding. The GreenRise Project has also been an incredible learning experience in social-purpose real estate development.

### **Share an interesting fact about yourself.**

I spent two summers as a member of the colorguard for the Blue Knights Drum & Bugle Corps based out of Denver. Basically, I rehearsed spinning flags and dancing all day, every day for three months as we traveled the country competing in evening shows with other drum corps. I’m practicing again to be part of a 60th Anniversary performance this July at Drums Along the Rockies.

# Conversations on Social Justice Launches with Spotlight on Immigration

ICA's current community programs work at the intersection of environmental and social justice. Our programs also aim to support and showcase other organizations and individuals who are working on transforming our current inequitable systems.

ICA launched a new event series called Conversations of Social Justice, which highlights local resource organizations so that Uptown residents and workers have the opportunity to further connect regarding services, partnerships, and volunteer opportunities.

The first event of the series, focused on immigration, showcased Jims Porter, Policy and Communications Coordinator for [RefugeeOne](#), Claudia Lucero, Executive Director of the [Chicago Religious Leadership Network \(CRLN\)](#), and immigration activist Fr. Brendan A. Curran O.P. from [Dominican University](#). Each partner presented their organization's unique contribution to immigration efforts.

Porter detailed the ongoing disinvestment in and tightening of policies regarding refugee resettlement and urged participants to take action.



Participants write actions they're inspired to take after the conversation on butterflies, a symbol for immigration advocates

Lucero illustrated the challenges facing refugees through stories of women fleeing violence only to be separated from their families at the border. Curran described the barriers to immigrant students who cannot receive support they need to attend school.

Following the presentations, everyone in the room reflected together on how they might take local action after learning from the partner organizations.

Before leaving, each participant wrote down something they planned to do after the event on a butterfly-shaped note. The butterfly, whose migration is not bounded by man-made political borders, is a symbol of hope for immigration advocates. The resulting butterfly collage symbolizes the intention and support for local engagement with immigration work.

Building on the momentum of this event, two more CSJ are planned with a focus on homelessness and affordable housing.

## Innovations Continue at ICA GreenRise

ICA's mission of building "a just and equitable society in harmony with planet Earth" begins here at home with the ICA GreenRise, our national landmark building.

In May 2018, the Chicago Community Loan Fund extended to ICA a \$3.5 million loan for the purposes of anchoring the total funding needed to begin work on the historic restoration of the building. In addition, the Capital Campaign, supported by nearly 25 ICA colleagues and individuals, raised more than \$300,000. The remaining funds are being secured from federal tax credit programs and private equity providers. Negotiations are underway for closing Phase I of the project by October 2018.

The Historic Restoration Project is building on previous innovations, most notably the installation of the solar panels on the roof. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel wrote to "congratulate the entire team at ICA GreenRise... for reaching your 20% energy reduction goal... Energy efficiency is a priority for my administration and ICA GreenRise

Uptown Learning Laboratory has set a tremendous example for other nonprofit / mixed use buildings."

The first phase of the project, set to begin this fall, includes constructing an interior atrium—a neighborhood street—that will provide more natural light for tenants and conference rooms. An innovative, energy-efficient HVAC system will be installed with new hot water boilers, a dedicated outdoor air system, radiant panels, chillers, plumbing, and electrical systems. This whole-building approach will maximize comfort while minimizing energy use.

Such improvements have made the building more attractive to prospective tenants, and ICA is in conversations with Asian Human Services, a nonprofit organization and Uptown neighbor, to be a tenant for the first and second floor space.

In the January–February 2018 issue of *retrofit* magazine, "Aiming for Zero", ICA GreenRise is featured alongside a

***"When hard work meets great need is when we are at our best; and when, hopefully, we get a little luck, many blessings will come as well."***

*- Irv Henderson, ICA's development consultant*

new building being built in Washington, DC. The writer notes that "for both buildings, the journey to net zero is ongoing. There will be bumps along the way, but both projects provide an important example. The successes and failures of the strategies employed on these buildings will help give a blueprint to future owners and designers striving for net zero."

ICA is grateful to all the staff, board members and colleagues that have dedicated so much time and effort to this very important project.



# Broadening Chicago's Environmental Movement

Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network (CSLN) connects grassroots leaders from communities across the city to collaborate, share resources, support each other's work, build a stronger collective voice, and nurture equitable and impactful relationships with policy makers.

CSLN meetings take place bi-monthly at different locations throughout the city to highlight different member neighborhoods and buildings. So far in 2018, the network has met at Sacred Keepers Sustainability Lab in the Bronzeville community, Garfield Park Conservatory, the University of Illinois in Chicago (UIC) Heritage Garden, and the Lurie Garden in Millennium Park.

Meetings are a time for network members to learn about each others' initiatives, think through collaborative projects, and move forward equity-focused sustainability initiatives in Chicago. Currently there are three active working groups in the CSLN:

## Policy Group

The Policy working group aims to create the "in-between space" that connects top-down city policymakers and bottom-up grassroots leaders. This year, the group maintained a productive relationship with the Mayor's Chief Sustainability Officer and members of his team. Last December, CSLN members learned about the city's upcoming Resilience Plan and offered their recommendations on how it could best serve communities and organizations in Chicago. In March, city officials introduced to the group

a suite of projects under the umbrella of the Resilience Plan that were highly responsive to the earlier suggestions. Most significantly, the city had already begun internal assessment of community engagement strategies across departments and sister agencies to begin crafting a unified definition. Both parties were optimistic and agreed to meet again in the summer.

## Collaborative Events Group

The Collaborative Events working group is curating the Nourish (comm)Unity series with support from the Lumpkin Family Foundation. Nourish (comm)Unity explores community connections and holistic approaches to sustainability across four events in 2018. The first event tied into ICA's Out and About Uptown's Coast series to explore the Chicago coast through a tour led by indigenous youth leaders of Chi Nations Youth Council. The second explored connections across generations through blues, gardening, and goats at Harambee Garden, a hub in the Austin community.

## Publications Group

The Publications working group plans to showcase members' sustainability work and resources and articulate the impact of the network. While the group is still experimenting with format and collecting stories, it aims to launch its first publication in tandem with the network's anniversary this October.

CSLN launched in October of 2013 as a continuation of the ICA's accelerate77 initiative and will be celebrating its fifth year anniversary this year.



CSLN members in discussion at Lurie Garden



Young goat caretakers share their story at the second Nourish (comm)Unity event

CSLN members have been continuing to shape the environmental movement in Chicago by moving past old paradigms of competition among organizations, communities, and neighborhoods to a new vision of collaboration, mutual support, and collective voice. In particular, CSLN emphasizes a race-forward and equity-focused lens as an example to others in the environmental movement. If past successes are any indicator, CSLN will continue to innovate and thrive into the future. Learn more about the CSLN at [www.accelerate77.net/CSLN](http://www.accelerate77.net/CSLN).

# ICA Archives Go Digital

ICA Global Archives Team works to recover, organize, digitize, and reimagine more than 50 years of work by the Institute of Cultural Affairs and Ecumenical Institute. This vital work is made possible by the incredible volunteer commitment of ICA colleagues across the world. Twice a year, in the spring and fall, colleagues are invited to converge at the ICA GreenRise in Chicago for a week of reconnection, sharing approaches that work, and work to bring the wisdom of the organization to the challenges of the current day.

Colleagues convened for the Spring 2018 Sojourn at the ICA GreenRise from Sunday, April 22nd through Saturday, April 28th.

The week of work focused on six major areas:

- 1) Global Archives website
- 2) Imaginal Education
- 3) Social Process
- 4) Other World
- 5) Sifting through the basement
- 6) Organizing digital storage space

The three content area working groups—Imaginal Education, Social Process, and Other World—provided recommendations that informed the structure of the new Global Archives website. The website, basement, and AV/archive space teams all made progress on effectively processing and storing



Ruth sifts in the basement

the wealth of information available to them. More complete reports, including video, can be found on the Global Archives [website](http://www.accelerate77.net/ICA).

All are invited to attend the Fall 2018 Sojourn at the ICA GreenRise from Sunday, October 21st through Saturday, October 27th. For more information, please reach out to Jean Long, a member the of the Archives team, at [jean.long512@gmail.com](mailto:jean.long512@gmail.com).



# Activating ToP Across the United States

ICA's Technology of Participation (ToP) training program continues to thrive in 2018. With more than 100 trainers in 26 states offering over 250 public courses each year, ToP's impact continues to grow throughout the United States. Several improvements to the ToP program are currently underway through the work of ICA staff and trainer teams throughout the US. Some notable teams and projects include:

- The ToP Federal Action Team, which is diligently working to bring ToP training and facilitation to the federal government.
- The ToP Infrastructure Team, which will implement a new user-friendly course registration platform at the start of 2019.
- The ToP Curriculum Team, which is re-framing our current courses into different tracks and exploring additional courses that could be offered in the ToP catalogue.
- The ToP Trainer Pipeline Team, which is bringing forward ideas on how to make the ToP trainer track more accessible.
- The ToP Going to Scale Team, which is working on strategically collaborating with sector-specific national networks and organizations.
- The ToP Marketing Team, which is working across teams to ensure a consistent and clear client message and aggregating case stories from ToP practitioners across the United States.
- The ToP Assessment Team, which continues to steward the growth of Certified ToP Facilitators (CTFs). This summer, four new facilitators—Erima Fobbs, Samantha Sainsbury, Krista Rowe, and Caitlin Sarro—passed the rigorous ToP Certification process.



**Erima Fobbs, Samantha Sainsbury, Krista Rowe, and Caitlin Sarro were all certified in 2018**

The next ToP Network Annual Gathering, *We are the Change We Seek: Growing and Facilitating Together*, will be in New Orleans, Louisiana from January 11th through 14th with a pre-conference January 9th through 11th and a post-conference January 14th through 16th.

# ICAs Gather Worldwide



**ICA Chile colleagues at their weekly meeting**

ICAs around the globe continue to push forward transformational change in their locales. ICA-USA Program Director Seva Gandhi was able to visit ICA Chile and ICA Taiwan earlier this year.

ICA Chile is currently a volunteer-run organization that offers training and leadership development to individuals with physical disabilities and organizations that advocate for them. ICA Chile colleagues are excited about positive social changes currently underway in the country and hope to play a role in shepherding them forward.

ICA Taiwan is comprised of staff and colleagues that offer training and facilitation to organizational and community initiatives throughout Taiwan. They are looking forward to hosting the ICAI Asia Pacific Regional Conference from November 10th through 18th, 2018. Before the conference, attendees will be able to visit with community project sites across Taiwan and learn from those working on the projects.

Additionally, ICAs in West Africa and in Europe will be hosting their own regional gatherings later this year.

ICA-International, the organization that supports peer to peer initiatives among ICAs, is supporting each of these conferences in addition to working on renewing an MOU with the International Association of Facilitators (IAF), launching a Global ToP Policy Team to discuss how we can further partner on ToP Training across the globe, and hosting General Assemblies for its members.

Read more about the work of these international colleagues at [www.ica-international.org](http://www.ica-international.org).



**ICA Taiwan staff and colleagues gathering**

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ECUMENICAL  
INSTITUTE

1962



FIFTH CITY  
CHICAGO

1964



MOWANJUM  
AUSTRALIA

1969



SOCIAL PROCESS  
RESEARCH

1971



INSTITUTE OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

1972



THOSE WHO  
CARE

1974



TOWN  
MEETING

1976



INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION  
OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1984



ToP  
NETWORK

1990's



SUSTAINABLE  
COMMUNITIES

2000



GREENRISE  
CHICAGO

2010's

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD

The beginning of 2018 has been marked by steady progress for ICA. We concluded one program in Uptown and launched another as part of our commitment to engaging our neighbors. Across our many networks—in Chicago, through ToP, and across the globe—we continually demonstrate what is possible through collaboration and connection. Meanwhile, solid foundations are making real the visionary work of the Archives website and the renovated ICA GreenRise.

As you plan your end of the year donations, please consider giving to the ICA to support an even more impactful 2018. Our funds include:

- **ICA Programs** Support our transformational work within our four geographic communities
- **ICA GreenRise Historic Restoration Project Capital Campaign** Consider a one-time, special contribution toward the Capital Campaign of the GreenRise Historic Restoration Project or contact us to become an ICA GreenRise Ambassador
- **Annual Fund** Support our day-to-day general operations
- **Archives** Ensure ICA's transformative methods and curricula are available for future generations
- **Legacy Society** Extend the impact of your financial resources and provide long-term support of the ICA by including us in your estate plans

Donate online at [www.ica-usa.org/donate](http://www.ica-usa.org/donate) or via the donation envelope enclosed in this copy of the Initiatives by mail to "ICA-USA" at 4750 N. Sheridan Rd, Chicago, IL, 60640.

