

## First Annual Uptown Garden Walk July 16th



After four months of planning and collaboration, the First Annual Garden Walk successfully engaged 100 residents on July 16th. The tours were free and accessible throughout the day, and the weather was perfectly 78 degrees and sunny. Sparked by a planning workshop at the [February Seed Swap & Hub Day](#), ICA staff organized the event with members of Eco Up, a community-based environmental action group for residents of Chicago's Uptown neighborhood and surrounding communities.



The walk showcased 24 public and semi-private gardens throughout the day to highlight the community's green infrastructure. In a community with relatively few single-family homes and personal green space, the focus on public green space supported an image of Uptown as a community with many shared assets.

[Read more](#) 

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## INSS Conference a Great Success

The ICA hosted the Midwest site of the [Integrated Network for Social Sustainability \(INSS\)](#) Conference from June 8-10th at ICA GreenRise. As a multi-site conference, INSS encompassed seven different regions across the US and UK. The intent of the conference was to convene academics and practitioners working across the broadly defined arena of social sustainability. Over 65 people participated at the Chicago site, and 150+ were engaged across all the sites.



The conference sessions included on-site presenters as well as cross-site virtual presentations. The format for the on-site sessions was informed by the [Permaculture flower design](#). Each session highlighted unique perspectives from academics, policymakers, and community practitioners on one of the 7 domains, or petals, of the flower. By giving a platform to diverse perspectives, participants were able to create a holistic and nuanced view of social sustainability in 7 different arenas to more fully understand the breadth of a particular area.

[Read more](#) ➡

## CSLN Leaders Forward Network Initiatives

On July 21st, CSLN members gathered for the summer bi-monthly meeting at [Alliance for the Great Lakes](#). The space was beautiful and overlooked Millennium Park - many thanks to our gracious hosts! 36 people attended the meeting, 13 of whom were new to the CSLN. The meeting began with a light Mingle Bingo game to help members learn new things about one another. Meeting discussions forwarded two long-term initiatives within the network: membership structure and working in the "in-between" space with the City of Chicago.



[Read more about meeting results here](#) ➡



### Community Profile: Joseph Carr

After discovering Joseph Carr's natural talent for growing and maintaining plants, ICA recruited him to volunteer and act as ICA's resident 'green thumb'. Joseph curates



### Upcoming Chicago ToP Classes

More information can be found by clicking on the session title or to find a training near you [click here](#).

#### [ToP Facilitation Methods - Sept 13-14,](#)

Three proven ways to activate group

and maintains The Lumumba Room, found on the first floor in addition to other plants on the 6th and 8th floors.

He says that "gardening comes naturally to me." A lifelong lover of vegetable gardens, he also grew to be fond of indoor plants "as way of bringing the outdoors in-very helpful to the spirit during those dark winter months" in the city!

participation. Hands-on practice helps you discover practical uses in your life and work.

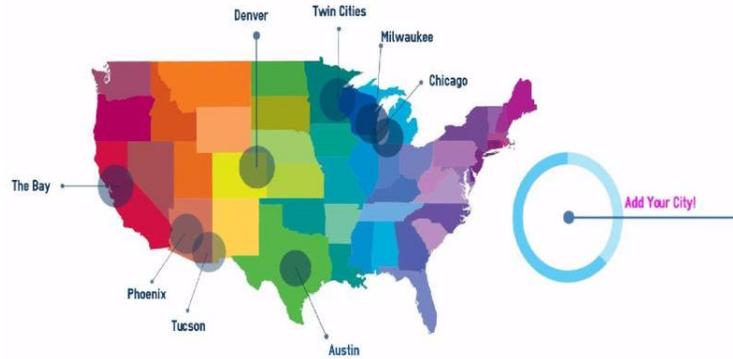
### [ToP Secrets of Implementation - Oct 18-19](#)

Keep plans and projects alive, relevant, doable and achievable. There is a large and powerful component for peer mentoring in this course.

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## ICA & ToP Accelerating Climate Action Nationally

This October 2016 there will be National Forums commemorating the 40th anniversary of ICA's Bicentennial Town Meetings and a ToP Facilitation Month of Service.



### [Current Committed Cities](#)

Is your organization or community:

- Working on local sustainability initiatives?
- Initiating local efforts to reduce carbon footprint and other greenhouse gas emissions?
- Promoting community health and equity as we face the impacts of climate change?
- Looking to connect and collaborate to advance your work?

If this speaks to your work, we invite you to partner with the [Institute of Cultural Affairs](#) (ICA) and the Technology of Participation (ToP®) Network in our Facilitation Month of Service: Accelerating Climate Action. During the month of October, professional ToP facilitators and ICA colleagues will be offering pro bono assistance to meet needs for facilitation among the diverse array of groups acting to address our climate crisis.

To learn more, contact ICA - [twysocki@ica-usa.org](mailto:twysocki@ica-usa.org)

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