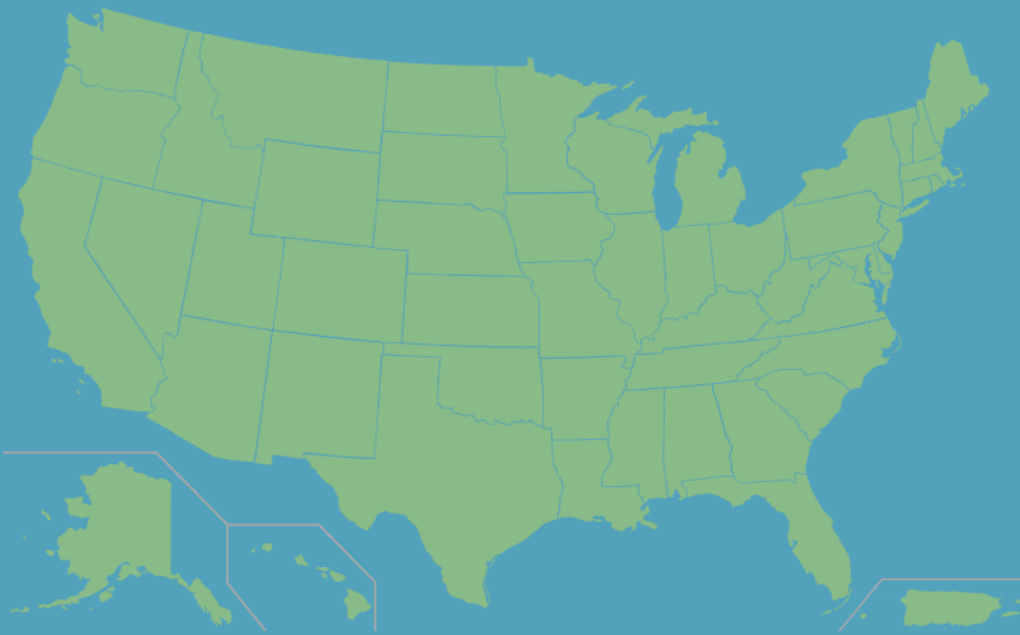


ICA USA Annual Report



stories of 2020 and 2021



ICA

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



In 1979 Don McLean wrote the song “Vincent” in response to Van Gogh’s painting “Starry Night.” Then in the ICA tradition of writing words to familiar tunes, an ICA colleague wrote new words to the song. Click on quote to read revised words:

“The stories must be told,
New signs for all the world to see.”

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Historical Look




Looking
back on the
the origins
of ICA
GreenRise
100 years
ago - 1921!

and
today...



ICA

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Affairs *in the U.S.A*



I love a good story. Stories can horrify you, make you cry, shock you, and shake you to your core. They can melt your heart, change your mind, call you to action. Humans become human because of stories. They form our identity, remind us of who we have been, and teach us who we are to be.

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

Greetings,

It is refreshing to be saying hello to you in 2022. For the past two years the entire world has been through challenging times, discovering ways to deal with a pandemic and finding the best way to care for ourselves and others. ICA USA has experienced this time as challenging as well. We have lost some staff and tenants and our program services have slowed, but in the midst of this we have some uplifting stories to share.

In 2021 the ICA celebrated the 100th year anniversary of what is now called the ICA GreenRise Uptown Learning Lab (GreenRise for short). In 1921 the building was constructed with four floors as pictured on the previous page. Within five years an additional four floors were added. In 2021 ICA celebrated 50 years of owning this amazing building since it was gifted to us in 1971. How time flies! Its purpose has shifted from being ICA's international training center to the ICA GreenRise, providing space for 20 nonprofits and social service agencies, who are also offering services to address the challenges of our times.

With our focus on the climate crisis, ICA is preparing to launch the construction of the GreenRise Restoration Project in the summer of 2022. Collaborating with the GreenRise are three other Uptown organizations also striving to become carbon free by 2030.

Our global relationships have accelerated this past year with the ICA International and the launching of the Global Schedule in 2021.

I am honored to be asked to lead the ICA USA into the future as its Interim Executive Director. For the twelve years I focused on the GreenRise, I learned to appreciate the Institute for the resilience of its staff and board members and their commitment to address the social, economic and environmental impacts of climate change.

Now as we LOOK FORWARD, I am anticipating the stories that will emerge in 2022 - including the ground breaking for construction of the ICA GreenRise Renovation Project!

Lesley Showers
Executive Director
www.ica-usa.org



Chicago

GreenRise Historic Restoration

Since the the GreenRise Restoration Project was launched in 2015, it has been a long journey to reach this moment: the closure on \$22 million dollars of financial packaging from twelve financial institutions for restoring the first two floors!.

ICA USA colleagues catalyzed this project at the beginning by providing \$300,000 to cover the costs of the project's pre-development expenses.

The restoration will demonstrate being an energy efficient vintage building through renovating the infrastructure (plumbing, state of the art HVAC, new boilers), repairing the terra cotta facade and restoring the first floor lobby.

Once the restoration is complete, the ICA GreenRise Uptown Learning Lab will share what was learned about developing strategies and funding with other buildings committed to moving toward being carbon free.

Restoration Values

- A destination for cutting-edge sustainability
- Financially sound for longterm success
- Connecting to communities within the building and Uptown
- Space represents ICA's mission and values



Anticipating 2022: The summer ground breaking for the first two floors will bring the architectural drawings alive, including the new atrium and conference center shown above.

Mayor Visits GreenRise



EARTH DAY 2021: Surrounded by 488 solar panels on the ICA GreenRise roof with ICA staff and visitors: 46th Ward Alderman James Cappleman; Chicago's Chief Sustainability Officer Angela Tovar; Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot; Blacks in Green Director Naomi Davis; and 47th Ward Alderman Matt Martin

In 2020 Chicago's Chief Sustainability Officer Angela Tovar reported that **buildings emit 70% of city emissions of carbon pollution**. Since then ICA has been accelerating its work on the GreenRise and collaborating with other buildings in Uptown. The site visit resulted in a commitment by Chicago's Department of Planning and Development of two million dollars for the Greenrise restoration.

Carbon Free Building Demonstrations

In 2021 ICA GreenRise Uptown Learning Lab created the **Carbon Free Building Demonstrations** program, a collaboration with Lakeside Square Apartments, Sarah's Circle and the Uplift Community High School. A highlight of the collaboration was when a freshman math class of nineteen students visited GreenRise from Uplift High School to learn about climate change in relation to buildings.

New

As the ICA GreenRise extends its relationships with people in the Uptown community, the goal is to offer action research, training and interchange to people in buildings, organizations and government agencies throughout the Uptown community. The vision is to have the Uptown model assist other Chicago communities in accelerating their move toward being carbon-free by 2035. The key to this task will be to engage community residents in changing how they live in and modify their buildings.

In 2022, the GreenRise Uptown Learning Lab anticipates creating new collaborations within Uptown that will allow Uptown to be a Chicago leader in being carbon free.



Meida McNeal

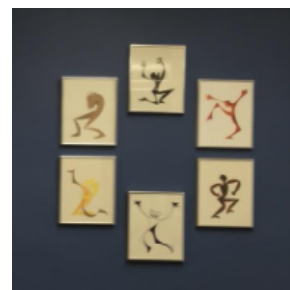
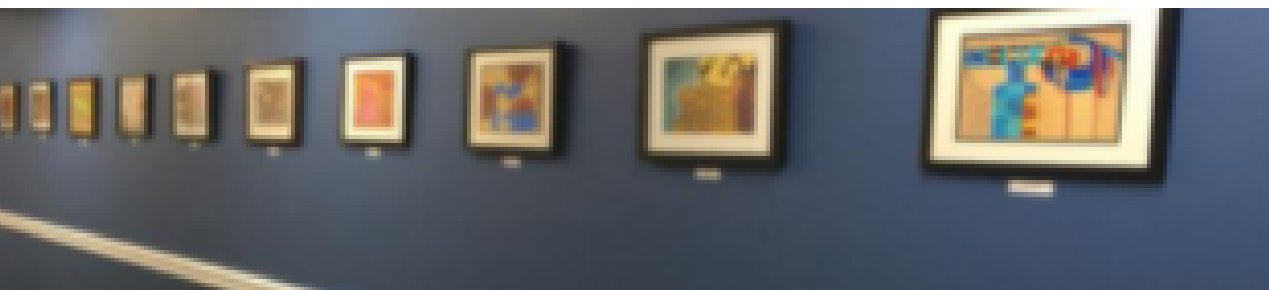
6th Floor South:

"5TH CITY REVISITED"

Space Transformation



Dr. Meida McNeal is the founder of [Honey Pot Performance](#) and Senior Manager of Arts and Community Impact Investment in Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Meida grew up in Chicago's 5th City neighborhood, ICA's first community development project. In writing and performing "5th City Revisited", Meida tied together personal memory, oral history, original Fifth City documents, urban planning, and city policy. Using dance, story and media to explore how to create healthy communities, she found herself asking, "What is the power of the 5th City story? What lessons does it teach in the current, exciting, and (cautiously) hopeful era of grassroots change?" In 2021 Meida loaned the ICA the ["5th City Revisited" production posters](#) that now line the south hallway.



6th Floor North:

With the assistance of the building staff, the artwork of ICA colleagues Ilona Jeszenszky and LiDona Wagner are now on display, reminding everyone who walks by that community and culture are key to social change.

Social Action Research Center

The archives space now has been renamed as the ICA Social Action Research Center, housing both the Global Archives and ICA program development. Many archive files have been moved from the basement to four rooms on the 6th floor. One room holds all the Global Human Development Project files with a drawer for each nation involved. A second room houses drawers for each of the 50 states in the U.S. that held Town Meetings.

National

Technology of Participation (ToP)

The Technology of Participation (ToP) Network, formed in the 1980s, delivers training across the United States using the ICA's ToP facilitation methods. With the onset of COVID, the Network became "all hands on deck," to continue offering training, developing new facilitators, and migrating methods to a virtual world in response to the pandemic. In 2020 and 2021 **150 facilitators conducted courses for approximately 10,000 people**. With global technology like Zoom the national reach has also had the possibility of expanding globally. Highlights of this work include:



Environmental Defense Fund Oceans Program: Assisted clients with moving their programs online, including facilitation, coaching, training and tech support. Designed and supported six mini-conferences with more than 200 participants on technology and a series in Spanish for fish technicians in Latin America.



First Nations Development Institute: Supported one of the largest indigenous funding entities in the country with training, coaching, and technical support for virtual facilitation. Designed an original curriculum, drawing on ToP, to support their unique needs.



National Institutes of Health: Facilitated a series of 30 meetings to create a ten-year strategy roadmap for a \$500 million NIH project emerging out of COVID to reduce health disparities in underserved populations. Rewarding to bring together everyone from executive leadership to university researchers to community organizers to strategize and collaborate in an egalitarian space. Amazing to be supporting and serving two of the most critical conversations currently going on in our society.



US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: Conducted a virtual strategic plan with the leadership of a newly formed division within USDA consisting of 900 employees. The facilitation resulted in a plan involving a complex integration of servicing for direct loans, guaranteed loans, and grants for individuals, governments, and utilities.

Global Reach

Online ToP facilitation was provided to a Center within the **International Red Cross** based in Geneva, Switzerland, which equips humanitarian workers to be frontline negotiators in global conflict zones. This required complex language and security challenges to take their entire global community online.



Assisted **Save the Children** moving a global conference from Dubai to online in 2020. Supported the conference in becoming a comprehensive learning series, bringing together people working on the frontlines of food security around the world.



Future: Stay tuned for the announcement of ToP Annual Conference dates.



CLIMATE ACTION FORUMS in Colorado

2020 and 2021 were years of learning and expansion for the **Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action (ANCA)** Team in Colorado. They had to learn to conduct **Climate Action Forums** virtually - which surprisingly were as effective as in person. One forum participant remarked, "It was like we were all there working together".

The virtual Climate Action Forums consist of a climate science update, a visioning workshop, and action planning using Zoom and Mural to create a detailed neighborhood plan for green action.

Within a year of doing their Forum, the Baker Neighborhood Sustainability Committee completed three community clean up days, demonstrated native plantings of trees and lawns, put up community bulletin boards, and installed mural art at key intersections.

Mastering the virtual forums proved to be key to expansion into Boulder, where four neighborhood forums were held, supported by the Boulder Sustainability Department. Some projects initiated through the climate forum process were a mobile bike repair program, promotion of pollinator gardens, and exploration of community-based solar access.

Hope Communities



In 2021 the Hope Communities housing complex in Denver rehabbed two garden plots for the children. Seeds, compost, hand tools and kid-sized garden gloves were purchased. In addition to planting, the interaction with worms and bugs was part of the fun. The ANCA team presented curriculum on animal habitats and dialogued with the children about how stewardship of the environment is critical for the survival of living creatures that depend on healthy forests and clean waterways. The finale at summer's end was a cooking class using produce from the children's garden.

Hope Communities Sing

(Tune: I Love the Flowers)

*I love Hope Communities
I love the planet Earth
I love this day in time
I love the Universe
I'm always ready
To see this world of ours
I tell you all, I like it here
I tell you all, I love it here
(boom di yada....)**

Anticipating 2022: The acceleration of Climate Action Forums in Colorado and expanding to California

Global

Social Action Research Center

The ICA USA Social Action Research Center houses the Global Archives, hosts the Global Schedule and collaborates with the ICA International (ICAI).

Global Archives

"Creating the future of our past."



In 2020 ICA staff and colleagues spent six months in the GreenRise basement emptying suitcases, trunks and boxes and reorganizing 500 file cabinets. This resulted in nine collections of research that are being scanned and placed on the [Global Archives website](#). Five weeks of national volunteers, a weekly volunteer and a one-hour a week scanner helped shape the website development. Special thanks to Ed Feldmanis, Ken and Ruth Gilbert, Beret Griffith, Laura Grover, Debra Harris-Watson, Mary Ann Heard, Frank Knutson, Kay and Geoff Nixon, Paul Noah who helped make the archives available to the world.

Some 200 books (many shown in photo) written by ICA colleagues are available under [Publications](#) on the website, either as a PDF or from a bookstore where they can be ordered. Master and doctoral thesis related to the work of the Institute as well as memoirs are also available under Publications. Beyond books, a variety of publications have been shared by ICA colleagues various publications on the website. Paul Noah documented the journey of creating the [Uptown Neighborhood Mural](#) in 2005 and Jan Sanders and David Dunn designed a zine, [Rituals in the Field: Nepal](#) as well as the [Richard Landon Sims Memorial Ritual](#). The Global Archives Team hosted two global online events in 2020. In May a Global Research Assembly reflected on the nine archive collections. In a November [Problem Solving Unit](#) (PSU) participants wrestled with how past global research found in the archives could be integrated with the exploration of future research and become the Global Research Network.

new



Global Schedule

The Global Schedule was launched in March 2021 to provide new perspectives and effective actions through book studies, conversations related to social and environmental issues, methods training and links to global events. By the end of the year 1,000 participated in some 75 events (20% global participation and beyond the ICA audience). In December 2021 the Global Schedule Team hosted a conversation around a virtual fire to honor and reflect on the highlights, struggles, griefs and joys of 2021 and to anticipate 2022. Bookmark the Global Schedule for future events [here](#).

ICA INTERNATIONAL

MEMBERS

AFRICA

Benin
Cote d'Ivoire
Kenya
Tanzania
Togo
Zimbabwe

ASIA

Australia
India
Japan
Nepal
Taiwan

EUROPE

Spain
United Kingdom

LATIN AMERICA

Chile
Guatemala

NORTH AMERICA

Canada
U.S.A.

In the past two years ICA USA has supported the ICAI in its reorganization and through funding national ICA programs addressing the climate crisis.

In July 2021 **ICA International (ICAI)** reorganized its Board to have a representative from each national member on the Board - now 17. There are an additional 18 associates - **32 nations** total.

The ICAI Board meets monthly. Twice a year, on the third Saturday of July and January, a General Assembly is held online. This Assembly is open for anyone to attend who is interested in the global work of the ICAI.

If you wish to participate in the General Assembly in January or July, email secretary@ica-international.org.

To receive the ICAI monthly newsletter, **The Global Buzz**, email social@ica-international.org.

ASSOCIATES

AFRICA

ICA Uganda
Development Institute
(Ghana)
Development Institute
(South Africa)
EPDI (Nigeria)
OPAD (Zambia)
Support for
Community Response
(Kenya)

ASIA

ICA Bangladesh
ICA Sri Lanka
ICA Associates
(Philippines)
Leadership Inc. (China)
ORP Institute (Korea)

EUROPE

ICA Germany
ICA Netherlands
ICA Ukraine
France: Fourmis
du Changement
(France)

LATIN AMERICA

ICA Peru

NORTH AMERICA

ICA Associates (Canada)
Emerging Ecology (USA)

In 2022 a revised ICAI website and a new look to the Global Buzz newsletter.

ICAI TEAMS

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Asia Pacific Region
Ibero Americas
Revitalizing Africa ICAs

MISSIONAL IMPACT

Communication
Global Conferences
ToP Approaches
UN Relations

INTERNAL STRENGTHENING

Fundraising
Membership Care
Organizational Sustainability

At the July 2021 General Assembly teams were initiated that are focused on empowering ICAs in their geographical regions, catalyzing missional effectiveness, and strengthening the ICAI as an organization. Six months later there were already some practical results:

- The **Ibero Americas Team** was formed because of the passion to provide translation at the General Assemblies to empower more effective participation as people listen in their native language.
- The **Revitalizing Africa ICAs Team** now has 12 nations meeting monthly with a common mission of addressing the climate crisis. Their plea to Europe and the United States is to cut back on carbonization of the atmosphere that is affecting Africa daily.
- The **Communications Team** interviewed media experts to give the ICAI website an upgrade and to make ICAI social media more effective.
- The **Fundraising Team** has proposed that ICA Nepal train 10-12 other ICA offices in fundraising skills.

Membership in these teams is open to anyone interested.



Anticipating 2022:

If you are interested in participating in any of these ICAI Teams, email secretary@ica-international.org

Financial Summary

From the 2020 Audit
The 2021 Audit is not yet available

Total Revenue
\$1,713,590

Rental Income

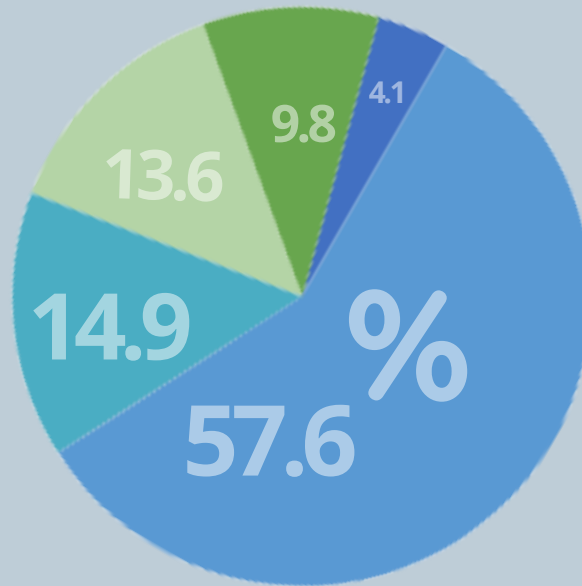
\$987,236

Individual Contributions
\$ 255,094

Program Services
\$ 233,287

COVID Support
\$ 168,500

Other
\$ 69,473



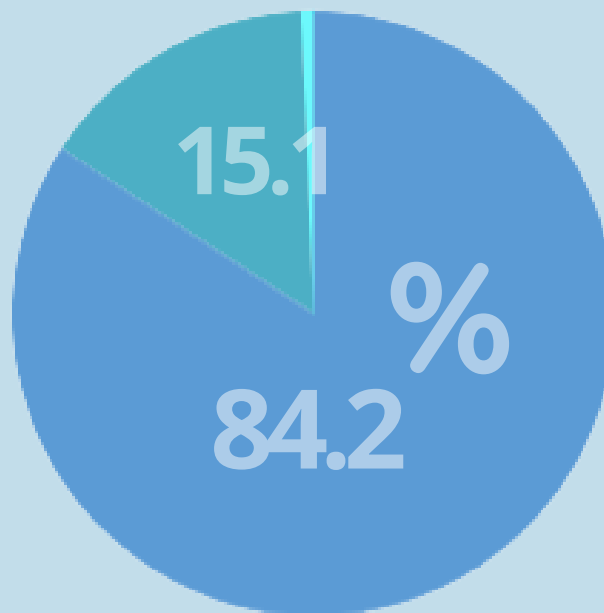
Total Expenses
\$1,711,196

Program Services

\$1,440,752

Management & General
\$ 258,591

Fundraising
\$ 11,853

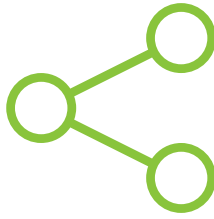


Do not underestimate the value of your contribution to the ICA! Your donation assures that ICA can continue to focus on changing peoples lives and influencing the future of climate change through our programs. In 2021 more than 50% of ICA contributions were designated for climate action programs.



A Monthly Donor Says

I support the ICA because it is involved in creative doing - walking their talk - and seeing what can be done to create change. The focus is always on the local, whether it is nationally or globally. And I am most inspired hearing how the ICA GreenRise is becoming a demonstration of moving toward becoming carbon free!"



Connect with ICA USA
ica-usa.org



You can donate online at
ica-usa.org/donate



or by mailing
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Chicago, IL, 60640