

ICA INITIATIVES

AUTUMN 2012

accelerate **77** Special Issue

Dear Colleagues:

It has been an amazing and remarkable year for the Institute of Cultural Affairs. Our bold goal of holding 50 events around the world to commemorate the 50th Anniversary has been surpassed! To date, more than 2,000 colleagues have attended the nearly 70 events that were held to celebrate. Our Sharing Approaches That Work

Conference gathered more than 400 participants and showcased sustainable projects in all of Chicago's 77 community areas. Please enjoy our special pictorial issue of *Initiatives* that highlights the energy of the event and the unveiling of the artwork that honors ICA's past, present and future.

Throughout the years I have witnessed the difference that our collective action can make. Your contribution has always been important. Please consider a "special recognition" new or increased gift in the amount of \$19.62 or \$196.20 or \$1,962 to honor the arrival of Joseph Mathews in Evanston and the start of our movement.

Don't wait for the next issue of *Initiatives* to see ICA's work on urban sustainability, early learning programs, updating ToP facilitation methods, and HIV/AIDS projects in Africa. For the latest news, please visit the website at www.ica-usa.org.

Sincerely,



Terry D. Bergdall, PhD
 President and CEO



Karen Weigert, Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Chicago, delivers the keynote address of the Sharing Approaches That Work Conference on September 15, 2012, in Chicago while (left) Lisa Parker of NBC5 Chicago and (right) Terry Bergdall look on. (Photo by Seva Gandhi)

Share Fair a Success for ICA

The Sharing Approaches That Work Conference, or Share Fair, was held on September 15, 2012, and was a resounding success.

The event, organized by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, drew more than 400 people and 140 community initiatives to Uptown's Truman College. Each organization present showed their current activities, future plans and connected with others during the day-long conference. The event was part of the Accelerating Green Initiatives in Chicago's 77 Community Areas (Accelerate 77) project and one of the celebrations of the ICA's 50th Anniversary. This dynamic concept can be replicated across the country.

Lisa Parker, a Consumer Affairs reporter for Chicago's NBC television station, opened the event and welcomed the participants. Terry Bergdall, President and CEO of the ICA, spoke along with Chicago Aldermen James Cappleman (46rd Ward) and Deborah Graham (29th Ward).

Karen Weigert, Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Chicago, gave the keynote address. She talked about the efforts of the city and its residents in improving the environment and creating sustainable systems. She added that it was thanks to those efforts that, in April, Chicago had been rated as one of the most sustainable large communities in the country.

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Connection Seminars were also held throughout the day, covering topics including sustainable transportation, green economics, community organizing and innovation. The seminars were facilitated by supportive organizations such as Openlands, The Field Museum, the Center for Neighborhood Technology, Active Transportation Alliance and Energy Impact.

Accelerate 77 is a three-year program to increase the role and positive impact of local communities in realizing objectives of the Chicago Climate Action Plan. Its underlying strategy is to identify current sustainability initiatives in all of Chicago's 77 community areas; connect them with one another to inspire new ideas, practices, self-consciousness and motivation through peer interchange; and engage residents in systematic learning, planning, and collective action. ICA anticipates that the project will thereby accelerate environmental sustainability in a bottom-up fashion driven by practical action, expanded imagination, and greater organizational capacities among local groups.

The week also had the unveiling of the artwork commissioned for the 50th Anniversary. It was unveiled at 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. in Chicago on September 13, 2012.

"Ocean of Devotion," a creation of Chicago artist Gina Alicea, was also part of an event for Business Partners, the Chamber for Uptown. The ten-foot by five-foot piece contains more than 1,000 strips of cloth with handwritten messages from ICA events and people across the world. Gina sewed the strips like a quilt and veiled the piece with a semi-transparent blue cloth.

"There was such a wonderful energy in reading each of the pieces of cloth, reading them, ironing them – to feel what I think they were feeling," Gina told the local newspaper *Inside-Booster* that reported on the unveiling.

"Ocean of Devotion" is in the lounge of the ICA building's sixth floor offices. A video of the presentation of the artwork is available on the ICA website.





“IF YOU HAVE KNOWLEDGE, LET OTHERS
LIGHT THEIR CANDLES IN IT.”
MARGARET FULLER





Midway in a Century of Care

In cooperation with the Ecumenical Institute

Board to inaugurate the Legacy Society

Another event and commemoration of ICA's 50th Anniversary is the inauguration of the Legacy Society at the November 2012 Board of Directors meeting.

The Legacy Society honors colleagues who support the Institute of Cultural Affairs-USA through a bequest intention, donations of life insurance, IRA gifts, or other types of charitable planned gifts. In gratitude for such generosity, the Institute spotlights the philanthropic leadership of Legacy Society members by a brass-leaved donor legacy tree that is displayed in the 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. building.

Inaugural members are Richard Alton, Terry and Pamela Bergdall, Cheryl Kartes, Alan Gammel, Mark and Jenelle Dove, Gary Drown, Bruce Donnelly, Donald Elliott, Kenneth and Ruth Gilbert, Larry Loeppke and Andrea Beacham, Norm and Judy Lindblad, Alice Neill, Frances Moore, Karen Sims, Janice Ulangca and Alfrieda Wilkins.

By becoming a member of the Legacy Society, you help ICA meet the challenges



Norm and Judy Lindblad are among those joining the Legacy Society.

of tomorrow by leaving a legacy of promise and possibilities for the next generations. Colleagues from across the country that are connected by the assemblies, projects, methods, history and mission of the ICA can tangibly and posthumously stay connected through the Legacy Society. If you are thinking of becoming a member of the Legacy Society, simply

notify Karen Sims of your bequest plans at 773-769-6363. For more information, please visit http://www.ica-usa.org/donate/planned_giving.

Reaffirming a Life's Commitment

A good example of a thoughtful estate plan comes from colleagues Norm and Judy Lindblad. They recently reviewed and revised their estate plan. They had wondered about continuing the support of ICA in their will but have been so encouraged by the resurgence of the ICA's programming that they have made a provision for the Institute of Cultural Affairs to receive five percent of the remains of their estate.

Judy is on the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee and has witnessed first-hand the energy and enthusiasm that the celebratory events around the country have ignited. "Norm and I wanted a way to continue our annual giving and participate in the future of ICA," Judy stated. "A percentage of our estate seemed to be a fitting recognition."