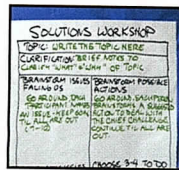




Colleagues Meet at Oklahoma City University

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ToP® Training Available this Fall

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Colleague Helps Transform a Community in Durham, NC

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Teens Learned ToP® Methods and Greening Skills

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ICA Initiatives

Institute of Cultural Affairs in the USA. 4750 N. Sheridan Road. Chicago, IL, 60640. (773) 769-6363. www.ica-usa.org.



Dear Colleagues:

Yvette Alvarado was a Learning Basket® participant at a Chicago Public School, Stockton Elementary School. An ICA staff-person told me that

her experience was eye opening. She has shared that the program gave her "background information, information you don't normally get, on how a baby's brain develops...It makes you a better parent." Because of her enthusiasm for the program, Yvette now works with teen moms, sharing with them the same methods she believes enhanced her parenting skills.

Since I've joined the ICA staff I've heard many good stories like Yvette's. I'm heartened and delighted as 2009 shapes up to be a year of successes and new beginnings for ICA. Making that good news visible, touting the progress, and crafting the case for continued financial support of ICA is a great pleasure for me. Our current plans are encouraging as we model the way, inspire a shared vision, and enable others to act.

Expanding Facilitation

From its inception the ICA has been a pioneer in lifelong learning. Building on a holistic curriculum and unique training methods, ICA today steps-up its facilitation and training as it engages in:

- strengthening local, national and global facilitators and facilitation (ToP® Training Network, International Association of Facilitators collaboration)

- addressing national and global priorities like poverty (micro-lending, green jobs) and disaster turnarounds
- educating primary caregivers in unique approaches to learning (Learning Basket, First 5 LA)
- serving the needs of youth today (Teen Facilitators Work Force Program)
- reinventing meaningful secular/spiritual curriculum (Profound Journey Dialogue).

Building Community

Central to the mission of ICA has been the empowerment of individuals, neighborhoods and organizations in building true community. The ICA of today will continue to be a demonstration and training ground of community building through its programs of:

- networking with global and local partnerships (ICAI)
- hosting conferences and organizations engaged in the care of the world
- encouraging the Keystone Ecological Urban Center as it develops green systems, routines and programs
- offering open-source research tools (Global Archives, papers/books, documenting research)
- serving as a resource center to building tenants, offering entrepreneurial growth services.

Supporting ICA

The past year has been one of tremendous economic challenge for many. Conditions have made it necessary for most to make careful choices about how to spend, save and give their resources. As I take on new ICA leadership responsibilities, I am especially thankful to those who have already chosen to continue their support in 2009.

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The Power of the Past - The Promise of the Future Global Archives Discussed at Oklahoma City University

The bustling campus of Oklahoma City University welcomed 20 ICA colleagues October 6 - 8. Liberal Arts Dean Mark Davies invited ICA to participate in an intense three-day dialogue that would merge the Seven Revolutions with Erick Paterson (Center for Strategic and International Studies), the university's Oikos honor program, and the "Living Archives" of ICA's significant and highly regarded history of social activism in the 60s and 70s. He believes that the forces that generated the ICA's work during those turbulent times are now at play and today's youth need to learn from and emulate that energy, vigor and imagination.

Terry Bergdall, Acting Executive Director, said "We are deeply grateful for our colleagues' willingness to invest their time and energy in this opportunity to insure that our rich legacy (EI/OE/ICA) continues to make a creative contribution to addressing the challenges facing the world today and in the future."

There was an ambitious agenda filled with lectures, focused conversations, and sessions on envisioning next steps. The full report has been distributed on the colleague listservs and the ICA website.

Parallel to this event was a useful and detail-focused visit from the archivist, Christine Wolf, from Oklahoma City University. She reviewed ICA's Global Archives this summer and prepared a report that included



an assessment of the scope and importance of the material, the current physical status of the archives and recommendations for a plan for preserving the archives.

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As the year draws to an end and we enter the holiday season, please consider a donation and being an active participant in the ICA-USA's continuing growth plans. Let us all celebrate the values and victories of ICA today by creating a spirit of renewed community.

Sincerely,



Terry Bergdall, PhD
Acting Executive Director

P.S. There are two ways you can support this year's progress. You can use the enclosed envelope to send a gift or donate online at our website www.ica-usa.org.

ToP® Methods at Work Getting a Participatory Culture to Bloom With New Attitudes and Tools

The Quality of Life Project in Durham, North Carolina is an example of how collaboration and sharing the responsibility made a community a great place to live.

Here is how the ToP® Methods and an ICA colleague, Elaine Stover, created the environment for that to happen.

Mayme Webb-Bledsoe is manager of the QOL program and the Senior Neighborhood

Coordinator for Duke University's Community Affairs Office. She says, "We were in a thick fog of complicated matters that we didn't have control over. The ToP® methods built community confidence and let that confidence grow organically to build trust and responsibility."

Communities in Trouble

Duke is an urban university in the middle of six communities in Durham that needed economic and social support. Seven years ago they reached out to the neighborhoods to discover that Duke was not viewed as a good neighbor. They were viewed as reactive to community issues. "Because of a past unpleasant history, Duke was also viewed as not encouraging grassroots efforts and harshly parental. To say

the least, there were trust issues," said Maymee.

In an effort to collaborate and support community efforts – the Southwest Central Durham Quality of Life Program was started with limited HUD dollars. A mediator was hired to start the dialogue. After a year he threw his arms up in the air and said that was all he could do. However, ICA colleague Elaine Stover,



using ToP® methods, seemed to point the way to a collaborative forum. "She was an independent voice – not connected to any of the grumblings and grievance issues and historical memories and snags." Elaine was hired to facilitate a few meetings, but

she has trained community leaders and facilitated the project ever since.

Turning the Corner

Several social issues were shared by all six communities. However, housing was the biggest hurdle for each of them. In many neighborhoods there was about 30% home ownership. As neighborhoods melt into each other, so does all the blight, crime and apathy. Housing is related to many social evils: empty or unkempt homes led to crime that was spreading "like a cancer", joblessness, youth gangs, and drugs.

After Elaine conducted many Focused Conversations, 150 topics were identified as issues to be resolved – 25 were selected as priorities. Over time, they were narrowed

ToP® Methods are a Powerful Way to Impact Change

Has your organization allocated (FY2009) funds for professional development opportunities, but you have yet to find that course that speaks to your consensus-building approach to problem solving? ICA-USA invites you to check out upcoming Technology of Participation (ToP®) classes www.ica-usa.org/index.php?pr=coursetop.

The Technology of Participation teaches the following: facilitation methods for group discussions that take less time, are more productive and engage the creative spirit of participants; ways to design questions that help people discuss important topics respectfully and thoroughly; and how to facilitate an action planning process that makes sense, doesn't get bogged down and energizes a group to implement its plan. Our clients include the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Dell Computer, Chicago Public Schools, American Red Cross, and the United Way, among others.

Space is still available for courses offered throughout the country, for both fall 2009 and winter 2010 courses. ToP® courses are intentionally limited in size and are taught by at least two trainers to ensure the highest levels of participation and learning.



to four Strategic Directions: Housing, Economic Viability, Sustainable Nonprofits and Celebrations and Traditions.

Successes Celebrated

Housing remains the highest priority and Mayme's passion. She believes "It is hard to create stable communities without roots. However, there has been much progress on this front. Results of the last six years include more home ownership. People are improving their property. Forty new homes were

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Are you 70 ½?

You may be in a position where you can benefit from making a gift to ICA-USA.

Under the recent Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, if you are 70 ½ or older, it may be advantageous to your to transfer money from your IRA to ICA-USA.

This gift would not only be deductible, but it would also not be subject to income tax. This can be helpful to you if you do not itemize your deductions or if they are subject to limitations. It may also be profitable to you if you need to make a required minimum distribution from your IRA.

An IRA gift may take some planning; please consult your financial advisor.

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built and recently, the first 'green' home was built."

Through a collaboration with the Duke Business School, students created viability studies for restarting economic corridors in the communities. They asked the residents what they wanted. A good example was that there are no pharmacies in the area. In addition, with the collaboration of the architecture school of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, there is a Design Book of model homes. The neighborhoods discussed what they wanted their streets to look like and UNC created a tool for developers to follow when building new homes.

Other collaborations and successful connections are with Habitat for Humanity, a local Land Trust, the City Council, and three housing developers. "There is momentum that we think is sustainable. We are about to start a five-year planning process to ensure stability and long-term engagement," touts Mayme.

Praise for ToP® Methods

Mayme raves that "After tens of thousands and tens of thousands of half sheets, Elaine and her firm Greenschemes, has been able to have the community look at their festering open wounds and critical issues and turn them into a vision for the future. She was able to create trust and the ability to share responsibility." To that point, Elaine said she remembers an "aha" moment for the leadership team. "It was the first time I led them through a historical scan (Wall of Wonder) in year five. You could see and feel the shift in thinking and objectivity. The community could see what had changed,

and how they had changed."

Mayme really believes in the ToP® methods. "They have been a godsend. How exciting it was to witness conflicts evolve into cooperation. The methods have led directly to the success of the program. I can't speak enough about them. I can't imagine what the process would be like without them and Elaine. She is truly an architect of relationship building."

When asked how do you sustain the interest and stamina for a long-term project Elaine replied, "Using the ToP® methods with the QOL project brought structural, social, economic, and physical change in the neighborhoods around Duke. It is energizing to see how the community has developed into a value-driven effort. That keeps me motivated and willing to support their next steps. It makes me smile inside when I reflect on how high they have set the bar for themselves and how often they clear and exceed that bar. I have used the quote 'We are what we measure, so let's measure what we want to be'. They use ToP® methods to plan and to implement. It has been my great pleasure to work in this community." Read more about Quality of Life Program at www.durhamqualityoflife.org.

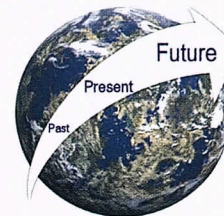


Mathews Archives Celebration

To commemorate the 2009 opening of the Joseph Wesley Mathews Archives at the Wesley Theological Seminary (Washington, D.C.) Library, there will be a Symposium December 17 - 19, 2009, titled *Transforming the Legacy: People of the Spirit in the 21st Century*.

Six Workshop Tracks Focus on Current Work and Future Strategies

- Urban Mission: Resources and strategies for the 21st century
- Interfaith Engagement: Beyond dialogue to cultural transformation
- Environmental Stewardship: Influencing policy through demonstration
- Global Health: Intervention for achieving measurable objectives
- Educational Mandates: Methodologies for transforming institutions
- Corporate Ethics: Responsible utilization of wealth and innovation



All EI/OI/ICA colleagues are welcome. For more information and a registration form, check out www.resurgencepublishing.com.