

THE BUILDING AT 4750 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, HAS SERVED THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IN FOUR DIFFERENT CAPACITIES OVER ITS 44 YEARS OF STEWARDSHIP

Time Period	1971 - 1982	1983 - 1994	1995 – 2006	2007 – present and beyond
Period Theme	... as the “Launching Pad” for ICA International Human Development Work	... as the “Base” for Delivering ICA Group Participatory Methods across the Chicago Region	... as the Largest Midwest Community Resource “Center” , Housing Social Services for Uptown’s Diverse Population and Needs	... as the National Demonstration “Hub” of a Multi-Use Facility Existing in Sustainable Community
Social Change -philosophy -models -processes -methods	The models and framework for the ICA’s development work were formulated in this period during a series of 7 summer research assemblies held in the building with a participant count of approximately 750 each representing about 1,250,000 person-hours of research. The Social Process Model and its various applications were formulated and used as a philosophical basis to begin implementing the Human Development Projects and Town Meeting Campaigns in the USA and around the world.	After undergoing an organizational decentralization, the Chicago ICA office took the methods and processes of community learned from extensive international work and began to offer them to local nonprofit and governmental agencies in the Chicagoland area. Delivering these programs provided a principal source of revenue for the ICA organization that was based in the building. A 13-week job training program called Training Inc. using ICA Imaginal Education philosophy is established in 11 cities across the country and graduates over 25,000 participants.	During this period the building itself began to be re-imaged as a demonstration as the number and reputation of the social service tenants in the building increased. Clients utilized the building. Fund-raising for physical improvements was based largely on the basis of the community service application of the building itself.	As the mission of the ICA began to focus on climate change as the moral issue of our time, the building became a national demonstration of how to take an older building and retrofit it to reduce its carbon footprint and become a green sustainable facility. The naming of the building as the “ICA GreenRise” galvanized the image for the mission of the organization. The highlight of this period was installation of 485 rooftop solar panels which reduced the electric bill by 25%.
Social Justice -programs -campaigns -HDPs -Town Meetings	During this period ICA staff, using volunteer professionals, resided in and consulted to communities around the world beginning with one in every time zone and culminating in intensive socio-economic development in over 175 distressed communities. In addition, staff and volunteers set-up and delivered a one-day Town Meeting in over 5000 communities around the world including at least one in each of the 3600 counties of the United States.	During this same period the building began for serve as a conference center to social justice groups who came here for retreats and facilitated planning sessions using this place as a springboard to further their missions. The ICA Technology of Participation began to be offered in a series of two-day seminars during this period continuing to the present day that has involved over 36,000 participants attending one of about 120 courses offered each year.	The increased visibility of the building allowed the state and city government and other funding sources to provide resources to permit the ICA to address deferred maintenance issues as well as move on architectural and visual improvements for the building and the adjacent parking lot. The ICA served as the founding core of a professional association of group process facilitators that now number over 1700 members in 32 countries (IAF).	Hosting the work of over 200 volunteers in an effort to catalogue community sustainability issues in Chicago’s 77 neighborhoods, over 900 such initiatives were posted online for research purposes. A symbol of the building’s national importance was hosting the national Climate Action Marchers Chicago stop-over in 2014.
Community Development -Uptown and related community	Recognizing that the ICA’s host community – Uptown - itself was in a state of transition, staff began replicating the methods and lessons learned from its international work in the surrounding area called Uptown.	Because of the increased recognition that building was gaining as a respite for social service agencies housed in the building, the ICA became known for its social mission and was used as a source of inspiration by Uptown neighborhood groups.	ICA staff served as consultants to various community organizations and active participants in neighborhood improvement efforts. Community murals designed with citizen input allowed ICA volunteers to attract attention to the development of the area. The building is one of 26 in the Uptown Square National Historic District.	The building’s importance to community sustainability is recognized by city officials. The building not only serves the ICA’s mission in social justice, it becomes itself a demonstration of its efforts. The building becomes the “walk” of the ICA’s “talk” and Uptown continues to come alive.