





## Accelerate 77 Advisory Committee

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Co-founder  
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### University Involvement 2011-2012

Professors from five major Chicago universities have students from their classes involved in documenting initiatives from the 77 communities.

University	Course	Professor	# of Students	Year in School
Chicago State University	GEO: Neighborhood Development	Daniel Block	17	Seniors/ Graduates
DePaul University	Geographic Information Systems	Julie Hwang	20	Soph / Juniors
	Intro to Journalism	Lou Rutigliano	21	Freshmen
	Steans Center - Green Chicago Course	Student Led	7	Freshmen
	Environmental Ethics	Michael Edwards	34	Juniors/ Seniors
	Freshman Immersion Program	Michael Edwards	21	Freshmen
	Content Management Systems	Danny Mittleman	4	Graduates
Loyola University	Environmental Sustainability	Reuben Keller	16	Freshmen
Northeastern Illinois	Conservation Psychology	Melinda Merrick	16	300 level
Roosevelt University	Sustainable Futures	Michael Bryson	20	Honors
Other	UIC, OCU, Oberlin College	Student Led	6	Seniors/ Graduates
<b>Current number of students involved in documenting community initiatives</b>			<b>182</b>	

Organizing Sponsor





## Accelerating Green Initiatives in Chicago's 77 Neighborhoods

Community-based sustainability initiatives are taking place across the metropolitan area of Chicago. These, however, are often relatively isolated activities with limited interaction between them. Though many organizations, foundations, companies, and government agencies have programs and resources to assist local sustainability efforts, many communities are unaware of these opportunities or unfamiliar with ways to access them.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) is the organizing sponsor of "Accelerate 77." This 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. It is anticipated 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.

### City Wide Conference

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Identification and documentation is currently taking place with the involvement of students from six major universities in the Chicago area. This work will culminate with a one-day "**Sharing Approaches That Work**" conference on **September 15, 2012** to highlight neighborhood innovations in clean energy, waste reduction, green jobs, recycling, local food production, etc. It will involve community groups, businesses, and agencies of city, state, and national government. The day will act as a "share fair" for community representatives to learn from one another while attending a series of "connection seminars" where support organizations will present opportunities for accelerating green initiatives through various resources available to neighborhoods. The event will be punctuated by a keynote address from a prominent leader in the environmental movement.

<p><b>Sharing Approaches That Work</b> community interaction to learn from each other's experiences</p>	<p><b>Keynote Address</b></p>	<p><b>Connection Seminars</b> presentations by resource organizations on grant and program opportunities</p>
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A report on the 77 neighborhood sustainable initiatives will document successful local undertakings and key lessons learned in their implementation. These will be shared electronically with neighborhoods and nonprofit organizations across Chicago.

The “Sharing Approaches that Work” conference will help encourage and accelerate local efforts while catalyzing follow-up work in Chicago’s 77 neighborhoods during the next two years through training workshops, local share fairs, and new collaboration efforts between neighborhood groups to build a common vision. The anticipated result will be multiple local initiatives that will significantly contribute to the success of the Chicago Climate Action Plan by 2020. While the focus of Accelerate 77 is community action, it is supported by an alliance and partnership of many organizations working to build sustainable resilient communities in Chicago. The Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) is the organizing sponsor.



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