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**ICA and the CSLN Awarded Grant for Smart Grid Education**

In partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), the [ICA](#) and three community organizations that are members of ICA's accelerate77 [Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network](#) (CSLN)--[the Chinese American Service League](#) (Chinatown), [Centers for New Horizons](#) (Bronzeville), and [Sacred Keepers Sustainability Lab](#) (Bronzeville)--have been awarded a \$250,000 grant from ISEIF, the Illinois Science & Energy Innovation Foundation, to integrate [Smart Grid](#) consumer education into ongoing efforts to become neighborhood-based sustainability hubs. All partners are trusted community educators with extensive experience working on sustainability and strong cultural ties with diverse, low-to moderate-income communities.

Smart Grid education will become part of their holistic approach to engaging constituents in energy work, which involves addressing energy as it relates to people's everyday lives and priorities, e.g., through housing, youth development, senior, nutrition, and other programs. Interns from UIC will be trained and assigned to work with community partners. They will also conduct their own on-campus Smart Grid project with UIC students. Work will start in January 2015 and conclude at the end of the year.

Check out the official ISEIF press release [here!](#)





## CSLN Matchmaking Gathering a Great Success!

Over 30 people attended the first [Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network](#) Matchmaking Gathering on January 13th, held at the Fair and Direct Trade community coffee shop [Everybody's Coffee](#) in Uptown. The goal of the gathering was to help people identify their kindred spirits and efforts they might like to learn from, contribute to, or collaborate on, welcoming both returning and new CSLN members. This was especially useful because in early February CSLN members will finalize their [ioby](#) campaigns to raise money for collaborative projects.



Attendees gained a greater perspective on their fellow CSLN members through vibrant [World Cafe](#) and [Open Space](#) activities. Participants were able to share their various passions in focused discussion and later host small-groups to more deeply discuss the topics of most interest to them. In a final reflection with the full group, each small group shared their learnings and asked for potential organizations to connect with to build upon the energy of the event. As the event resulted in collaborations for [ioby](#) proposals and many more to materialize, CSLN facilitators were pleased that the event forwarded the spirit of the CSLN and are planning to organize similar networking events in the future.



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## Global Archives Project is Designing a Resettlement Plan

There are many opportunities to engage with the ICA Global Archives in the upcoming year. Starting in January 2015, a team will be **EXTRACTING** files from basement storage. These **BASEMENT MINERS** have selected one category to focus on; 'Global Research Assembly' documents will be selected by year and placed in bankers boxes, loaded onto the freight elevator and brought to the 6th floor.

There will be **ORGANIZING** by **CHICAGO TEAMSTERS** who will pile the files on tables, organize them into broad categories, and prepare documents for foldering with two copies per folder. These folders will then be entered in the FileMaker Pro list and assigned serial numbers. 'Tip of the Iceberg' documents will be selected for scanning.

There will also be **DIGITIZING** by **VIRTUAL TECHIES** to make these files available for access by interested persons around the globe.

The Archives Project is encouraging **OFF-SITE COLLEAGUE ENGAGEMENT**: You can scan documents from your files and send to the Archives Project to add to the GRA year collection.

To get involved contact **Marge Philbrook** at [margephilbrook@gmail.com](mailto:margephilbrook@gmail.com)



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## A Wonderful Event: ToP Gathering '15

Earlier this month, the ToP Network held its annual conference in Aurora, Colorado. 74 people attended the event, with participants from across the United States, as well as

international colleagues from Canada and Russia. The theme of this year's conference was *Building Together for Action*. The three-day event offered a variety of engaging workshops, including techniques to grow your own small business, using ToP Methods for peace building in the Ukraine, building the network's capacity to serve public health audiences, and stories of Impact of the ToP Image Shift. Attendee Fara Taylor remarked that for her, the break out sessions were "targeted, to the point, and some of the most useful workshops I have ever experienced at the conference."



Opening Plenary Session



Angie & Terry Sue with their certificates



Mary Flanagan and Bev Scow

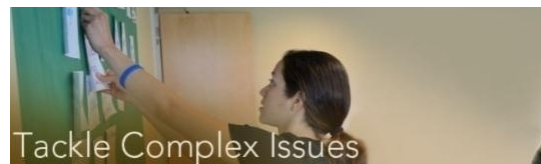
The conference also welcomed the new ToP Network Board. New members to the Board include Susan Esber (Chair), Bev Scow, Dawn Newman, Deb Burnight, and Melanie Goodman. Returning members include Nileen Verbeten (Treasurer), Susan Saunders, (Secretary) and Barbara McKay.

Additionally, the network congratulates Terri Sue Rossi, Angie Asa-Lovstad, and Maureen Jenkins on becoming Certified ToP Facilitators.



**Register for a ToP Training Course**  
Do you want to effectively help a group think, talk and work together? ICA's ToP Training Program provides structured facilitation methods to help you lead.

[Click here to find a course near you!](#)



**Find a Certified ToP Facilitator Near You**  
Do you need a neutral facilitator? A certified ToP facilitator can help with everything from strategic planning to team building for organizations or communities.

[Click here to find a certified ToP facilitator!](#)

## ICA Colleague Spotlight: Introducing John Owens

**How did you find the ICA?:** I first encountered ICA through accelerate77 when I was working in a Master's degree in Geographic Information Systems. I was really impressed with ICA's insights about the many ways in which sustainability can be addressed.

**What is your role?:** I have just begun serving as ToP Training Support Officer. I'll be focusing on making our website a better resource for ICA and the ToP Training



**What is your favorite thing about the ICA?:** Earlier this month I had the privilege of attending the Annual Gathering of the ToP Network in Aurora, Colorado. I was able to hear the inspiring ICA story from founders and early members. I also felt the excitement about future collaborations with dynamic Network members I met. Given that experience, my favorite thing about ICA is the opportunities I will have to work with so many nice people.

**What is an interesting fact about you?:** I have run the Chicago Marathon and still compete at distances of 10 K and less (mostly less).

**Save the Date: February 28th 2015**  
**[Cooperation 2015; Connecting as Peers & Networks](#)**

Are you looking for new ideas, connections, and options? Do you want to connect with others exploring creative models and bridges to a better future here in Chicago? Paradigm shifts in technology, economics, politics, local organizing, global movements and even spirituality pervade today's world. Moving to a society that is peer-to-peer, where people can directly help one another, is the real "sharing economy." We want sharing that improves our quality of life by connecting us with peers to gain access to the resources and experiences we need and can provide. It's time for an exchange of ideas and opportunities, sharing our lives locally and connecting to the global phenomena that can provide us with the abundance for which we all hope.

***Please join us at the Institute of Cultural Affairs on Saturday, February 28th, from 10am-3pm to share, brainstorm, connect and rejoice.***

People from community organizations, local cooperatives and credit unions will meet and exchange ideas with folks that are working on peer-to-peer organizing in the global village. [Click here for more information](#) or email [CSLN Member](#) Steve Ediger at [stevediger@gmail.com](mailto:stevediger@gmail.com)