

APRIL & MAY 2013



E-NEWSLETTER

Also in this Issue

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Crowdfunding: Helping ICA succeed with your support

This year ICA has a new approach to fundraising. We have worked hard on creating programs that are self-sustaining; however most of our programs are still relatively young, and have a few years until they will be able to run without external support. In the mean time, the ICA's programming staff is taking charge of making sure each program is financially viable.

This new model has shown an incredible amount of success this past month. Early in May, ICA's AC77 team submitted a proposal to support the AC77 website, and was selected as one of the five top applicants for the [Delta 'Emerging Leaders' Boost Grant](#). All five finalists were given an opportunity to make their pitch in person, at the Boost Event on May 8th, and attendees at the event were allowed to vote for only two of the five finalists. We are proud to say ICA was one of the two winners, and received \$3,500 towards revamping the [AC77 website](#).



Nina Winn, Seva Gandhi, Caitlin Sarro accepting the Delta Emerging Leaders Boost Grant on behalf of the ICA, pictured with the other winner, Alex Poltorak from the Urban Canopy Project.

In the meantime, [ICA Greenrise](#) team applied to the [Ford Community Green Grant](#) to assist with the implementation of a rooftop farm on top of the second floor roof of ICA Greenrise. Again, ICA was selected as one of the five finalists, (from over fifty-five applicants!) and supporters were allowed to vote online or at the two-day Chicago Green Festival. We asked for support in the form of votes from ToP Trainers, individuals on ICA listservs, building tenants and residents, and friends and family. We are proud to announce on May 19th, ICA was selected as the winner, receiving \$5,000 grant to renew our rooftop! Seventh floor resident Joseph Taylor is excited to be the lead implementer of the farm, and has already taken incredible steps to include members from other organizations from within the building in the planning and implementation of the farm.

In addition to these small but important crowdfunding victories, ICA received notice that the GreenRise Solar Project has been awarded a \$359,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to install renewable solar energy panels on our rooftop - (just a stones throw away from the up and coming rooftop farm!) The GreenRise building is increasingly a high profile embodiment of "green culture" and an excellent complement to our Accelerate 77 community

sustainability work.

As a team, we are very clear that none of our victories would have been possible without the overwhelming support of all our community members and advocates. We thank you, and now have tangible proof that our community supports and buoys us when we need them to the most.



Briatta Bell, Lesley Showers and Joseph Taylor accepting the grant on behalf of the ICA from the Ford Community Foundation

ICA's Earth Day Adventures

ICA's Accelerate 77 project was highlighted at two important Earth Day Celebrations in Chicago on Monday, April 22.

The first was during a "Lunch and Learn" session held for staff at the Boeing Company. Staff members Nina Winn and Terry Bergdall provided an overview of the Accelerate 77 project, and talked about plans for the coming years.

Boeing was a significant contributor to Accelerate 77 in 2012, and this was the second time in six months that ICA's Accelerate 77 project was featured at their international headquarters. ICA looks forward to continuing the partnership with them this year.



Later on the same day, ICA was a featured guest during the City of Chicago's Earth Day program held at the historical Cultural Center in downtown Chicago. Karen Weigert, the city's Chief Sustainability Officer, gave an overview of city accomplishments and focused specific attention on the Accelerate 77 project. ICA fellow Jenny Hirsch then spoke about ways to enhance community engagement on environmental issues. Chicago's Earth Day event was funded by the national office of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF.) Representatives from the WWF visited ICA GreenRise prior to the event in downtown Chicago.

ICA assists kindred organizations through fiscal sponsorship

Green Community Connections (GCC) is a strong, volunteer run, community-based group serving the western part of Chicago, and the western suburbs of Oak Park and River Forest. This year, GCC needed support to run local events, as well as a vehicle to raise funds and accept grants from organizations who only donate to non profit organizations. It did not make sense for GCC to go through all the paper work and minutia of becoming a 501©3, because they intend to remain a volunteer run organization, and do not require the status for anything other than receiving donations.

Through dialogue and the formation of a close relationship, GCC and ICA decided that if ICA could provide fiscal sponsorship to GCC, it would be able to provide a vehicle for supporters to donate the much needed financial support. GCC then linked the Sugar Beet Co-op, an organization in the early stages of becoming a food cooperative to the ICA, and through dialouge and relationship building, ICA became the fiscal sponsor for Sugar Beet Co-op as well.

ICA is happy to provide fiscal sponsorship to like-minded organizations that need support, and is impressed by the excellent work being done by these two initiatives. ICA also plays a fiscal sponsor role with four other international ICA's. Click on [Green Community Connections](#) or the [Sugar Beet Co-op](#) to learn more about these initiatives.



The Logos of the Green Community Connections and the Sugar Beet Co-op

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ICA-USA | 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. | Chicago | IL | 60640