

What is the Future of our Past? Spring Archives Sojourners Tackle One of Life's Biggest Questions

ICA's global archives has hundreds of filing cabinets filled with the creativity, insight, and passion of the past 50 years of ICA's community development work.

This May, over 30 ICA colleagues in Chicago and across the globe spent two weeks wrestling with the question: "How can the wisdom of the past be harnessed and made accessible to new generations?"

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Community Development Training Fosters National Collaboration

ICA-USA partnered with [ICA-Taiwan](#) to design and deliver a two-day Community Development Intensive at ICA GreenRise on May 3rd and 4th.

Attendees of the course included members of the Community Development Task Force of the [Top Network](#), the [National Congress of Neighborhood Women](#), and

Accelerate 77's [Sustainability Leaders Network](#). Participants traveled from Texas, Minnesota, New York, and Central Appalachia's Clear Fork Valley to participate in the course.



Dennis Jennings, a long-time ToP trainer and facilitator noted, "I was excited by the comprehensiveness of the training. I especially appreciated how the strategic thinking process, which is patterned on the ToP Strategic Planning process, was made accessible for community-based people and project teams."

After the two-day course, the ToP Network's community development task force and ICA senior staff had an enlivening conversation about the future of the course and possibilities

for future collaborations. It was an enriching and productive weekend.

The Mission Continues with a Community Weekend at the ICA



On April 25th and 26th, community members, high school students from [Francis W. Parker School](#) and a service platoon of veterans from [The Mission Continues](#) participated in an exciting and productive volunteer day at ICA GreenRise.

The volunteers worked on painting the 7th floor community hallway, cleaning and planting in the GreenRise parking lot, and preparing the rooftop garden. Lucas, a veteran and volunteer with The Mission Continues, explained, "The way I look at [this type of work] is as an extension of who we were when we joined. We are bringing that same energy, that same drive for service, and putting it into the communities. Even making small changes, small adjustments, can have a big effect on the communities around us."

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Meet Samantha, ICA's Spring Intern from Northwestern

Samantha Sainsbury, a student in Northwestern University's [Chicago Field Studies](#) program, is interning at the ICA for the months of May and June. She is working closely with GreenRise resident, Pam Bergdall, and other staff to foster stronger relationships between building tenants and to create a comprehensive building resource directory for clients and community members in the Uptown area.

How did you hear about the ICA?

When I shared my interest in collaborative, inter-sectional problem-solving with a coordinator at the [Center for Neighborhood Technology](#), another Chicago nonprofit, he told me about ICA's approach and the [Accelerate 77](#) project. I was immediately hooked and excited to learn more.

What is an interesting fact about you?

I've been a member of [Northwestern's triathlon club](#) for the past 4 years, and I'm currently training for a [half-ironman](#) event.

What is something you have learned during your time here that has excited you?

The vast history of the people of the ICA. Everyone's engagement makes me feel hopeful about the future. The ICA legends are also a constant source of intrigue!

