The Great Cities Institute is a university-wide center of engaged urban research located in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Serving as the focal point for UIC’s Great Cities Commitment, GCI’s mission is to create, disseminate, and apply interdisciplinary knowledge in urban areas. Faculty from UIC and researchers from elsewhere work collaboratively with external partners throughout Chicago and the world to generate the very best interdisciplinary, high impact research on urban issues.

2012 – 2016 4-Year Report
Fall 2012 – Fall 2016

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Letter from the Director

November 16, 2016

Dear Friends of GCI,

It is an honor to be Director of the Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago and to present, in this document, a report of our activities over the last four years.

We are especially honored to present this report as part of the celebration of 21 years of the Great Cities Institute. The event is made special with the presence of two individuals that were central to the founding of Great Cities at the University of Illinois at Chicago: Drs. James J. Stukel and Wim Wiewel.

In 1993, then UIC Chancellor James J. Stukel convened a 28-member Great Cities Advisory Committee (GCAC) to develop and initiate his vision for a Great Cities Initiative at UIC. Over several months the committee, with Wim Wiewel as Chair, and its 140 member subcommittees met to develop the details of the Great Cities Concept. In addition, the committee hosted a forum with over 400 attendees from UIC, government, corporate and community organizations. The forum, held in the fall of 1994, was entitled, “The Great Cities Initiative: UIC’s Metropolitan Commitment.” The Committee's report describes the entire process as the “largest interdepartmental planning process UIC has ever undertaken.” The Great Cities Institute (GCI), Neighborhoods Initiative and the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) grew out of this initiative.

Robert Mier, Professor of Urban Planning and Policy and founder of the Center for Urban Economic Development (CUED) was a member of the original advisory committee and also served in Mayor Harold Washington's administration as director of economic development. Referred to as the “architect” of Washington's “Chicago Works Together,” Mier pushed for job creation and neighborhood development. We pay tribute to Rob Mier today as the consummate engaged scholar whose legacy continues to inspire us.

I respect and share the values on which the Great Cities Institute was founded and take seriously the responsibility that being its director entails, namely to protect and enhance the Great Cities Concept. In a December 3, 1993 Chicago Tribune article, then Chancellor Stukel is quoted as saying, “In a couple of years, if this works out, if you ask someone what UIC stands for, I hope they say, the Great Cities Concept.”

Great Cities Institute continues as a hub for intellectual activity and facilitates ideas, relationships, and innovations. By harnessing the power of research to bring solutions to today's urban challenges, the Great Cities Institute continues to serve the Great Cities Concept at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

So it is a great pleasure to celebrate 21 years of the Great Cities Institute and to release this report in conjunction with the anniversary event.

Sincerely,

Teresa L. Córdova
Director and Professor
UIC Great Cities Institute
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Letter from the Chancellor

I am delighted to offer my congratulations on behalf of the University of Illinois at Chicago on the 21st anniversary of one of the most defining organizations in our university community: The Great Cities Institute. Since 1993, the hallmark of UIC’s mission as an “engaged” university has been embodied in its Great Cities Commitment. The centerpiece of the Great Cities Commitment is the Great Cities Institute (GCI), which was established in 1995 as a premier interdisciplinary research center and a conduit for facilitating urban engagement.

For 21 years, the Great Cities Institute has served to anchor the university’s mission as an urban serving institution of higher education and research in the heart of one of the world’s great cities, focused on our commitment to Chicago and to the great cities around the world. The Institute is distinctly positioned to leverage groundbreaking research that address the multi-dimensional challenges facing urban environments. With more than half the world’s people now residing in cities and urban regions, we have crossed this enormous milestone positioned to address the very challenges inherent with this unprecedented worldwide demographic development.

The GCI brings forward the power of research, building strategic partnerships beyond the university, convening critical conversations among a range of concerned stakeholders and leaders, and influencing public dialogue and policies on the critical urban issues of our times.

As we enter the third decade of the Great Cities Institute, it is the right time to reaffirm UIC’s commitment to research and education focused on the social, economic, and health care environment in our cities. Moving forward, the Great Cities Institute under the leadership of director Dr. Teresa Córdova, will continue to extend the Great Cities Commitment infused with innovation on a broad range of ideas and ideals that comprise the wealth of intellectual capital and depth of humanity that can make cities across the globe great places to live, work, learn, serve, and dream.

Congratulations to everyone who has played a role in the excellence of UIC’s Great Cities Institute. Chicago and the world’s great cities depend on our efforts now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Amiridis
Chancellor
University of Illinois at Chicago
Letter from Founding Director

The Great Cities Initiative was launched in 1993-1994 to “implement teaching, research, and service programs to improve the quality of life in metropolitan Chicago. In this way, UIC will become a model for a land-grant university in an urban setting. At the same time, UIC will contribute to a broader understanding of what is needed for any great city to develop and thrive” (Final Report of the Great Cities Advisory Committee, p.2).

The initiative was intended to raise UIC’s profile locally, regionally, and nationally, and to resolve the long-standing tension between UIC’s historical ‘urban mission’ and its more recent aspirations to be a research university on a par with UIUC. It was started at a time when many cities were still reeling from deindustrialization, suburbanization, and racial tension.

Support for the concept was hardly unanimous, but was greatly helped by the unequivocal commitment from Chancellor Jim Stukel; a broad-based planning process; and $1.5 million in recurring funding from the Illinois Legislature. The idea was timely and rode a wave of change. Ernest Boyer’s language about ‘the scholarship of engagement’ changed people’s understanding of the value of community-focused and applied research; and the resurgence of cities that started in the 1990’s recast the image of cities from that of the garbage cans of society to places of innovation, creativity, and excitement (albeit with plenty of challenges as well).

These changes were reflected in higher education nationally, as the “Urban 21” transformed itself first into the “Great Cities Universities” and then the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities. The concept of ‘anchor institutions’ took hold nationally. Hundreds of universities conducted economic impact analyses and celebrated their community connections.

It is rare for any president or chancellor’s key initiative to survive his/her departure, much less remain salient through three more leadership transitions, into a third decade. It speaks to the strength of the vision and the truth of the commitment. I am proud to have been part of the beginning and confident this commitment will remain important for decades to come.

Wim Wiewel
Former Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Great Cities
First Director, Great Cities Institute
First Dean, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA)
Current President, Portland State University

Congratulations from the Provost

Congratulations to the Great Cities Institute for 21 years of working to understand the urban environment through research and scholarship. Though much of this research is focused on Chicago, it is applicable and utilized across the country and across the world. The Great Cities Institute continues to fulfill its founding vision to understand and propose solutions to urban problems. We are excited to imagine the great work that future decades will bring.

Susan Poser
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Illinois at Chicago
About Great Cities Institute

Serving UIC’s Great Cities Commitment: Solutions for Today’s Urban Challenges

*The Power of Research:*

**GCI offers bold solutions for urban problems to improve the quality of life in our cities & regions**

UIC’s Great Cities Institute is a research hub for scholars, policymakers, and stakeholders who share an interest in finding answers to the question, “What can cities and regions do to make themselves into great places?”

The Great Cities Institute (GCI) represents UIC’s commitment to “engaged research” while contributing to its stature as a Research One University thereby highlighting the value of quality research for addressing today’s urban challenges.

By *harnessing the power of engaged research*, Great Cities Institute:

- Advances conversations on key issues
- Promotes community economic development strategies
- Produces, with neighborhoods, commercial revitalization and quality of life plans
- Provides data and technical assistance
- Assists with training and capacity building
- Produces policy analysis
- Convenes local, national and international scholars

**Our Goal:** *Improve the quality of life of residents living and working in Chicago, its metropolitan region, and cities throughout the world.*

**Our Strategic Focus**

GCI’s work focuses on *employment and economic development, local and regional governance, dynamics of global mobility,* and *energy and the environment.* GCI’s develops strategic partnerships that leverage the intellectual capital of the university with the local knowledge of neighborhood residents, government and non-profit, foundation, business and civic organizations. GCI is home to the UIC Neighborhoods Initiative, a university-community partnership with neighborhoods both adjacent to the UIC campus and in the Chicagoland area.

**Our Vision**

Formulate solutions to tackle the multi-dimensional challenges of the changing socio-political economy of cities and their metropolitan regions.

**Our Mission**

The Mission of the UIC Great Cities Institute is to link its academic resources with a range of partners to address urban issues by providing research, policy analysis and program development. Tied to the University of Illinois at Chicago *Great Cities Commitment*, GCI seeks to improve quality of life in Chicago, its metropolitan region and cities throughout the world.
Committee explores UIC’s role in making Chicago a ‘Great City’

By David Weymiller

A 29-member advisory committee charged with shaping what Chancellor James Stukel has called “a significant initiative for UIC” met Tuesday to begin considering the Great Cities program.

Stukel said through the Great Cities undertaking, “UIC will strive to implement teaching, research and public service programs aimed at improving the quality of life in Chicago.

“In this way, UIC hopes to become a model for a land-grant university in an urban community. At the same time, UIC aims to contribute to a broader understanding of what is needed for any great city to develop and thrive.”

The committee will “discuss and refine the Great Cities concept,” solicit advice from other faculty, staff and students; identify similar programs; and “recommend new structures, processes or programs that would enhance the initiative.”

Wim Wiewel, associate professor of urban planning and policy who will chair the advisory group, said most of the work will be conducted by seven subcommittees that will address urban health, urban education, economic development, culture and arts in the city, public safety, international urban connections and urban and public affairs.

Stukel asked for an interim report by May 30, especially for any proposals requiring a formal campus approval process. The final report is due Oct. 19.

Wiewel, who will take a leave of absence as director of the Center for Urban Economic Development to serve as a special assistant to Stukel, said, "Great Cities refers to activity throughout the campus, and by no means will there be just one entity by which Great Cities programs would be undertaken.”

However, the idea of establishing a Graduate School of Urban and Public Affairs is still on the table.

“For whatever reason, people have begun to associate the Great Cities concept exclusively with establishing a new graduate school or college,” Wiewel said.

“Perhaps there will be a new institutional entity established, but that’s only one piece of the framework,” Wiewel said.

“Great cities devolve into something broader, but there will be some kind of institutional entity,” he continued.

“I would like the subcommittees to conduct some form of hearings or devise some other way of gathering input from beyond just their own membership. I’m hoping that members of the committee will arrange public hearings.”

All seven subpanels will emphasize two issues: educating the future labor force and identifying opportunities for student volunteerism — a theme reinforced by President Clinton, Wiewel said.

Stukel’s charge noted the scarcity of public resources. While the advisory committee wasn’t asked to identify private funding sources, Great Cities programs eventually will have to do so. That reflects a

Continued on page 5

Great Cities message: university, communities must be true partners

By Fay Rosner

The Great Cities initiative can achieve its goals if faculty members will use the expertise of community residents.

That message was repeated frequently last month at the second annual winter forum of the Great Cities program, UIC’s commitment to help improve the quality of life in metropolitan areas.

The conference, which attracted academic and community leaders from across the country, focused on forging partnerships for neighborhood revitalization.

And speakers emphasized that partnerships cannot succeed if one partner insists on helping or instructing the other.

In his keynote address, Edwin Eidson, Chicago regional director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, recalled a man who suggested that HUD’s mission is to help the poor.

“I interrupted him right there,” Eidsonth said.

"Secretary [Henry C.]

Simon has made it clear that HUD’s mission is not to help the poor but to be a partner in the building of working communities.

“Great Cities initiative mirrors our thinking at HUD. It has been successful in helping people, but has not been able to bridge the gap between the university’s mission and the latest project.”

Melnick offered these points: Universities must understand the trust of the community. The community has reason to be wary of the "ivory tower" mentality.

The relationship between the university and the community takes time to develop.

If you want to know what changes people need and desire, don’t review the academic literature, get involved in the community.

Improving neighborhoods is about people, not research or technical assistance.

Teaching and research missions are not incompatible with public service, but public service should be rewarded.

Will faculty be comfortable in a university-community partnership? Daniel Swartzman, associate professor in the School of Business Administration and Public Policy at Malcolm X College, said community residents must be viewed as experts.

This way, she said, “everyone is a professor. Normally we come to the table not valuing what the other person brings.”

She said Swartzman, "You’re an expert. But if you come to me as a partner, as a servant, I can learn without being intimidated.”

First Chicago chairman and CEO Richard Thomas accepts the Great Cities award from Bernard Brennan, Montgomery Ward chairman and CEO of the chancellor’s corporate advisory board, at the first annual Great Cities Gala Dec. 1. The event raised more than $150,000 for Great Cities initiatives. Thomas accepted the award on behalf of the First National Bank of Chicago for its efforts to improve housing and economic development in Chicago.

Public Health, wasn’t sure.

"The problem is that faculty are paid to teach," he said, while moderating an afternoon panel.

"So there’s a structural problem, because it’s hard to ask a professor to share his or her expertise, but rather to ask the neighborhood group what they think."
Research

Serving as a hub for the creation and exchange of knowledge, GCI brings together the resources and intellectual capital of the university and joins it with community stakeholders to produce research that influences public policy to impact the quality of life in the city. Because GCI’s research is a public good, the Institute is committed to producing and promoting research that is accessible, useful, and responsive to the multi-faceted issues facing the region.

As UIC’s center for engaged urban scholarship, GCI’s goal is to harness our research as a powerful tool to contribute to a more just, equitable and sustainable society.

Engaging a range of community stakeholders and drawing research and influence from across the UIC campus, GCI supports and informs the dialogue around urban issues in four key ways:

- **Producing dedicated, transformational research:** GCI’s dynamic, multi-disciplinary team produces research that influences policy and dialogue in the Chicago region and cities across the globe. For more information about current research underway at GCI, check out our Research Clusters page or search past GCI research on the Research Archive page.
- **Supporting critical & significant work:** GCI recognizes that funding is critical to carrying out significant work and the Institute offers several research support opportunities to UIC faculty, students, and community partners. For more information about current opportunities please visit our Funding page, Faculty Scholars page, and Faculty Fellows page.
- **Convening conversations focused on real-world solutions:** Engaging a broad network of partners and informed urban advocates, GCI bridges discussions across a range of concerned audiences to collectively address specific policy issues and challenges facing the metropolitan area and to find real-world solutions to meet identified needs.
- **Creating space for intellectual exchange among scholars from across the globe:** GCI is a hub that attracts national and international visitors for varying periods of time bringing with them the opportunity for comparative analysis and expanded networks.

**Research Clusters**

GCI’s mandate is to support and produce engaged urban research that is developed in partnership with multiple stakeholders across disciplines, sectors, and locales. GCI’s research agenda is a collective product, reflective of shared priorities and key directives as identified through ongoing dialogue with our partners.

Our research agenda is divided into four key Research Clusters in order to inform conversations, produce debates, and influence public dialogue around the critical question for our future:

“What can cities and regions do to make themselves into great places?”

The clusters bring together the work of researchers across UIC’s campus and other universities, along with the work of community stakeholders and other advocates and interested organizations.

Current Research Clusters include:
- Employment and Economic Development
- Local & Regional Governance
- Dynamics of Global Mobility
- Energy & the Environment

**Special GCI Research Series: Poverty to Prosperity**

In the 50 years that have passed since President Johnson declared an “unconditional war on poverty” in the U.S., persistent problems of income inequality, stratification of access to resources and opportunities, and unrelenting social problems in low-income neighborhoods continue to plague cities across the nation. Beginning in Spring 2014, UIC Great Cities Institute facilitates a policy dialogue in pursuit of critical and overdue conversations to identify real solutions to one of our nation’s age-old problems: poverty. In its Poverty to Prosperity series, GCI provides the forum for dialogue between some of the nation’s premier experts on poverty and the Chicago community. The series includes a variety of research projects and publications, convenings, and events to dialogue on multi-dimensional strategies to eliminating poverty.

**ULI-Trkla Award**

The ULI-Trkla Award was established in 1997 in memory of Nicholas Trkla, a Trustee of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and the first Chairman of ULI Chicago. Nicholas Trkla, president and founder of a Chicago-based planning and financial development consulting firm bearing his name, was responsible for revitalization programs throughout the Chicagoland area and in over 80 cities nationwide. Since 2012, GCI has administered and co-sponsored the ULI-Trkla Award. Trkla Scholars have worked on a variety of research projects related to urban development in Chicago as research assistants at GCI. The 2016-2017 ULI-Trkla award recipient was Shubhayan Ukil. With GCI, Shubhayan is researching the changing employment landscape for teens and young adults in Chicago and the implications for neighborhood revitalization.
Employment & Economic Development Cluster

Access to training and quality jobs, economic development policies that benefit residents and businesses alike, and access to goods and services are all key to a sustainable, fair, and strong local economy.

GCI’s Employment & Economic Development Research Cluster produces research and analysis that informs policies and programs for jobs, training, entrepreneurship, worker cooperatives, innovation districts, commercial revitalization and business recruitment and retention. GCI’s work in this cluster reflects a commitment to inclusive employment and economic development strategies that leads to equitable opportunities for individuals, households and communities, providing for an overall stronger economy. Consistent with GCI’s mission, this interdisciplinary work brings together a variety of partners to analyze and shape the dialogue on employment and economic development, while always recognizing the interrelationships between the social, economic, and environmental conditions of neighborhoods and their relationship to the city as a whole.

Learning & Exchange
In Fall 2013, GCI sponsored the INNOVATE Chicago series, an Employment & Economic Development lecture series, which tapped into some of the newest economic development trends and initiatives in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship Initiative
In 2014, Great Cities Institute convened community stakeholders to launch its Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Initiative, which includes both participatory research and longitudinal analysis connecting employment to other variables including youth wellbeing and violence.

In early 2016, Great Cities Institute prepared reports on joblessness among young people, demonstrating that the problem was chronic, concentrated and comparatively worse. Each of the reports, prepared for the Alternative Schools Network, were released at hearings, made available on the GCI website and described in GCI blogs. The reports generated extensive media attention, including a Sunday New York Times editorial, which in turn led to attention from policy makers, foundations, and groups working directly with young people.

Lost: The Crisis of Jobless and Out of School Teens and Young Adults in Chicago, Illinois and the U.S.
February 1, 2016

Abstract
This report contains compilations and calculations of various employment data for males and females 16 to 24 years old by race/ethnicity from 2005 to 2014, comparing Chicago, Illinois, the U.S. and in some instances, adding Los Angeles and New York. Besides an array of figures and tables, the report contains geographic information system generated maps that illustrate the relationship between employment data and population distribution by race/ethnicity. It is our hope and intention that this report, in combination with the voices of young people, can illustrate the persistence and severity of conditions that have ramifications for our young people and generations to come.

A Lost Generation: The Disappearance of Teens and Young Adults from the Job Market in Cook County
March 21, 2016

Abstract
This report prepared for the March 22, 2016 Cook County Board of Commissioners Workforce, Housing and Community Development Committee hearing contains analyses of various employment data for males and females 16 to 24 years old by race/ethnicity from 2005 to 2014, comparing Cook County, Illinois, the U.S. and in several instances, adding comparative data for counties containing the nation’s largest cities: Los Angeles, New York City, and Houston. Besides an array of figures and tables, the report contains GIS generated maps that illustrate the relationship between employment data and population distribution by race/ethnicity. The Executive Summary contains highlights of our findings.

Strategies to Address Joblessness among Young People
Given the extensive interest generated, GCI has presented the joblessness reports at numerous forums. The causes, conditions, consequences, and solutions have all been of interest. The strategies that we promote to increase access to jobs include matching available jobs to people; bringing anchor employment back into neighborhoods; on the job training; jobs programs; criminal justice reform to allow reentry into the job market; community benefit agreements; worker cooperatives; and creating small business incubators and innovation centers in neighborhoods to build on skills and talents to create and package marketable goods and services.

Youth Employment Data: Employment to Population Ratios for 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Chicago Community Area, 2005-2009 to 2010-2014
In collaboration with The Chicago Tribune, this analysis by the Great Cities Institute examines recent employment trends
Employment & Economic Development Cluster

by Chicago Community Area to identify which areas have experienced improvement in youth employment conditions. The analysis covers 5 years of employment trends for 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 year olds by Chicago Community Area to show the improving and declining employment conditions.

Fact Sheet #2: Chicago Community Area Economic Hardship Index
This Fact Sheet utilizes indicators of economic hardship in an index to measure economic conditions in Chicago Community Areas. This economic hardship index utilizes multiple and diverse indicators to provide a more comprehensive view of economic hardship than single indicators. Utilizing American Community Survey data, this fact sheet presents economic hardship index values for Chicago Community Areas.

Building Women’s Economic Justice
Women for Economic Justice (WEJ) and GCI began its collaboration with a two-day workshop entitled, Immigrant women and economic development: a strategy to mobilize survivors of violence as political actors to promote systemic change. Held on August 19th and 20th, 2015, the workshop included women who work with or are part of WEJ (a 501 C3) and GCI staff. WEJ has used economic development training as a strategy to enable immigrant women survivors of violence to be economically self-sufficient and also raise consciousness to spur community mobilization. The workshop had 15 participants and the goals were to 1) revisit and refine WEJ’s financial training; 2) brainstorm about cooperative business models and best practices for cooperative development training, and 3) create a research/evaluation agenda and plan for the effectiveness of the financial training for the individual participants and the community at large. GCI continues to work with WEJ to develop an assessment tool for the WEJ financial curriculum, which is already being applied in Philadelphia.

Raising Labor Standards in a Volatile Economy
Economic growth is not what it used to be—especially for workers employed at the bottom of the labor market. The 1990s were the longest and most robust period of economic growth in U.S. history. Yet even though this period brought sustained job growth and progressively tightening labor markets, it coincided with a pronounced erosion of employment standards for workers holding low-wage jobs. The succession of deep recessions and protracted jobless recoveries that followed the 1990s boom have witnessed the further entrenchment of “low-road” employment practices across the economy, and workers in diverse sectors including construction, domestic work, retail, and manufacturing have seen wages stagnant and workplace conditions deteriorate. The worker center movement in the U.S. has emerged in response to these conditions. Along with their labor union, workforce development, and policy advocacy partners, worker centers are improving wages and working conditions in a range of low-wage industries. With support from the Ford Foundation, the LIFT Fund and New World Foundation, and under the direction of Professor Nik Theodore, researchers at GCI are providing support to the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON), National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), and other workers’ rights organizations. Activities include documenting conditions in low-wage industries, evaluating organizational performance, and strengthening enforcement of labor standards.

Why We Overbuild
Analysis of commercial space use in Chicago indicates continual excess square footage hovering above the US average for major cities. Even during the boom years, Chicago’s Loop was flooded with underutilized commercial space, the bulk of which was found not in the new office towers and condo buildings but in the older structures that predated the boom.

In her book From Boom to Bubble: How Finance Built the New Chicago (University of Chicago Press), GCI Fellow, Rachel Weber, Professor of Urban Planning and Policy, investigates the causes and effects of the dizzying building booms that occur when real estate development, financial markets, and city planning all operate in overdrive to rapidly erect new structures and demolish older ones. The book offers an antidote to conventional analyses of building cycles. Most explanations of urban change assume that developers respond mechanically to the preferences of potential occupants whose space needs wax and wane with the business cycle. In contrast, Dr. Weber identifies the three main drivers of this recent bout of commercial overbuilding that are related not to market demand but to the dynamics of supply: first, the new financial instruments that made real estate a more liquid and fungible commodity and helped to deepen the integration of the property sector and global capital markets; second, the practices of real estate brokers and other investment intermediaries who created incentives to “do the deal,” build and acquire property, and shuffle tenants from marginally older buildings into new space; and third, the policies of city governments that simultaneously encouraged new construction with zoning changes and subsidies while also removing “obsolete” properties still standing from earlier waves of overbuilding.
Local & Regional Governance Cluster

A changing role of the public sector, a challenging fiscal context, shifting demographics, and economic insecurity are just a few of the complex circumstances facing local and regional governments.

GCI’s Local & Regional Governance Research Cluster promotes research and policy analysis that evaluates policy decisions and in specific cases, supports local municipal staff, administration, policy-makers and non-profits in local and regional policy making and programming. The Institute’s mission supports the Local & Regional Governance Research Cluster’s focus, not only regarding municipal planning and policy, but also on understanding cities in their regional context.

Learning and Exchange
On Friday, November 6, 2015, as part of our Public GOOD Initiative with the National Public Housing Museum (NPHM) and in conjunction with the Architecture Biennial, GCI co-hosted a forum on the “Future of Public Housing” held at The Jane Addams Hull-House Dining Room. We might have entitled, the event, “Public Housing as a Public Good.” Other co-sponsors included The Institute for Public Architecture (IPA) and the Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture at Columbia University. Several participants came from New York City, including Rasmia Kirmani Frye, Director of Public/Private Partnerships, New York City Housing Authority, and Nadine Maleh, Executive Director, Institute for Public Architecture, who moderated the discussion. GCI Director provided opening comments on affronts to the “public” and the importance of the concept of the public good. Stay tuned for more programming from GCI and NPHM on our pubic good initiative.

Participatory Budgeting:
Grassroots Democracy in Action
In a time of widespread budget crises and plummeting trust in government, community members and government officials are searching for more democratic and accountable ways to manage public money. In 2012 GCI’s Neighborhoods Initiative partnered with the Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) and a broad coalition of aldermen, community-based organizations, and funders to launch Participatory Budgeting Chicago. Since then, GCI’s Director of Neighborhoods Initiative, Thea Crum and Faculty Fellow Rachel Weber have been conducting research and evaluation of participatory budgeting (PB) processes in Chicago. The primary goal of the research is to determine who participates in PB processes, what new knowledge or skills participants gained as a result of their participation, and which outreach techniques are most effective in encouraging participation. Because PB provides a kind of ‘barometer’ of what Chicago residents are experiencing in their communities, the research gauging resident opinion and political behavior also provides city administrators and decision-makers with information about how well the city is being managed and which city services require further improvement. In addition, Ms. Crum also serves on the North American PB Research Board. The goal of the board is to support the evaluation of PB processes across the US and Canada and guide a broader research agenda for PB. Journal articles and research reports are available on GCI’s website.

Explaining school closures
in Chicago, 2000-2013
A study, released in Fall 2016, sheds light on the multiple, conflicting interests that school districts must balance to plan for the capital needs of school-age populations. The researchers, Rachel Weber, Stephanie Farmer and Mary Donaghue, investigate the fact factors that led to the closure of public schools between 2000 and 2013 in Chicago. They reverse engineer the school closure decisions under two mayoral administrations by constructing a logit model that estimates the decision to close schools that were open as of 2000 as a function of physical, student, geographic, political, and neighborhood demographic factors. The findings reveal some distance between the official rationale for closures and the realities of capital budgeting under austerity: building utilization and student performance were predictors of these closures, but so was the race of students in each school. Specifically schools with larger shares of African American students had a higher probability of closure than schools with comparable test scores, locations, and utilization rates. Whether administrators explicitly considered the race of a school’s students in planning decisions or whether race in the model was a proxy for other unmeasured characteristics, the cumulative effect of technical decisions interacting with a racially differentiated education environment forced African American students and their families to bear the burden of these administrative disruptions.

Fiscal Policy Space Of Cities:
Responses To Changing Economic & Fiscal Conditions
The Great Recession will have American cities cutting services and raising fees for years to come, according to Michael Pagano in his blog for The Atlantic Cities. Focusing on city fiscal behavior, GCI Fellow and CUPPA Dean, Michael Pagano looks at how and why cities adopt certain fiscal policies in the context of their legal/constitutional frameworks, economic conditions, and the needs and demands of their constituencies. Pagano is a nationally recognized expert in municipal finance. Working in collaboration with the National League of Cities and the Local Fiscal Working Group of the Federal Reserve Banks, the research team is building a large quantitative database to produce a comparative analysis of municipal fiscal policies. This multi-year project was funded by
Local & Regional Governance Cluster

the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. GCI will be hosting this research team’s data repository for this project, which will include detailed financial data for the past 20 years, data on state-imposed tax and expenditure limitations, data on city-imposed tax and expenditure limitations, and data on the changing economic base of cities. More information about this database is available on the Fiscal Policy Space website.

Engineered Conflict: School Closings, Public Housing, Law Enforcement and the Future of Black Life

GCI Faculty Scholar David Stovall’s project, Engineered Conflict: School Closings, Public Housing, Law Enforcement and the Future of Black Life organizes legal jurisprudence theory, post-colonial theory and philosophy of race to interrogate state-sanctioned violence, urban space and the politics of exclusion. As a project slated for the Spring 2016 semester, the project draws attention to policy formation and implementation as ideological rationales for containment and marginalization. Because school closings, destruction of public housing and federal corruption statutes are primarily investigated as singular entities, their grouping under the auspices of a planned instability provides a framework to examine conditions of urban space for African-American and Latin@ residents.

Beyond ‘Chiraq’ and Homan Square: Alternatives to Mass Incarceration, Military Urbanism, and Homeland Security in Chicago

GCI Faculty Scholar Ronak Kapadia’s project “Beyond ‘Chiraq’ and Homan Square: Alternatives to Mass Incarceration, Military Urbanism, and Homeland Security in Chicago,” asks how contemporary activists, artists, lawyers, and cultural producers have identified and challenged the growing links between mass incarceration, military urbanism, and homeland security in four key sites across Chicago. Specifically, Kapadia will analyze recent works by the Chicago Torture Justice Memorials, We Charge Genocide, Project NIA, and Transformative Justice Law Project. As multi-issue, multi-generational political projects, these case studies will serve as the analytical grounds for his analysis of alternative strategies of resistance against the militarization of urban police violence and the broader domestic reverberations of the global war on terror.

Suburbanization of Poverty in the Chicago Metropolitan Region

Recent demographic trends show that poverty is growing faster in suburban areas than urban centers. While poverty is on the rise in all areas, suburban poverty is a particularly complex phenomenon because many suburbs lack the organizational and policy infrastructure and financial means to confront this problem. Restructuring of labor markets, immigration patterns, and changing housing markets have contributed to these major demographic shifts, but anti-poverty programming has not caught up to respond to these changes. GCI research examines the depth and scope of the suburban poverty in the Chicago Metropolitan Region and assesses the national and local policy implications in this new suburban context.

Household Relocation Decision-making Tool (with UIC Urban Transportation Center)

Households face a variety of factors that affect their decisions of where to move. Some factors, such as affordability or job opportunities, are more important than others. PS Sriraj from UIC Urban Transportation Center and former GCI Research Specialist, Megan McKenna Mejía built upon an existing UTC decision-making support tool for individuals and families looking to relocate within the Chicago metropolitan area. Using input from community stakeholders to identify important relocation factors, the web-based tool offers users up to date data about housing availability, transportation accessibility, social services, education, and more - all in a user-friendly interface that allows users to rank their preferences to find the best relocation options. The tool is intended to target low-income households to empower users with the data they need to make strategic relocation decisions.

Chicago Politics Database (with Department of Political Science)

Supporting and promoting civic engagement is a core part of the Great Cities Institute’s and the Department of Political Science’s mission. Dick Simpson, a GCI Scholar for 2005-2006, currently Professor and Head of Political Science at UIC, and former Chicago Alderman has compiled sources of current information on Chicago Politics. These resources include links to research papers, books, videos, Chicago City Council and Anti-Corruption Reports with current data on how council members have voted, and information from other city and independent sources on Chicago Politics.

Chicago Area Study

The Chicago Area Study is a biennial study that collects survey data on life in the Chicago metropolitan area. Its purpose is to collect original social science data that inform policymaking and social science theory, provide hands-on methods training to students in survey methods, and fund faculty research on pressing issues in the metro area.
Dynamics of Global Mobility Cluster

The world recently witnessed a major global milestone: more than half of the world's population is now living in cities. Most population projections for urban areas suggest that the number of people living in cities and their metropolitan regions will continue to grow exponentially. According to the World Health Organization (2013):

The global urban population is expected to grow roughly 1.5% per year, between 2025-2030. By the middle of the 21st century, the urban population will almost double, increasing from approximately 3.4 billion in 2009 to 6.4 billion in 2050.

This exponential urban growth is particularly visible in the rise of mega-cities: cities with a population in excess of ten million people. Now more than ever, people, goods, and capital move across borders, contributing to complex and continuously changing urban environments. This massive growth in cities creates both challenges and opportunities for metropolitan life. GCI is on the forefront of this research, contributing research and policy solutions that keep up with the ever-changing dynamics of global mobility.

Learning & Exchange

In October 2013, Great Cities Institute launched its research cluster, Dynamics of Global Mobility, with an interdisciplinary symposium of UIC and international scholars, entitled, Cities Across the Globe. A second symposium was held on April 29, 2015. Both symposia served as the jump off for a GCI research group of UIC, national, and international scholars that are focusing on international cities, providing a space for inter-disciplinary dialogue on challenges and successes on a global scale. This GCI Working Group will result in a series of publications the first of which is an edited volume from Routledge Press on disassembled cities.

GCI regularly hosts international visiting scholars and guests - both individuals and delegations. In the 2012-2013 academic year, GCI received visitors from Chile, Russia, South Korea, and United Kingdom. In 2013, the GCI sponsored conference on Participatory Budgeting drew participants from over 70 cities in 17 countries. In the 2013-2014 academic year, we hosted international visitors from Turkey, Poland, Russia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Mexico, among others. Since 2014, guests and delegations to GCI have traveled from Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Great Britain, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Liberia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Russia, Spain, South Africa, and Turkey. For six consecutive years, a delegation of civic leaders from Russia has spent a day at GCI. The visit is organized and supported by Open World Leadership Center (Library of Congress), American Council of Civil Society in Russia, Inc., Moscow School of Civic Education, and UIC Great Cities Institute. The Moscow School of Civic Education, a non-governmental organization, was established in 1993 “to promote the development of civic society in Russia.” In 2013, GCI hosted Elif Kalan from Turkey, as part of U.S. Department of State’s Professional Fellows Program. Eon O’Neil was a visiting scholar from Dublin. Catherin Durose, from the University of Birmingham, UK spent the summer of 2014 with us while she conducted her research. For two months in Spring 2016, Laura Pin was a visiting scholar from Canada. For four weeks in Fall 2016, GCI hosted Santiago Martinez Jaramillo, from Colombia, a fellow with World Chicago’s Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative. Though not international, Mérida M. Rúa, Director of Latino Studies at Williams College, spent a year in residence at Great Cities Institute.

GCI also travels to interface with partners in other countries. These visits typically include formal presentations by GCI staff at academic colloquia, as exemplified in visits to Birmingham, UK; Istanbul, Turkey; and Guayaquil and Quito, Ecuador. Most recently, a GCI delegation attended UN Habitat III gathering in Quito Ecuador, a major international gathering of over 35,000 attendees, during which time, New Urban Agenda, also known as the Quito Declaration, was adopted.

International Trade and Community Development

Great Cities Institute and the Republic of Ecuador’s Minister of International Trade, Diego Aulestia, formed a partnership to assess the connections and possibilities between international trade and community development. The Great Cities Institute produced a research report to him, titled: “Exports, Policy Choices, and Economic Growth for Ecuador: Achieving the Plan Nacional del Buen Vivir” (PNBV). The report presented policy options for Ecuador’s goals for “Strategic Insertion in the World” and for establishing a solidarity-based and sustainable socio-economic system. As part of its partnership with the Ministry, GCI hosted the Minister and his entourage multiple times and members of GCI staff traveled to Ecuador to attend meetings, conduct interviews, tour key projects, and present research at two universities.

Global Health & Well-Being

Research Seed Grant Program

Through the UIC Global Excellence Task Force, the Chancellor’s Office created the Global Health seed fund. Administered by the UIC College of Medicine’s Center for Global Health with the help of GCI, the annual seed grant program is designed to foster new trans-disciplinary and mixed and multiple methods research in global health and well-being at UIC. In particular, these grants will encourage new pilot research with a substantial likelihood of gaining external funding or that can be completed with a limited budget.

Ending Violence against Arab Women: Transnational Approaches across Four Cities

While a GCI Faculty Scholar, Nadine Naber worked on her book, Ending Violence against Arab Women: Transnational Approaches
Dynamics of Global Mobility Cluster

across Four Cities. Overall, her work illustrates that state violence (poverty and militarism) are themselves forms of gender violence and that state violence and individualized forms of violence magnify each other. The contributions based on her work are more urgent than ever before since gender violence is on the rise in the Arab region. Moreover, Arab women living in major U.S. cities such as Detroit and Chicago have virtually no resources for responding to the problem of gender violence. Dr. Naber’s contributions will assist those developing strategies for ending violence that are actually relevant to the complex realities of Arab women’s lives.

Immigration
GCI contributes to and participates in the multi-faceted programs and research at UIC on topics of immigration, displacement, and the formation of diaspora communities.

New African Diaspora in Chicago: Memories, Maps, and Communities
GCI Faculty Scholar Lynette Jackson’s project, “New African Diaspora in Chicago: Memories, Maps, and Communities,” has two major objectives. The first is to respond to the paucity of detailed and in-depth studies on Chicago’s growing African immigrant and refugee communities, specifically those coming from the following three regions of the African continent: Northeastern Africa (Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia), Mano River States (Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea) and Great Lake Region (Burundi, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo.) The second is to interrogate the way in which the protean term African diaspora is deployed, particularly in the media and by various non-governmental, national and multilateral organizations.

Chicago Youth in the Survival Sex Economy: Sexualities, Poverty, Race, and the Law
GCI Faculty Scholar Laurie Schaffner is taking a closer look at underlying assumptions about youth, sex, mortality, and the law. She is analyzing 250 qualitative field interviews with self-identified young people who had ever traded sex for money or survival needs in the streets of Chicago during the time period 2011 to 2013 as a part of a national seven-city study of the commercial sexual exploitation of children, funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the U.S. Department of Justice. Through this, she intends to decipher popular vocabulary as we seek solutions to the problem of poor youth exchanging sex in the streets, clubs, strolls, and cars in Chicago. Her research captures a rich sociological view of an issue that affects millions of families and communities around the world, across the nation, and here in Chicago.

Trans-Urban Imaginaries of Transport: Urban Labor and the Taxi Trade in Mumbai and

Manila/Singapore Style
GCI Faculty Scholar Tarini Bedi, assistant professor of Anthropology, brings the social into transport research, exploring the social, cultural, and economic life of transport through the networks of those who drive for a living in the transport and motoring trades, specifically in the taxi-trade. The project seeks to understand how taxi-drivers in the model city (Singapore) and the two modeled cities (Mumbai and Manila) respond to, adapt to, and shape the changes to their industry. It seeks to contribute to the understanding of comparative Asian urbanism, transformations of labor structures in Asian contexts of globalization, and the comparative study of the social networks of labor that surround transport infrastructures. This project seeks to explore the convergences, flows, distinctions, and frictions that present themselves in the efforts to corporatize the taxi trade in these three cities.

Walled Cities
Over the last twenty years, the landscapes of cities throughout the world have been transformed by the construction of walled enclosures. What explains the proliferation of these 21st century separation walls? GCI Faculty Scholar Andy Clarno, assistant professor of Sociology and African American Studies, attempts to answer this question through an analysis of walled enclosures in Johannesburg and Jerusalem. What explains the different forms that these enclosures take? To carry out this research, Clarno brings together the tools of comparative urban ethnography and comparative historical sociology. His research focuses on: the relationship between neoliberal restructuring and the political transitions in each state, the growth of marginalized populations, the politics of security, and the production of walled enclosures.

Asia and China Research Program
GCI established the Asia and China Research Program in 2007, led by Professor Tingwei Zhang. The Program was initiated with an agreement between GCI and Guangxi Institute of Architectural Design and Research (GIADR), Guangxi Province in China.

The agreement provides funding for research and exchange between GCI and GIADR, around issues of importance to Southeast Asian countries, especially China. Collaborative research focused on economic, political, environmental, urban planning, and architectural issues, as they provide opportunities for exchange of ideas that mutually benefit both universities.

With the extension of the 2009 agreement between GCI-ACRG and Guangxi Hualan Planning and Development Consulting Group, a new project started in February 2014 on the comparative study of economic transition and spatial reorganization in the city of Nanning, China and Chicago. The project explores strategies employed by the municipal governments of the two cities in the globalization era.
Energy & the Environment Cluster

Accelerating energy consumption, climate change, resource extraction and the demands of a growing global population have put stress on the natural environment causing climate change, deforestation, ecosystem damage, and polluted natural environments. The impact of environmental degradation is not evenly absorbed across nations, regions, or communities and often, marginalized groups most ill equipped to cope with environmental issues, bear the greatest burdens.

GCI's Energy and the Environment Research Cluster supports research pertaining to local and global issues of environmental justice, natural resource preservation, the relationship between the natural and built environment, and policies that promote a sustainable future. GCI's work on Energy and the Environment considers the ramifications of environmental degradation and supports progressive policies that promote sustainable community development.

Great Cities, Great Rivers Initiative
Great Cities Institute has embarked on its Great Cities, Great Rivers Initiative to promote innovation districts and community planning for economic and community development in the regions of the Calumet River and the South Branch of the Chicago River. By building partnerships and providing technical assistance, GCI works alongside stakeholders in the region to produce community plans and provide technical assistance and analysis.

National Park Service – Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program partners with GCI: Throughout 2016 the National Park Service (NPS) is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding. Heralded by writer and historian Wallace Stegner as “the best idea we ever had,” the National Park Service is the federal agency responsible for overseeing more than 84 million acres of wilderness, national monuments, protected lakeshores, and scenic rivers and trails. Since April 2016, a Community Planner from the National Park Service – Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program has been located within the GCI office.

Sustainable Coastal Community Development Initiative
The Sustainable Coastal Community Development initiative of the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program supports and guides this GCI program, providing academic research and technical assistance to local governments and planning agencies within northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana.

Retired GCI Fellow and Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Policy, Martin Jaffe, was the principal investigator and coordinator of this research and worked in collaboration with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission, non-profit organizations (such as Chicago Wilderness, the Metropolitan Planning Council, and the Center for Neighborhood Technology), as well as federal, state and local officials. Sea Grant’s Sustainable Coastal Community Development initiative addresses a wide variety of emerging environmental issues affecting the Chicago metro area, such as regional water supply planning, innovative approaches to water quality management (including the use of computer models to identify environmental “tipping points” for urban waterways), the use of green infrastructure for urban stormwater management, habitat protection, and climate change adaptation at the state, regional and local levels of government. Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant is committed to both protecting and enhancing the wide range of environmental and ecosystem services provided to communities in the lower Lake Michigan basin.

Feasibility & Efficiency Analysis of Neighborhood-Based Sustainable Food Waste Management
In “Feasibility & Efficiency Analysis of Neighborhood-Based Sustainable Food Waste Management” Professors Ning Ai and Isabel Cruz compare data from previous food waste studies conducted at UIC and across the Chicago metropolitan region, integrating state-of-art knowledge from the distinct fields of urban planning and computer science. Their comparison includes a consideration of differences in the methodologies of these studies in order to further refine models and parameters for future studies. In addition, they expand Dr. Cruz’s framework for spatial and temporal data integration, GIVA, in order to address the unique challenges of the project.

Environmental Justice
Great Cities Institute supports the work of environment justice organizations by providing technical support and by hosting meetings. GCI hosted Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LEVJO), Natural Resources Defence Council, and VOCES Latino Leadership in Action to discuss the impact of Latinos on environmental justice and climate change action in the U.S. on March 7, 2014. In Fall 2016, GCI hosted the newly formed Midwest Network for Environmental Justice.
UIC Neighborhoods Initiative

The UIC Neighborhoods Initiative (UICNI) is a flagship program of the Great Cities Institute.

GCI was a pioneer in the national movement to harness the resources of universities in service to communities. UICNI gained early funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC) grant program. The COPC grant, no longer available, supported colleges and universities to apply their human, intellectual and institutional resources to the challenge of revitalizing distressed communities.

Through the UICNI initiative, GCI and UIC are able to carry out their collective mission of serving the local community through engaged scholarship, research and service at the local community and metropolitan region level.

Brief History of UIC Neighborhoods Initiative (UICNI)

The UIC Neighborhoods Initiative (UICNI) promotes and facilitates partnerships between UIC faculty, staff and students, and elected officials, residents, and organizations in neighborhoods throughout the city. Historically, UICNI has pursued grant funding to implement community and economic development programs, primarily in the Pilsen, East and West Garfield Park, Near West Side, North and South Lawndale, West Town, and Humboldt Park neighborhoods. Once funding was secured, UICNI brokered partnerships, administered funds, collaboratively developed and implemented programs, and performed evaluations. Programs have focused on securing more affordable housing, youth development, civic engagement, capacity building, leadership development, improved educational resources, increasing employment, and redevelopment of commercial areas.

Over the past twenty years, UICNI has secured more than $6.5 million dollars, and implemented more than thirty community and economic development programs. UICNI has recruited over 100 students and 65 faculty members to work with over 100 neighborhood groups on community projects. Most importantly, hundreds of thousands of community members have benefited from the programs in their neighborhoods. UICNI has maintained its focus on collaboration with neighborhood groups, elected officials, institutions and residents through its’ current projects including annual implementation of participatory budgeting and community planning projects in multiple communities throughout the city.

Organizational Model: Multi-Disciplinary, Campus-Wide Partnership

Since its inception, UICNI has approached its work with communities as an opportunity to build partnerships that are mutually beneficial for the university community (faculty, scholars, and students) as well as the external community. As a result, UICNI was formed based on a unique organizational model that combines resources from numerous units and colleges and coordinates multi-disciplinary, campus-wide partnerships between community organizations and UIC students and faculty. The UICNI initiative typically includes technical assistance and training to community-based organizations, institutions, and local government agencies in:

- Program development
- Implementation
- Applied research
- Formal evaluations of ongoing community programs
- Participatory planning
Neighborhoods Initiative Projects

Projects

Civic Leaders Program
The Civic Leadership Program was designed to identify Chicago’s next generation of civic leaders from among the city’s many neighborhood organizations, and to equip them with critical thinking and analysis skills to better engage with current topics, make informed choices and speak persuasively on policy issues. Seventeen community leaders, having been nominated by an Advisory Committee of UICNI staff and affiliates with strong community connections, came from organizations in distressed neighborhoods. They attended workshops led by UIC faculty, covering critical topics such as foreclosure and sub-prime lending, youth violence, tax increment financing, and balancing Chicago’s budget. After each topic workshop, participants had to adopt and defend a position on the policy issue, writing and delivering a speech as though to various groups of potential constituents. The assignments were designed to analyze current literature and research about a policy issue, as well as to practice articulating a strong stance within the context of political rhetoric.

Five programmatic outcomes were identified including increased fluency on issues of urban policy; increased ability to craft a political strategy for different target audiences; developing connections to other emerging leaders encountered in the program; psychological support for the idea of running for office as a result of demystifying the process; developing connections to UIC as a resource for developing positions on issues of urban policy; and increased knowledge of the role of the university in building civic capacity and engagement. In post-program evaluations, 100% of respondents indicated that as a result of participating in the program they had increased knowledge and understanding of urban policy issues and increased ability to craft a political strategy and message for different target audiences.

Certificate in Sustainable Fund Development
Designed to strengthen the sustainability of community-based nonprofit organizations, the Certificate in Sustainable Fund Development program was a customized training program for non-profits in three west side tax increment financing (TIF) districts (Homan-Arthington, Humboldt Park, and Central West TIFs). The program provided twelve training sessions on fund development strategies and nonprofit management activities such as board governance, grant writing, and program evaluation. Ten core community-based organizations also received individualized technical assistance at their offices. These sessions covered a comprehensive assessment of the organization’s overall capacity, followed by an evaluation of capacity building needs and a customized capacity building plan.

Participatory Budgeting
Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget. It offers people a fundamentally different way to engage with government. PB lets them determine what government does with taxpayer money, rather than just electing politicians to make those decisions for them.

PB began in the Brazilian city of Porto Alegre, where, since 1989, as many as 50,000 people have decided how to allocate as much as 20% of the city budget, in an annual cycle of assemblies and meetings. In the past twenty-five years, PB has spread to cities in Latin America, Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America. There are over 1,500 participatory budgets around the world, most at the municipal level. The White House and United Nations have promoted PB as a best practice of democratic governance.

PB in Chicago
In 2009, Chicago Alderman Joe Moore and The Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) launched the first process in the US where residents of Moore’s ward decided how to spend $1 million of his annual discretionary capital budget – the aldermanic “menu money.” In 2012, GCI partnered with The Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) and a broad coalition of aldermen, city-wide institutions, and community-based organizations to launch Participatory Budgeting Chicago (PB Chicago).

PB Chicago is an initiative that aims to implement and expand PB processes, civic engagement, and direct democracy throughout Chicago. GCI is the lead university partner on PB Chicago, responsible for providing overall project management, training and technical assistance to participants, community engagement, and conducting the evaluation.

Since 2012, PB Chicago has led PB efforts for decisions around aldermanic infrastructure funds, tax increment financing money, and student-led improvements in Chicago Public Schools. Major accomplishments include:

- Engaging over 15,000 residents in twelve different communities in directly deciding how to spend over $21 million in public dollars.
- Expanding PB processes from one to fourteen in Chicago.
- Working with participants to identify and develop over 70 community projects including improvements to public parks, libraries, and schools, pedestrian safety projects, murals, 100s of new trees, street resurfacing, critical sidewalk improvements, green roofs along a commercial corridor, a micro-lending program and job training programs. These projects will serve over 400,000 residents.
- Partnering to launching the first PB process in the nation that used $2 million in tax increment financing funds and
Neighborhoods Initiative Projects

- developing the Democratizing Tax Increment Financing through Participatory Budgeting tool kit.

- PB Chicago was invited to attend two White House convenings on PB to share best practices, expand PB to federal funds, and to identify next steps for expanding and deepening PB throughout the nation.

Community Planning

South Chicago’s Commercial Avenue Revitalization Plan

GCI facilitated a planning process for revitalization of the Commercial Avenue corridor in the South Chicago community. In collaboration with the South Chicago Chamber of Commerce and Special Service Area (SSA) #5, GCI completed a nine-month community-based planning process with key neighborhood stakeholders including residents, business owners, community organizations, service providers, and elected officials.

In South Chicago, retail has been on the decline, with very little recovery, since the loss of the steel industry. Beginning as a sharp decline in the mid 1970s, the last steel mill closed its doors in the early 1990s. The loss of those payrolls meant a loss in retail employment and the access to the goods and services that retail provides. As a result, a once thriving commercial corridor at the heart of South Chicago now contains only a fraction of the businesses it once held. Interspersed through the occasional business, are rampant vacancies and empty lots. Residents active in South Chicago believe in the possibilities for a revived South Commercial Avenue. We were honored to work with them on this strategic planning process for commercial revitalization in South Chicago.

The planning process began by inviting stakeholders to develop ideas and strategies, utilizing their local knowledge as foundation for the plan. Applying various technical tools, GCI gathered the community’s input and guided residents and organizations towards a consensus on action steps for implementation.

Through a series of community meetings and design charrettes, a community vision, design, and actions for the corridor were developed. The wants and needs of stakeholders were coupled with data and economic analysis to form a basis for the recruitment of new businesses to fill vacancies and create a vibrant corridor.

The resulting plan creates a framework for future developments along the corridor and focuses the revitalization efforts into a cohesive, multi-pronged set of strategies. Over several years of intentional implementation, Commercial Avenue will develop into a thriving, vibrant corridor that draws people from all over the region to shop, dine, and stroll in the South Chicago neighborhood. The result will be a stronger economy, more jobs, and access to the goods and services that neighborhood residents need and desire.

Rosemoor and North Pullman Neighborhoods Plan

Like many Chicago neighborhoods in recent decades, the Rosemoor and North Pullman communities have experienced rapid social and economic shifts including population decline, job loss, economic restructuring, and a declining economic base, which has left the communities with issues of poverty, unemployment, institution loss, and scarce resources to deal with these challenges. 103rd Street and Michigan Avenue, once thriving corridors serving the communities’ upwardly mobile middle and working class, today reflect the social and economic transformations of the neighborhoods. The disinvestment is evident by the corridors’ business vacancies, boarded-up storefronts, neglected vacant lots, and an unhealthy business mix. What were once largely locally-owned businesses catering to the everyday needs of the local residents are now mostly chain stores (fast food restaurants, discount stores, check cashing businesses), that offer limited goods and services requiring residents to leave the neighborhood to meet their everyday needs.
Neighborhoods Initiative Projects

With the recent designation of the Pullman site as a national monument, the adjacent communities of Rosemoor and North Pullman are increasingly concerned with preserving the affordability and character of their neighborhoods, while looking to direct the national monument investment to improve their communities in alignment with the residents’ vision.

To produce a plan that reflected community values and priorities, the Roseland office of Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago and UIC Great Cities Institute engaged in a collaborative planning process involving residents, businesses, community organizations and other key stakeholders to develop a vision for the future of both communities.

The process was a “bottom-up” approach based on the input of community members and other key stakeholders over four months and reflects the ideas and desires of the community. In addition, a steering committee composed of residents, business owners, and community organizations from both neighborhoods was formed to provide guidance during the plan formation, as well as to carry out implementation after the plan’s completion.

To engage the community and gather information about residents' hopes and dreams for Pilsen and specific actions and strategies that should be included in the plan, GCI designed a participatory planning process that has included over 650 participants. The process includes a multi-faceted approach to engaging the community including interviews with community stakeholders, open community meetings, and action planning meetings around specific issue areas like jobs and the economy, housing, health, parks and recreation, youth programs, public safety and education.

Pilsen Quality-of-Life Plan

GCI in collaboration with the Pilsen Planning Committee (PPC) is engaged in a planning process to create a new Quality-of-Life plan for the Pilsen neighborhood. This participatory planning process involves key neighborhood stakeholders such as community organizations, service providers, elected officials, property owners, business owners, and residents.

In November, GCI began conducting research on the existing conditions in the community to provide background and context for Pilsen's 2016 Quality-of-Life plan. The existing conditions data report includes information on Pilsen's neighborhood demographics, housing, local economy, workforce characteristics, and community institutions.
Great Cities Institute 2012 – 2016 4-Year Report

Events 2012 – 2016

These past four academic years, GCI has sponsored and hosted over 100 well-attended public conferences and lectures, including several major events.

These activities have been structured to support, contribute to, and strengthen the University’s Great Cities Commitment and increase visibility of the Institute. More information about these events is available on the GCI website at greatcities.uic.edu/events.

Symposia

2015 Fall
- City/Cite: A Transatlantic Exchange
  - Teresa Córdova, GCI, UIC
  - Andrew Diamond, University of Paris - Sorbonne
  - Amy Bailey, Sociology, UIC
  - Anne Charpy, Voisin Malin
  - Victor Dickson, Safer Foundation
  - Evita Céline, Réponses Citoyennes
  - Lu Rocha, Women for Economic Justice
  - Robert Bruno, University of Illinois
  - Thomas J. Sugrue, New York University
  - Houda Asal, McGill University
  - Frederic Callens, CGET
  - Yazid Kherfi, Mediation Nomade
  - Barbara Ransby, Social Justice Initiative, UIC
  - Amanda Lewis, IRRPP, UIC
  - Marie-Hélène Bacqué, University of Paris
  - Xóchitl Bada, LALS, UIC
  - J.R. Fleming, Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign
  - Janet Smith, Voorhees Center, UIC
  - Sylvie Tissot, University of Paris
  - Rachel Weber, UPP, UIC
  - with Consulate General of France in Chicago

2015 Spring
- Global Exchange: Building Local Economies Through World Trade
  - María Belén Loor, Republic of Ecuador
  - Laura Ortega-Lamela, Illinois Chamber of Commerce
  - Thomas W. Bartkoski, World Business Chicago
  - Raul Raymundo, The Resurrection Project
- Cities Across the Globe: People and Places Across Borders II
  - Deborah Youdell, University of Birmingham
  - Ian McGimpsey, University of Birmingham
  - Elizabeth L. Sweet, Temple University
  - Tarini Bedi, Anthropology, UIC
  - Claudia Villegas, UNAM, Mexico City
  - Ali Ercan Özgür, Kadir Has University
  - Ivan Arenas, IRRPP, UIC
  - Lynette A. Jackson, GWS and AAS, UIC
  - Francisco Uviña, University of New Mexico
  - Moises Gonzales, University of New Mexico
  - Tingwei Zhang, UPP, UIC
  - José Rivera, University of New Mexico
  - Clare Mouat, University of Western Australia
  - Atef Said, Sociology, UIC
  - John J. Betancur, UPP, UIC
  - Andy Clarno, Sociology, UIC
  - Xóchitl Bada, LALS, UIC
  - Glenda Garelli, UPP, UIC

2016 Spring
- Honoring Joan Moore Through Her Students - Latino Gang Research: Findings, Methodology, and Implications
  - Diego Vigil, University of California, Irvine
  - Joan Moore, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
  - John Hagedorn, University of Illinois at Chicago
  - Avelardo Valdez, University of Southern California
  - Alice Cepeda, University of Southern California
  - Robert Duran, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Cities Across the Globe: People and Places Across Borders
  - Hana Cervinkova, University of Lower Silesia
  - Iván Arenas, Social Justice Initiative, UIC
  - Moises Gonzales, University of New Mexico
  - Sangeeta Kamat, University of Massachusetts
  - Deborah Youdell, University of Birmingham
  - María de los Ángeles Torres, LALS, UIC

Cities Across the Globe Symposia

2013 Fall
- Cities Across the Globe: People and Places Across Borders
  - Hana Cervinkova, University of Lower Silesia
  - Iván Arenas, Social Justice Initiative, UIC
  - Moises Gonzales, University of New Mexico
  - Sangeeta Kamat, University of Massachusetts
  - Deborah Youdell, University of Birmingham
  - María de los Ángeles Torres, LALS, UIC

Poverty to Prosperity Series

2014 Spring
- Great Cities, Great Schools: A Conversation with Pedro Noguera
  - Pedro Noguera, New York University
  - Linda Lutton, WBEZ
- New World Disorder: The Decline of U.S. Power
  - David Ranney, UPP, UIC
Events 2012 – 2016

- The Poverty Puzzle: Ending Poverty in America
  - Bob Herbert, New York Times
  - John Bouman, Sargent Shriver
  - Will Burns, Alderman, 4th Ward
  - Sol Flores, La Casa Norte
  - Howard Tullman, 1871

2014 Fall
- City on the Make: Race and Inequality in Chicago
  - Andrew J. Diamond, University of Paris - Sorbonne
  - Jesús “Chuy” García, Cook County Commissioner
  - Don Rose, Independent Political Consultant
  - Pauline Lipman, Educational Policy Studies, UIC
  - Victor B. Dickson, Safer Foundation
  - with Consulate General of France in Chicago

2013 Fall
- Pedal Powered: Bike Sharing & Safety in the City
  - Sean Wiedel, CDOT
- Never Laugh at Live Dragons…
  - Mike Bolton, Pace Bus
- Environmental Justice & Transportation Issues Workshop
  - Claudia Ayala, Flora Ramirez, LVEJO
- Planning the Reconstruction of the Circle Interchange
  - John Baczek, IDOT
- The Future of the RTA and Regional Transportation Planning in the Chicago Metro
  - Frank Beal, Metropolis Strategies
  - Randy Blankenhorn, CMAP
  - Jacky Grimshaw, CNT
  - Steve Schlickman, UTC, UIC
  - Peter Skosey, MPC

2014 Spring
- Casinos as Tools for Economic Development in Suburban Chicago
  - Ryan Gallagher, Michael Wenz, NEIU
- Affordable Housing in Affluent Communities
  - Rob Anthony, CPAH of Highland Park
  - Janet Smith, UPP, UIC
- Confronting Homelessness in the Suburbs
  - Jennifer Hill, Alliance to End Homelessness
  - Joel Williams, PADS Lake County
  - Charlie Hoch, UPP, UIC

- I-90 Expansion Project
  - Rocco Zucchero, Illinois Tollway

2014 Fall
- Commercial Revitalization
  - Dan Lira, South Chicago Chamber of Commerce
  - Jaime di Paulo, Little Village Chamber of Commerce
  - Abe Lentner, UPP, UIC
- Street Jobs + the Informal Economy
  - T.C. O’Rourke, Chicago Pedicab Association
  - Elizabeth Kregor, U of C IJ Clinic on Entrepreneurship
  - Kathleen Dunn, Loyola University
- Disruption Apps + the City
  - Gillian Wu, Postmates
  - Jim Poole, Chief of Staff, 47th Ward
  - Brenda Parker, UPP, UIC
- Vacancy + Spatial Justice
  - Benjamin Helphand, NeighborSpace
  - Kathleen Dickhut, DPD
  - Sanjeev Vidyarthi, UPP, UIC
- Youth Entrepreneurship
  - Almetris Stanley, Westside Youth Technical
- Worker Cooperatives
  - Nik Theodore, UPP, UIC
- Innovation Districts
  - Laura Williams, World Business Chicago
  - Dennis Vicchiarelli, World Business Chicago
  - Josh Drucker, UPP, UIC

2015 Spring
- Guanxi: Chinese Social Capital in Chicago
  - C.W. Chan, CBCAC
  - Jenny Yang, Chinatown Chamber of Commerce
- Homeless LGBTQ Youth: Providing for Services
  - Devin Redmond, The Crib
  - Carrie Kaufman, Project Fierce
  - Tracy Baim, Windy City Media Group
- Gender in the City: Street Harassment & Safety
  - Scheherazade Tillet, A Long Walk Home
  - Jasson Perez, Black Youth Project 100
  - Rachel Caidor, WLRC, UIC

- Equal-Access City? 25 Years of Americans with Disabilities Act
  - Karen Tamley, Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities
  - Greg Polman, Chicago Lighthouse
  - Robin Ann Jones, Great Lakes ADA Center
  - Steve Schlickman, UTC, UIC
**Events 2012 – 2016**

- **A Changing Back of the Yards: The Growing Latino Population**
  - Craig Chico, BYNC
  - Emilio L. Carrasquillo, NHS
  - Henry Cervantes, TRP

**Jewels of UIC Series**

**2014 Spring**
- Immigration in Suburbs: Insights from the 2010-2011 Chicago Area Study
  - Maria Krysan, Sociology, UIC
  - Nilda Flores Gonzalez, Sociology, LALS, UIC
  - Pamela Popielarz, Sociology, UIC
  - Emily M. Ruehs, Sociology, UIC
  - Vanessa Guridy, Political Science, UIC
  - Andy Clarno, Sociology, AAS, UIC

**2014 Fall**
- Global Environmental Justice: Footprints, Fairness, and the Future of the Planet
  - Paul Brandt Rauf, Public Health, UIC

**2016 Spring**
- Chicago Politics: A Look Forward and a Look Back
  - Dick Simpson, Political Science, UIC

**Research Scholar Series**

**2013 Spring**
- Gangs and Police Corruption
  - John Hagedorn, Criminal Justice, UIC
- Re-thinking Marketplace Literacy: The Transformation of African Markets
  - Benet DeBerry-Spence, Marketing, UIC
- Life's Work in Chicago: Gender, Race, Inequality and Household Provisioning
  - Brenda Parker, UPP, UIC
- Generative Work: Popular Education and Day Laborer Organizing in the U.S
  - Nik Theodore, UPP, UIC

**2015 Spring**
- Is Revolution a Feminist Cause? Women's Movements in the Arab Spring of Cairo
  - Nadine Naber, Gender and Women's Studies, UIC
- Neighborhood-Based Sustainable Food Waste Management
  - Ning Ai, UPP, UIC
  - Isabel Cruz, Computer Science, UIC

**2016 Fall**
- Death By 'Double-Tap': (Undoing) Racial Logics in the Age of Drone Warfare
  - Ronak K. Kapadia, GWS, Global Asian Studies, UIC
- Engineered Conflict: School Closings, Public Housing, Law Enforcement and the Future of Black Life
  - David Stovall, Educational Policy Studies, AAS, UIC

**Innovate Chicago Series**

**2013 Fall**
- Freight Hub of the United States: Sustaining Metropolitan Chicago's Role in the 21st Century
  - Randy Blankenhorn, CMAP
- The Illinois Workforce & Workforce Policy for the Next Decade
  - Howard Wial, CUED, UIC
- Advanced Manufacturing, Innovative Partnerships, Advanced Communities: The Chicago Experience
  - Erica Swinney, Manufacturing Renaissance
  - Bill Vogel, Austin Polytechnical Academy
- Supporting an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem
  - Kristin Barrett, Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center

**Comparative Urbanism Series**

**2012 Fall**
- Creating the Sunbelt: Investment Incentives & Business Politics in the Making of Modern Phoenix
  - Elizabeth Tandy Shermer, Loyola University
- Walkable, Affordable and Preferable: Nuancing the Sustainable Neighborhood
  - Emily Talen, Arizona State University
- Stimulating Urban Development in US and UK Cities After the Financial Crisis
  - Thomas Strickland, Newcastle University

**2013 Spring**
- I Speak of the City
  - Mauricio Tenorio, University of Chicago
- Taxi-Driver, Infrastructural Aesthetics, and Urban Transformations in Mumbai
  - Tarini Bedi, Anthropology, UIC
- From Harold Washington to Barack Obama: A Leadership Legacy
  - Xolela Mangcu, University of Cape Town
- Perceptions of Inequality and Employment in Three Low-Income Communities in Sao Paulo, Brazil
  - Simone Buechler, LALS, UIC
Events 2012 – 2016

Out and About with GCI Series

2014 Spring
• Suburban Redevelopment: City of Blue Island and Life after Brownfields

2014 Fall
• Underground (Planning in) Chicago

2014 Spring
• Old Town: The Artists’ Impact

Special Events

2013 Spring
• The Next National Plan
  - Robert Fishman, University of Michigan
• Reinventing Race, Reinventing Racism
  - John J. Betancur, UPP, UIC
  - Cedric Herring, Sociology, UIC
• Innovation Economics: The Race for Global Advantage
  - Robert D. Atkinson, ITIF

2013 Fall
• The Arc the Bends Toward Justice Requires an Accelerator: Engaged Learning as the Bridge to Civic
  - Troy Duster, UC Berkeley and New York University
• New Dimensions in Visual Communication
  - Tim B. Castillo, University of New Mexico

2014 Spring
• How Does Financialization Affect Manufacturing Investment?
  - Susan Christopherson, Cornell University
• Oil Shale Fracking: Implications for Community Planning & Environmental Safety
  - Teresa Córdova, GCI, UIC
  - Susan Christopherson, Cornell University
• Urbanization and Governance in China and India: Informal Settlements, Land Disputes, and Citizen Rights
  - Xuefei Ren, Michigan State University
• The Fragmented City: Politics of Historic Preservation in Beijing, Chicago, and Paris
  - Yue Zhang, Political Science, UIC
• Latinos. Environmental Justice & Climate Change
  - Manuel Pastor, University of Southern California
  - Rachel Morello-Frosch, UC Berkeley
  - Adrianna Quintero, NRDC Latino Advocacy Program
  - Rafael Hurtado Jr., LVEJO
  - The Color Orange? Social Justice Issues in Orange is the New Black
    - Jane Caputi, Florida Atlantic University
• Towards Urban Flood Resilience: Transforming the Footprint of a City
  - Eoin O’Neill, University College Dublin
• Making Democracy Fun: How Game Design can Empower Citizens and Transform Politics
  - Josh Lerner, Participatory Budgeting Project

2014 Fall
• A Critique of Resilience in Socio-Technical Infrastructure System
  - Thomas Seager, Arizona State University

2015 Spring
• Presenting the Fund 2040 Proposal
  - Erin Aleman, CMAP
• Tower Blocks, Modern Suburbs, and 21st Century Urbanism in Toronto
  - Graeme Stewart, ERA Architects

2015 Fall
• Changing Face of Harlem Documentary Showing and Discussion
  - Shawn Batey, Director
• Gangs, Organized Crime, & Corruption
  - John Hagedorn, Criminology, Law and Justice, UIC

2016 Spring
• A Conversation with French-African film curator Claire Diao and Director Alice Diop from Associations Quartiers Lointains and Siniman Films
  - Claire Diao, Film Journalist and Curator
  - Alice Diop, Documentary Filmaker

2016 Fall
• Survivors’ Truths: Recovery in Post-Conflict Liberia
  - Cooper Vuku, Survivors’ Truths Liberia
• From worst-case scenario to participatory plan: Lessons from a Mexican village for community development and planning education
  - Marie Kennedy, UCLA
  - Chris Tilly, UCLA
• Greenovation: Urban Leadership on Climate Change
  - Joan Fitzgerald, Northeastern University
Event Highlights

The Future of RTA and Regional Transportation Planning in the Chicago Metro

On December 3rd, 2013, Great Cities convened a panel to consider the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) as well as transportation planning across our region.

Panelists included:
- Frank Beal, Executive Director, Metropolis Strategies
- Randy Blankenhorn, Executive Director, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Jacky Grimshaw, Vice President of Policy, Center for Neighborhood Technology
- Steve Schlickman, Executive Director, UIC Urban Transportation Center
- Peter Skosey, Executive Vice President, Metropolitan Planning Council

These experts agreed that a region wide agency is needed, but argued that the changes in RTA could lead to greater performance both in connecting partner agencies to adequately blanket the region with transit options and in advocating for necessary funding. Ms. Grimshaw, who in addition to her work for Center for Neighborhood Technology, serves on the Chicago Transit Authority Board as well as the RTA Strategic Plan Advisory Committee, argued that the RTA is thwarting the economic growth and viability of our region and highlighted how the RTA has failed to connect low income workers living in the city with suburban job markets. All of the panelists agreed that if the Chicago region is to continue to thrive and grow, that issues with governance and budgeting at the RTA must be addressed.
Event Highlights

The Poverty Puzzle: Ending Poverty in America

Chicago Politics: A Look Forward and a Look Back

City on the Make: Race and Inequality in Chicago

Great Cities, Great Schools: A Conversation with Pedro Noguera

The Arc the Bends Toward Justice Requires an Accelerator: Engaged Learning as the Bridge to Civic
Cities Across the Globe: People and Places Across Borders Symposium

The Cities across the Globe Symposia Series is a gathering of international interdisciplinary scholars sharing insights generated through comparative analysis of complex issues facing cities during a period of rapid and expansive urbanization. At the first symposium, held on November 2013, spatial planning, public space, urban landscapes, economic restructuring, displacement and mobility, everyday insurgencies, youth engagement, safety and security, and the politics of neoliberalism were some of the topics discussed in a roundtable format.

In April 2015, the second-annual symposium took place. Ministry officials from the Republic of Ecuador keynoted the symposium.

On Day 2, distinguished scholars from around the globe presented on topics ranging from welfare assemblage in the U.K., and disassemblage of cultures in Russia, to analysis of revolution in Egypt, and dynamics of the built-form in the American Southwest and China. Central to many of the discussions was cultural relationships to space, best captured as “Querencia,” a term shared by the scholars traveling to the Symposium from the Southwest region of the United States.

The topics presented were:

- “City and the Symbolic Politics of Neoliberalism in Central Europe”
  - Hana Cervinkova, University of Lower Silesia, Poland
- “Resisting The Privatization of Public Space: Oaxaca, Mexico”
  - Ivan Arenas, UIC Social Justice Initiative
- “Myth to Megacity, the Urban Landscape Evolution of Mexico City”
  - Moises Gonzales, University of New Mexico
- “Pursuing Fairness, Prosperity and Localism in a Superdiverse, Supercomplex, and Disassembled City”
  - Deborah Youdell, University of Birmingham, U.K.
- “Citizens in the Present: Youth Engagement in the Americas”
  - aria de los Ángeles Torres, UIC
- “Internally Displaced Women in Medellin, Colombia: Food Insecurity, Violence, Health and Mobility”
  - Elizabeth L. Sweet, Temple University
- “Violence, Infra-politics and Everyday Insurgencies in Peri-Urban Mumbai”
  - Tarini Bedi, 2013-14 GCI Research Scholar, UIC
- “Policing Precariousness in South Africa and Palestine/Israel”
  - Andy Clarno, 2013-14 GCI Research Scholar, UIC
- “Building a ‘World Class Heritage City’ in Jaipur, India: Resurgent Local Planning and Civic Pride or More of the Same?”
  - Sanjeev Vidyarthi, University of Illinois at Chicago
Event Highlights

The Arc That Bends Toward Justice Requires An Accelerator: Engaged Learning As The Bridge To Civic Engagement

Echoing the voice of social justice crusader, Ida B. Wells, grandson Troy Duster addressed a group of academics, civic and community members on October 10, 2013. Duster argued that the struggle for justice depends on civic engagement as the fundamental element of democracy. Yet civic engagement is not innate or inevitable, and is often low on the agenda of Americans, only coming about when events force people to become involved and engaged.

“People must engineer progress toward social justice with a passion that invariably forces a movement,” said Troy Duster, Chancellor’s Professor at the Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy, University of California, Berkeley and Emeritus Silver Professor of Sociology, New York University. “Key to civic engagement is integrating engaged learning into curriculum that bridges students with communities and connects individuals and social issues to prepare them for their role in social activism.”

Partnering with Great Cities Institute (GCI) for this event was the following UIC affiliates: The Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy; The Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement; UIC Social Justice Initiative; and The Department of Sociology. The presentation was part of GCI’s ongoing convenings on issues impacting the social vitality and quality of life of cities and communities.

A crusader for social justice in his own right, Duster’s research has focused on the social and political implications of developments in human molecular genetics. Duster has served as president of the American Sociological Association, chair of the Board of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, member and chair of the joint National Institutes of Health/Department of Energy advisory committee on Ethical, Legal and Social Issues in the Human Genome Project, and on the Research Advisory Committee of the Innocence Project.

Great Cities, Great Schools: A Conversation with Pedro Noguera

On March 3rd, 2014, Great Cities hosted a conversation between Professor Pedro Noguera and Linda Lutton, WBEZ reporter. The two discussed urban schools, the education reform movement, and liberatory education.

Dr. Pedro Noguera is the Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education at New York University. Dr. Noguera is a sociologist whose scholarship and research focuses on the ways in which schools are influenced by social and economic conditions and the factors that obstruct and promote student achievement. He holds tenured faculty appointments in the departments of Teaching and Learning and Humanities and Social Sciences at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Development at NYU. Dr. Noguera is also the executive director of the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education and co-director of the Institute for the Study of Globalization and Education in Metropolitan Settings (IGEMS). In 2008, he was appointed by the Governor of New York to serve on the State University of New York Board of Trustees.

In this conversation, Dr. Noguera noted that thirty years of education reform have paralleled worse outcomes for urban students. He observed how recent federal education policies, such as No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top have overemphasized testing, resulting in a narrowing of curricula. He argues that narrower curricula leave students disengaged, which in fact contributes to the poor outcomes these policies were ostensibly created to address.

He maintains that these policies detract from or exacerbate the real causes of poor achievement. Specifically he highlighted the broad effects on children who live in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty as well as the differences in curriculum taught to poor versus middle class children. In a blog he wrote after the event for the Great Cities’ website, he succinctly asserted:

In order for education to expand opportunity it must enable students to recognize that knowledge can be a source of power and provide them with the means to use education to help themselves, their families and communities. Making this type of education available to a broader number of students must be the objective of policy makers, parents and activists who genuinely believe that education can be a resource for expanding opportunity.
Event Highlights

The Poverty Puzzle: Ending Poverty in America
On April 24th, 2014, Bob Herbert lectured about poverty in the United States. Mr. Herbert, who was an Op-ed columnist for the New York Times for almost two decades, is currently the Distinguished Research Fellow at Demos as well as a Trustee of the Schumann Center for Media and Democracy. In his lecture, Mr. Herbert gave an overview of causes and characteristics of contemporary poverty. He also highlighted strategies to end poverty.

Immediately after his lecture, four panelists joined Mr. Herbert for a robust discussion of current efforts to end poverty. The panelists were:
- John Bouman, President, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
- Will Burns, Alderman, City of Chicago, 4th Ward
- Sol Flores, Founding Executive Director, La Casa Norte
- Howard Tullman, CEO, 1871

GCI Director Córdova moderated as the panelists spoke about their own efforts within research centers, local government, community groups, and the private sector. More broadly, the panelists considered how the many kinds of anti-poverty work might better compliment and bolster one another.

Honoring Joan Moore Through Her Students
Latino Gang Research: Findings, Methodology, and Implications
The Great Cities symposium on Latino Gang Research honored Joan Moore and featured the work of her former students who presented engaging and thought-provoking research on Latino gang structures and their impacts on the wellbeing of both communities and individuals. The research and rigorous collaborative methodology of Joan Moore has proven to be impactful over the years. Across the United States, her former students are producing meaningful research on Latino gangs and engaged in both applying that research to policy issues and individual cases surrounding the incarceration and treatment of former gang members.
Research Fellow Highlights

**John Hagedorn**

John Hagedorn, Professor of Criminology, Law and Justice at UIC, is the author of *People & Folks, Gangs, Crime, and the Underclass in a Rustbelt City* (1988). This book re-framed the study of gangs in the United States by focusing on the impact of deindustrialization. More recently, his study of why Chicago’s homicide rate has not declined like New York City’s produced *The In$ane Chicago Way: The Daring Plan by Chicago gangs to Create a Spanish Mafia*. Chicago (2015). While at GCI, he wrote *A World of Gangs*. His study of "armed young men" around the world, including institutionalized gangs, para-militaries, militant fundamentalists, terrorists, and drug cartels led to an edited volume, *Gangs in the Global City: Alternatives to Traditional Criminology*. (2007). He is co-editor of *Female Gangs in America: Essays on Girls, Gangs, and Gender*, the only edited volume ever published in the U.S. on female gangs. He is the creator of the website gangresearch.net.

**Michael Pagano**

The focus of Professor Michael A. Pagano’s professional work is on the life blood of municipalities, namely, their finances, and the relationship between their fiscal position and the intergovernmental system. In 2007, he was appointed Dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, prior to which he was Head of the Department of Public Administration. From 2010-12, he served concurrently as interim dean of the College of Business Administration. He was professor of political science at Miami University for 20 years prior to his appointment at UIC in 2001. He is an elected Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration (which was chartered by Congress to assist federal, state, and local governments in improving their effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability), former co-editor with Susan Clarke of Urban Affairs Review (2001-2014), Faculty Fellow of UICs Great Cities Institute, and member of the Steering Committee of UIC’s bid to host the Obama Presidential Library.

**Martin Jaffe**

GCI Fellow and emeritus associate professor of Urban Planning and Policy, Martin Jaffe, was the principal investigator working on the Sea Grant’s Sustainable Coastal Community Development initiative in collaboration with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission, non-profit organizations (such as Chicago Wilderness, the Metropolitan Planning Council, and the Center for Neighborhood Technology), as well as federal, state and local officials. The initiative addresses a wide variety of emerging environmental issues affecting the Chicago metro area, such as regional water supply planning, innovative approaches to water quality management (including the use of computer models to identify environmental “tipping points” for urban waterways), the use of green infrastructure for urban stormwater management, habitat protection, and climate change adaptation at the state, regional and local levels of government Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant is committed to both protecting and enhancing the wide range of environmental and ecosystem services provided to communities in the lower Lake Michigan basin.

**David Perry**

David Perry is Professor of Urban Planning and Policy in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). He served for almost 12 years as Director of the Great Cities Institute at UIC and the Associate Chancellor for the university’s Great Cities Commitment. Perry is the author or editor of eleven books, including two recently published volumes titled *The Global University and Urban Development: Case Studies and Analysis* and *Universities as Urban Developers: Case Studies and Analysis*, and over 150 articles, book chapters and reports on urban “anchor” institutions, urban and regional economic development policy, race, politics and urban violence, contested cities, public infrastructure and the production of urban space. He is presently working on two new books on the role of universities and community foundations in American cities, one to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press and one by M.E. Sharpe.
Research Fellow Highlights

Nik Theodore
Nik Theodore is a Professor in UIC’s Department of Urban Planning and Policy. His work focuses on economic restructuring, labor standards, and worker organizing. His research has been published in economics, public policy, and urban studies journals including: *Cambridge Journal of Economics, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Urban Geography, European Urban and Regional Studies, Economic Development Quarterly, Political Geography*, and others. His research on employment issues has been featured in the *New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, CNN, BBC, PBS’s NewsHour, All Things Considered, Marketplace*, and others. Prior to joining UIC he was an Atlantic Fellow in Public Policy at the University of Manchester (England). He is also an editor of *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*. In 2014, Professor Theodore was named “Highly Cited Researcher” by Thomson Reuters.

Sanjeev Vidyarthi
Sanjeev Vidyarthi is an Associate Professor in the Urban Planning and Policy Department. Studying, working and living in a variety of settings have shaped Sanjeev’s commitment to the field of spatial planning. He grew up in a Nehruvian-era industrial township near the city of Udaipur in rural India. He experienced the ‘megacity’ firsthand while attending the Sir J.J. School of Architecture at Bombay. Sanjeev next joined his college friends at Jaipur, a princely city planned in the 18th century, and together they went on to establish the leading architectural practice of the Rajasthan state. Employing well over 40 people in the mid 1990s, their studio designed a range of projects in diverse contexts including Madras, Delhi and Muscat. His practice also helped organize the state’s first architecture school where he served as the founding chair. Shortly afterwards, Sanjeev became curious about the meaning and purpose of his own work and headed to the graduate school. He studied at the college towns of Leuven, Belgium and Ann Arbor, Michigan while earning multiple degrees in city planning and design. He came to the UIC in 2008. He now lives at walking distance from Frank Llyod Wright’s home and studio in Oak Park and a short drive away from Fredrick Law Olmsted’s planned community of Riverside. Sanjeev studies how to make better plans for places.

Rachel Weber
Rachel Weber is a Professor in the Urban Planning and Policy Department. Her research and teaching are situated at the intersection of urban economic development, public finance, and real estate. Rachel has been interested in the impact of capital markets on urban economies and the built environment since she was a graduate student. Her doctoral dissertation, subsequently published as *Swords into Dow Shares: Governing the Decline of the Military Industrial Complex* (Westview, 2000) questioned the shareholder orientation of the defense drawdown following the end of the Cold War. She subsequently focused on the mechanisms through which municipal governments construct a nexus between global financial circuits and local assets, in the process debunking the notion that economic development is a strictly local activity. For example, she treats Tax Increment Financing (or TIF) not just as an incentive used by cities to promote growth in specific locations. For her, TIF is also a means of speculating on the future, converting the tax base into new financial instruments to be transacted in public debt markets, and bringing new forms of expertise into urban policy decisions.

Ting Wei Zhang
Ting Wei Zhang is Professor Emeritus of Urban Planning and Policy, and Director of Asia and China Research Program in the Great Cities Institute and Guest Professor of Urban Planning in Tongji University, Shanghai, China. He was President of IACP (2005-2007), member of the Global Planning Committee of AICP (2001-2005), and serves on the International Conference Committee of ACSP (2001- ), Advisory Committee of IACP (2008- ) in the US. He is also a member of China National Planning Expert Committee, and as planning adviser to several Chinese cities including Wuhan, Shenzhen, and Shanghai. He serves on editorial boards of academic journals including City Planning Review, Urban Planning Forum, Planners, Urban Planning International, and Time and Architecture. His research interest covers planning theory, China’s transition and urban policy, and urban development in American cities. He has published over 100 articles and book chapters in China, the US, UK, France, and authored and co-authored 7 books published in China and Switzerland (the UNISD).
Research Scholar Highlights 2015 – 2016

Notes on an Engineered Conflict: School Closings, Public Housing, Law Enforcement and the Future of Black Life
David Stovall, Associate Professor
Department of Education Policy Studies and Africana-American Studies

Professor Stovall’s faculty scholar project, Engineered Conflict: School Closings, Public Housing, Law Enforcement and the Future of Black Life organizes legal jurisprudence theory, post-colonial theory and philosophy of race to interrogate state-sanctioned violence, urban space and the politics of exclusion. As a project slated for the Spring 2016 semester, the project draws attention to policy formation and implementation as ideological rationales for containment and marginalization. Because school closings, destruction of public housing and federal corruption statues are primarily investigated as singular entities, their grouping under the auspices of a planned instability provides a framework to examine conditions of urban space for African-American and Latin@ residents.

Beyond ‘Chiraq’ and Homan Square: Alternatives to Mass Incarceration, Military Urbanism, and Homeland Security in Chicago
Ronak Kapadia, Assistant Professor
Department of Gender and Women’s Studies

Professor Kapadia’s faculty scholar project “Beyond ‘Chiraq’ and Homan Square: Alternatives to Mass Incarceration, Military Urbanism, and Homeland Security in Chicago”, asks how contemporary activists, artists, lawyers, and cultural producers have identified and challenged the growing links between mass incarceration, military urbanism, and homeland security in four key sites across Chicago. By analyzing local and transnational forms of activism and cultural production, Kapadia argues for a new framework through which to understand the links between mass incarceration and the global war on terror. In the process, the project documents more critical and imaginative responses to US state violence as well as the alternative models of coalition and collectivity that these violent politics have engendered within multiple activist communities across Chicago.

Transition to Adulthood for Working Class Youth: Institutions and Informal Practices in Local Communities
Amy Bailey, Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology

Professor Bailey’s faculty scholar project, “Transition to Adulthood for Working Class Youth: Institutions and Informal Practices in Local Communities”, extends this conceptual framework to examine enlistment in concert with competing institutional options available to young adults from working class backgrounds, and shifts the scope of her inquiry from nationally-focused comparative work to an in-depth examination of community-level institutional processes and normative social practices.

The University as Urban Achor: From Enclave to Engaged Institution
David Perry, Professor
Department of Urban Planning and Policy

Professor Perry and former GCI director is the author or editor of eleven books, including two recently published volumes titled The Global University and Urban Development: Case Studies and Analysis and Universities as Urban Developers: Case Studies and Analysis, and over 150 articles, book chapters and reports on urban “anchor” institutions, urban and regional economic development policy, race, politics and urban violence, contested cities, public infrastructure and the production of urban space. He is presently working on two new books on the role of universities and community foundations in American cities, one to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press and one by M.E. Sharpe. Perry’s work has appeared in such non-academic places at the New York Times, The Nation and Metropolis magazine.
Research Scholars 1995 – 2016

Elizabeth Abrams-Rich
Department of Anthropology
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2011-2012

Alicia Adserà
Department of Economics
College of Business Administration
2001-2002

Ning Ai
Department of Urban Planning and Policy
College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs
2014-2015

Kheir Al-Kodmany
Urban Planning and Policy Program
College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs
2001-2002

Tanya R. Anderson
Department of Psychiatry
College of Medicine
2003-2004

Eric Arnesen
Department of African-American Studies
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
1996-1997

Phillip Ashton
Urban Planning and Policy Program
College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs
2008-2009

Marc Atkins
Department of Psychiatry
College of Medicine
2000-2001

David Badillo
Latin American and Latino Studies Program
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
1999-2000

Amy Bailey
Department of Sociology
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2015-2016

Kevin Barnhurst
Department of Communications
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
1999-2000

Darold Barnum
Departments of Managerial Studies and Information and Decision Sciences
College of Business Administration
2007-2008

Tarini Bedi
Department of Anthropology
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2013-2014

Larry Bennett
Department of Sociology
Jane Addams School of Social Work
2011-2012

John Betancur
Urban Planning and Policy Program
College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Cynthia Blair
Department of African-American Studies and History
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2000-2001

Burton Bledstein
Department of History
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
1999-2000

Jennifer Brier
Department of Gender and Women's Studies/Department of History
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2005-2006

Robert Breugmann
Department of Art History
College of Architecture and the Arts

Simone Buechler
Latin American and Latino Studies Program
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- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Chicago Parks District
- Chicago Public Art Group
- Chicago Public Schools, Global Citizenship Initiative
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- Community Media Workshop at Columbia College
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Improved cities are UIC goal

School to focus on urban issues

By Frank James
Tribune Staff Writer

The University of Illinois at Chicago, long in search of a distinct identity, now believes it has discovered the path to acquiring one.

After months of internal discussion, university officials have concluded their school’s new mission should be to refocus its academic resources to help improve the social and economic issues affecting Chicago and many other cities.

While officials said they aren’t abandoning their primary responsibility of teaching UIC’s 25,000 students and conducting research in several fields, they say their hope is that their new emphasis will lead UIC to become internationally known for expertise in tackling urban problems.

To be launched with an all-day conference Friday, the new initiative, known as the Great Cities program, is also UIC’s attempt to be more relevant at a time when the competition for taxpayer dollars is heated.

Primarily, it is an attempt to gain a character the university and city can rally around, said James Stukel, the chancellor. When Stukel became chancellor in 1991, he quickly learned through meetings with Chicago leaders that UIC “really didn’t have any identity,” he said.

“This institution was the 17th-largest employer in the state and one mile from downtown and had no obvious presence in people’s minds.

“In a couple of years, if this works out, if you ask someone what UIC stands for, I hope they say the Great Cities concept,” said Stukel.

Furthermore, UIC officials see their new direction as a way for

See UIC, Page 7

Chicago Tribune, Friday, December 3, 1993

S
Corporate exec, activist help
Great Cities mark second year

By John Camper

A top corporate executive and a liberal Democratic activist were the major attractions when UIC’s Great Cities initiative celebrated its second birthday.

Bernard Brennan, chairman and chief executive officer of Montgomery Ward & Co., received the university’s Great Cities Award Nov. 30 for serving as the first chairman of the UIC Chancellor’s Corporate Advisory Board and helping devise the Great Cities concept.

The next day, former U.S. Rep. Shirley Chisholm of New York delivered the keynote speech at a Great Cities conference on “Urban Policies under the New Federalism.”

The two events marked a milestone for the Great Cities initiative, unveiled Dec. 1, 1993, by then-Chancellor James J. Stukel to direct the university’s teaching, research and public service into areas that will improve the quality of life in Chicago and other metro-

politans areas.

Since then, Great Cities has received more than $4 million in state, federal and private grants. It has begun a number of new initiatives, including a job-training program for students at Crane and Benito Juarez high schools; providing computers and Internet hook-ups for community groups; and monetary grants for UIC faculty doing urban-oriented research.

Brennan was honored at a $250-a-plate dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel, which attracted an overflow crowd of 750 and raised more than $150,000, after expenses, for the Great Cities program.

In accepting the award, Brennan noted that he has been a corporate chief executive for 17 years and has served on many boards, “but in all that time, I’ve never been involved in an endeavor that had more focus and more commitment than Great Cities.”

In lining up corporate and government support for the program, Brennan noted, he discovered that, “when you hear what Great Cities is about, you can’t say no.”

UIC’s interim chancellor, David Broski, told the gathering he is seeking “to make UIC the place where higher education and the needs of the city converge.”

“We want to make Chicago a place where people want to live, not leave,” Broski told the audience, “and the Great Cities initiative is showing the way.”

At the conference the next day in the Chicago Hilton Union, Chisholm told some 300 community leaders, academicians and business people that the cities “are in real, real trouble” because of the federal government’s “abandonment of its responsibilities.”

She called for a “massive, nationally coordinated effort to end poverty and rebuild America,” adding, “if the cities don’t make it, America won’t make it.”

At five break-out sessions, experts from UIC and elsewhere discussed violence prevention, empowerment zones, urban education, health policy and regionalism.

The Rob Miter Great Cities Partnership Award, named in honor of the late UIC professor of urban planning and policy, was presented to Donald Feinstein, principal of Dett Elementary School.

The forum luncheon featured a discussion of urban issues by a media panel that included Patrick Reardon, urban affairs reporter for the Chicago Tribune; Laura Washington, editor and publisher of the Chicago Reporter; and Ben Joravsky, urban affairs reporter for the Reader.

UIC News, October 1, 1996

Forum considers future of cities after 9/11

By Keith Romero

Has the role of the city changed in our society since Sept. 11?

Some 600 people came from across the nation last month to consider that question at the Great Cities Institute annual Winter Forum.

“We organized a day of conversations meant to push the boundaries and challenge our assumptions on how open the city truly is,” said David Perry, director of the Great Cities Institute.

“There have been a host of national and local meetings on the meaning of 9/11 that more often than not have ended up describing the fortress city rather than the open one.”

Students, faculty and staff, policymakers, representatives of civic and philanthropic groups and community activists attended the daylong event Dec. 6.

The forum began with a live broadcast on WBEZ-FM’s morning program “Eight Forty-Eight,” moderated by program host Steve Edwards.

The discussion, “Defining the Open...

WBEZ-FM’s Steve Edwards, right, moderates the broadcast of a panel discussion.

City,” featured a panel of academics and policy advocates that included political science professor Evan McKenzie, African American studies professor Beth Richie, Juan Salgado of the Instituto del Progreso Latino and Julia Stasch of the MacArthur Foundation’s Program on Human and Community Development.

Other panel discussions ranged from affordable housing to the situation for Arabs and Muslims after 9/11 to bridging the digital job divide.

Keynote speaker Angela Glover Blackwell, president and founder of PolicyLink, a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy organization, brought the crowd to its feet with an impassioned discourse on how seemingly disparate organizations could build coalitions to address a wide range of urban issues, including urban sprawl and smart growth, affordable housing, economic development and education.

“Each topic discussed this year was interesting and complex enough to warrant its own conference,” said Liz Reyes, a 1993 alumna and executive director of Claretian Associates, a community development organization.

“It made me realize how many people are truly committed to change and to helping Chicago develop into a place where people from diverse ethnic, racial and economic backdrops can live safe and productive lives.”

UIC News, January 15, 2003