



Great Cities Institute

February 2025 Brochure

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS CHICAGO

LOCAL & REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

Chicago's FY2024 Budget and Participatory Engagement

GCI played a key role in designing and facilitating public engagement activities for the City of Chicago's FY2024 budget process. This initiative provided community members with input into fiscal decision-making, informing budget allocations for affordable housing, public safety, mental health services, environmental justice, and youth employment programs. By integrating community feedback, the budget engagement process strengthened transparency and accountability in local governance.



Chicago Mayoral Election Analysis: Racial Disparities in Political Participation

GCI's research on the 2023 Chicago mayoral election exposed deep racial and ethnic disparities in voter turnout, with Black and Latino participation lagging far behind white voter engagement. The findings highlight systemic barriers to civic participation and the urgent need for targeted voter outreach, education initiatives, and policy reforms that strengthen democratic inclusion and representation in Chicago's governance.

ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Youth Joblessness and Workforce Inequities

Chicago continues to grapple with one of the highest youth joblessness rates in the nation, disproportionately affecting Black and Latino communities. GCI's latest Youth Employment Report found that in some neighborhoods, over 90% of teens are jobless, reinforcing the need for targeted employment programs, career readiness initiatives, and city-wide economic interventions.

GCI's research has consistently highlighted the link between youth joblessness, economic mobility, and community safety, emphasizing the need for:

- Expanded summer youth employment programs to increase workforce participation.
- Stronger partnerships between schools, community organizations, and employers to create long-term career pipelines.
- Policy-driven solutions that address racial disparities in job access and income inequality.

Lawndale Service Area Databook: Strengthening Community Wealth in North Lawndale

North Lawndale residents seek safe streets, good schools, and living-wage jobs, but economic leakage—where income leaves the community—hinders wealth-building. The *Lawndale Service Area Databook* reveals that despite 3,000 new jobs created between 2010 and 2018, most went to non-residents, and \$124 million in local spending exits annually due to limited businesses and services. GCI's research underscores the need for workforce development, commercial revitalization, and local investment to ensure North Lawndale's economic growth benefits its residents.

GCI Participates in Pilot Project to Establish an Early Warning Network to Retain Industrial Jobs

GCI served as a key partner in the establishment of the Early Warning Network, a critical initiative designed to provide specialized services to small and mid-size legacy manufacturing companies and retain industrial jobs in local communities. As part of the Advisory Committee, GCI helped develop and update the Early Warning Manual, the project's primary training tool, ensuring it included guidance on industry engagement, technical assistance, and ownership succession. This revised manual was central to the 24-hour pilot training held in Fall 2024, where representatives from 13 Chicagoland communities and industrial organizations learned how to identify and assist manufacturers at risk. Through this effort, GCI exemplified its commitment to building stronger communities by helping to preserve high-quality manufacturing firms and the well-paying jobs they provide.

New Economic & Workforce Development Online Hub

The Economic & Workforce Development Program landing page was recently made available as a central hub for GCI's research on job creation, workforce training, wage equity, and economic revitalization. This platform highlights ongoing and completed studies that shape policy solutions to address racial and spatial disparities in employment and economic mobility. Recent research examines youth joblessness, the Fight for \$15 movement, racial inequities in the Paycheck Protection Program, and trends in manufacturing workforce equity. Studies on Amazon's HQ2 bids reveal how cities commodify diversity, while analysis of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) explores how improved job quality strengthens industries. Ongoing initiatives include an evaluation of ChiBlockBuilder, Chicago's vacant land redevelopment program, and continued workforce development studies. Led by Matthew D. Wilson, Ph.D., GCI's work ensures that economic development strategies drive inclusive growth and equitable opportunities for all communities.

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Real Time Chicago Lecture Series, Spring 2025: Reimagining Housing Support and Access

GCI relaunched the Real Time Chicago Lecture Series in Spring 2025, focusing on "Reimagining Housing Support and Access" in partnership with the Chicago Workers Cottage Initiative to address housing disparities and affordability. The first session on January 29 featured the Spanish Coalition for Housing, with Emilio Carrasquillo discussing strategies for homeowner support, displacement prevention, and housing equity. On February 19, the Chicago Bungalow Association's Lia Rulli and Carla Bruni shared insights on home repair, energy efficiency, and historic home preservation. More sessions will be announced in the coming months, continuing to explore critical issues in housing support, affordability, and community-driven solutions.



Health Coverage Expansion for Immigrants in Illinois

Access to healthcare is a critical factor in community well-being, particularly for immigrant populations who often face systemic barriers to medical services. GCI's research on Illinois' Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors (HBIS) and Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults (HBIA) programs examines their economic and social impacts, highlighting the importance of inclusive healthcare policies that improve public health outcomes and economic mobility.

A 2024 policy brief, released by GCI in collaboration with the Healthy Illinois Campaign, demonstrates that state-funded healthcare programs for noncitizens contribute to:

- Reduced financial strain and medical debt for uninsured immigrant families.
- Improved preventive care access, leading to early disease detection and better long-term health outcomes.
- Higher labor force participation, as workers with access to healthcare are more likely to stay employed and contribute to the economy.
- Positive spillover effects on immigrant families, including better developmental outcomes for children when their parents receive regular medical care.

GCI Releases Updated Hardship Index for Chicago Community Areas

In December 2024, GCI updated its Chicago Community Area hardship index. The update continues GCI's commitment to tracking and visualizing socioeconomic hardship across Chicago's 77 community areas. The Hardship Index combines six key socioeconomic indicators—unemployment, education, per capita income, poverty, crowded housing, and dependency ratio—to quantify economic challenges across the city's 77 community areas. These indicators combined into a single index paint a vivid picture of where Chicago's most pressing hardships lie. Since its introduction in 2016, GCI's Chicago Community Area Hardship Index has served as a valuable tool for policymakers, journalists, and organizations addressing Chicago's most pressing challenges.

LATINO RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Latino Research Initiative: Advancing Policy Through Data

Launched by GCI in collaboration with numerous organizations, the Latino Research Initiative (LRI) serves as a research and policy hub focused on addressing challenges facing Latinos in Chicagoland. Through community-driven research and data analysis, LRI provides policymakers, advocacy groups, and community organizations with insights to develop equitable policies, expand economic opportunities, and preserve Latino cultural identity. The LRI Launch Event in September 2023 established the initiative as a center for Latino-focused research and advocacy, featuring keynote speaker Juan González, expert panels, and the release of initial reports on housing displacement, labor inequities, and Latino economic contributions. The LRI Summit 2024, held in September 2024, built on this foundation by convening policy experts, nonprofit leaders, and elected officials to discuss housing instability, immigration policy, and workforce barriers, with closing remarks from Chicago City Council Latino Caucus members reinforcing the need for data-driven advocacy. As part of its mission, GCI has developed a series of research reports in collaboration with partner organizations, examining gentrification, labor inequities, housing instability, immigration policy, and civic engagement to drive informed policymaking and community action.

Demographic Shifts and Housing Displacement: GCI's Chicago Latino Neighborhoods Report Preview documents a loss of over 15,000 Latino residents between 2017 and 2022, driven by gentrification in Logan Square, Irving Park, and Pilsen. The Puerto Rico Town Databook supports efforts to combat displacement and preserve Humboldt Park's Puerto Rican identity through a cultural district designation.

Latinos in the Suburbs - Growth Without Equal Opportunity: Despite making up 60% of the metro area's Latino population, suburban Latinos face barriers in education, healthcare, and economic mobility. GCI's reports on Latinos in the Suburbs highlight these disparities and offer policy

recommendations to strengthen regional support for these communities.

Immigration Policy and Its Impact: GCI's Illinois Immigrant Impact Task Report, developed with Governor JB Pritzker's office, examines citizenship access, labor rights, and healthcare challenges for immigrants. Meanwhile, our report, *U.S. Policy Toward Latin America Fueling Historic Numbers of Asylum Seekers*, briefly outlines the evidence that U.S. economic warfare against three specific countries – Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua – is a significant cause of the latest migration surge. It argues, furthermore, that progressive U.S. leaders and the general public should advocate for a more humane and responsible foreign policy – one that could not only dramatically reduce migration from the region but also address the mushrooming labor shortage within the U.S.

Economic and Workforce Inequities: Latino workers continue to face wage disparities and limited career mobility despite educational gains. GCI's Lower Wages and Occupational Segmentation report reveals ongoing labor market inequities.

Community Well-Being and Social Resilience: In partnership with Mujeres Latinas en Acción, GCI's ¡Actívale! report addresses economic justice, immigrant rights, and gender-based violence prevention for Latina women. The Deportation and Detention symposium explored the mental health and social impacts of immigration enforcement, emphasizing the need for expanded legal protections and support services.

Fuerza Mexicana: The Economic Contributions of Mexican Workers

The rapid growth of Chicago's Mexican population has been a remarkable bright spot in this city for the past 50 years, at first as a counterpoint to its post-industrial decline and population loss, then as an unheralded force of low-wage workers and business owners who quietly buttressed the city's economic revival in the 21st century. *Fuerza Mexicana: The Past, Present, and Power of Mexicans in Chicagoland* begins to fill in some of the blanks in that untold story, providing a detailed and current overview of the social and economic conditions of Mexicans in Chicago and Cook County, alongside comparisons to other Latino groups. Additionally, the report includes data on the collar counties, as these areas are experiencing the most rapid growth in the Mexican population across Illinois. Policy makers, scholars and members of the public will find many surprising revelations, especially when it comes to little-examined distinctions between Mexicans and other Latinos or Hispanics. This executive summary touches only on the most remarkable of our findings. It is followed by a list of our Policy Recommendations that government and city leaders should use to address issues that arise from the findings.

Assessing Philanthropic Support for Latines in the Chicago Area

In collaboration with Nuestro Futuro and The Chicago Community Trust, GCI conducted a landmark study on philanthropic funding for Latine-led and Latine-serving organizations in Cook County. Findings revealed that despite Latines comprising 26% of the county's population, they receive a disproportionately low share (1.9%) of philanthropic investments. This research underscores the need for philanthropy to adopt a more proactive, intersectional funding approach, increased representation in funding decisions, and flexible funding strategies that prioritize equity and community-led solutions.

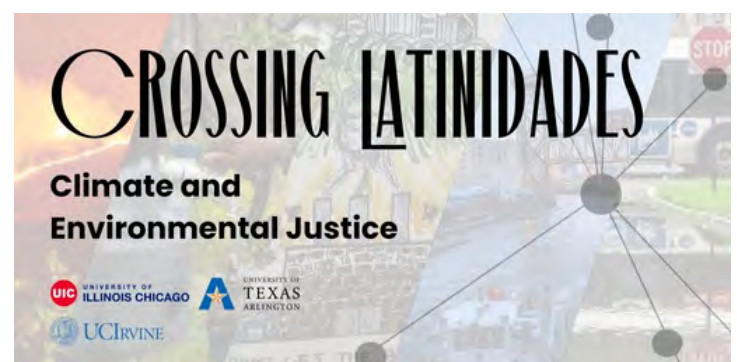
ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT

Crossing Latinidades Project

Supported by the Crossing Latinidades Humanities Research Initiative which was funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Climate and Environmental Justice Working Group was comprised of faculty and student fellows from UIC, UC Irvine, and UT Arlington to examine how Latino communities experience and challenge environmental injustices.

Five Research Projects Include:

1. *Disparate Disaster Impacts on Undocumented Migrants* – Examined how natural disasters disproportionately affect undocumented migrant communities and advocates for equitable relief policies.
2. *Climate Justice, Sustainability, and the Informal City* – Investigated how Latino communities in informal urban settlements navigate climate change challenges and develop grassroots sustainability solutions.
3. *Chicago Latinx Voices on Environmental & Climate Change Racism* – Captured community narratives on pollution exposure and environmental injustices in Chicago's Latino neighborhoods to inform policy and advocacy.
4. *Experiences of Slow Violence along the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal* – Analyzed long-term environmental degradation and its health impacts on communities living near the canal, advocating for policy-driven remediation efforts.
5. *Crossing Humboldt Park and Puerto Rico* – Explored shared environmental challenges between Humboldt Park in Chicago and Puerto Rico, focusing on cultural resilience and climate adaptation strategies.



Advancing Water Reuse for a Sustainable Northeastern Illinois

The report "From Waste to Water: A Framework for Sustainable Freshwater Supply in Northeastern Illinois" was produced for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago by an interdisciplinary team from the Great Cities Institute, UIC's Freshwater Lab, and the Sustainable Engineering Lab. It examines the role of water recycling in ensuring a sustainable freshwater supply, particularly as Chicago expands potable water sales to Joliet, a region with significant industrial demand. The report explores technical, public health, and environmental aspects of water reuse, emphasizing its potential to maximize supply, support industry, and serve as adaptive infrastructure. It includes a cost-benefit analysis to address political and economic challenges, highlights the role of large-scale water reuse in job creation and economic revitalization, and proposes solutions for northeastern Illinois' uneven water geography, where urban flooding along the Lake Michigan coast contrasts with the depletion of the inland Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

100th Street Calumet River Project: Restoring Industrial Riverfront for Public Use

The 100th Street Calumet River Project is part of a long-standing effort to revitalize and reclaim industrial riverfront land for public use on Chicago's Southeast Side. Since its early conceptualization during the 2016 South Chicago Commercial Avenue Revitalization Plan, this initiative has evolved through years of research, community engagement, and advocacy. GCI has been instrumental in bringing together residents, environmental organizations, and policymakers to ensure that the redevelopment of this historically industrial corridor prioritizes ecological restoration, public access, and long-term sustainability.

Building on years of community-driven planning, GCI has continued to engage local stakeholders and gather input through public events, workshops, and visioning sessions to refine the project's goals and ensure that the transformation of the 100th Street riverfront reflects community needs.



- *Calumet Area Land Use Plan Kickoff Open House (January 2025)* – This public open house at the South Chicago Salud Center marked the latest phase of community engagement, incorporating local perspectives on land use, economic development, and public access improvements for the 100th Street corridor. Residents participated in interactive discussions and planning exercises to help guide future redevelopment.
- *Community Design Meeting (June 2024)* – In partnership with urban planners and environmental experts, this session focused on designing pedestrian trails, riverbank restoration efforts, and public gathering spaces. Residents played a key role in shaping the project's accessibility and sustainability components.
- *EPA Superfund Cleanup Workshop (August 2024)* – As part of ongoing environmental remediation efforts, this workshop, in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), provided updates on contaminated site cleanup and how these efforts impact future riverfront development and public access.

GLOBAL URBAN PARTNERSHIPS

City Cité Partnership with the French Attaché for Higher Education and Villa Albertine

In 2015, Great Cities Institute partnered with the Consulate General of France in Chicago to host this transatlantic exchange. At the time, there was some urgency in this transatlantic exchange as transatlantic trade agreements were being debated on both sides of the ocean with much at stake including the well-being of local economies and communities. Most significantly, this partnership with the Consulate General of France in Chicago and the City Cité Series, even with a several year lapse, has been invigorated. Over the last four years, Great Cities Institute has worked closely with the Villa Albertine and the French Attaché for Higher Education to co-host multiple events, particularly those related to urban planning and urban design topics.

The City/Cité Chicago x Paris Symposium explored shared challenges in urban mobility, logistics, and sustainability, while the City/Cité Conference: Exploring the Garden Metropolis examined the relationship between housing, green spaces, and city design. Discussions like Re/claiming Civic Space to Support Cultural Well-Being connected urban transformation efforts in Atlanta and Marseille, emphasizing the role of cultural infrastructure. Artistic and cinematic reflections on urbanism were also integrated, with events such as Memory, Music, Moving Image and the Lucas Roxo Movie Screening, exploring how film and storytelling capture urban change. These events draw top architects and urban designers from both Paris and Chicago. From exhibitions on memory and architecture to policy-driven conversations, these collaborations strengthen international ties and advance innovative urban planning solutions that benefit both cities.

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
- Facilitates collaboration and public engagement
- Assists with mentorship, training and capacity building
- Conducts policy and impact 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, energy and the environment*** and ***community wellbeing***. 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.



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2022 Brochure

**THE
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AT
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LOCAL & REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

Participatory Budgeting Chicago

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend money from a public budget. PB was introduced to Chicago and the US in 2009, and in 2012, the Great Cities Institute (GCI) launched PB Chicago. PB Chicago is a broad collaboration of aldermen, aldermanic staff, city agency staff, Chicago Public Schools, teachers, students, community-based organizations and residents working to implement and expand PB processes and direct democracy throughout Chicago.

PB Chicago implements PB processes in Chicago wards with aldermen and residents and in Chicago Public Schools with principals, teachers and students. The typical PB cycle has 5 phases: process planning, idea collection, proposal development, community voting, and implementation/evaluation.



GCI provides training, technical assistance, and capacity building at every phase to all participants including elected officials, their staff, residents, principals, teachers, and students. PB is a civic empowerment tool that builds the capacity of leaders and institutions by participating in transparent, democratic action together. PB Chicago has positively changed the culture of public participation in the city of Chicago and is part of a global movement aimed at increasing participatory democracy.

- Since 2012, over 38,000 residents and CPS students have allocated more than \$40 million to fund upward of 190 community projects.
- Since 2009, the number of participating wards has increased from one to nine.
- 24 Chicago Public Schools including elementary and high schools currently implement PB in the classroom, as part of a student voice committee, or as part of an afterschool program.

- Currently working with Chicago Public Schools to develop multiple models and institutionalize across the district.

City of Chicago Budget, Community Engagement

On September 20, 2021 Mayor Lori Lightfoot unveiled her \$16.7 billion budget for the City of Chicago. In the months leading up to the release of the budget, the City conducted a community engagement process and obtained the assistance of UIC's Neighborhoods Initiative at the GCI to design and facilitate internal and external engagement activities and to produce a report that documented the 2022 Budget Engagement process and provided key results. The community engagement results from the report were used by the City to inform budget decision-making. For example, engagement results such as "provide more youth wrap around services" were tied directly to budget investments, the responsible City Department(s) and specific initiative, program, or service that addressed each result. The City then produced a report that shared this information back to the public.

The 2022 Budget Community Engagement process was the earliest, most multi-faceted and transparent engagement process ever conducted for the City's budget. Given the success of 2022's Budget Engagement process, the City of Chicago has requested assistance from UICNI to expand the engagement process for the 2023 Budget to include a longer timeline for engagement and more education for community members.

The Participation Playbook

The Participation Playbook is an interactive online guide to help government reformers successfully advocate for and implement a participatory democracy program. It is a tool for advocates, policy-makers, and program managers who want to open up government to meaningful community participation and decision-making.

Thea Crum, Associate Director of Neighborhoods Initiative, was contracted to develop the content for the PB program of the Playbook. The PB Playbook provides key questions, help text, and data from research to assist the user in designing either part of a PB process or the whole process. It utilizes best practices, tools and resources from around the world to assist users from global contexts in designing the best possible PB process. The PB Playbook will open up access to knowledge and resources about good process design to practitioners and local governments globally. The first testing phase of the PB Playbook is scheduled to launch at the end of February.

Evanston Service Delivery Equity Coefficient

Modeled after the Gini coefficient and equity of transit supply distribution in major metropolitan areas, this project will create a metric of service delivery provision to census tracts that have the highest need. This performance metric differs from equity assessments of proposed laws or ordinances because it utilizes administrative data that provide outputs based on staff effort and specific geocoded investments. These outputs will be mapped onto existing Census data and community indicators that should be positively impacted by real-time government investment to ensure that government investment is spent proportionally on census tract areas with the highest need. Importantly, this equity metric is being designed for ease of public understanding, showing electeds and administrative decision makers how closely city services are being delivered to meet their commitments to advancing racial equity in city services.

EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chicago United - Five Forward Initiative

Chicago United's Five Forward Initiative aims to strengthen Chicagoland's minority business community by linking corporations to minority business enterprises (MBEs) to fulfill contracts. The goods produced and services provided by the MBEs represent contracts the MBEs typically would not get without Chicago United serving as a linking intermediary. GCI is evaluating Chicago United's Five Forward initiative to understand:

- The economic impact of the program in the Chicagoland economy
- How much the program increases the capacity and economic performance of participating minority businesses
- The geographic distribution of program participants and their economic impacts within the Chicagoland area

The Chicago AdvancingCities Project

JPMorgan Chase & Co. foundation made a 3-year, \$7.2 million grant in August 2020 for the Chicago AdvancingCities project, a collaboration between The Resurrection Project, Lawndale Christian Development Corporation (LCDC) and Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP). The overarching project objective is to increase homeownership and neighborhood quality in three Chicago neighborhoods: Back of the Yards (also known as New City), North Lawndale, and Chicago Lawn.

GCI was retained to undertake an evaluation of the project to capture changes in quality-of-life in and around clusters of housing construction and renovation, and in the three larger community areas. This will be accomplished by analyzing project records over the three years of the project, comparing possible changes in real estate data over the course of the project, and comparing first and final year survey results for project participants and residents.

Youth Employment - Alternative Schools Network

GCI has produced several reports on employment challenges facing young people in Chicago. These reports have resulted in new programs, policies, and budget appropriations for youth employment in Chicago; shifted conversations around solutions to violence from policing to employment strategies; and elevated the voices of young people to reach national media audiences.

As new employment data becomes available each year, GCI has been relied upon by youth employment program managers, grant writers, foundations, and other researchers to synthesize and disseminate the most up to date data while providing innovative solutions for youth joblessness in Chicago.

Manufacturing Renaissance Campaign

Great Cities Institute participates in a national Manufacturing Renaissance Coalition that promotes and works towards an industrial policy we describe as Inclusion and Industry 4.0; industrial retention; education and training; equity in manufacturing; and creation of manufacturing renaissance councils. The coalition often interfaces with congressional, union, and industry leaders to promote these goals.

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) with the ICJIA

GCI is partnering with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) as the lead research evaluator and consultant on a statewide evaluation of the Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) grant program. There will be three phases to the project: a process evaluation of grant programs, an outcome evaluation of grant programs, and an analysis of statewide impact of the R3 grant program.

In the first phase, GCI will undertake a community-based evaluation of six grantees/sites and produce a guide to best practices for conducting community-based evaluation.

Chicago Public Schools Education Equity Index

GCI in collaboration with CPS will develop a resource equity analysis and mapping tool consisting of between 10 and 15 socioeconomic indicators of educational equity and public health significance to inform resource equity strategies at CPS.

The process to develop and implement a resource equity analysis and mapping tool will include: methodology validation of current indicators and identification of essential variables and data (including which indicators to update and with what frequency) to represent resource equity, including mapping and correlation analyses across variables; research documentation to bolster the validity of the tool that is co-designed and also supports understanding of the tool by the general public and research partners through codification; and ongoing consultation and advising on the launch of the tool, ongoing improvements to the methodology as the tool continues to evolve, and continued stakeholder engagement post-launch.

LATINOS IN CHICAGOLAND

Latin Immigrant Communities within the Chicago and Suburban Metropolitan Region

Mujeres Latinas en Acción (Mujeres) is a bilingual/bicultural agency whose mission is to empower Latinas by providing services which reflect their values and culture and being and advocate on the issues that make a difference in their lives. Mujeres and GCI are co-producing a position paper, including a demographic data review, focus groups, and interviews on Latin@ immigrant communities within the Chicago and Suburban Metropolitan region with a specific focus on issues of economic justice, immigration, women's healthcare, and gender-based violence. GCI is supporting the oversight of the finalized product ensuring accurate methodologies are used and the creation of a summary of policy analyses and recommendations based on data collected. Through this partnership arrangement, we are assisting focus group planning; conducting needs assessment creation; analyzing data from focus groups and needs assessment; and conducting demographic data review.

Developing New Perspective and Information on Latinos in Chicago's Western Suburbs

The purpose of this project is to create new Census data information on Latinos living in the Chicago Western Suburbs. Latinos have grown exponentially within the last decade and now account for 60 percent of the

Chicago metro area. This growth has not led to equitable opportunities for Latinos to participate civically, even while the community has serious needs in terms of education, healthcare and access to safe and well remunerated employment. The gap between the growth of Latinos on one hand and lack of civic representation and responsive public policies on the other underscores the need to examine and publicize data and information on the size and scope of the Latino population.

The need for new information is especially critical as decisions around redistricting are taking place, therefore this data can lay the necessary groundwork for groups to effectively react to the new Census data when available. Importantly, this data will also address social and economic conditions like citizenship, education and employment that are not available from the Census. There is also an urgent need for information to illuminate the social determinants behind the disparate impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Great Cities Institute partnered with Healthy Communities Foundation and The Community Memorial Foundation in order to understand more deeply how to address social and economic conditions using the new census data from American Community Survey (ACS) and Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMS). The availability of information documenting the reality of the Latino community will equip community leaders to advocate for greater inclusion in public decision-making that affects Latinos, their families, and their neighborhoods. The individuals who would benefit from new data include local residents, elected officials, municipal employees, advocates, and the news media.



Puerto Rican Town

GCI is working with the Puerto Rican Agenda to prepare funding applications and plans to develop Puerto Rican Town, an articulated district enabled by recent state legislation. Chicago's Puerto Rican Agenda is committed to developing and executing "community-driven vision for

the Humboldt Park Area.” Besides ideas for physical design components, topics of this community planning process will include health and wellness, education, economic development, and housing. The project seeks to enhance a clearly identifiable Puerto Rican Town concept, the project will seek to build community wealth and health.

ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT

Water Reuse Project

Water recycling has been an under-examined and under-utilized approach in regions of relative water abundance. A GCI team, including Professors Krishna Reddy from Environmental Engineering, Teresa Córdova from Urban Planning and Policy, Serap Erdal from Public Health, and Rachel Havrelock of the UIC Freshwater Lab, is working with Dr. Catherine O'Connor of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District on research concerning the potential for water reuse in Cook County. We are optimistic that our proposed research will position Cook County as a leader in the water reuse sector.

Joint research at MWRD and UIC will establish the research and development groundwork for water recycling. It will address technical issues around reducing the total dissolved solids load of effluent that enters MWRD treatment plants, the best filtration media and technologies of water recycling, the public health, and environmental implications of recycled water, how to overcome political and economic barriers to adoption, and how large-scale water reuse can play a role in job creation and economic revitalization. Our outputs will include a peer-reviewed article that outlines how to go about water recycling in Cook County, addresses existing barriers, and provides a roadmap for overcoming the barriers. Findings from our research study will be accessible to policy makers and interested members of the

public through a policy paper published through the GCI.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Southeast Side Revitalization Plans

A large part of GCI's community support work has been focused on the Southeast Side of Chicago and the South Suburbs. Starting with the South Chicago Commercial Avenue Revitalization Plan (2016) our work in the area has since included the Chicago community areas of Rosemoor and North Pullman, East Side, South Deering, Hegewisch, as well as some Chicago South Suburbs like Calumet City.

The 2016 Commercial Avenue Plan has become the foundation for city focused development along the corridor including a Chicago Department of Transportation streetscaping project, and investments coming out of Chicago's INVEST South/West program.

Currently, we are working on supporting the city's efforts for revitalization in South Chicago and facilitating community site planning projects in the area. One of those projects includes the development of a plaza at the south end of the Commercial Avenue corridor under the Chicago Skyway. GCI is also working on recreational site opportunities along the Calumet River just to the east just to name a few.

Research Fact Sheets

GCI maintains a collection of “fact sheets” on a broad set of topics including population dynamics, economic inequality, employment, and more. These fact sheets call attention to critical issues in Chicago, the Chicagoland region, and Illinois, and are utilized by advocacy organizations, grant writers, media outlets, and researchers.



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Great Cities Institute

2018 Brochure

THE
UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
AT
CHICAGO

Research Projects

Peoria Police Chief Jerry Mitchell participates in a working group with citizens to reduce violent crime
Source: Great Cities Institute



Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) Partnerships and Strategies to Reduce Violent Crime

The Peoria Police Department, Center for Public Safety and Justice, and Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) collaborated on a project focused on crime, causes of crime, and policing in Peoria. Great Cities Institute provided socio-economic research, cross-sector analysis, deployed a community survey to gather public perception of crime and policing, and made organizational and training recommendations to a team of multi-disciplinary stakeholders. The purpose of the project is to analyze the crime that occurs in Peoria and assess community perceptions of police to make recommendations about how to improve community-police relations, improve services, and lead to a reduction of violent crime in Peoria.

The Latino Neighborhoods Report

Great Cities Institute collaborated with the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy (IRRPP) in 2017 to produce *The Latino Neighborhoods Report: Issues and Prospects for Chicago*.

The report, based primarily on U.S. Census data, focused on twelve neighborhoods with at least 25,000 Latino residents where they are the largest single group. Findings include that the Latino population has increased substantially and is widely distributed throughout Chicago neighborhoods and current levels of education and income for Latinos lag behind non-Hispanic White and Black populations citywide



Latino Neighborhoods Report author José Acosta-Córdova speaking at City Hall
Source: Mauricio Peña

but Latinos have higher median household incomes in 5 of 12 predominantly Latino neighborhoods.

The report was produced for Metropolitan Family Services to assist them in their delivery of social services. The full report is available on our website.

Abandoned in their Neighborhoods: Youth Joblessness amidst the Flight of Industry and Opportunity; and The High Costs of Out of School and Jobless Youth in Chicago and Cook County

In 2017, GCI continued its focus on joblessness among young people, preparing additional reports that provide longitudinal employment figures dating back to 1960 demonstrating the flight of jobs from Chicago neighborhoods. The reports show tax contributions by levels of educational attainment, public transit connectivity to jobs, and connections between joblessness and violence and education and earnings. The reports were released at events for elected and appointed government officials, members of the business community, and community stakeholders.

The reports have generated extensive local and national media coverage. At a time when violence and economic uncertainty have dominated the public discourse, GCI is working with strategic partners to promote solutions to address challenges facing Chicago and its young people.

Community Building Projects Participatory Budgeting

Since its inception, Participatory Budgeting Chicago (PB Chicago) has engaged over 25,000 residents in 12 different community areas to directly decide how to spend over \$31 million in public dollars. In 2009, Chicago 49th Ward Alderman Joe Moore became the first U.S. elected official to use participatory budgeting to allocate public money. Residents of the 49th Ward democratically decided how to spend \$1 million of the Ward's annual discretionary capital budget. Residents identified hundreds of project ideas, developed dozens of these ideas into full proposals, and then voted to fund street and sidewalk repairs, bike lanes, playground and park improvements, street lights, one hundred new trees, murals, and many more community projects.

In February 2012, Great Cities Institute partnered with the Participatory Budgeting Project and a coalition of aldermen, citywide institutions, and community-based organizations to launch PB Chicago, an initiative that aims to implement and expand PB processes and direct democracy throughout Chicago. Working hand in hand with community members, PB Chicago allows citizens to have a voice in how public money is spent.

Our Great Rivers / Calumet Connect

In partnership with Alliance for the Great Lakes and numerous community organizations, Great Cities Institute

has begun facilitating community engagement around the Calumet River, with the goal of integrating sustainable economic and recreational opportunities desired by local residents and businesses. Calumet Connect is a community-led capacity building and planning project that will capture the vision of Chicago's Southeast Side residents, businesses, community organizations, and other stakeholders.

Engagement and planning will focus on building bridges among residents, commerce, recreation, environmental stewardship, and developing new river access. This process will also seek to build capacity among residents for engaging in anticipated City efforts to reconfigure the planned manufacturing district along the Calumet River. In the 21st century, the Calumet River should continue to serve its historic economic role, while also bringing opportunities for connecting communities to nature, developing the role of water culturally, and offering opportunities for improved public health.

Pilsen Quality of Life Plan

In collaboration with the Pilsen Planning Committee, GCI engaged in a multi-year planning process to create a new Quality-of-Life plan for Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood.

Several projects that came out of the planning process have been implemented, including the establishment of a local business council and the opening of a new community education center at the repurposed Kominsky Building that includes early childhood education and a parent learning center.

South Chicago Commercial Avenue Corridor Plan

In collaboration with the South Chicago Chamber of Commerce and Special Service Area (SSA) #5, GCI embarked on a twelve-month community-based planning process with key neighborhood stakeholders including residents, business owners, community organizations, service providers, and elected officials.

The resulting plan is having a direct effect on the Commercial Avenue corridor by creating a focus on the importance of the corridor and by creating a framework for future developments along the corridor. The result will be a stronger economy, more jobs, and access to the goods and services that neighborhood residents need.

Evaluations

Inherit Chicago

GCI partnered with the Chicago Cultural Alliance to perform an evaluation of Inherit Chicago – a citywide, intercultural festival of art, ideas, and performance at many of Chicago's neighborhood cultural heritage centers. To evaluate Inherit Chicago, GCI compared the goals of Inherit Chicago to event outcomes measured through surveying Inherit Chicago event attendees, and surveying and conducting focus groups with representatives of organizations who participated in Inherit Chicago. GCI

produced a final evaluation report that presents analysis of data collected during the evaluation process and provides recommendations for future Inherit Chicago festivals.

Events



Commemorating the 1968

Release of the Kerner Report

In Spring 2018, Great Cities Institute hosted a week of activities to commemorate the February 29, 1968 release of the report of The National Commission on Civil Disorders, known as the Kerner Report. The events discussed the report's findings and their continuing relevance for today's urban issues.

The keynote presentation on March 1, 2018 featured the last remaining member of the Kerner Commission, former U.S. Senator Dr. Fred Harris. A panel discussion followed with noted historian and Chicago civil rights activist Timuel Black, former mayor of Berkeley and human rights activist Eugene "Gus" Newport and former vice president of the W K Kellogg Foundation, Dr. Gail Christopher. Also included on the panel were local activists and community builders: José Lopez of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Willie J.R. Fleming of the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign, and Anthony Lowery of the Safer Foundation.

Real Time Chicago Lecture Series

Each year, Great Cities Institute sponsors lecture series and special events, including *Real Time Chicago*. In Spring 2017, this series brought together an array of speakers on the topic of social innovation and entrepreneurship. In Fall 2017, the focus was on building infrastructure and in Spring 2018, we showcased examples of environmental activism over the span of Chicago's 185-year history.

The Whole World is Still Watching

On the night of August 28, 1968, thousands of young activists headed for the Democratic National Convention in downtown Chicago, intent on protesting the Vietnam War. Activists appealing for peace were greeted by nightsticks and tear gas. The debacle was televised and triggered outrage around the nation. The protestors chanted: "*The Whole World is Watching*."

On August 28, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Student Center East, GCI will host an event to discuss the role of social protest, 50 years after the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

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
- Facilitates collaboration and public engagement
- Assists with mentorship, training and capacity building
- Conducts policy and impact 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, energy and the environment and community wellbeing*. 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.



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2012 – 2016 4-Year Report

UIC GREAT CITIES
INSTITUTE

UIC GREAT CITIES INSTITUTE

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.

Additional copies may be requested at:
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2012 – 2016 4-Year Report

Fall 2012 – Fall 2016

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Dean, College of Nursing

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

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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 setting. 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 October 1993.

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.



Chancellor James Stukel, Great Cities advisory committee chairperson Wim Wiewel.
(Photo: Roberta Dupuis-Devlin/Publications Services)

"There probably will be a new institutional entity established, but that's only one piece of the framework."

Wiewel said the subcommittees, each with a core of advisory committee members, will bring in additional faculty with expertise in the various topics they'll address. Altogether, about 100 faculty will be involved in the subcommittees.

"I hope they'll meet as often as possible before the end of semester," he said.

"Most will broaden their fact-gathering and discussions beyond

the faculty on campus, drawing in the academic staff, students and people outside the university community."

"As part of this process, probably beginning over the summer, we will seek input from the broader community that we're trying to relate to," including representatives of the business and civic communities, government and labor, he added.

"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 some of the committees 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

UIC News, March 31, 1993

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 Eisendrath, Chicago regional director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, recalled a man who sug-

gested that HUD's mission is to help the poor.

"I interrupted him right there," Eisendrath said.

"Secretary [Henry] Cisneros 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."

"So the Great Cities initiative mirrors our thinking at HUD. It is an exciting triumph of larger thinking over the more programmatic kind that has for so long dominated our discussions of urban life."

But academic-community partnerships take time to develop, warned Rob Melnick, director of the Morrison Institute for Public Policy at Arizona State University in Tempe, one of 14 universities, including UIC, that recently received HUD grants for neighborhood partnerships.

"There is a difference between a 'project' and a long-term mission that focuses on issues,"

Melnick cautioned. "There is often a yawning gap between the university's mission and the latest project."

Melnick offered these pointers:

- Universities must earn 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. Ask them.

- 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



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 profess," he said, while moderating an afternoon panel.

"So there's a structural problem, because it's hard to ask a professor not to share his or her expertise, but rather to ask the neighborhood group what they think."

Coretta McFerren, executive director of WSCorp-Communi-

versity 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 told Swartzman, "You're an expert. But if you come to me as a partner, as a servant, I can learn without being intimidated."

UIC News, January 11, 1995

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 public 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 Mejia 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 civil 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 resident's 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.

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

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 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

- Elizabeth L. Sweet, Temple University
- Tarini Bedi, Anthropology, UIC
- Andy Clarno, Sociology, UIC
- Sanjeev Vidyarthi, UPP, UIC
- John J. Betancur, UPP, UIC
- Lynette A. Jackson, GWS and AAS, UIC
- Pauline Lipman, Educational Policy Studies, UIC
- Patrisia Macias-Rojas, IRRPP, UIC
- Tingwei Zhang, UPP, UIC

2015 Spring

- Global Exchange: Building Local Economies Through World Trade
 - María Belén Llor, 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

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

Real Time Chicago Series

2012 Fall

- Freight Hub of the United States: How We Can Sustain Chicago's Role in the 21st Century
 - Randy Blankenhorn, CMAP

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 Zuccherro, 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-Drivers, 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 Filmmaker

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

Events 2012 – 2016

Co-Sponsored

Co-Sponsored Events: Great Cities Institute invites partners to co-sponsor many of its events. In addition, we also assist other entities through GCI co-sponsorship. We are honored to co-sponsor so many events with our partners. Some of the co-sponsored events include:

- What's in it for me? The Power of Residential Energy Choices
-with Office of Sustainability, UIC
- Global Environmental Justice: Footprints, Fairness, and the Future of the Planet
-with College of Public Health, UIC
- Planning for the Just City
-with Department of Urban Planning & Policy, UIC
- Chocolate - Drink of Gods, Food of Mortals
-with Rafael Cintrón Latino Cultural Center, UIC
- Contextualizing Ferguson, MO: Why Michael Brown's Death Matters
-with IRRPP, UIC
- The Americas: Challenges and Opportunities Across Borders, We Rise and Fall Together
-with LALS, UIC
- On The Table - Sharing Our Infrastructure Needs
-with Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Sneak Preview: Democratizing Tax Increment Financing Funds
-with The Participatory Budgeting Project and Blocks Together
- Building a Democratic City: 2nd International Conference on Participatory Budgeting in the US & Canada
-with The Participatory Budgeting Project
- Just sustainabilities: re-imagining e/quality, living within limits
-with Office of Sustainability, UIC
- Freedom Dreams, Freedom Now! Conference
-with Social Justice Initiative, UIC
- The Map is Not the Territory: Documenting the Northern Gateway Pipeline through participatory mapping and collective storytelling
-with Institute for the Humanities, UIC
- Loophole Planning and Infrastructure Making in Contemporary Mumbai
-with Institute for the Humanities, UIC
- Labor and Politics in the U.S.
-with Department of Political Science, UIC
- Mexicans in Chicago: Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Louise Año Nuevo Kerr
-with LALS, UIC
- The Building Blocks Forum: Restorative Approaches to Public Safety
-with CPSJ, UIC
- "Count Me In: Money, Voting and Participatory Budgeting in Chicago" Documentary Premiere Screening and Discussion
-with WTTW Chicago Public Media, Sommer Filmworks, MacArthur Foundation and Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

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**

Event Highlights

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”
-aría de los Angeles Torres, UIC
- “Internally Displaced Women in Medellin, Colombia: Food Insecurity, Violence, Health and Mobility”
-Elizabeth L. Sweet, Temple University
- “Violence, Infrapolitics 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

Cities Across the Globe: People and Places Across Borders

As part of GCI's research cluster *Dynamics of Global Mobility*, join us for the 2nd annual symposium on *Cities Across the Globe*. Spatial planning, public space, urban landscapes, economic restructuring, displacement and mobility, everyday insurgencies, safety and security, international trade and the politics of neoliberalism are just some of the topics to be discussed in a roundtable format. You are invited and welcome to attend what promises to be a very exciting time with scholars from both UIC and other parts of the world.

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, April 29, 2015
Thompson Room
Student Center West
University of Illinois at Chicago
828 S. Wolcott Avenue
Chicago, IL 60612

Keynote Speaker
Global Exchange:
Building Local Economies Through World Trade

The Honorable
Diego Aulestia,
Minister of International Trade
Republic of Ecuador

Recognized as a rising thought leader throughout Latin America, Minister Aulestia is one of President Rafael Correa's key leaders in transforming the Ecuadorian economy through innovative alternative growth strategies instrumental to the country's recovery.

Please join us for what promises to be a dynamic presentation that captures the commitment of a nation and its leadership to successfully address issues of poverty and develop economic and job creation modes for other nation states to consider across the globe.

Panel Discussion
The Pivotal Impact of International Trade on Our Neighborhoods

Moderator:
Teresa Córdova, Director
UIC Great Cities Institute

Panelists:
Laura Ortega-Lamela, Executive Director
International Business Council, Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Thomas W. Bartkowski, Director,
International Business Development, World Business Chicago
Raul Raymundo, Chief Executive Officer
The Resurrection Project

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 30, 2015
Resident's Dining Hall
Jane Addams Hull House
University of Illinois at Chicago
800 S. Halsted Street
Chicago, IL 60607

Symposium
Cities Across the Globe: People and Places Across Borders

Distinguished Scholars
From Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas and UIC

Including:
Moises Gonzales, New Mexico
Ian McGimpsey, Birmingham, UK
Clare Mowat, Australia
Ali Ercan Ozgur, Istanbul, Turkey
José Rivera, New Mexico
Elizabeth Sweet, Temple University
Claudia Villegas, Mexico City
Francisco Uvifra, New Mexico
Deborah Youdell, Birmingham, UK

UIC Scholars:
Tingwei Zhang
Ivan Arenas
Xochitl Bada
Tarini Bedi
John-Jairo Belancur
Andy Clarno
Teresa Córdova
Glenda Garelli
Tim Imekparia
Alef Said
Lynette Jackson

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Flyer from the second *Cities Across the Globe: People and Places Across Borders* symposium

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.



From the left: Alice Cepeda, Avelardo Valdez, Diego Vigil, John Hagedorn, Robert Durán, and GCI Director Teresa Córdova engage in discussion. Photo by Miguel Vasquez

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 UIC's 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, Time, Chicago Tribune, 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.

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.

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 Lloyd 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.

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 African-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 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

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 Anchor: 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 as the New York Times, The Nation and Metropolis magazine.

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Strategic Partners

- Access Living
- Active Transportation Alliance
- Alderman Anthony Napolitano, 41st ward
- Alderman Carlos Rosa, 35th ward
- Alderman Chris Taliaferro, 29th ward
- Alderman David Moore, 17th ward
- Alderman Gilbert Villegas, 36th ward
- Alderman James Cappleman, 46th ward
- Alderman Joe Moore, 49th ward
- Alderman John Arena, 45th ward
- Alderman Leslie Hairston, 5th ward
- Alderman Ricardo Muñoz, 22nd ward
- Alderwoman Milly Santiago, 31st ward
- Alderwoman Susan Sadlowski Garza, 10th ward
- Alivio Medical Center
- Alternative Schools Network
- architresures
- Arturo Velásquez Institute
- Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council (BYNC)
- Beyond the Ball
- Bi-State Regional Commission
- Block Club Federation
- Blocks Together
- Caris Pregnancy Counseling and Resources
- Carroll Care Center
- Center for Global Health, UIC
- Center for Neighborhood Technology
- Center for Public Safety and Justice, UIC
- Center for Tax and Budget Accountability
- Chicago Jobs Council
- Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Chicago Parks District
- Chicago Public Art Group
- Chicago Public Schools, Global Citizenship Initiative
- Chicago United
- Chicago Urban League
- Chicago West Side Branch NAACP
- Community as Campus (CAC), Humboldt Park
- Community Foundation of Great River Bend
- Community Media Workshop at Columbia College
- Confederation of Spanish American Families
- Consulate General of France in Chicago
- Consulate of Ecuador in Chicago
- Delta Institute
- Department of Sociology, UIC
- DePaul University, School of Public Service
- Donors Forum
- East St. Louis Action Research Project
- Eighteenth Street Development Corporation
- Embarc Chicago
- Enlace Chicago
- Family Focus Lawndale
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Firebelly Foundation
- Food Desert Project
- Friends of the Parks
- Gads Hill Center
- Gender and Women's Studies, UIC
- Generation All Chicago
- Girls in the Game
- Grassroots Collaborative
- Greater Pilsen Economic Development Association
- Holy Families Ministries
- Homan Square Community Center
- Illinois Collaboration on Youth
- Illinois Department of Aging
- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Illinois Emergency Management Agency
- Illinois Housing Development Authority
- Illinois Municipal League
- Illinois PIRG
- Inspiration Corporation
- Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement, UIC
- Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, UIC
- Institute for the Humanities, UIC
- Instituto del Progreso Latino
- Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, UIC
- La Casa Norte
- La Familia Unida
- Latin United Community Housing Association (LUCHA)
- Latino Cultural Exchange Coalition
- Latino and Latin American Studies, UIC
- Latino Planning Organization for Development, Education, and Regeneration (LPODER)
- Latino Policy Forum
- Lawndale Alliance
- Lawndale Christian Legal Center
- Legislative Research Unit
- Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO)
- Lumpkin Family Foundation
- Metropolitan Family Services
- Metropolitan Planning Council
- Mikva Challenge
- Ministry of Foreign Trade, Republic of Ecuador
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Republic of Ecuador
- National Able Network
- National Public Housing Museum
- Near West Side Community Development Corporation
- Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago (NHS)
- North American Participatory Budgeting Research Board
- North Lawndale Employment Network
- North Park University, Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management
- Office of Public and Government Affairs, UIC

Strategic Partners

- Pilsen Neighbors Community Council
- Pilsen Planning Committee
- Preservation of Affordable Housing
- Pro Ecuador
- Project VIDA
- Public Agenda
- Rafael Cintrón Latino Cultural Center, UIC
- Smart Chicago Collaborative
- Social Justice Initiative, UIC
- Sommer Filmworks
- South Chicago Chamber of Commerce
- Spanish Coalition for Housing
- Special Service Area #10
- Special Service Area #5
- St. Joseph Services
- St. Leonards Ministries
- Survey Research Lab, UIC
- Taproots Inc.
- The Participatory Budgeting Project
- The Resurrection Project (TRP)
- The Right Source
- Think, Inc.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
- U.S. National Park Service
- United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations
- United Way
- University of Illinois Extension
- Urban Data Visualization Lab, UIC
- Urban Transportation Center, UIC
- West Town Bikes
- Women for Economic Justice (WEJ)
- WorldChicago
- WTTW Chicago Public Media
- Young People's Project
- Youth Network Council
- Youth Service Project, Inc.
- Instituto del Progreso Latino
- Arturo Velasquez Institute
- Benito Juarez High School
- Chicago Commons
- Chicago Mariachi Project
- Cooper Elementary Dual Language Academy
- Chicago Public Schools
- El Valor
- Dvorak Park
- Elevarte
- Gads Hill Center
- Hogar del Niño
- Mujeres Latinas en Acción
- National Museum of Mexican Art
- Cook County State's Attorney's Office
- Center for Economic Progress
- Casa Juan Diego
- Chicago Police Department 12th District
- Alderman Danny Solis, 25th ward
- Openlands
- Orozco Community Academy
- Pilsen Elementary Community Academy
- Pilsen Wellness Center
- Rauner Family YMCA
- Lozano Branch, Chicago Public Library
- Irma C. Ruiz Elementary School
- San Jose Obrero Mission
- Spanish Coalition for Housing
- St. Ann's Church
- St. Pius V Parish
- St. Procopius Church
- Union League Boys and Girls Club
- Walsh Elementary School
- Whittier Dual Language School

Recent Funders

- U.S. Department of Labor through Keystone Research Center
- Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority in partnership with UIC Center for Public Safety and Justice
- City of Chicago TIF Works Program
- Chicago Community Trust
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- Robert R. McCormick Foundation
- Tawani Foundation
- The Field Foundation of Illinois
- Woods Fund Chicago
- UIC Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement
- UIC Institute for Research on Race & Public Policy

Pilsen Planning Committee Partners

- The Resurrection Project
- Pilsen Neighbors Community Council
- Eighteenth Street Development Corporation
- Alivio Medical Center

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Tribune photo by Brent Jones

**'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.'**

James Stukel (above),
chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago

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 distinctive 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 ills afflicting 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 their 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

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UIC

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UIC to come out from the long shadow cast by the main U. of I. campus at Champaign-Urbana, as well as private institutions like the University of Chicago, with its small army of Nobel Prize winners and Northwestern University, with its top-ranked business school.

Under the Great Cities project, UIC has broadly outlined several important areas in which it plans to devote its efforts: Health, urban education, urban public affairs, economic development, public safety and justice and culture and arts.

UIC officials do not naively believe it can solve the city's problems on its own. But as a

partner with the government and the community, they hope to come up with solutions that help the city grapple with its seemingly insurmountable problems of homelessness, spotty health care, inferior schools, unemployment and crime.

"The most common response that I've gotten to this is: 'That's what a public university ought to be doing in a great urban area,'" said Stukel, who went on to say of UIC's new direction, "I think this is pretty unique."

UIC's goal is unusual, agrees C. Peter Magrath, president of the Washington, D.C.-based National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. Many urban schools across the nation have, through individual faculty members or departments, attempted in piecemeal ways to help cit-

ies deal with their problems, he said.

But he said what UIC intends is the furthest a university has gone in committing itself to its surrounding city.

"What the [UIC] is saying, very self-consciously, is, 'We're going to make our reputation by how well we can help serve the city,'" Magrath said.

"That's quite different than saying you're in the city and you're going to have some faculty who worry about Cabrini-Green, but that you're basically going to concentrate on trying to be another Harvard. It's a pretty bold step."

While much of what UIC is proposing has a nebulous quality, the school has provided a few details of what it hopes to do as it expands some current activities while starting new ones.

UIC already has a large urban planning and policy department which teaches topics like land use, transportation planning and analyzing public finance.

But it intends to open a new school of urban and public affairs, with a broader curriculum and more direct city involvement.

It also intends to expand the efforts at restructuring public and secondary education currently under way through its College of Education while playing a lead role in the implementation of the Clinton administration's health reform. That's a role school officials feel UIC is required to play because it operates one of the nation's largest health sciences center.

Some faculty members fear the university's new tack may cause

it to shift away from its important roles of educating students and especially conducting research, but officials said those worries are unfounded.

"This will always be a research institution," said Stukel. "Not everybody will be involved [in Great Cities]. But we want to focus a larger fraction of our faculty to think about this [urban issues] in an integrated way," that crosses traditional academic disciplines, he said.

The UIC initiative was warmly greeted by Mayor Richard Daley, who has bristled at recent reports that many Chicagoans were fleeing to the suburbs and beyond because of high crime and bad schools.

"We have boundless human potential here in Chicago," the

mayor said in a prepared statement through his spokesman. "and our challenge is to help people reach their full potential. I'm very pleased that the University of Illinois, with the Great Cities program, is our full partner in this effort."

While Ald. Audreliano Medrano (23rd) welcomed UIC's new commitment, he said he was "a little cynical" that the university's move comes when it is seeking money for its controversial physical expansion, which will displace vendors in the Maxwell Street area that many of his constituents patronize.

"If they're going to have a positive impact on my community, I'm willing to participate," he said. "But I've got to wait to see what it is that they're going to be bringing to the table."

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-

politan 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 Illini 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,



Photo: Harold Krewer

Journalists Ben Joravsky, Laura Washington and Patrick Reardon: members of a media panel on urban issues at the forum.

empowerment zones, urban education, health policy and regionalism.

The Rob Mier 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*.



Ward's CEO Bernard Brennan receives the Great Cities Award.

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, policy-makers, 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



Photos: Roberta Dupuis-Devlin

Angela Glover Blackwell

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 backgrounds can live safe and productive lives."

UIC News, January 15, 2003



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