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**INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS GREENRISE BUILDING
COMMISSIONS NEARLY 500 SOLAR PANELS AS PART OF
“ICA SUSTAINABLE SEPTEMBER” CELEBRATION**

**ICA’s Month-Long Events Include Climate March, Screening of “Fixing the Future”
Climate Discussions and Solar Panel Unveiling during at Share Fair, September 24**

CHICAGO - The Institute of Cultural Affairs in the USA (ICA) is proudly celebrating “ICA Sustainable September”, a month-long series of events to raise awareness of global climate change issues culminating with a Share Fair and Solar Panel Unveiling on Wednesday, Sept. 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the ICA GreenRise building, 4750 N. Sheridan Road. The “ICA Sustainable September” events include participation in The Great March for Climate Action, Sept. 6 and a free screening of “Fixing the Future”, Sept. 12. ICA is also hosting complementary programs on Sept. 18 and 19 with presentations by WGN-TV weatherman Tom Skilling, Nobel Laureate Donald Wuebbles and climate communications expert George Marshall. ICA concludes the celebration at the Share Fair on Sept. 24 with the unveiling of nearly 500 commissioned solar panels at the ICA GreenRise building. This accomplishment marks the largest number of solar panels on a building outside of Downtown Chicago. For more information visit www.ICA-USA.org.

“In its 50 year history, the work of the ICA has taken a variety of shapes: from a community-based action at Fifth City in Chicago, to human development projects in each of the 24 time zones across the world, to the strong Technology of Participation® (ToP) network,” said ICA CEO Terry Bergdall. “In this spirit of proactive responsiveness to the world, ICA is making great strides to prepare for the next 50 years through structural transformations that include sustainable initiatives. The installation of the solar panels is a huge step toward our end goal of taking our building off the grid and providing guidance to other organizations for incorporating green technology.”

(more)

ICA GreenRise
“Sustainable September”
Add 1

ICA is hosting its Share Fair and Solar Panel Commission on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 10 a.m. when almost 500 solar panels go live at the GreenRise Building, 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. This addition of green technology, the largest installation of solar panels outside of Downtown Chicago, will reduce the buildings dependency on an external supply of electricity by 23% and offer a yearly savings of over \$16,000. The panels will be installed by Hardt Electric, Inc., a Chicago-based company, on 35,000 square feet of roof space. ICA received a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation as well as matching funds to finance the \$600,000 project. The Share Fair will include a tour of the building and view of the solar panels as well as an opportunity to learn about the services provided by the non-profit tenants benefiting from the green initiatives.

In addition to the Share Fair and Solar Panel Unveiling, “ICA Sustainable September” features an event a week for the entire month at the ICA GreenRise Building, 4750 N. Sheridan Rd.. All events are free and open to the public however advance registration is required by visiting www.ICA-USA.org.

“ICA Sustainable September” events kick off on Saturday, Sept. 6 with participation in The Great March for Climate Action (www.ClimateMarch.org). ICA Staff and volunteers are to join the marchers as they pass through Chicago on their coast-to-coast journey as well as house the marchers at the ICA GreenRise Building. Marchers will hold a rally at Daley Plaza at 2 p.m. and enjoy a celebratory potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m.

ICA is hosting a free screening of the documentary “Fixing the Future” on Friday, Sept. 12 at 8 p.m. This film features NPR and PBS’s David Brancaccio as he visits people and organizations attempting to reinvent the American economy. The film highlights effective, local practices such as local business alliances, community banking, time banking/hour exchange, worker cooperatives and local currencies. There is a post-film discussion with representatives from the Chicago Time Exchange and Mutual Aid Network.

On Thursday, Sept. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m., ICA will be the Uptown community virtual broadcast host site for the "Preparing for Climate Change" panel discussion featuring WGN-TV weatherman Tom Skilling, Nobel Laureate and lead author of the National Climate Assessment, Dr. Donald Wuebbles, City of Chicago Chief Sustainability Officer, Karen Weigert, and former EPA Administrator and noted environmental law expert Mary Gade. Metropolitan Planning Council President MarySue Barrett will moderate a discussion on public policy implications of a changing climate in the Midwest United States. While the program originates at 678 N. Wells, ICA is pleased to host the live stream telecast at the GreenRise Building.

(more)

ICA GreenRise
“Sustainable September”
Add 2

The following day, on Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. to noon, ICA is hosting George Marshall, a leading expert in climate change communications and Co-Founder of the Climate Outreach and Information Network in the UK (www.ClimateOutreach.org.uk), for his workshop "Communicating Sustainability within a Polarized Society". This interactive workshop takes on the urgent question of why climate change is still being ignored in the face of overwhelming scientific evidence. Participants will develop an understanding of current theory, new tools to analyze existing communications and a step-by-step process for developing narratives for their own audiences.

The ICA GreenRise Building, originally a four-story structure built for the Mutual Insurance Company by Fugard & Knapp in 1921, is the largest nonprofit service center in the Midwest. The Chicago School styled building with Beaux Art ornamentation is clad in white, glazed terracotta. Long-time owner Kemper Insurance Group donated the 166,000 square foot building to the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA), or Ecumenical Institute, in 1972. It was designated as a landmark building in 2013 by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks and was the first the first building owned by a nonprofit to join “RetroFit Chicago’s Commercial Buildings Initiative.” It received Energy Star Certification in 2014 and was part of the Open House Chicago Sustainability Trail sponsored by ComEd.

Currently, ICA GreenRise is home to many, including an intentional residential living community and 25 different non-profits and social service providers. ICA is creating a "green culture" among its diverse tenants, of nonprofits and 7th floor residents, while establishing an energy efficient eco-system that aims to take the entire building off of the grid. Steadily, volunteers and staff have been implementing green elements into the building including a vertical ecosystem/urban farm.

For its 50th anniversary in 2012, ICA created the Accelerate 77 initiative, aimed at increasing green initiatives in Chicago’s 77 community areas. The ICA GreenRise initiatives demonstrate ICA’s commitment to human development in harmony with the planet earth, harnessing human potential for social change through strategic use of the space and sustainable adaptation of the structure.

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ICA GreenRise
“Sustainable September”
Add 3

Additional “ICA Sustainable September” events includes participation in The Great March for Climate Action, Sept. 6, a free screening of “Fixing the Future”, Sept. 12, being a virtual-broadcast host site for the discussion “Climate Change and New Weather Patterns,” by longstanding Chicago weatherman Tom Skilling and Nobel Laureate Donald Wuebbles. A leading expert in climate change communications, George Marshall from the ~~England~~ UK, will present a program on “Communicating Sustainability within a Polarized Society” on Sept. 19. For more information about all events visit www.ICA-USA.org.

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ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

ICA has been working with local communities and community -based organizations worldwide since the 1960s. The mission of ICA is to build a just and equitable society in harmony with planet earth through empowering cultural dimensions of the social process. ICA programs strengthen the capacities of organizations, communities and individuals to build and implement innovative plans of action that draw upon assets and social capital in a collaborative manner. Today, ICA International has nearly 35 member organizations all over the world. The ICA’s international experiences have been instrumental in developing and refining the ICA’s approaches to participatory community development, giving shape to the values of inclusivity and diversity that are central to the ICA’s approaches. In 2012 and 2013, the ICA reached out and strengthened relationships internationally with ICA partners in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Zambia, India, and Nepal. The ICA also forged new partnerships, notably with the INSEEC Business School in Paris.