

TODAY'S CHICAGO WOMAN

100 WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

When *Today's Chicago Woman* started recognizing "100 Women Making a Difference" 23 years ago back in 1988, we noted that few of our highly accomplished honorees were household names. "Perhaps," we mused, "this is because most haven't received much press outside of their chosen fields." Today, women at the pinnacles of their careers are much more likely to be household names. Ariel President Mellody Hobson appears regularly on *Good Morning America* to share financial advice. Emily Barr, president and general manager of ABC-7 Chicago, has consistently led her news team to place first in the ratings. Dr. Annabelle Volgman is one of the most sought-after experts on women's heart health. But for every highly visible woman, there are still dozens more who work tirelessly behind the scenes, whose accomplishments go unsung to the general public. We parsed the qualifications of hundreds of women to narrow down our 2011 list of women in finance, law, education, philanthropy, media, government, marketing, culture and other realms to compile this list of those who have truly made an impact on their fields, the City of Chicago and the world beyond our city limits. Clearly, we have omitted women who are, indeed, making a difference, but we limited our selection to 100.



HEATHER BECKER

CEO, THE CONSERVATION CENTER
With a formal education in painting and art history from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Heather Becker extended her creative career by pursuing art preservation. In 2003, she purchased The Conservation Center, Inc., with an SBA loan and grew it to become the largest private art conservation facility in the country. In an effort to bring art into public education, Ms. Becker co-founded the largest murals preservation project in national history.