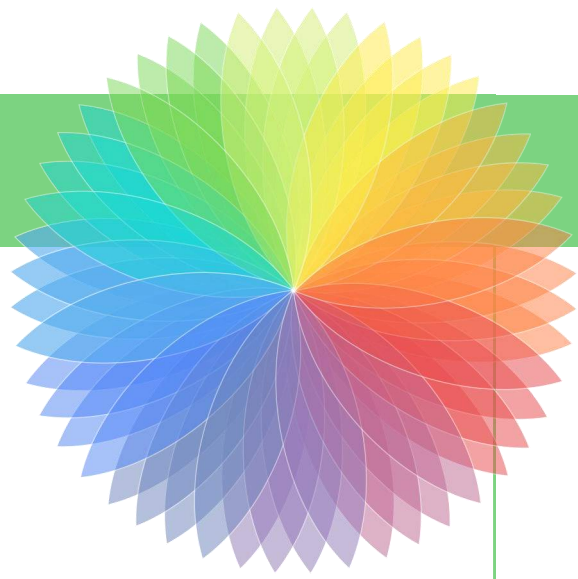


Integrated Network for Social Sustainability Conference

June 8-10, 2016, ICA Green Rise



The [Institute of Cultural Affairs](#) (ICA) hosted the Midwest site of the [Integrated Network for Social Sustainability](#) (INSS) Conference from June 8—10th at ICA GreenRise. As a multi-site conference, INSS encompassed seven different regions across the US and UK. The intent of the conference was to convene academics and practitioners working across the broadly defined arena of social sustainability. Over 65 people participated at the Chicago site, and 150+ were engaged across all the sites.

The conference sessions included on-site presenters as well as cross-site virtual presentations. The format for the **on-site sessions** was informed by the [Permaculture](#) flower design. Each session highlighted unique perspectives from academics, policymakers, and community practitioners on each of the 7 domains, or petals, of the flower. By giving a platform to diverse perspectives, participants were able to create a holistic and nuanced view of social sustainability in 7 different arenas to more fully understand the breadth of a particular area.



The **cross-site sessions** explored national and international conversations on sustainability. The keynote session shared new language about opportunities for cities and nature to thrive through the [Biophilic Cities](#) movement. During the cross-site sessions, each site had the opportunity to stream a session to the other sites. ICA hosted a [Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network](#) (CSLN) member panel, featuring Alwyn Walker, Jamie Ponce, Tim Heppner, Melanie Eckner, and Joseph Taylor. The panel, facilitated by Caitlin Sarro, emphasized the value of the network, ranging from new relationships formed to collaborative events and ongoing projects.



The final cross-site activity was a virtual panel on the topic of Invisible Disasters, referring to natural disasters that have detrimental consequences that are often unaddressed, such as Coal Ash in North Carolina. When reflecting on the panel, the Chicago group related the cross-site panel topics to presentations from the past two days, highlighting issues of inequity of nutrition and access to the political process around infrastructure investment as invisible disasters in our Chicago communities.



Across the diverse approaches of the three days, the group noticed **several themes unifying the discussion**. Conversations frequently referred back to sustainability as a fluid concept that should be expanded upon and redefined. Conference attendees noted that sustainability is about people and resiliency to threats, both from the climate and from damaging cultural and political norms.

Attendees discussed that a cultural paradigm shift and commitment to prioritize equity is necessary for long-term resilience. After each session, attendees wrote down something new they would do or look into as a result of the session to post on a collective sticky wall. The final results range from intentions to learn more, meet new people, spread the information they learned, and more. See the attached write up for the full list of actions.

At the end of the conference, attendees still continued to talk and exchange information to follow up with their new connections. **To follow up**, everyone is encouraged to continue the conversation and meet more sustainability leaders at the next CSLN meeting to be held on July 21st.



RSVP for the next CSLN meeting

Conference Agenda & Panelists

June 8	June 9	June 10
8:30 - 9:30 Introductions & Chicago site plenary	9:00 - 10:00 GreenRise Building Tour	9:00 - 10:00 Uptown Tour on History & Nature
9:30-11:00 Finance & Economics <i>Speakers:</i> Aniseh Bro (Michigan State University), Kevin Monahan (Dill Pickle & Sol House), Alex Poltorak (Urban Canopy)	10:00– 11:00 All sites Introductions & Welcome	10:00-11:30 Cross-site Panel <i>Invisible Disasters</i> <i>Speakers:</i> Dr. Divya Chandrasekhar, Dr. Sheri Davis Faulkner, Dr. Ryan Carlin, Ms. Sarah Kellogg, Dr. Michèle Alexandre
11:10-12:30 Land Tenure & Community Governance, <i>Speakers:</i> Bradley Roback (City of Chicago), Chicago Urban Agriculture Mapping Project , Billy Burdett (Advocates for Urban Agriculture) and Howard Rosing (DePaul University- Steans Center), Orrin Williams (Food System Coordinator, UIC)	11:00-12:15 Cross-site Keynote Speaker, Timothy Beatley on Biophilic Cities	11:30 –12:00 Cross-site Conclusion
1:30-3:00 Built Environment <i>Speakers:</i> Pablo Golob, Robert Boyle, Raymond Mohamed (Wayne State University), Andrew Vesselinovitch (Ross Barney Architects), Naomi Davis (Blacks in Green)	1:00-2:30 Cross-site session hosted by Chicago (CSLN)	12:45-2:15 Health & Spiritual Well-Being <i>Speakers:</i> David Bender (American Indian Center), Bonsai Bermudez (Youth Empowerment Performance Project - YEPP)
3:15-4:45 Land & Nature Stewardship <i>Speakers:</i> Toni Anderson (Sacred Keepers Sustainability Lab)	2:45-4:15 Education & Culture <i>Speakers:</i> Mike Bryson (Roosevelt University Sustainability Studies Program) , Michael Howard (Eden Place Nature Center), Troy Withers (BAM Youth Guidance)	2:30-4:00 Tools & Technology <i>Speakers:</i> Clare Butterfield (Illinois Science & Energy Innovation Foundation), Stephen Pepper (Illinois Institute of Technology), Andrew Burroughs (IDEO design firm)

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PERMACULTURE FLOWER: INSS 2016

Permaculture Flower: INSS 2016 Attendee Responses to “What will you do as a result of this session?”

Finance & Economics	Land Tenure & Community Governance	Built Environment	Land & Nature Stewardship	Education & Culture	Health & Spiritual Well-being	Tools & Technology
Hydroponics	Grow food!	Support BIG	I will think global & act local	Take youth to more green spaces	Watch July 15 th (YEPP)	Learn about smart energy!!
Buying locally grown produce	How big of a scale is necessary?	Learn about how I can help prevent gentrification in my community	Help inspire others to appreciate nature	Re-evaluating capabilities & view of historically non-traditional healthy foods	Learn how to assist LGBTQ youth	Equity in tech
Promotion	Change diet to better food	Speak up more!	Get out the kids way	Review personal diet	Faces faces faces (YEPP)	Monitor my bike use
Who uses integrated sustainability indicators for action planning and practice?	How to reach the couch sitters/TV watchers?	Community in terms of who is in it...or what is in it not what or who is not	Communities can solves their own problems (even...Africa)	All work/research needs to question the assumptions of access	Honor difference while celebrate common humanity	Human-centered programming
Try a co-op or CSA	How can food access help us build social sustainability?	Build alliances among people of color	Youth involvement	Connect with presenters and fellow participants	Support & embrace others’ cultures	Cities in parks
Join a CSA	Community control/ownership of land & use of it	See communities as villages. Advocate for neighbor owned	See taking root!	Explore Eden place since I work in the area but have never been there...	Take time to reflect on health & spirits	Meet people where they are...investigate their stories
Send CTX/post on CTX	Land assembly	Leaders must lead	Engage youth	Add turmeric to everything	Focus on health & safety	Listen to my 90-year-old mother
Get to know someone who grows some of my food	How to effectively disseminate info & be able to find out specific info	Recommitment to co-housing (re-purposing)	Building community ownership through stewardship	Nutrition non violence	There is always more than one approach	Make another round of energy efficiency home improvements
Learn about backyard composting	Address the uncritical view of urban ad...and its governing systems!	Network with people outside my community	Start with young minds!!	Pay attention to what we eat	Challenge internationalization of dominant narrative	Look into energy savings for houses & my home
Join with collective composting	Alternative approaches to fixing brown fields	Learn about community land trusts	Look at what a community is already doing	Learning as nature would have us do	Continue to think of food as a healing tool	Research human centered design
Find a way to get a food co-op in the Austin community	Learn more about community gardens around my neighborhood	Promote community ownership	Educate and involve youths	Raise awareness for education children on the environment	Provide group methods that empower individual commitment	In applying tools & tech, think of micro and macro effects
Join a CSA!	Bring urban ag to scale	Listen more talk less	Listen to crazy ideas	Pay close attention to my diet!	Build relationships	Do more, use less
Consider the relationship between livelihoods & sustainability	Ownership of land & access for growth	Divide community into sections	Share an experience with a neighbor	Connect college students to CSLN & ICA	Become a better storyteller & help others to tell their story	Reduce energy use
Right sizing, not too big, not too small	Strive to purchase more produce from urban farms every day!	Try to answer development for whom?	Investment in the overall diversity of our unbuilt environment	Diets & environment affect our lives more than we think	Support people’s identity (or their efforts to explore and find their identity)	How can consumers become ecological producers?
Visit an urban farm	Community garden in every neighborhood		Stay committed to my mission!	Aramark in schools and prisons is a conflict of interest	Investigate & work towards holistic healing practices & environments	Talk less...do more
Sign up for CSA share!	Learn more about land tenure		Get more people involved	Redefine success (as sustainability)	Listen to people’s stories	Download the smart meter app
Support cooperative coffee	Look for balance points			Learn about epigenetics	Cultivate circles of healing & growth	Save everything you can
What’s the “right” scale for sustainability?	Local unified community supported agriculture –want to know more			Service learning focused on transformation of students and communities they are working with		Look up designing for the poor
Confluence connecting our spheres of influence	Look into permanent ownership of land plots			Connect with hubs like nature centers & places like the plant		Capture the building’s energy savings to leverage next energy efficiency project
	Will do more outreach to build AUA’s urban ag resource guide			Sustainability is about people and communities...not (just) buildings		Look into downloading energy use app
	Profitability redefining what it means in the ownership model			Talk more to Troy		
	Explore more the role of urban agriculture			Find out what app Mr. Howard uses for sound monitoring		
	Can you earn a living working in urban gardening?			Share a healthy meal		
				Share info & orgs with everyone that will listen ☺		