



the LEEDer

LEED COUNCIL

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THE LOCAL ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

—2007—

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Leadership for a Dynamic Urban Environment

In June 2007, LEED Council celebrated its 25th Anniversary and unveiled a new 3-year strategic plan, titled "Advancing Economic Opportunity." Engaging business leaders to address key issues for **Business Development** is a cornerstone of LEED Council's mission. Our leadership in convening the *North River Corridor Infrastructure Taskforce* has resulted in several significant improvements in local traffic patterns and a renewed working relationship with our public officials to identify and monitor future infrastructure projects. Retaining land uses that support further business growth and good jobs continues to be a paramount local issue for us as a delegate agency of the Chicago Department of Planning & Development.

Enhancing the competitiveness of employers and increasing access to jobs for low-income, low-skilled Chicagoans are the prime objectives of our **Workforce Development** programs. While continuing our *Entry-Level Industrial Skills Training [ELIST]*, we have launched our new basic *Computer Skills Training*. We also anticipate providing both of these skills training classes for CHA residents through our new "Train for the LEED Advantage" program,

which combines literacy with skills training.

Our newest strategic goal of **Sustainable Development** is to foster economic growth while reducing environmental impact. We believe that we can demonstrate how to reduce and reconfigure the ecological footprint in the North River Corridor.

We have recast our **Community Development** goal to engage with community partners to fulfill a community vision that includes affordable housing, career-path employment and asset-building for working families.

In launching our new 3-year strategic plan, LEED Council's Board of Directors and staff are jointly committed to **Organizational Development** from a "good-to-great" organization that manages its internal resources carefully as it delivers superior performance with enduring community impact. We are expanding our communications and outreach to our diverse audiences. Check out our updated webpage at www.leedcouncil.org and subscribe to our weekly *E-NewsLEEDs*. We look forward to your increased participation in 2008. Be a *LEEDer*.



LEED Council Board Director, Jackie Holsten (far left) joins WAMU's Simona Brici (2nd from right) and LEED's Skill Trainer Dean Rennie (kneeling 2nd from right) with November 2007 ELIST grads.

North River Corridor Infrastructure Taskforce

CTA's Route #132 **The Goose Island Express** continued to build ridership with connections to all major transit nodes in the corridor. CTA's Joe Iacobucci reported 300 daily riders by year end up from 130 riders when the route began in January 2007. Four new stops should further boost ridership in 2008 by increasing proximity to major employment centers including the Halsted-River Triangle which has over 2,000 workers at companies located there. The new locations are:

- Clybourn at Wisconsin (by Artists' Frame Service)
- Halsted at Evergreen (by the British School)
- Cherry (just south of Division)
- North Branch at Halsted (by Kendall College)

CDOT's Johnny Morcos reported that a slight delay with the **North Avenue Bridge** will result in the new bridge being opened with full 4-lane capacity in February or March 2008. He also reported that Phase I design work has begun on the **Halsted Bridge over the canal**. The new bridge will be a tied-arch design, similar to the Damen Avenue Bridge completed a few years ago near Vienna Sausage.

CDOT's Chris Wuellner reported that \$320,000 in funding from the North Branch TIF district has been approved to pay for a **new traffic signal at North Branch and Halsted**. The project is expected to be completed in 9 months.

Naz Dar and other Goose Island companies requested installation of a **left turn signal for east-bound traffic on Division Street turning left to go north on Halsted**. The Office of Emergency Management Coordination has determined that turn signals are warranted and would help alleviate traffic tieups.

CDOT consultant Terry Walloch with Transystems reported that there are no major physical impediments related to a proposed **Industrial Truck Access Road**, which would better link firms such as Blommer Chocolate, Tribune Freedom Center, Prairie and other industry to the Kennedy Expressway utilizing existing rail road right-of-way. This new road would minimize truck traffic on the area's major arterial roads. Funding for the next phase that will consider more detailed plans and begin to determine projected costs has yet to be identified.



Kimley-Horne and the Goodman Williams Group were hired by DPD and CDOT to study **parking and traffic safety for the Halsted-River Triangle**.

They reviewed existing land uses and the market for industrial, office, entertainment and retail uses. The study recommended:

- Developing adequate parking for area businesses and employees;
- Creating pedestrian friendly streetscapes;
- Supporting non-residential uses;
- Providing a continuous river walk and a connecting non-vehicular path.

LEED Council will continue bi-monthly meetings of the Infrastructure Taskforce in 2008 so our members can bring new issues and ideas for improvements to the table and monitor progress for the best outcomes from public and private investments.

100 Years of Paving the Way for Chicago to Work

In October 2007, Bigane Paving celebrated 100 years as a family-owned Chicago business.

Anne Bigane Wilson, President of the firm, is the fourth generation of Bigane's who have run the company since it was founded by her great-grandfather.

Anne received her Engineering Degree from Purdue University and was named President in 1985. She became the first woman to own a paving firm and asphalt manufacturer with the purchase of Ogden Avenue Materials in 1997. She relocated the entire operation to 935 West Chestnut, where it continues to provide quality asphalt paving services to contractors, developers and the City of Chicago.

"Our location is necessary for efficiency to our customers and for us to survive in the competitive marketplace," Wilson commented. "With Bigane Paving the difference is between getting the job done and getting the job done effectively, efficiently, on budget and on time."

27th Ward Alderman Walter Burnett lauded the anniversary, "The legacy of Bigane founder and 28th Ward Alderman John Bigane continues today under the direction of his great-granddaughter Anne Bigane Wilson whose commitment and hard work have grown this business to the largest women-owned paving business in the country which serves as a model for other women and minority owned construction companies."

LEED Council is pleased that Anne has joined our Board of Directors and looks forward to working with Bigane Paving on its future growth.



CHICAGOLAND GREEN COLLAR JOBS INITIATIVE

The **Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Summit** held on December 7, 2007 at Wilbur Wright College was a wonderful success with 150 attendees. The mission of this new initiative is to develop a skilled workforce that is ready to meet employer demands in the new "green" market and to capture new employment opportunities for Chicagoland low-skilled individuals. LEED Council was a primary organizer of the event along with: Wilbur Wright College; Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance; Chicago Sustainable Business Alliance; Delta Institute; CFL – Workers Assistance Committee; USGBC-Chicago Chapter; BIG: Blacks in Green; and City of Chicago – Dept. of Environment. Opening remarks were by Sadhu Johnston, City of Chicago's Chief Environmental Officer.

The Summit featured speakers from national organizations: Apollo Alliance and Workforce Alliance. There were also representatives from other cities that currently have Green Collar Jobs programs: Ella Baker Center in Oakland, CA and Sustainable South Bronx in New York.

The Summit also featured several Chicago organizations including: the Delta Institute; Growing Home Chicago; BIG: Blacks in Green; Chicago Greencorps; CFL Local #399; Leopardo Construction; and Illinois DCEO. Afternoon break-out sessions further discussed Green Collar Jobs.

The Summit offered terrific networking among attendees who came from a wide variety of backgrounds, including: teachers, green professionals, community organizations, workforce development groups, union leaders, funders and municipal officials. CAN-TV recorded the Summit for future broadcast on Chicago Cable Television. If you have questions about the Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative, please contact Kindy Kruller at kindykruller@gmail.com or 773.929.5552 ext 226.



Future parking lots in Chicago can look like orchards and be "green" with trees and pervious concrete that filters stormwater.

Ozinga rolls out new "Green Products" line

LEED Council member Ozinga Chicago RMC is keeping up with the times and has an entire new line of sustainable and green building products on the market. These include:

- **Filtercrete:** Pervious concrete that allows water to filter through and reduces stormwater loads.
- **Flowable Fill:** Engineered dirt of local materials that doesn't require compaction and saves energy.
- **Recycled Materials:** Re-used production materials.
- **Concrete Flooring:** Flooring that does not off-gas or contain VOC's like carpeting or wood flooring that requires finishes.

LEED Council is proud to have such an innovative company in our corridor that is focused on the environment. Ozinga has been located in our corridor since the mid-90s. Marty Ozinga IV has been a LEED Council Board Director since 2003. Their expansion into Green Building Products is a great example for every company, since demand for sustainable development seems to be growing every day.

Ozinga envisions future parking lots in Chicago looking like orchards and still parking 10% more cars as well. *Filtercrete* pervious concrete can: protect tree roots; cool the air; filter, treat, and store stormwater; and reduce lighting needs up to 30%.

Jeremy Hays from Apollo Alliance, shares projections on new job growth that his coalition of labor, environmental, business, urban, and faith communities are tracking in support of good jobs and energy independence.

Sustainable Development Expands Services

2007 was a busy year for LEED Council's Sustainable Development initiatives. *Clean Air Counts* brought many events promoting emission reduction, including a successful Earth Day Celebration at Goose Island Brewery.

We have added new programs and services. Our new website details how we now offer businesses assistance with green building and formulating sustainable business plans. CH Robinson, located in the Clybourn Corridor PMD, is contracting with us to assist them in reducing waste and "greening" their business to lower costs and add value for employees and clients.

Our goal with these initiatives is to further aid our corridor businesses, surrounding communities and the region in gaining a better understanding of sustainability to ensure that we reduce environmental impact as we foster economic growth.



Victoria Cooper of Wilbur Wright College (far right) moderates panel of Chicago "green" experts at Green Collar Jobs Summit.

Victoria Cooper joins LEED Council Board

Victoria Cooper, PhD, is LEED Council's newest addition to our Board of Directors. Victoria manages the Environmental Technology program at **Wilbur Wright College** and has worked closely with LEED Council on the development of the *Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative*. Victoria has an extensive knowledge of environmental policy, occupational health and safety, as well as emergency response preparedness and environmental remediation matters. Her knowledge and experience will assist with LEED Council's sustainable development skills training and workforce development initiatives.

Welcome to the LEED Council Victoria!



PARTNERSHIP WITH CARA IMPACTS LIVES

LEED Council's *Entry-Level Industrial Skills Training (ELIST)* program served as "advanced training" for four individuals from the **CARA Program**. CARA assists motivated individuals transform their lives and achieve real and lasting success with intensive job readiness sessions. Many trainees are impoverished, ex-offenders, homeless or in substance abuse treatment centers. Our partnership created a career ladder with CARA providing "soft skills" and LEED providing "hard skills" training. LEED Council gained referrals to our jobs programs; CARA expanded its training options for participants; and the students gained new marketable skills.

Deadra James and Cecil Bowen graduated from LEED Council's ELIST class in March 2007. They mastered math, measurement, building maintenance, carpentry, plumbing and electrical skills which they are now using in full-time, permanent jobs.

Deadra James began working as a Housekeeper II in the Environmental Services Department at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in June 2007. She is assigned to the new Prentice Women's Hospital where she cleans rooms and equipment in the new-born, pre-natal unit. She commented, "The equipment used to transport the little babies has to be cleaned really well." She uses a little of all the skills she learned, and mentioned how impressed co-workers were when she was able to make a small electrical repair. Deadra loves her job and sees a future in a medical career, saying "I get training everyday. Everything I do is new. You just grab onto it." She is now applying for a radiology program for which the hospital will pay.

She credits her success to a supportive family, and to CARA and LEED staff who get to know their trainees personally, while running a serious program. Deadra's life has changed radically. She proudly explained, "I'm not in a (substance abuse) recovery house; I have my own apartment; I pay my own bills—and, I'm married now!"

Cecil Bowen works for Mid-Range Repair and Parts in Alsip, a company that refurbishes and repairs printing equipment. His work varies and includes: warehouse, shipping and receiving, janitorial and maintenance work.

He said that ELIST helped him get his full-time, permanent job that pays a good wage with benefits. He uses everything he learned in ELIST. He helped build an addition at the company, fixes toilets and



Deadra James (2nd from right) and Cecil Bowen (standing far right) join LEED and CARA staff for March 2007 graduation.

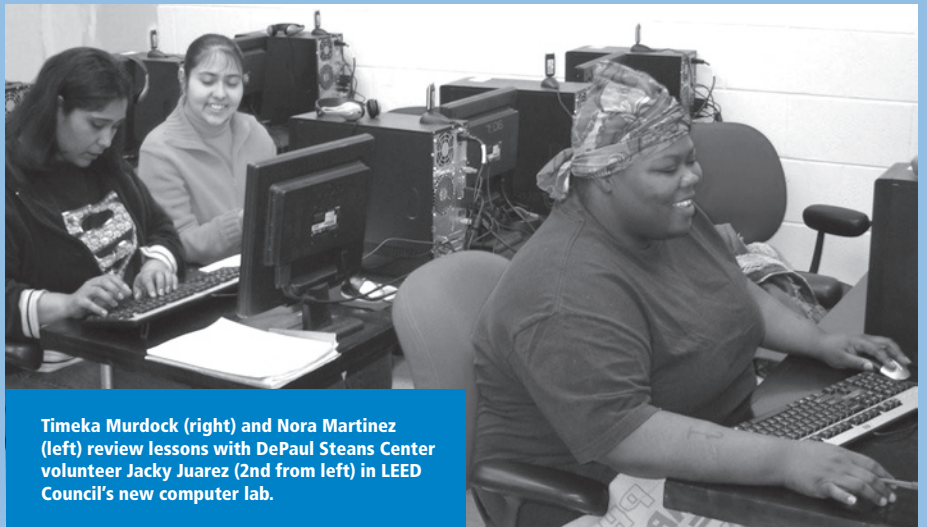
makes electrical repairs. Before Cecil began the CARA and LEED programs, he used drugs, lived on the street, and was in treatment. He credits CARA with helping him change his thinking and behavior; and LEED with sharpening, correcting and teaching him new skills.

Cecil had a lot to say about the positive impact his job has had on his life. "I have an apartment. I bought a van. I have my son and daughter living with me now that I am clean and have a job. Now, I've become a grandfather, too." Beyond the material advantages, Cecil's experience has been life-transforming. "The training and job have enabled me to set some goals. It made me feel I can go on and do more. Today, I can give something back to my community." In the future, Cecil sees

himself helping other people with his type of background by working for an agency such as CARA or LEED.

Two other CARA clients attended LEED's ELIST class. Daphne Ford and Carlos Townsel (holding certificates in photo above) also graduated with honors, and are employed as full-time crew leaders with CARA's *Cleanslate* program, which is designed to provide on-the-job training while fulfilling commercial area maintenance contracts throughout Chicago.

In 2008, with a grant from the IL Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, LEED Council will continue to develop more partnerships that help individuals move from entry-level to advanced training and obtain skilled, higher paying jobs.



Timeka Murdock (right) and Nora Martinez (left) review lessons with DePaul Steans Center volunteer Jacky Juarez (2nd from left) in LEED Council's new computer lab.

New Staff on LEED Team

Danny Shields is our new *Computer Skills Trainer*.

Danny received his BA and MS from DePaul in Business Information Technology. He worked with the DePaul Egan Urban Center/STRIVE Chicago Employment Training Services. He is a board director for the West Humboldt Park Family & Community Development Council.

Jennifer Raimer is our new *Associate Director for Business Services & Job Placement* and is calling on local businesses to identify service issues and job hiring opportunities for graduates of our skills training programs. She has extensive human resources management experience and has also worked extensively as an auto show manager and product specialist for both GM and Ford.

Froi Nuñez is our new part-time *Bookkeeper* and also provides computer network tech support. He is the part-time Controller for Claretian Associates on the southeast side.

Verna Berryman is our new *Client Services Coordinator*. She worked as a team supervisor of survey takers for CHA and also served as an Employment Recruiter and Case Manager for Employment and Employer Services. Verna will provide orientation and assessment of prospective students for our job-skills training, while providing client services for trainees to ensure a high retention rate in both classes and in their new jobs.

T. Manning is our new *Adult Education Manager* and is developing a "contextualized" literacy curriculum, using resource materials from our skills training. He has 6 years of marketing and sales experience, primarily in Japan, as well as real estate and non-profit management experience. T. has also taught math and financial education at St. Leonard's Ministries, where he also serves as treasurer on their board.



New Staff (left to right): Danny Shields, Jennifer Raimer, Froi Nuñez, Verna Berryman and T. Manning.



Scot Hansen (2nd from right) gives LEED Council's ELIST students a tour of Chicago Scenic Studios.

Chicago Scenic "Wright" Place for Grads

Kenyatta Wright graduated from the ELIST program in November 2007 and immediately went to work in the Traffic Department at **Chicago Scenic Studios**. He is a back up driver for deliveries, performs maintenance, and has received certification to operate the scissors lift and stand-up forklift. In addition to the industrial skills training, Kenyatta credits Jennifer Raimer, LEED Council's job placement specialist, with helping him get the job. He said, "What really helped was how Jennifer helped me with interviewing skills through practice interviews. She encouraged me to do some research on the company. I wasn't nervous in the interview, and Scot (Scot Hansen, Facilities Manager) was impressed that I knew something about the company."

Ken had worked in a family member's home remodeling business and learned electrical skills. But he credits LEED Council's trainer, Dean Rennie, with teaching him more comprehensive skills and how to do things by the book. He feels that he uses everything he learned in ELIST on his new job. He anticipates a future with Chicago Scenic Studios. His family, which includes 4 young children between the ages of 5 and 8 years, are really happy that Dad loves his job.

LEED Council thanks Chicago Scenic Studios for repeatedly considering LEED for their entry-level hiring needs. Ken is the third ELIST grad now working there.

Train for the LEED Advantage

2007 was a successful fundraising and program development year for LEED Council resulting in expanded business and workforce services in 2008.

Our new *Basic Computer Skills* training program will prepare 100 people for jobs requiring basic technology skills. The program's three components (Intro to Computers; Intro to Word; and Intro to Excel) will be provided to both the unemployed and incumbent workers in our new 10-station computer lab. Funding for the lab came from: the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust; Chicago Tribune Charities – Holiday, a fund of the McCormick Tribune Foundation; the City of Chicago Business and Information Services; and Citibank.

Train for the LEED Advantage is an innovative partnership between LEED Council, the CHA and the Partnership for New Communities to assist public housing residents obtain career-path jobs earning family-sustaining wages. Individuals preparing to move into new mixed-income housing complexes as part of the CHA Transformation Plan will learn marketable industrial or computer skills while raising their reading and math levels through 100 hours of literacy training.

Tutoring will be available from DePaul and Loyola students. Trainees will also receive weekly Job Readiness and Financial Education workshops from bank volunteers.



LEED COUNCIL

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LEED Council's new 2008 Board Chairman Bob Doepel of Chicago Scenic Studios (left) joins his employee and ELIST graduate Reggie Grant (center) and LEED Council's CEO, Ted Wysocki (right) at LEED Council's 25th Anniversary Event.

Alderman Vi Daley (43rd Ward) and Alderman Walter Burnett (27th Ward) join in presentation of an award to LEED Council board member & founding executive director Donna Ducharme with LEED Council board member Marilyn Labkon of General Iron (left to right) at LEED Council's 25th Anniversary on June 27, 2007.



2007 Annual Finance Campaign

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

(\$5,000 and Above)

- A. Finkl & Sons
- General Iron Industries
- General Metals
- Rosenmutter Family Foundation (General Iron)
- McGrath Lexus
- Water Saver Faucet
- William Wrigley, Jr. Company

- Lakin General
- Metro Recycling
- Morton Salt
- 1000 W. North Avenue Properties
- Nortown Automotive
- Ogden Avenue Materials
- Omega Demolition
- Ozinga Chicago RMC
- Prairie Materials
- Robinette Demolition
- RSI
- Waste Management

- Calumet Photographic
- Cantu & Associates
- Classic Tickets
- Daley & George
- Delta Demolition
- DMD Services
- Fletcher Chicago
- Holsten Development
- Kendall College
- Newsweb Corporation
- North Shore Recycling, Inc.
- Michael Rechten
- Reliable Wrecking Service, Inc.
- S & S Metals Recyclers II
- Sonoc Architect & Associates
- SRAM
- Stein Furniture
- Swedlow & Associates
- Victory Auto Wreckers, Inc.

FRIENDS

(\$999 or less)

- Al Heckenast Inc.
- Aries Recycling
- Larry Bennett
- Cicero Iron Metal & Paper
- City Scrap
- CRC Travel
- Donna Ducharme
- Dudek Industries, Inc
- Family Recycling
- Flood Brothers
- Independent Recycling Services
- J.L. Martinez Trucking Inc.
- Jasculca / Terman
- Randolph Kohler
- Metro Haul Trucking, Inc.
- Premier Waste & Recycling
- Union Recycling & Waste Service, Inc.
- Lynn Werner
- Wine Discount Center

PARTNERS

(\$4999 to \$2000)

- Baker Development
- C.H. Robinson
- Chicago Scenic Studios
- Crate & Barrel
- Harlem & Irving Companies
- Heneghan Wrecking

SPONSORS

(\$1999 to \$1000)

- Albrecht Enterprises, Inc.
- ALL Masonry
- Artists' Frame Service / Jayson Home & Garden
- Bad Weather
- Blommer Chocolate
- Break Thru Enterprises, Inc.

2007 Funders of LEED Council

- Bank of America
- Chase
- Chicago Department of Planning & Development
- Chicago Tribune Charities-Holiday, a Fund of the McCormick Tribune Foundation
- Citibank
- ComEd
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- Harris Bank
- Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
- LaSalle Bank
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Clean Air Counts
- Northern Trust
- Partnership for New Communities
- Peoples Gas
- Polk Bros. Foundation
- Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust
- US Bank
- Washington Mutual