

Jane Addams Hull House Association Real Estate Leadership Council

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2009



JANE ADDAMS HULL HOUSE ASSOCIATION

In 1889, Jane Addams founded Hull House to "aid in the solutions of life in a great city and help our neighbors build responsible, self-sufficient lives for themselves and their families." Today, Hull House continues to improve social conditions for underserved people and communities by providing creative, innovative programs and advocating for related public policy reforms.

OVERVIEW OF REAL ESTATE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Jane Addams Hull House Association Real Estate Leadership Council (RELC) was founded in July 2007, under the leadership of Patrick O'Leary, long time real estate developer and Chairman of the Hull House Board of Trustees. RELC is a professional network dedicated to bringing together the experience, capability, resources and influence of the entire real estate industry to strengthen neighborhoods and communities in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs.

The goal of RELC is to contribute to the shaping of public policy and community actions for responsible community enhancement. "We see this Leadership Council as the conscience of our industry," says Mr. O'Leary, "to follow the example of our founder, Jane Addams."

The Real Estate Leadership Council is a catalyst for responsible, community-based investment. RELC works to bring attention to overlooked and marginalized neighborhoods and populations, and presents opportunities for the real estate, development and construction industries to inspire various stakeholders in the development process.

During its first year of activity, RELC sponsored two public events. The first was a public forum sharing the findings of the report "Keeping a Roof Over Their Heads: Affordable Housing and Low Income Working Women." The second was a Fair Housing Conference, co-sponsored with the Institute for Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois. These programs were developed with the input of the RELC Committee of Advisors.

PATRICK B. O'LEARY, CHAIRMAN

CLARENCE N. WOOD, PRESIDENT & CEO

*On Thursday, May 14, 2009, the Hull House Real Estate Leadership Council will present **ELZIE HIGGINBOTTOM** with the Jane Addams Legacy Award at The Museum of Science and Industry.*

*5:00 pm VIP Reception
6:00 pm General Reception*

Please join us for an evening of delicious cuisine, live entertainment and private showings of the exciting exhibits of this legendary museum.

For more information or to purchase tickets please contact Nina Patel:

Phone: 312-235-5382

Email: npatel@hullhouse.org

or register online at www.hullhouse.org

Elzie Higginbottom has been involved in the financing, development and management of residential and commercial real estate for over 40 years. Mr. Higginbottom is the President of East Lake Management & Development Corp. and its subsidiary East Lake Management Group, Inc., one of the pre-eminent real estate development and management firms in the Midwest.

In addition to developing scattered site housing in the Midwest and several ventures in Chicago's Loop and River North area, he has been instrumental in the renaissance of the historic Bronzeville neighborhood.

Respected among his peers for both his commercial and residential work, he was the first recipient of the Minority Entrepreneur of the Year award given by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1984 and was inducted into the Chicago Association of Realtors Hall of Fame in 2000.

Keeping a Roof Over Their Heads: Affordable Housing and Low Income Working Women

On May 14, 2008, the findings of the "Keeping a Roof Over Their Heads: Affordable Housing and Low Income Working Women" report were shared. This report was created by the Jane Addams Hull House Association Women's Policy Board. This report explores the interdependent relationships of housing, gender and race for low income working families. Arguing for the need for the nation to consider housing a human right and raise awareness of the existence and needs of working poor families, the paper makes several recommendations, including:

- Advocacy for legislative changes to produce more affordable housing in Chicago and the state of Illinois in order to help working poor families achieve economic stability
- Reinvigorate the Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Rental Housing Support Program
- Protect the current stock of affordable housing
- Create a network of government-funded, privately-funded and community-based programs to move low-income women and their families toward economic independence.

Three respondents shared their responses to the paper: **Rosanna Marquez**, President & CEO of the Eleanor Foundation; **Amy Rynell**, Director of the Mid-America Institute on Poverty and **Paul Roldan**, CEO of the Hispanic Housing Development Corporation.

The Next Forty Years of Fair Housing: Developing an Agenda for Integration in the 21st Century

On October 7, 2008, more than 75 researchers, policy makers and community leaders from universities, governmental bodies, for-profit and non-profit organizations gathered to reflect on the progress the nation has made since the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Racial residential segregation persists at very high levels in the Chicago region and in cities throughout the country, declining only slightly since 1968.

There are many causes of segregation such as the persistence of illegal racial and ethnic segregation and individual preferences and behavior. The conference focused on barriers to efforts designed to foster integration, rather than the issues related to enforcement. Themes included: How have policies worked to perpetuate segregation and what policies could help foster integration? What are the challenges to integration at the individual behavioral level? What programs are working to overcome those barriers?

Several national speakers shared their perspectives and participants were asked to create three action agendas related to policy, research and grassroots efforts. Recommendations included:

- Expansion of the budget for enforcement and affirmative fair housing
- Creation of policy solutions addressing the negative educational and occupational disparities resulting from housing segregation
- Academic studies that examine housing mixes and how they influence patterns of integration and segregation
- Research on what it means to have "choice" in housing
- Grassroots educational campaigns and public hearings designed to inform citizens of their fair housing rights and explore the benefits of integrated communities.

An innovative outcome of this conference was the development of www.integrationagenda.org. This website is managed by the sponsor organizations and was launched in March 2009. The website is organized into four sections: **LEARN** – re-live the conference through videos, slideshows and extensive notes; **PARTICIPATE** – pledge to support the Integration Agenda and become an editor of one of the three working documents focused on public policy, grassroots organizations and research; **ADVANCE** – endorse relevant campaigns and advocate on behalf of policies that promote integration and **BLOG** – stay up to date on the latest news and developments on building stable, diverse communities.