

The Institute of Cultural Affairs

Loyola SES External Internship Program, Fall 2024



The Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) has a 10-year vision to catalyze the Uptown community of Chicago to become carbon free by 2035. Uptown, one of Chicago's 77 communities, is composed of 57,000 residents in a two- square mile area. Although Uptown has a median income of \$57,878, 43% of the population makes under \$29,000, revealing the huge economic disparity that is currently dividing the community.

ICA initiated its interest in sustainability in 2012 by designing the Accelerate77 program that involved a collaboration with five Chicago universities and 250 students. The students identified 900 sustainability initiatives that included all 77 of Chicago's communities. In 2014 the ICA GreenRise building placed an array of 485 solar panels on the roof of its 100-year-old, eight-story building, now the third largest rooftop solar array of a non-profit building in the Chicago metropolitan area. When the ICA learned that 70% of carbon emissions in Chicago are caused by buildings, ICA responded by creating the Carbon Free Building Collaborative in 2021 with twelve Uptown buildings that meet monthly to plan their climate action steps. In April of 2023 and 2024 the ICA has designed and hosted Earth Day in Uptown.

Currently ICA's vision is ahead of its capacity to have sufficient staff to develop and expand our sustainability programs. Therefore for the Fall 2024 internship, the ICA would like an intern willing to assist with fundraising for future environmental staff and programs.

Internship goals:

1. Draft proposals as storytellers about the global crisis and solutions and resources possible in Uptown;
2. Inform funding sources and the Uptown community about creative programs to address sustainability in Uptown – through proposals, articles, block clubs, public radio, and newspapers. This could include gathering data and documenting resident stories about what is needed, what is being done and the challenges; and
3. Pursue social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) as a way to expand local information.

Measurable Outcomes/Metrics to Evaluate Success

- Chicago funders and Uptown residents contacted through proposals and media
- ICA website updated and an ICA video created
- Social media measurements relative to contacts made and influence

Potential for Sustained Impact

Informing Uptown residents about their role in sustainability and engaging them in creative community actions for safety, health, education, affordable housing, EV chargers, walkable neighborhoods, environmental justice, etc. By 2035 the Uptown community will be known as a progressive and inclusive place to live as residents move towards becoming carbon free and living lightly on the earth.