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Issue 3 - January 2012



People Make a Difference: Interviews across ULI Chicago's 25-Year History



Nick Trkla, Founding Chair ULI Chicago

Photo Courtesy of Kathryn Trkla

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of ULI Chicago, the authors of Urban Light looked back at the District Council's earliest days through a series of interviews with a half dozen leaders who contributed greatly to this organization's early success. After a brief review of ULI Chicago's history, we started these interviews with a set list of questions for these leaders—many of whom continue to contribute actively to ULI Chicago, but no sure way of knowing how the story would unfold.

Over the course of our research, we heard time and again about the strength of long-lasting relationships within this organization. It should come as no surprise to any of our readers that ULI Chicago's lasting success is the result of the breadth and depth of contribution from people across the local real estate industry. To be sure, many, many people have contributed significantly to ULI Chicago's success, but one stood above all.

In conversation after conversation, these major contributors to ULI Chicago's early history cited the lasting influence of Nick Trkla. Nick was the first chair of ULI Chicago—before (as the historically accurate among us will point out) ULI even came to adopt District Councils representing individual metropolitan areas.

As many of you know, Nick died fifteen years ago, but these interviews will attest that his legacy continues. His early leadership helped ULI Chicago establish some of the programs and technical assistance services that continue to define the organization to this day. We're delighted to report that one of our interviewees is Nick's daughter, Kathryn. She was able to share a few terrific stories about her father and guess at his reaction to seeing ULI Chicago today.

We encourage you to read each of these interviews to get both a sense of ULI Chicago as it was in the early days and perhaps also a glimpse of the organization it will continue to be.

- Stephen B. Friedman, President, SB Friedman Development Advisors
- Joan H. Herron, President, Herron Consulting
- Gregory W. Hummel, Partner, Bryan Cave, LLP
- John H. Mays, Managing Partner, Gould & Ratner, LLP
- Donald A. Shindler, Partner, Brown, Udell, Pomerantz & Delrahim, Ltd.
- Kathryn M. Trkla, Partner, Foley & Lardner, LLP
- Mary White Vasys, President, Vasys Consulting Ltd.

Celebrating a Lifetime of Achievement and 25 Years of ULI in Chicago



On December 1st over 500 friends, family members and colleagues of John Buck, founder of The John Buck Company, gathered with ULI members and leaders to honor a lifetime of achievement. Introduced by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, John

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Check here for the latest on ULI Chicago's committee initiatives.

Programs

The Program Committee organized the first member-only event on November 3rd, "Perspectives on TIF and TIF Reform in Chicago and Beyond". The event met with great success with 90 members in attendance. The Committee will have more member-only, policy related events in 2012.

January 18, 2012
YL Leadership Series with John Gates
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
YL Members Only
[Register Now](#)

January 26, 2012
Fill me in on Urban Infill...A Chicago Retail Property Market Update
7:45 am - 9:15 am
[Register Now](#)

March 1, 2012
Winter Networking Event sponsored by YLs
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
The Kerryman
[Register soon](#)

Membership

The Membership Committee continues their monthly follow up with members whose membership has/will lapse. They are in the initial stages of implementing a mentorship program geared toward younger members and will be scheduling university visits in early 2012 to encourage student membership. The Committee is also finalizing a membership survey which will be distributed to all members in January. Finally, committee members are identifying 2012 target companies that have little or no representation in ULI Chicago and will be making personal calls to those companies to encourage membership.

Infrastructure

The ULI Chicago Regional Infrastructure Project was awarded a \$17,000 grant from ULI's Urban Innovation Fund in honor of their 75th anniversary to support outreach around the Elgin-O'Hare Western Access Game Changer project. "Aerotropolis: Game Changing Infrastructure for the New Economy" will be a half-day seminar to explore the collective economic benefits of investment in public infrastructure projects and the development potential for adjacent communities. The committee will be identifying additional partners for the program slated for Fall 2012.

Public Policy

The Public Policy working groups for Technical Assistance Panel outreach and evaluation are continuing to move forward. The Evaluation working group will present best practice recommendations to the full Public Policy Committee in early 2012. Members of the working group for the upcoming Joliet Correctional Center Redevelopment TAP met with elected officials to discuss the schedule for the 2-day session scheduled this month.

Communications

The Communications Committee is discussing a series of "Members in Action" videos to be produced in celebration of ULI Chicago's 25th Anniversary. Proposed videos would be completed in early 2012 and shared via the website and social media. In other

was described as a "community builder" which is such an integral part of ULI as an organization. Mayor Emanuel remarked that John was a pioneer in Chicago real estate and his developments will mark the Chicago skyline for decades to come.

Following the Mayor's introduction, Breck Hanson, Chair of the Lifetime Achievement Award Dinner, presented the award to Mr. Buck. Graciously, John shared the award with his entire staff at TJBC and thanked his family and friends for their support over the years.

Mr. Buck has been described as someone who "is tireless in looking for ways to give people a better chance". His company Foundation has changed the lives of Chicagoans and has helped to build a better City. Focused on at-risk families and children, with an emphasis on educational opportunities, the Foundation has had a tremendous impact since its inception. Their annual Spring Fling event now raises over half a million dollars a year.

ULI Chicago was proud to honor Mr. Buck and also celebrate its own achievements over the past 25 years. The event served as a kick-off for the 25th anniversary of ULI in Chicago. Started in 1986 by Nick Trkla, the district council has grown into a leading policy and practice organization providing valuable input to community organizations, public officials, and the real estate industry on urban planning, growth and development.

ULI Policy and Practice Areas

ULI has identified 5 priorities that underscore our mission of providing leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide. In addition to guiding the member-focused programs and events, ULI uses these areas of policy and practice to direct the external program of work in the community, and connect member expertise to communities facing land use challenges. Visit uli.org to learn more about the 5 priorities and visit Chicago.uli.org to discover the innovative and exciting ways we're integrating these priorities into our local activities.

- z *Promoting Intelligent Densification and Urbanization*
- z *Creating Resilient Communities*
- z *Understanding Demand and Market Forces*
- z *Connecting Capital & the Built Environment Through Value*
- z *Integrating Energy, Resources, and Uses Sustainably*

with an expected launch date of July 2012. They are also phasing out Sitecore (the content management system that many district councils use for their websites including Chicago) by the end of 2012. District Councils can choose to move to a Word Press platform in the next year that will interface with ULI's new website.

This third issue of Urban Light

has been edited and designed by the ULI Chicago Communications Committee, including:

Dan Huml (co-chair), Adam Simon (co-chair), Mike Anguiano, Chris Lambert, John Mays (committee liaison), Lindsay Pitcher, Andrea Pauls Backman and Mark Hahn with invaluable assistance from the ULI Chicago staff.

ULI Corporate Partners



ULI Foundation



2012 Spring Meeting



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