Welcome
Ellen O'Connor, Chairman, Know Your Chicago Committee
Daniel W. Shannon, Dean, The University of Chicago, Graham School of General Studies

Chicago: International Freight Hub
MarySue Barrett, President, Metropolitan Planning Council

A Not-so-quiet Revolution: A Place for the Arts in our Schools
Ronne Hartfield, international arts consultant and former Women's Board Endowed Executive Director, Museum Education, Art Institute of Chicago

Chicago’s Front Yard: Architecture and Planning on the Lakefront
Dirk Lohan, Architect, FAIA, Lohan Anderson

Innovative Campus Architecture
Donna Robertson, Dean, College of Architecture, Illinois Institute of Technology

Great Improv Moments... Chicago Style
Jonathan Pitts (moderator), Executive Director, Chicago Improv Festival; Richard Christiansen, Noted Theater Critic; Tim Kazurinsky, Comedian and Second City Alum; Joyce Slaane, Co-creator, Second City
Mary Sue Barrett has been president since 1996 of the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), an independent, nonprofit group of business and civic leaders working to achieve policies that enhance the vitality and livability of the Chicago metropolitan region. During her tenure, MPC has dramatically increased its advocacy work, focusing on such issues as sensible growth, transportation investments, property tax reform, housing near jobs, and tools for redevelopment. Before joining the MPC, Ms. Barrett served in several positions in Mayor Richard M. Daley's administration, including chief of policy for the Office of the Mayor and chief of staff to the Chicago School Reform Board of Trustees. She counts among her top governmental accomplishments Chicago's implementation of community policing, local school reform, and its successful bid to host the 1996 Democratic National Convention. Ms. Barrett serves on several boards, including those of Leadership Greater Chicago, Chicago Metropolis 2020, Illinois Issues magazine, and the Archdiocese of Chicago's Finance Council. A graduate of Northwestern University, she is also active with The Chicago Network and the Economic Club of Chicago. Her honors include completion of the Leadership Foundation Fellows program of the International Women's Forum in 1996 and her selection in 1984 as one of Crain's Chicago Business "40 under 40."

Ronne Hartfield is internationally known as an expert in arts education. From 1991 to 1999, she was the first Women's Board Endowed Executive Director of Museum Education at the Art Institute of Chicago. Formerly, Ms. Hartfield served as executive director of Chicago-based Urban Gateways, the largest private arts and education organization in the United States. She has been a dean and a professor at The School of the Art Institute and at the University of Illinois. In 2001 and 2002 she was appointed a senior fellow at Harvard University's Center for World Religions. She has served on numerous advisory boards including the University of Chicago Divinity School, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, the Martin Marty Center at the University of Chicago, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Ms. Hartfield has been a consultant to the National Endowment for the Arts, the U.S. Office of Education, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Illinois Humanities Council. Her awards include a Rockefeller Foundation/Bellagio fellowship, the Sidney Yates Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Arts, and the University of Chicago Alumni Award for Public Service. A poet and a writer, Ms. Hartfield is the author of a biographical memoir, Another Way Home, published by the University of Chicago Press and set for release this fall.

Dirk Lohan, together with Floyd Anderson, is founder of Lohan Anderson and is responsible for the firm's designs and long-term development. Mr. Lohan left his native Germany to begin his architectural studies at the Illinois Institute of Technology under the tutelage of his grandfather, Mies van der Rohe. He returned to Germany and finished his studies in architecture and planning at the Technische Hochschule (Diplom-Ingenieur) in Munich in 1962. When Mr. Lohan returned to Chicago, he worked closely with his grandfather on such projects as the New National Gallery in Berlin, the IBM office building in Chicago, and the Toronto Dominion Centre. Prior to the establishment of Lohan Anderson, he was the senior principal in the predecessor firms of Lohan Caprice Goetsch and Lohan Associates. Under his leadership, his firms produced an impressive portfolio of design solutions including such projects as the McDonald's Corporate Headquarters Campus, the John G. Shedd Oceanarium, the University of Chicago Gleacher Center, and the Sinai Temple as well as national and international projects. His achievements in architecture have been recognized with many awards, including being appointed a fellow in 1983 by the prestigious American Institute of Architects. Mr. Lohan currently sits on the boards of the Illinois Institute of Technology, the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, The Great Books Foundation, and the SOS Children's Village USA.

Donna V. Robertson, AIA, has been dean of the College of Architecture at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and associate professor of architecture since June, 1996. At IIT, she has played a key role for the university in strategies, implementation, and design review for projects such as the new IIT Campus Center by Rem Koolhaas/OMA, the landscape master plan and its implementation for the Mies campus, new dormitories, and restoration and rehabilitation of Mies' masterpiece, S.R. Crown Hall, home of the College of Architecture. Previously, she served as dean of the Tulane University School of Architecture. Prior to her appointment at Tulane, Ms. Robertson directed the architecture program at Barnard College, was an assistant professor at Columbia University, and was an assistant professor at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. A mayoral appointee to the Central Business District Historic District Landmarks Commission in New Orleans, she worked to bring architectural integrity to design issues in the city. She is a partner in Robertson McAnulty Architects (Chicago, IL) and has executed projects in New York City, New Orleans, Long Island, and Los Angeles.
Richard Christiansen has been an arts journalist for more than forty years covering theater, dance, film, the visual arts, and a variety of arts and entertainment subjects. He began his career in 1956 as a general assignment reporter and rewrite man for the City News Bureau of Chicago. Mr. Christiansen was then hired by the Chicago Daily News, where he worked on the city desk, in the features department, and in the arts and entertainment division. He then moved to the Chicago Tribune and served in various roles including critic-at-large, arts and entertainment editor, chief critic, and senior writer. Mr. Christiansen is the author of A Theater of Our Own: A History and a Memoir of 1001 Nights in Chicago, to be published in October, 2004.

Tim Kazurinsky, a Chicago-based actor and screenwriter, began his career at Chicago’s own Second City. Movie appearances include “Neighbors,” “Somewhere in Time,” and three “Police Academy” films. A former cast member of NBC’s “Saturday Night Live,” he returned home to Chicago to co-write such screenplays as “My Bodyguard,” “About Last Night,” and “For Keeps.” Mr. Kazurinsky was recently nominated for a Writer’s Guild award for his screenplay titled “Strange Relations.” He recently has had star roles in “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” “Still Standing,” and “According to Jim.”

Jonathan Pitts, in addition to being the co-founder and executive producer of the Chicago Improv Festival, is also an associate faculty member of The Second City Training Center, an artistic associate of WNEP Theatre, and a guest faculty theater instructor for both the Chicago Academy for the Arts and Richards High School. He has performed in over 750 improvised shows, on stage, radio, and television. Mr. Pitts has done long form, games, scenes, sketch comedy revues, and experimental improvisation. Over the past seven years, he has coordinated, curated, or produced twenty-one different festivals including Around the Coyote, Art Attack, Balliwick Director’s Fest, Chicago Improv Festival, Naked i, and Winterfest.

Joyce Sloane, producer emeritus of The Second City, has been associated with this performing group for forty-four of its forty-five years. Previously she served as associate producer and executive producer. She founded The Second City National Touring Companies and The Second City e.t.c. and co-founded Second City Toronto. Ms. Sloane is a founding member of the Victory Gardens, an original member of the Joseph Jefferson Committee, one of the founders of The League of Chicago Theaters, a founder of the Chicago Academy of Arts, and has served on countless theater boards. She has received numerous awards from many organizations including the League of Chicago Theaters, the Chicago Film Critics, and a special Joseph Jefferson award.

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