

Friends of IPCE,



The spring semester has drawn to a close, but not before offering some really terrific IPCE events and programs. In April we were honored to have civil rights leader Diane Nash featured in the Civic Engagement and Democracy Lecture series with her talk “The Movements of the 60s: A Legacy for Today”. A pioneer in the civil rights movement, Nash was one of the founding members of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) while a college student. Her inspiring talk challenged us to think about mobilizing around broad issues by movement-building rather than single issue focused responses. Another spring event “Using Art as a Tool for Engagement” led by Rosa Cabrera, Director of the Rafael Cintron Latino Cultural Center, used a mural in the Latino Cultural Center as the focus of a conversation on ways the arts can be used to spur insightful dialogue. Also in April was a brown bag discussion of the Participatory Budgeting in Chicago project led by Thea Crum of the Great Cities Institute and Maria Hadden of Participatory Budgeting (PB), a national non-profit that facilitates participatory budgeting around the country. Participatory budgeting engages people directly in an innovative budget decision-making process, typically for a portion of the budget. In Chicago participatory budgeting is being used by several Aldermen to decide how to spend their \$1 million discretionary funds.

The current cohort of Civic Engagement Research Fund awardees is nearing completion on their research projects, and we are very much looking forward to their final reports. While one set of research projects is ending, another will begin in the fall. The RFP for the FY 2014 Civic Engagement Research Fund awards is now available on our website. We look forward to another set of strong proposals for research on civic engagement. Prospective applicants should note one important change in this year’s RFP—the extent to which a project engages UIC students is now a part of the selection criteria. The goal is to encourage faculty to include students on their research teams to maximize the learning impact of our supported research projects. Applications are due May 24, 2013.

Our Urban Public Policy Fellows (UPPF) program for 2012-2013 ended this spring. Undergraduate fellows participating in this leadership development program showcased research posters they created at the 2013 IALHEA Diversity Dialogue and Research Forum. Many of our Fellows are doing research projects for the first time, the quality of the research posters had us beaming with pride. Photos of their posters will be posted soon on our website. Applications for 2013-2014 Fellows are available on the IPCE website and must be submitted by May 24, 2013.

Although activity on campus slows down over the summer, IPCE moves into a planning mode during the summer. We are busy fielding applications for our UPPF program and Civic Engagement Research Awards. The RFP for Civic Engagement Discourse Awards will be released in August, and a full set of events and program activities are being planned for the fall. Please watch our website and social media for further details.

Sincerely,

Joseph K. Hoereth, PhD

Using Art as a Tool for Engagement

How can we use the arts to animate democracy?

That’s the question asked by Rosa Cabrera, Director of the Rafael Cintrón Latino Cultural Center, on March 13 as she opened her IPCE-sponsored Brown Bag conversation focused on “Civic Engagement and the Arts” with UIC students, faculty, staff, and interested community members.



Dividing the audience into four groups, Cabrera directed participants’ attention to the Cultural Center’s mural. Each group used a portion of the mural as a talking point to identify a civic issue impacting the well-being of society and how their personal assets can be applied to stimulate a conversation at the local and national level. The mural, “El Despertar de las Americas” (The Awakening of the Americas), is one of the largest indoor murals in the City of Chicago and features concerns about identity and stereotypes, immigration, gender roles, human rights, poverty, and education.

For Cabrera, the mural demonstrates the power of art to supplement and stimulate conversation. Art allows people to bring their own interpretations, their own stories, to the dialogue. One student responded to the activity by acknowledging that art serves as an “ice-breaker” and functions as a foundation for future conversations. Another student expressed that having a neutral space like the Cultural Center is crucial for conversation.

Cabrera shared with the audience that people involved in the arts have a tendency to be more civically engaged than the general population, according to a study by the National Endowment for the Arts. They are more inclined to show an open mind and are more likely to work toward social change.

This event was held as part of IPCE’s Spring 2013 Civic Engagement Brown Bag Series.

IPCE

The Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE) focuses on transforming democracy by creating a more fully engaged citizenry with more effective leaders. As a catalyst for learning and action, the Institute creates opportunities for scholars, concerned citizens, students, and government officials to actively participate in social discourse, research, and educational programs on policy issues and social trends.

Find out more about the Institute for
Policy and Civic Engagement at [www.
ipce.uic.edu](http://www.ipce.uic.edu) or call 312-355-0088.

PB Chicago Lets Residents Decide How to Spend Public Money

Participatory budgeting (PB) is creating quite a stir in Chicago lately, and project organizers are eager to inform the public about the City's newest democratic experiment.

On April 17, Thea Crum, Economic Development Planner from Great Cities Institute (CGI) at UIC, and Maria Hadden, Project Coordinator for Participatory Budgeting Chicago, held an IPCE-sponsored Brown Bag event to break down the PB process for Chicagoans. Over lunch with interested UIC students, faculty, and staff, and community residents, Crum and Hadden explained what the PB process in Chicago looks like, how it got started, what it looks like in cities around the world, and why it's beneficial to citizens and their communities.

Crum and Hadden emphasized that PB is a different way to manage public money. It is a democratic process that gives ordinary people real decision-making power over real money. In a typical PB process, community members make budget decisions through an annual series of meetings in which involved residents brainstorm, develop, and vote on projects to be implemented in their communities. By employing the PB process, organizers hope to strengthen communities and make them more equitable and inclusive.

This past year, four aldermen in Chicago piloted a joint PB process inviting residents in their wards to identify, discuss, and prioritize public spending projects, giving a portion of Chicagoans the power to make real decisions about how public money is spent. Aldermen Arena (45th Ward), Cappleman (46th Ward), Hairston (5th Ward), and Moore (49th Ward) spearheaded this year's experiment, which is now in its final stages as residents prepare to vote on projects they would like to see funded.

In 2009, Chicago Aldermen Moore launched the first PB process in the U.S., based on the model developed in Brazil. There are now over 1,500 participatory budgets around the world, most at the municipal level.

This event was held as part of IPCE's Spring 2013 Civic Engagement Brown Bag Series.

The Movements of the '60s: A Legacy for Today



Diane Nash, a Chicago native and a pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement, spoke at UIC on April 10 as part of the third annual Civic Engagement and Democracy Lecture Series to discuss what we can learn about civic engagement from the social movements of the 1960s.

"Freedom is a constant, never-ending struggle," Nash told the audience. "Every generation faces their own challenges."

Nash encouraged audience members to be active in fighting for social issues. She argued that change comes from people, not politicians, and that individuals need to mobilize in solidarity to shift from supporting projects to creating movements.

Nash told listeners that she and her fellow organizers followed the nonviolent philosophy of Gandhi to bring about social change in the United States.

Nash's involvement in the nonviolent movement began in 1959 while she was a student at Fisk University. In 1960 she became the chairperson of the student sit-in movement in Nashville, Tennessee—the first southern city to desegregate its lunch counters—as well as one of the founding students of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee. In 1961 she coordinated the Freedom Ride from Birmingham, Alabama, to Jackson, Mississippi, a story documented in the recent PBS American Experience film *Freedom Riders*.



The "Civic Engagement & Democracy Lecture Series," sponsored by IPCE brings leading thinkers, scholars, and practitioners to UIC. The series fosters dialogue on important topics that further understanding about the role of the university in facilitating and promoting civic engagement and strengthening democracy. Past speakers include Peter Levine, Director of CIRCLE/Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement and Research director of Tufts University's Jonathan Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, and Matt Leighninger, Executive Director of the Deliberative Democracy Consortium (DDC).



COMING UP

Watch your email and the IPCE website for notice of the following events/activities and more.

Civic Engagement Workshops for high school Chicago Public School (CPS) Students: CPS students are invited to attend a 2-day workshop, "How a Bill Becomes a Law," on Wednesday, May 29 and Thursday, May 30, 2013. To sign your class up or for more information contact Catalina Nava at (312) 355-0154.

As the spring semester comes to a close, we would like to wish all the students, staff and faculty a great and safe summer. Happy Graduation to all the thousands of UIC students graduating in the next week or so...

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." — Eleanor Roosevelt

IPCE Gets Massive Student Input for Dialogue and Deliberation Events

IPCE is interested in hosting campus events that foster dialogue on topics that matter most to UIC students. In April, the Institute conducted an Internet survey soliciting feedback from UIC undergraduate students on the policy issues most important to them. Over 1,000 students responded to the survey.

According to the results, students reported (in order of popularity) health care, community violence, jobs, health & wellness, and higher education as the issues they care about most. IPCE will be utilizing these results to schedule and frame campus conversations for its upcoming Dialogue and Deliberation (D&D) work. With the intent of building mutual understanding and knowledge, the D&D events will convene students, scholars, and community members in facilitated conversations on relevant social issues. These events will also be organized in collaboration with other UIC initiatives and academic departments.

Please be on the lookout for our dialogues, coming Fall 2013!

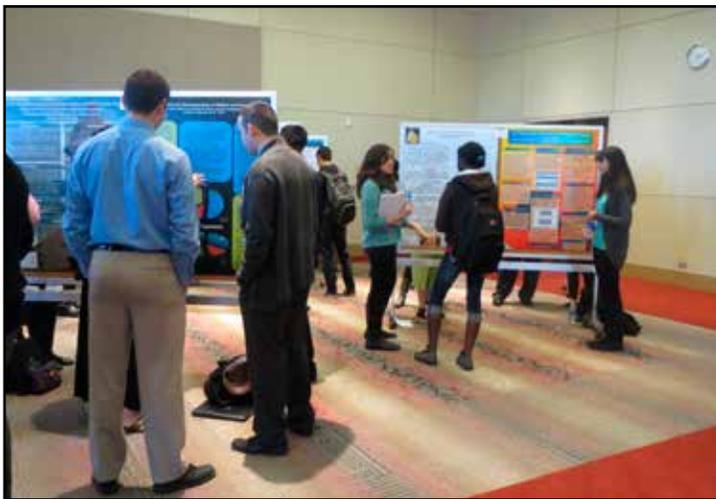
Fellows showcase their public policy research at Diversity Conference

On April 5, 2013 our Urban Public Policy Undergraduate Fellows presented their research findings to more than 100 attendees at the Annual IALHEA Diversity Dialogue and Research Forum: Building a Community of Scholars Conference.

Their research projects stem from hands-on internship experiences and policy-related topics as part of the Urban Public Policy Fellowship (UPPF) program, a leadership development program designed to expose historically underrepresented minority undergraduates students at UIC to key public policy issues.

"The Fellows were grateful for the opportunity to showcase their work and interact with other presenters at the conference," said Catalina Nava, IPCE Program Coordinator. A few of the research poster presentations included findings on policy-related issues such as crime, capital punishment, health disparities, education, food access and social media.

Visit the UPPF page on our website to check out program highlights, samples of their research posters, and photos of their work over the last year at <http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/ipce/interior/uppf%202012-13.html>. If you have any questions or would like more information about the UPPF program, please contact Catalina Nava at 312-355-0154. Also, follow us on [Facebook: UIC UPPF](#).



UPPF Closing Reception April 26, 2013



Pictured: UPPF Fellows, UPPF Partners and guests



Back Row from left to right: Sara Cruz, Obeki Ilenikhena, Maab Osman, Addis Enyew, Albert Murphy, Alexander Kimbrough, Manuel Beltran **Middle Row from left to right:** Brittney Shurn, Gabriela Illa, Jamesetta Mator, Justina Lebron, Oluwabukola Ajasa **Front Row from left to right:** Elizabeth Torres, Jacquelyn Delgado, Rosio Galarza, Noely Alicea, Alma Zamudio **Not pictured:** Samantha Gordon



Pictured from left to right: Catalina Nava, IPCE Program Coordinator; Areli Castañeda, Assistant to the Director, LARES; Juanita McCary, Acting Assistant Director, AAAN



Pictured from left to right: Alma Zamudio, 2012-2013 UPPF Fellow; UIC Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares

Call for Proposals - Civic Engagement Research Fund Awards for FY 2014

IPCE announces the availability of funding to support research projects centered on civic engagement for up to \$20,000 each. UIC faculty, research faculty, or research staff of UIC research institutes and centers are eligible to apply.

IPCE seeks to support research that furthers understanding about effective strategies or tools that help:

1. citizens better understand the policymaking process;
2. citizens become more involved in policy debate or deliberation;
3. government become more responsive to citizens;

4. government, non profits, and civic institutions use technology to engage and connect citizens with government and/or provide better services;
5. increase access to technology for populations that have disproportionately lower access than the public at large; and
6. community development efforts or local community change initiatives use civic engagement to enhance effectiveness or increase the overall impact of programs.

Applications must be submitted electronically by May 24, 2013. More details, including a full announcement and application, are available at www.ipce.uic.edu. If you have any questions, please contact Norma Ramos at (312) 355-0095.

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