



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, December 14, 2009

Contact: Emily Harris  
312-332-8162

## **Make-No-Little Centennial Ends with New Commitments**

*100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Burnham Plan involved 300 organizations in three-state region*

CHICAGO, December 14, 2009 -- Leaders from most of the 300 organizations that presented more than 1,000 events commemorating the 1909 *Plan of Chicago* braved winter's first big storm last Tuesday afternoon in order to commit themselves to specific goals for maintaining the centennial's future-building momentum into the years ahead.

Before toasting their success, about 200 leaders of the Burnham Plan Centennial partner institutions, donors and organizers from throughout the three-state region worked in groups of 10 identifying the impacts of the centennial on their organizations and communities and identifying specific programs and initiatives they intend to pursue in the years ahead.

The notes from each of these discussions will be turned over to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to influence how that government agency will shape the future of northeastern Illinois. CMAP executive director Randy Blankenhorn used the meeting to invite the Burnham Centennial Program Partners to collaborate with his agency on the development and implementation of its 30-year plan. CMAP's *GoTo2040* will be the first regional plan since Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett's 1909 masterpiece that affected metropolitan Chicago's economy and quality of life for 100 years.

The Chicago Public Schools' Kay Volk told the assembled leaders that the Burnham "curricula" pioneered this year in dozens of third-grade and eighth-grade classrooms – using lesson plans with the city itself as a teaching tool – has led to CPS Education Office's commitment to make teaching about Chicago a goal to be included in school improvement plans.

Openlands executive director Jerry Adelman talked about how the Burnham Plan Centennial had been used to achieve major results in the region's "green infrastructure" through 21 Green Legacy projects.

Centennial Committee vice chair Adele Simmons said it would take "a four-hour speech" to cover all the centennial's accomplishments, which she characterized as "a fabulous success exceeding even my own highest expectations." She said the centennial's accomplishments were outlined in the booklet "[Our Region, Our Future](#)" that was released at the meeting.

- more -



Among the most noteworthy achievements of the Burnham Plan Centennial were that it:

- Engaged more than a million people this summer at the two Burnham Pavilions by Zaha Hadid Architects and UNStudio
- Involved a who's-who of about 300 partner organizations throughout the metropolitan region
  - These partners presented more than 1,000 programs, action plans, projects, exhibits and performances.
- Substantially advanced 21 Green Legacy projects of regional significance, which were detailed in the Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>-released “[Creating Tomorrow's Green Region](#)”
- Reprinted the *Plan of Chicago* in a best-quality, lower price Centennial Edition
- Reached more than 10,000 Chicago Public School third and eighth graders, their teachers and principals, and initiated the use of the city itself as part of the curriculum in 32 demonstration schools
- Innovated community showcase tours in partnership with six Chicago neighborhoods as a means of importing tourist and investment capital
  - LISC is replicating the model in additional neighborhoods and using it in their national training program.

And that is only a partial list, with “Our Region, Our Future” providing richer detail.

The Burnham Plan Centennial Committee, based at Chicago Metropolis 2020, was a privately funded and directed initiative to build broad-based civic engagement in continued pursuit of the 1909 *Plan*'s overall goal of creating the best possible quality of life for all the region's people. The centennial was managed by executive director Emily J. Harris.

A complete overview of the Burnham Plan Centennial can be found at [Burnhamplan100.org](http://Burnhamplan100.org).

### **About The Burnham Plan Centennial**

The Burnham Plan Centennial includes more than 200 program partners from the three-state region spanning from Kenosha, Wis., through DeKalb, Ill., to Michigan City, Ind. In honor of Daniel Burnham's 1909 *Plan of Chicago*, this Centennial year is stirring a region-wide community to action, working to build the best quality of life for people and planet alike. Our region's community foundation, The Chicago Community Trust, provided leadership funding for the Burnham Plan Centennial, and is joined by the Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trusts as founding sponsors. Organizational and staff support for the Burnham Plan Centennial Committee is provided by Chicago Metropolis 2020.

###