

Emily J. Harris
Executive Director, The Burnham Plan Centennial
Program Director, Chicago Metropolis 2020



Emily Harris is Executive Director of the Burnham Plan Centennial and the program director for early learning for Chicago Metropolis 2020.

From 2001 to 2007, Emily maintained a private consulting practice. She provided strategic planning, research, writing, organizational development and program and policy development services to non-profit organizations and public agencies in a wide range of fields. Her clients worked in early

care and education, violence prevention, leadership development, work force development, open space conservation, ecological restoration, historic preservation, urban planning, affordable housing and philanthropy. As a consultant to Leadership Greater Chicago, Emily directed the Rockwell Leadership Network (Legacy Project), and originated and wrote the LGC Connections newsletter, and assisted with development of the website.

From 1990 to 2000 Emily was Executive Director of the Canal Corridor Association, founded by Openlands Project. She worked with leaders in five counties and more than forty municipalities to develop and implement heritage tourism, open space and historic preservation strategies along the I&M Canal from Chicago to LaSalle Peru. In collaboration with photographer Edward Ranney, she wrote the book and produced the exhibit *Prairie Passage: The Illinois and Michigan Canal Corridor* published and exhibited in 1998. The book and exhibit were a central part of the I&M Canal Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Past positions include Vice President, ActiveLife Retirement Communities, Program Director, Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois and Architectural Historian, Historic American Buildings Survey.

Emily received her M.A. in urban studies from the University of Chicago in 1981 and her B.A. with highest honors in history from Oberlin College in 1978. She has participated in facilitation training with the Institute of Cultural Affairs. She was a fellow of Leadership Greater Chicago, and serves on a number of volunteer boards.