



## Chicago Metropolis 2020 2010 Summer Internship Program

### **Program Overview**

In the summer of 2010, Chicago Metropolis 2020 will continue its annual program of hiring a small number of college and graduate school students during the summer months to provide them with direct experience in public policy research and advocacy.

Since our inception, one of the goals of Chicago Metropolis 2020 has been to introduce new blood into the policy discussions surrounding the issues on which we have focused our time and energy. We have done this through formal and informal means of bringing highly motivated interns on board and providing them with opportunities to expand their knowledge and their base of contacts in order to position them to take on roles of increasing responsibility throughout the Chicago region and the State of Illinois.

In addition to general office duties, interns will attend weekly staff meetings, regular "brown bag lunches" featuring leaders from around the Chicago area in policy and the media, plan and attend special events and "field trips", and conduct policy research in one or more of the following policy areas: Development and Transportation, Justice and Violence, Regional Learning or Workforce Housing.

### **The 2010 Program**

For 2010, it is anticipated that we will choose *up to* four (4) interns for the 2010 program. We may ultimately choose to select fewer than four interns for 2010. The program is expected to run from June 14-Aug 20, 2010. However, all interns are required to be available for a "core program" which runs from June 21 through Aug. 13, 2010.

Internships are paid, with rate of pay ranging from \$10-\$15/hr. depending on education level and pertinent experience. Interns are expected to work a full week during the program (37.5 hours a week).

Minority students are **strongly** encouraged to apply.

### **To Apply**

Individuals interested in the 2010 Internship Program should submit a cover letter indicating dates available, a resume including any technical proficiencies, name and contact information for at least two references who are not family members and a writing sample, to the contact indicated below. **Only packages containing all of the items indicated here will be considered.** Priority consideration will be given to applicants who submit all materials prior to end of business on **April 9, 2010.**

**It is our intent to notify all applicants of their final application status by May 3, 2010.**

Prospective interns will need to be available for a brief interview during the week of April 18, 2010 either in person (preferred) or by telephone. Interns will be selected based on the quality of their submissions, educational background and interests and demonstrated interest in public policy and public service.

The successful applicant will:

- Be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at a college or university, or have graduated the preceding semester.
- Have knowledge of research methods to collect and analyze relevant information.
- Be self-motivated and self-directed to identify the work that needs to be done and to complete it, seeking guidance as appropriate.
- Be willing to work in a loosely structured environment and create a cogent final product.

**Chicago Metropolis 2020 is an equal opportunity employer. No person shall be discriminated against in employment because of such individual's race, religion, color, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, ancestry, marital or parental status, military status, national origin, citizenship, veterans status, physical or mental handicap unrelated to ability, or any other legally protected status.**

**To apply or for additional information, please contact:**

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## About Chicago Metropolis 2020

In 1999 The Commercial Club of Chicago published *Chicago Metropolis 2020: Preparing Metropolitan Chicago for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, a report that outlined what it would take to make the Chicago region globally competitive in the new century. Chicago Metropolis 2020 was created by The Commercial Club to implement the recommendations and principles articulated in that report. Since inception, we have chosen to concentrate on five major themes. They are: Development and Transportation, Housing, Early Childhood Education, Justice and Violence and Regional Learning.

### SELECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Bold** indicates more recent

#### Strengthened Regional Planning and Program Execution

- Produced *The Metropolis Plan: Choices for the Chicago Region* that demonstrated a better way to plan for the region's future and set the agenda for major regional planning and policy reforms
- Wrote the legislation and led the effort to create the consolidated Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
- Organized and managed 250 organizations throughout the region in the year-long **Burnham Plan Centennial** -- to make bold plans and big dreams for the next 100 years

#### Promoted Better Use of Transportation Dollars

- Crafted *The Metropolis Freight Plan: Delivering the Goods* – to modernize and maintain the region's global leadership in freight
- Successfully led the effort for **RTA Funding and Reform Legislation** in 2008
- Worked unsuccessfully for passage of the **Transportation Investment Accountability Act** (House Bill 2359) sponsored by then State Rep. Kathy Ryg to require cost-benefit prioritization in state transportation spending
- Business **advocate for "user fees"** such as tolls, congestion pricing and gas taxes to fund transportation -- fought efforts to eliminate tolls and supported "open road" tolling
- A **Transportation Plan for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economy** – a statewide plan to be released soon
- Analyzed and then advocated CN acquisition and expansion of **EJ&E railroad** line in 2008, and promoted **South Suburban Freight Rail** development

#### Pioneered Local, Regional and Statewide Affordable Housing Initiatives

- Led a coalition to help create the Illinois Housing Task Force

- Wrote the legislation and led a coalition to help pass the Illinois Comprehensive Housing Planning Act requiring an annual plan
- With the Metropolitan Mayors' Caucus launched *Homes for a Changing Region: Implementing Balanced Housing Plans at the Local Level* – a series of housing action plans for nine suburban communities and the region as a whole
- With MPC and MMC produced *Home Grown: Local Housing Strategies in Action*— an affordable housing best practices notebook highlighting 50 local programs

### Political Reform

- Helped create and led the **CHANGE Illinois!** Coalition representing more than two million Illinoisans working for **political reform** legislation and focusing on **campaign finance reform**
- Won gubernatorial **veto of HB 7**, an inadequate campaign finance reform bill
- Lead reform effort, working with legislative leadership and governor's office, to create the first campaign finance limit legislation in Illinois history

### Criminal Justice Reform

- Led the nation on **juvenile justice** issues and **alternatives to incarceration**
  - Creation of a new **Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice**
  - **Redeploy Illinois** – to treat locally, rather than imprison, youth offenders
- Convened the **CLEAR Initiative** to reform, modernize and streamline the Illinois Criminal Code; won passage of some **CLEAR reforms** in 2009; more bills will be considered soon
- Drafted and won passage of the **Crime Reduction Act** of 2009 and **Adult Redeploy Illinois** as well as the **Sentencing Policy Advisory Council (SPAC)**

### Burnham Plan Centennial

- Created, organized and managed a three-year operation that coordinated and marketed hundreds of future-focused events, programs and exhibits throughout the region by **250 partner organizations**; of which the following are only a **few**:
- Built two **Burnham Pavilions** in Millennium Park that generated protracted positive worldwide media coverage; and an **exhibit of Chicago architects'** visions of the future
- Commissioned and collaborated on "Burnham Plan" teaching units in **Chicago Public Schools** and in the **Big Shoulder Fund Schools**; with the Newberry Library mounted *Make Big Plans* exhibit in 67 libraries region wide, and at O'Hare and Midway
- With numerous leading environmental organization made significant progress in building out and inter-connecting the region's green infrastructure through a **Green Legacy** initiative
- Worked with **six Chicago neighborhoods** to build their capacity to market their communities for tourism and economic development investment

## Other Major Results-focused Achievements

- With others led the effort to establish Early Childhood Education as a foundation for economic and social well being in Illinois – and get annual funding up to \$200 million
  - Documented through the **Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM)** the geographic disconnect between services and need
- The **Metropolis Index** – four to-date, including one each on justice and housing
- **Metro Joe** – a computer game to help students understand the region
- Produced and distributed the **Inside Him DVD** – on the importance of early intervention for children who have witnessed trauma
- *Revealing Chicago: An Aerial Portrait* – with Openlands co-sponsored photographer Terry Evans book and exhibit viewed by two million people in Millennium Park
- Pioneered the concept of senior executives – highly accomplished, recognized and knowledgeable principals contributing leadership and staff work for marginal, if any, compensation – building a small, effective, “upside-down” results-focused operation

Implemented the core recommendations of The Commercial Club’s 1999 *Chicago Metropolis 2020 Report*, which prominent urban historian Donald Miller described in its foreword as:

**“An inspiring guide for the new century, as people everywhere seek ways to build and maintain cities that retain their humanity without losing their energy.”**

## **What do Interns Do?**

Interns hired by Chicago Metropolis 2020 play a significant role within the organization and provide invaluable assistance in addressing our public policy agenda.

Specific projects for this summer's interns will not be finalized prior to hire, however input from prospective interns into specific areas of interest will be considered and initial assignments will be identified and shared with individuals who successfully navigate the intern selection process prior to their start date.

## **Comments from Past Interns**

Below are some comments from past Chicago Metropolis 2020 interns about the Internship Program, their specific projects and comments for future applicants.

### **Jeff R. 2009 Intern**

The Chicago Metropolis 2020 internship program has been a terrific experience. The staff is friendly, and they give interns meaningful work which is important to the mission of Metropolis.

If you are applying, you should look at Metropolis' focus areas and ensure that they sound interesting to you and relevant to your educational program or career goals. Remember that Metropolis is, at its heart, a business-related organization which evaluates projects in terms of their economic impacts, along with other measures. Although the experience you gain at Metropolis will be valuable anywhere, the specific knowledge you learn through your project (about the laws, programs, policies, and important people in Illinois) will be most useful if you hope to do work in this state in the future.

If you have been accepted into the program, congratulations! You can get the most out of your internship if you read background materials on your project and get up to speed over the first couple days, then plunge into the work. Don't be afraid to ask questions or to request more things to do if you are running low. Enjoy the brown bag lunch speakers and the field trips. And, lastly, have fun!

### **Danielle M. 2009 Intern**

To Future Applicants: Congratulations! You have a wonderful summer to look forward to with many wonderful people. My advice to you would be to always get business cards because you never know when they might come in handy. When you find a topic that interests you stick with it and ask questions. Someone in the office is sure to know a lot or know someone who knows a lot about it and is willing to help you out. The one thing I regret about this summer is that I didn't ask all the questions I wanted. Finally just be creative and use your strengths. At first I felt that I couldn't contribute in any significant way to this organization because I was surrounded by so many brilliant people who seemed to have it all together, including the interns. I figured I would just sit back and

observe and do the little stuff. However, I soon realized that that is not what is expected of interns at Metropolis. I was fully engaged in many of the processes and I found that my input could be very valuable at times. I gave all that I could to this internship and in turn I ended up learning so many things, meeting so many people and loving every minute of it, especially the Brownbag Lunches. So once again congratulations and I hope you get as much out of this experience as I did.

### **Justine J. 2009 Intern**

Chicago Metropolis 2020's summer internship program has been one of the best experiences I have ever had. I was exposed to policy, planning, and legal research that gave me a great understanding of the complexities of public issues and future policy. My area of focus was housing where I learned about regional approaches in providing affordable housing and ways the federal government's stimulus plan functions in relation to housing needs throughout the country. I was given a research assignment where I reviewed Illinois state laws and protections granted to renters in foreclosed properties. The internship program also has the unique aspect of inviting guest speakers from areas such as: non-profit organizations, state or local government, media, public policy advocacy groups and a variety of other fields to inform the interns of their field of work and their contributions to the state of Illinois.

The atmosphere at Chicago Metropolis 2020 is one like no other. The staff is knowledgeable about areas such as: housing, transportation, justice and violence, state policy, and regional learning. Questions are encouraged, but most importantly, intern's ideas and opinions are highly supported in actual projects. The summer was filled with many meetings within the office, as well as, away from the office that served as a great learning tool to participate in discussions of present and forward thinking objectives for Illinois.

I really enjoyed my summer with Chicago Metropolis 2020 and my fellow interns were great to work with. I highly recommend this internship to any individual who is interested in a forward thinking approach about planning regions that are well integrated for the well being of the present and future generation.

### **Claire M. 2009 Intern**

The internship at CM2020 is a unique experience to see many different areas of policy and work with people from a broad spectrum of backgrounds. This summer I conducted research on redistricting practices in Illinois and other states around the country. I compiled a memo on redistricting history and current issues as background materials for members of CHANGE! Illinois, a reform advocacy group affiliated with CM2020. I attended meetings with the steering committee as well as the first hearing of the Senate Redistricting Committee, which was recently created to address the issue of redistricting reform in Illinois.

Although my own research was on a specific topic, I got to attend meetings on transportation, justice/violence, and housing issues. The staff was extremely welcoming and inclusive, and I learned a lot about each program area at meetings in and out of the office, field trips, and brown bag lunches. The great variety and quality of the work that goes on at CM2020 along with the open atmosphere made my summer internship a wonderful learning experience and gave me the opportunity to contribute to some important public policy work.