

State Level and National Strategies Legacy Project in Illinois

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Legacy Project

Illinois

- Path that led to this point
- Motivated to take action in Illinois
- Purpose of the **Legacy Project**
- Programs suggestions you can implement
- Takeaways on how to create your own organization

Legacy Project Purpose

Illinois

The purpose of the **Legacy Project** is to advance women in local government.

It is a forum for learning, connecting and promoting the knowledge that supports the collective legacy of women in local government.

Legacy Project Purpose

Illinois

The **Legacy Project** aims to help women succeed in public service by enhancing career-building programs that develop leadership skills

– and –

by providing an opportunity to network with professional women in local government.

Legacy Project Process

Illinois

- Group of 10 local government professionals
- Working in the public and private sector
- Came together in April 2011
- Conducted a brainstorming session
- Follow-up workshop held in May 2011
- Developed a plan of action

Legacy Project Founding Members Illinois



Began under the title of “The Legacy Project”
Focusing on our legacy as leaders

Legacy Project Core Questions

Illinois

- How can we attract, mentor and retain women in local government?
- How can we encourage students to pursue a career in local government?
- How can we help diversify the profession and encourage more minority involvement?

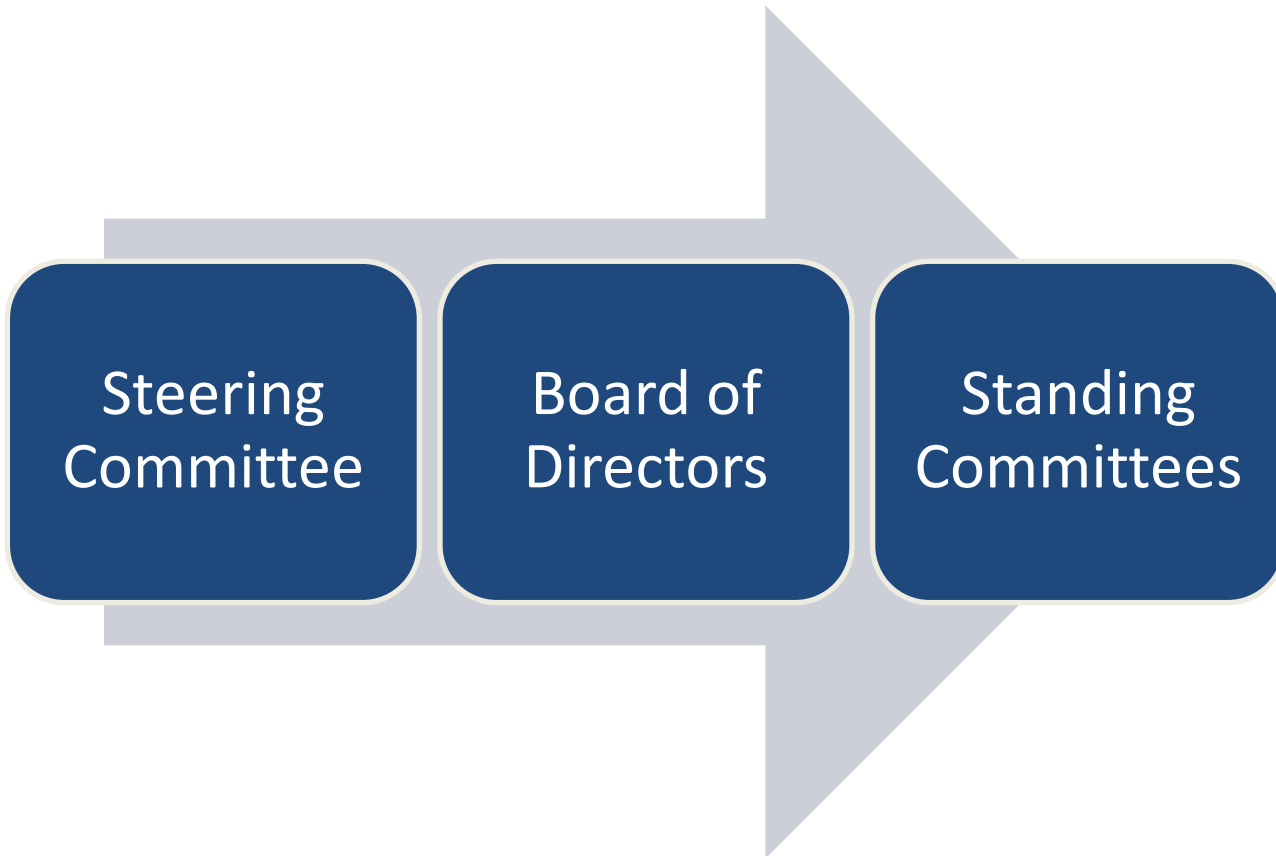
Legacy Project Goals

Illinois

- **Share** – knowledge and expertise
- **Mentor** – women in local government
- **Diversify** – the profession to encourage greater minority involvement

Legacy Project Structure

Illinois



Legacy Project Standing Committees

Illinois

- Communications
 - Web site, social media, database, articles and public relations
- Annual Conference
 - Agenda, speaker planning and sponsorships
- Outreach and Collaboration
 - MPA programs and ILCMA

Legacy Project Committees (Cont.)

Illinois

- Networking and Support
 - Social activity and network event planning
- Nominating and Awards
 - Slate of officers and awards process
- Professional Development
 - Luncheons, conference sessions and seminars

Legacy Project Background

Illinois

- In our infancy
- Two-year old organization
- Affiliate ILCMA member
- No membership fees or cost
- Revenue generated through conference sponsorships

Legacy Project – Spreading the Word Illinois

Hosted an informal get together at the 97th Annual ICMA Conference in Milwaukee



Over 40 participants from nine different states

Legacy Project Luncheons

Illinois

90 minute brown bag monthly luncheons

Quarterly topics rotated in three locations

Alternate with speakers and facilitated discussions



27 luncheons with over 400 attendees to date

Legacy Project Luncheon Topics

Illinois

- “Getting the Top Job” presentation
- Negotiating Employment Agreements
- “Having More Fun, More Joy in Life and Work” presentation
- The Non-Traditional Manager
- “Retaining Women: Understanding the Role of Emotions” presentation
- Mentoring the Next Generation

Legacy Project – Women’s Legacy Conference Illinois

- Partner with Northern Illinois University’s Center for Governmental Studies
- In 2012 – First conference
108 participants
- Affordable registration
\$69 fee
\$29 students



Legacy Project – Women’s Legacy Conference Illinois



In 2013 – Over **160** women attended

Legacy Project – Conference Format Illinois

- Morning key note speaker
 - The Art of Orchestration: How to Inspire Excellence Through Passionate Leadership
- Three morning break out sessions
 - Presenting Like a Pro
 - Enjoy Wellness and a Local Government Career Now Up and Comers Panel
- Lunch

Legacy Project – Conference Format (Cont.)

Illinois

- Three afternoon break out sessions
 - Fearless Networking
 - Recently Appointed Village Managers Panel
 - Leaders in Non-Traditional Fields Panel
- Closing key note speakers
 - Finding Your Voice as a Female Leader
- Networking with a Twist

Legacy Project – Women’s Legacy Conference Illinois



The **Legacy Project** Award
for empowering women in local government

Legacy Project Partnerships

Illinois

- ILCMA Summer Conference
Wellness Walk
- ILCMA Winter Conference
Speak to students at local universities
- ILCMA affiliate member
Registration for database thru membership
Link on their web site

Legacy Project Partnerships

Illinois

ILCMA Summer and Winter Conferences



Coordinate educational sessions for each conference geared towards women

Legacy Project – Encouraging Research Illinois

- Surveyed 96 women Village Managers and Assistants in Illinois in 2012
- Response rate of over 70%
- “Public Voices Symposium: Women in Public Service” by Rachel Lange and Dr. Kim Nelson (Publisher: Rutgers University)

Legacy Project Future Programs

Illinois

- Book Club: Lean In discussion (Oct. 2013)
- Golf lessons (2014)
- Golf outing (2014)
- Social gathering to benefit a women's charity (2014)

Legacy Project Social Media Illinois

- Web site: www.legacyprojectnow.org
 - Background Information
 - Initiatives
 - Resources (Articles, luncheons, conference brochures, links and TED videos)
- LinkedIn group

Legacy Project Database

Illinois

- Over **375** participants in our database and growing
- Join our database and receive event updates
email Leslie Davies at
ldavies@vil.woodridge.il.us

Legacy Project Partnerships

Illinois

- Working with MPA programs to spread the word
 - Northern Illinois University
 - University of Illinois at Chicago
- Chicago chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)

Legacy Project Observations

Illinois

- General sense of feeling connected
- Women across all disciplines in local government are attending luncheons and conferences (finance, planning, etc.)
- Younger professionals appreciate the mentoring opportunities

Legacy Project Observations

Illinois

- Women want to support other women and the programs provide that opportunity
- Local government women are looking for connection and networking
- Women interested in giving back to the local government profession they love

Legacy Project Takeaways

Illinois

- Ask yourself, what will be your legacy?
Take action and create your legacy
- At state conferences, speak to a class at the local university or college
- Start an informal luncheon group
- Share your time and be a mentor

Legacy Project Closing

Illinois

Challenge five of you to start a dialogue with other women in local government in your area that are passionate about this topic

Then email me your story

Questions/Comments?

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www.legacyprojectnow.org



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September 22-25, 2013