We are writing to bring you up to date on a momentous year at Archeworks, and to ask for your help in expanding our impact and influence. As we continue to advance design in the public interest, our core mission remains unchanged: to create healthier, more environmentally sustainable urban communities through design and to shape a broader civic leadership role for the design professions.

Over our 17-year history, we’ve brought exceptionally high value design to more than 85 community partners, including community development organizations, healthcare providers, and cultural institutions. In the past year, we’ve developed and piloted award-winning designs to improve the built environment and the quality of life in our communities. These community design projects address the urgent need for new thinking about green infrastructure, water-conserving design, biodiversity, and local foodshed systems. We need your support as we continue to inspire urban design that effects meaningful social and environmental change.

**YEAR IN REVIEW**

**Archeworks in the Global Spotlight: Venice Biennale**
Archeworks was selected along with a prestigious group of six American design practices to represent Chicago and the United States at the 2010 Venice Biennale for Architecture. Our unique message about the role of designers as catalysts and change agents struck a chord with an international audience of over 170,000 visiting the U.S. Pavilion. Archeworks featured its Mobile Food Collective – a traveling educational and cultural structure for residents of food desert communities – designed to inspire a reconnection with a local food culture, raise awareness about healthy eating, and strengthen a local food infrastructure.

**Urban Ecology + Social Enterprise: Native Seed Farms**
Archeworks partnered with the Chicago Botanic Garden to create two native seed farms that preserve biodiversity and restore neighborhood open space in Bridgeport. To design these micro-parks, Archeworks facilitated workshops with young men in the Cook County Sheriff’s Boot Camp program, an alternative sentencing program for first-time offenders. In addition to harvesting and preserving rare prairie species, the new urban farms will sell prairie seeds and provide transitional jobs for Boot Camp graduates. We celebrated the Bridgeport opening in October with Alderman James Balcer; Sophia Siskel, CEO of the Chicago Botanic Garden; and Cook County Commissioner John Daley.

**Infrastructures for Change**
Archeworks launched *Infrastructures for Change*, a series of public forums that engage designers, engineers, policymakers, environmental scientists and ecologists on urban ecological issues vitally important to sustaining the Great Lakes region. With more than 200 participants attending our first two symposia, we continue to broaden public dialogue about new roles the design field can play to improve our region’s infrastructure and waterways. Cameron Davis, Senior Advisor on the Great Lakes, U.S. EPA, and Dr. Eric Sanderson, Founder and Director, The Mannahatta Project, delivered keynote addresses.
Archeworks continues its tradition of sustainable urban design this year through community design partnerships. The innovative site designs and programs we are developing will provide new models for adaptive parks and gardens in neighborhoods seeking creative approaches to transforming vacant land and creating new public spaces.

Innovation in Urban Agriculture Design
As our city and region explore new paths for community sustainability, the message of our Mobile Food Collective is vitally important for encouraging important changes in our food culture and local food policy. We are piloting the Collective’s programs at many venues throughout Chicago to engage policymakers and citizens. This year our community workshops will also address the growing need for design innovations that serve an expanding network of urban farms and promote stronger “seed to table” community food systems.

Barrier-Free Therapeutic Garden
We are continuing our partnership with the Chicago Botanic Garden to create a Barrier-Free Therapeutic Garden in Washington Park. The new garden will be designed as a place of healing and wellness for elderly and disabled gardeners of all ages and patients at nearby healthcare facilities. As part of this project, we are continuing our four-year partnership with the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, working with stroke survivors and therapists to incorporate universal design principles into the new garden’s design, prototypes, and public programs. The garden will open in Fall 2011.

National Street Furniture Design Competition
In 2010, Archeworks collaborated with Architecture for Humanity Chicago on a national design competition to raise awareness of alternative uses for neighborhood open space. In partnership with Enlace Chicago, we built and installed MAS studio’s winning design for modular seating and planters on a vacant lot in Little Village. Many residents, along with Alderman Ricardo Munoz, helped inaugurate this new micro-park last spring. As part of our work to transform neighborhood open spaces, we will construct and install the 2011 winning design with this year’s community partners.

HELP ARCHEWORKS GROW
This was a truly extraordinary year for Archeworks! We couldn’t have reached this pinnacle without the visionary leadership of our co-founders, Stanley Tigerman and Eva Maddox, who built Archeworks’ global reputation. We are indebted to so many others in Chicago and across the country who have supported the nurturing and blossoming of our unique design organization since its founding. Please invest in Archeworks today by renewing your support or becoming a first-time donor.

Your tax-deductible contribution enables Archeworks to bring together design practitioners, community development leaders, policymakers, and residents of Chicago neighborhoods to tackle the challenges facing our urban environments.

Thank you in advance for your generous support,

Susanne Schnell
Executive Director

Martin Felsen
Director

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