



A Look Back at Year 2009 -2010

Mission Statement

To work on behalf of residents of Streeterville by preserving, promoting, and enhancing the quality of life and community.

Vision

To see Streeterville as a unique, vibrant, beautiful neighborhood.

Goals

- Build and celebrate community
- Promote safety and well-being
- Ensure thoughtful development
- Connect building leadership
- Partner with local businesses

The Streeterville Organization of Active Residents is an independent non-partisan 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, founded in 1975.

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SOAR! In 2010, your neighborhood organization spread its wings and reached new heights in a manner befitting the image invoked by its lofty name. We remain focused on the road ahead, but each year at the time we pause briefly to reflect on recent accomplishments, and consider where we are from a long-term perspective. This aptly titled publication, “LookBack” has become an annual tradition at SOAR. It’s for you, our members, that we offer this milestone on our shared journey of community growth and enhancement.

As you review the highlights of SOAR’s interesting and busy year as outlined in the following pages, you will notice a wide variety of events and activities, all bound together by the common theme of commitment to improving the quality of life in our community, as called for in our mission statement.

It’s a matter of pride for all who have been part of this organization that at 35 years old, SOAR is not only still in the advocacy game, but perhaps playing it more effectively than ever before. Our mission remains unchanged, even as our neighborhood continues to change and grow, seemingly overnight. New challenges emerge as fast as older ones can be addressed. We have certainly learned some lessons in recent times, and we continue to refine our approach to the increasingly complex environment in which we operate.

SOAR’s 35th year will go down in our history books as a year of notable “firsts”. We hired our first executive director, Jill Heise, who has done an outstanding job in her first year. We launched our first branding campaign and replaced our original logo. And while it’s nothing new for us to have some level of participation from elected officials, the 2010 annual meeting was the first time a sitting governor of the State of Illinois attended a SOAR event to personally address our members.

All of this was made possible because of the credibility and respect that SOAR enjoys among Streeterville residents, institutions, the business community, and government leaders. Our reputation as a professional, thoughtful, and influential organization is a direct result of 35 years worth of hard work, dedication, and financial support from our members, past and present.

So LookBack and read on, SOAR member, and please do so with a gratifying sense of accomplishment. The productive year of events and activities featured in this document is a tribute to you, and an inventory of all the things you made possible with your generous support.

Thank you for your continued willingness to make a difference in the neighborhood we share. Together we SOAR!

Brian Hopkins
President



A Look Back at Year 2009 -2010

The year 2010 was a celebratory year as SOAR commemorated its 35th year as the community organization in Streeterville. Of course, anniversary celebrations always involve celebrating the past, and SOAR did that in style. In June over 150 members and friends gathered at the beautiful Crystal Gardens of Navy Pier to reflect on all that SOAR has accomplished through the tireless efforts of countless volunteers working on behalf of our community. While there was plenty of looking back, SOAR also took the opportunity to look forward refreshing and revitalizing our organization to better serve Streeterville residents.

In April SOAR welcomed Jill Heise, SOAR's new Executive Director. Dedicated to enhancing the value of membership in SOAR, Jill brings a fresh and creative perspective to her work. Buffy Sergent was promoted to Assistant Director in recognition of her increased responsibilities within SOAR.

In June SOAR launched a new visual brand that captures the many positive aspects of Streeterville and SOAR's role within it. Emphasizing a strong sense of people and community, the new logo highlights that which makes Streeterville unique – important and diverse architecture, a cherished lake and river, and our collective commitment to “green” Streeterville. SOAR also developed a new website to better communicate SOAR's involvement in Streeterville, and to create a community resource for residents.

In July SOAR announced a new membership structure to clearly articulate the many exciting and unique benefits of membership in SOAR. Supported by new marketing collateral, our Membership Committee has been diligently working to enhance the membership experience.

While much is new, one thing has not changed and that is SOAR's commitment to Streeterville and our mission to work on behalf of residents of Streeterville by preserving, promoting, and enhancing the quality of life and community.

How is that mission executed? In short, SOAR works each and every day to:

- *Build and celebrate community*
- *Promote safety and well-being*
- *Ensure thoughtful development*
- *Connect building leadership*
- *Partner with local businesses*

Everything we say or do moving forward will reflect these simple yet powerful goals.

It's been a busy year.....let's take A Look Back at SOAR's activities over the past year and see what we have achieved in our community.

Build and Celebrate Community...

...by encouraging community involvement and recognizing talents, contributions and success

SOAR continued its **First Wednesday** series—one of our most popular member benefits - with opportunities for residents to learn something new, receive community updates and meet neighbors in a social and fun setting. This year's programs included:

Social Networking presented by SOAR's Aging Issues Council and held at Loyola's Kasbeer Hall, featured Tribune Business Reporter Wailin Wong who described the ins and outs of social networking sites including FaceBook, Twitter and Linked-In.

The Second Annual **Streeterville Artisan Market**, which brought 45 skilled artists and artisans to Northwestern University's Lurie Research Center. Significant and diverse talent was on display as residents and visitors made their purchases from the participating artisans who contributed a portion of their sales to SOAR.

The **Annual Holiday Party** held at D4, was filled with holiday cheer and merriment.

The **Lookingglass Series** in which pre-theatre dinners at Eve and Mity Nice Grill were followed by spectacular productions at the Water Tower pumping station of Fedra Queen of Haiti, Icarus, and Trust.

A Barrel of Laughs with Dale Irvin at Timothy O'Toole's lightened winter doldrums as Dale, a Streeterville resident, entertained the crowd and kept everyone laughing.

Finding Nature in the City and Living Sustainably presented by SOAR's Greening and Sustainability Committee brought outside speakers to discuss urban environmental issues. Jerry Adelman, President and CEO of Openlands addressed nature in the city, and ways to find nature and make it welcome. Gail Borthwick, Senior Architect with Smith + Gill and Associates discussed plans for reducing carbon emissions in the Loop and for “greening” the city. The Sustainable Solutions Group offered practical examples of ways in which energy efficiency programs can have direct bottom line benefits to building owners and operators.

The State of the Ward with Alderman Reilly brought a record-breaking crowd to the Ritz Carlton Hotel. The topics covered ranged from city and state budgets, to business development, landmark activities, infrastructure repairs and traffic issues.

SOAR's 35th **Anniversary Party** was held at the Crystal Gardens at Navy Pier. A retrospective from SOAR's 35 years was presented along with awards to SOAR's Positively Invaluable Volunteers (PIVs):



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- Cristina Benitez - honored for her leadership, creativity and guidance in the development of the new SOAR logo and brand.
- Judy Birk - recognized for her many years, endless hours and continued work to ensure that Lake Shore Park garden is always beautiful.
- Lloyd Sergent – acknowledged for the continual, energetic support he provides to SOAR.

BLUEPRINTS – in its fifth year - was held at The Signature Room at the 95th. SOAR honored internationally acclaimed architect Jeanne Gang whose Aqua Tower in Chicago received the prestigious International Emporis 2009 Skyscraper of the Year Award. She was given SOAR's "Vision Into Reality" Award to acknowledge her contribution to both local and worldwide architecture.

SOAR's Pillars of the Community Award was given to Fourth Presbyterian Church for its extensive service and outreach to the Streeterville community for nearly a century. Reverend Calum MacLeod and Elder Jeanne Bishop were on hand to accept the award.

SOAR's **Annual Meeting**, held at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre was sponsored by Yolk. Governor Quinn, State Senator Kwame Raoul, and Alderman Brendan Reilly addressed SOAR members, stressing the importance of resident involvement in communities. Debra Shore, Commissioner of the Water Reclamation District discussed the importance of Lake Michigan as a natural resource and the challenges and opportunities facing the Chicago River today and in the future.

Beyond the monthly programs, SOAR's Aging Issues Council focused on identifying the needs and interest of Streeterville residents, particularly as they age, in order to develop programs and resources to enhance the daily living experience now and in the future. Skyline Village Chicago incubated under SOAR and now launched as its own 502(c)3.

Promote Safety and Well-Being...

...by championing public safety initiatives, encouraging environmental awareness and providing educational programming

From the sky to the earth, SOAR worked on issues throughout Streeterville.

SOAR's Campus Task Force continued actively participating in the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOTs) review of the Children's Memorial Hospital (CMH) rooftop heliport proposal. Despite the construction of the proposed heliport atop the new hospital, the heliport is still just that – a proposal. The big "X"

now visible on the landing pad is required by the FAA to indicate to pilots that the proposed heliport IS NOT a legitimate landing site.

IDOT informed SOAR that, after reviewing the material presented at the July 2009 public hearing and all materials submitted by all parties, "an additional study of the proposed heliport is prudent." IDOT has contracted for additional study, which IDOT anticipates will be completed in early 2011. A second public hearing will then follow.

Highly qualified aerospace engineering and aviation safety experts Dr. Thomas Corke and Dr. Patrick Veillette have commented to IDOT that the nature of the agency's proposed additional study cannot adequately address the safety issues at hand. SOAR requested that Dr. Corke and Dr. Veillette (as well as any CMH consultants) be allowed to communicate directly with IDOT's new consultants. It is in everyone's best interest that any further study adequately address the safety of the proposed location of the heliport and not come to misleading or erroneous results.

SOAR continues to focus on the serious and significant public safety issues and concerns raised with this proposal.

Moving to ground level, SOAR's Neighbors Action Task Force (NATF) began an initiative, in conjunction with the medical campus institutions, to look at managing the use of sirens in Streeterville. Three primary goals have been defined to:

1. Maintain or improve the safety of emergency patient transport in Streeterville,
2. Identify and agree upon opportunities for managing the use of sirens in Streeterville and
3. Work with relevant entities to agree upon and implement solutions.

SOAR's Greening and Sustainability Committee spearheaded several initiatives to enhance Streeterville's focus on enhancing a sustainable community

Spring brought SOAR's annual **Streeterville Cleanup Day**. Over 50 SOAR volunteers—including Alderman Reilly—spent a Saturday morning picking up trash in our neighborhood. With equipment provided by Chicago's Department of Streets and Sanitation and transportation by Chicago Trolley, this event was a true community effort. Volunteers not only helped to make our neighborhood more beautiful but they had fun doing it. As we look forward, we will further develop and enhance this effort.

As part of the City of Chicago's Earth Day 2010 summer programs, SOAR participated in the citywide **2010 Neighborhood Paper Drive Contest**. For two weeks in June, Streeterville buildings, businesses, institutions and residents collected phone books, catalogues, magazines, newspapers and all other types of paper



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to support our efforts to make Streeterville an environmentally conscious neighborhood. Twenty-four neighborhood groups, churches, community organizations, chambers of commerce, and schools throughout Chicago participated in the City's challenge. On November 15, America Recycles Day, Mayor Daley awarded SOAR First Place honors for our collection of over 10,000 pounds of paper!

As summer turned to fall, SOAR participated in **International PARK(ing) Day**, an effort to challenge residents to rethink the way streets are used and reinforce the need for broad-based changes to urban infrastructure. SOAR partnered with PNC Bank and the Garfield Park Conservatory to transform a metered parking space into a public park for the day. Located on Grand Avenue at McClurg, this pop up park attracted attention from all who wanted to enjoy our grassy plot of land, play a game of bean toss, toss a frisbie or just relax with neighbors.

SOAR also joined forces with a team of volunteers from the Hotel Intercontinental and Friends of the Parks, to show support by cleaning up these two valuable neighborhood amenities: Ohio Street Beach and Jane Addams Park. This community service event—named "**Neighbors Helping Neighbors**"—is an excellent example of the types of collaborations that SOAR is helping to promote throughout Streeterville

This year, SOAR's **Annual Beautification Walk** was conducted throughout Streeterville and the awards were presented at the Annual Meeting in September. The award winners were:

- Marshall & Janice Matz and Kathy Cahill received the award for Public Space for their beautiful gardening at Lake Shore Park.
- The Seneca Hotel received the Commercial/Business Award
- CityView Condominium Association received the Residential Building Award.

Ensure Thoughtful Development...

...by reviewing, shaping and improving development proposals in conjunction with formalized planning principles and guidelines

SOAR's newly developed website provides great access to information about new and upcoming developments in Streeterville. Residents can now see pictures of proposed developments, understand development basics (e.g., structure height, number of units and parking spaces, etc.) at a glance, and see the feedback SOAR has provided to developers and the City.

South Streeterville

Gateway Harbor - The Chicago Plan Commission has approved

plans for Gateway Harbor, which will be located on the south side of Navy Pier, encompassing Dime Pier and connecting it to the shoreline. This new harbor will initially be a combination of seasonal and transient slips, with a park area and a restaurant at the west end of the harbor. SOAR reviewed the plans and while supportive of the new harbor, expressed concerns regarding vehicular access. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2011.

Naval Memorial at Navy Pier - A presentation of the Chicago Naval Memorial plan was made to SOAR and was met with great enthusiasm. The planned memorial is to be placed in Gateway Park near the entrance to Navy Pier. SOAR made several suggestions regarding the project that took safety and security into account as well as keeping the area as green and park-like as possible. SOAR is proud to be part of a project connecting the history of our city and our neighborhood to the waterways and the men and women who protect and serve.

Lakefront Path Flyover Bridge - The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) presented plans to SOAR for the long awaited flyover bridge. This bridge, also called the Lakefront Trail Improvement Project, will improve safety and access for everyone enjoying the lakefront as it will raise the path from the Ohio Street Beach over Ogden Slip and dropping down on the south side of the Chicago River. SOAR is excited to see these plans becoming a reality.

Jane Addams Park - Spearheaded by the Jane Addams Park Advisory Council (JAPAC) with strong participation from SOAR, the intent is to redevelop the memorial garden area of the park. Working with the Chicago Park District, JAPAC identified the work that needed to be done to improve this parcel in conjunction with the Flyover Bridge, Navy Pier's redevelopment, and the Lower Lake Shore Drive improvements. Additionally, a plan for implementing the design and managing its upkeep will need to be formulated.

Lower Lakeshore Drive Improvements - Navy Pier, the Chicago Department of Transportation, and SOAR are working together on a plan to improve the underpass of lower Lake Shore Drive where it intersects Grand Ave. SOAR and Navy Pier are in discussions with the Chicago Public Arts Group regarding this special project and hope to have details and a timeline for completion next year.

Ronald McDonald House - Ronald McDonald House Charities will open a new Ronald McDonald House—the largest in the world—at 211 East Grand Ave-- within blocks of the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital. SOAR reviewed the proposal and made several suggestions including repositioning the patient drop-off/pick-up in the rear of the building thereby ensuring that traffic will not be affected on Grand Ave. Due to open in 2012, the 14-story, 86 room, house will also serve families of children receiving treatment at the Rehabilitation Institute, Prentice



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Women's Hospital and Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Additional Trash Cans for South Streeterville - As a result of SOAR's efforts, the Alderman's office placed fifteen new trash bins in South Streeterville. This will hopefully reduce the level of garbage that is seen in the streets. The Alderman's office is also working to get extra pickup services to the problematic sites that have been problematic.

Central Streeterville

Northwestern Memorial Hospital Parking Garage and Child Care Center - This fall, Northwestern Memorial Hospital broke ground for a new 13-story, 134' high, 1,118- space employee garage and childcare facility. The garage is scheduled to open by early 2012; the daycare center is scheduled to open in late 2012. SOAR was involved in recommending building modifications to the original plans and was successful in getting the height of the garage lowered and the aesthetics of the solid east and west walls improved. We also recommended and are pleased that the flow of traffic will be reversed to move through the facility to avoid traffic problems in the immediate area. While SOAR strongly encouraged NMH to incorporate a full green roof, sadly NMH committed to greening only 30% of its roof.

Going forward, SOAR will push for specific metrics for the reduction of institution-based traffic in Streeterville. The medical campus institutions, as good neighbors and service providers, must begin to think and act differently about parking and transportation needs to create an operable medical complex within an already dense community.

North Streeterville

Fourth Presbyterian "Project Second Century" - Fourth Presbyterian Church has embarked on a project to build a five-story 82,000 square-foot addition behind the existing Michigan Avenue parish house in order to accommodate their growing needs for new additional church facilities. SOAR reviewed the design of the building for aesthetics and impact on the neighborhood, and has found that the design is sensitive to the needs of the community as well as the church. SOAR is on record as supporting this addition to our neighborhood.

SOAR is continuing to monitor soft sites in Streeterville where potential development or redevelopment is likely to occur. These include:

South Streeterville

- Navy Pier
- Jane Addams Park
- River East Arts Center, 435 E. Illinois Street
- Numerous vacant lots and surface parking lots throughout the area

Central Streeterville

- US Post Office, 227 E. Ontario Street
- Film and Tape Works, 237 E. Ontario Street
- Northwestern Memorial Ambulatory Care Pavilion, 240 E. Ontario Street and 259 E. Erie Street
- Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, 630 N. McClurg Court
- Former VA Lakeside Research Center, Northeast corner of Ontario Street and McClurg Court
- Former VA Lakeside Medical Hospital, Fairbanks Court to McClurg Court from Ontario Street to Erie Street
- Former Prentice Women's Hospital, 320 E. Huron Street
- Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, 345 E. Superior Street
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Memorial Hospital Administrative Offices, 155 E. Superior Street

North Streeterville

- Esquire Theatre, 58 E. Oak Street

Connect Building Leadership ...

...by providing a forum for board members and building managers of Streeterville residential buildings to network, share information about managing and maintaining buildings and help one another become effective advocates for our individual buildings.

SOAR's Streeterville Residential Network (SRN) organized four key programs this past year:

Jose Aparicio and Bob Fahlstrom, City of Chicago Inspectors, presented information on Changing City Codes with respect to façade inspections, elevator inspections and the fire safety ordinance.

Mark Pearlstein, Founding Member of Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC outlined Legal Issues Every Board Member Should Understand: the Illinois Condominium Act, meeting procedures, fiduciary duties, the election process, relationships with property managers and other service providers, and dealing with delinquent owners.

Nancy Ayers from Mesirow Financial and Dean Lerner from Sudler Property Management offered a case study from a recent Streeterville high-rise fire, outlining the role of the management company, building, and unit owners during and after the emergency. Also discussed was what unit owners need to consider and have in terms of insurance coverage to protect themselves in emergency and non-emergency situations.

Chris Nyborg of Nyborg & Company, Ltd discussed a myriad of financial topics including the annual budget process, planning for and financing capital projects, and keeping buildings competitive in the marketplace.



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Partner with Local Businesses . . .

...in creating and maintaining a vibrant business environment for the benefit of all Streeterville constituents.

Residents understand, appreciate and enjoy the diversity that comes from the unique mix of institutional, commercial, and residential uses in the Streeterville community. A strong business community creates and maintains a vibrant and interesting neighborhood for those who live in, work in and visit Streeterville. SOAR is developing a more structured membership program for businesses who understand the benefit of this and wish to support SOAR's mission. In addition, a SOAR sponsorship program has been developed for business members who see commercial value in their SOAR relationship, to enhance the many events, programs and services offered to SOAR members. Residents are introduced or reintroduced to local businesses, and these businesses have the opportunity to share their best with those who live here.

Who is SOAR?

SOAR is an independent, non-partisan, 501(c)3 organization founded in 1975. The group is dedicated to "Working to Keep Streeterville a Neighborhood" in the Chicago community bounded by Lake Michigan on the east, the Chicago River on the south, Rush Street on the west, and Oak Street/East Lake Shore Drive on the north.

Year End Financial Report

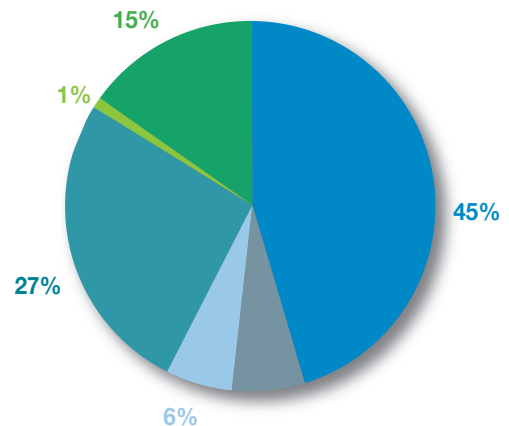
SOAR ended this fiscal year on a positive note, with revenues versus expenses \$7,390 better than budgeted. The budget had \$10,000 funding for carryover of cost of projects not completed in the previous year, plus \$12,500 earmarked from reserves as seed money for the first year of a full-time Executive Director. Only \$15,110 of that \$22,500 carryover was needed.

With the economy still lagging, revenue was lower than expected. However, SOAR still invested in programs and initiatives to keep Streeterville the best place to live as possible. 70% of our expenditures were for events and community initiatives outlined elsewhere in this Look Back report.

While SOAR relied heavily on a dedicated, talented, diverse volunteer base to achieve its mission, SOAR's breadth of activity and member base required an annual audit by an outside CPA, and administrative support for our office and staff. In Fiscal Year 2009-2010, 24% of SOAR's total expenses were used for administrative support.

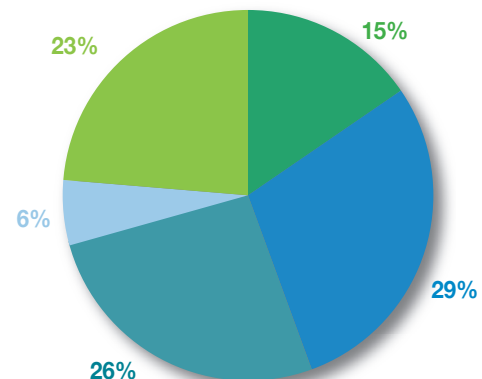
SOAR finished the fiscal year with cash reserves of \$150,959. We expect stronger revenues in the 2010-2011 fiscal year as the economy improves and membership grows.

SOAR Income: 2009 - 2010 \$150,411



■ Dues	: 45% - \$68,206
■ Annual Appeal	: 6% - \$9,060
■ Sponsorships	: 6% - \$9,350
■ Fundraising Events	: 27% - \$39,910
■ Miscellaneous Income	: 1% - \$1,385
■ Prior Year Carryover	: 15% - \$22,500

SOAR Expense: 2009 - 2010 \$143,021



■ Community Awards / Events	: 15% - \$22,007
■ Task Forces / Projects	: 29% - \$41,384
■ Fundraising Expenses	: 26% - \$37,848
■ Audit / Accounting	: 6% - \$8,246
■ Administrative	: 23% - \$33,536



Alone we can do so *little*; together we can do so *much*.
(Helen Keller)

SOAR is grateful to the many volunteers and donors who are “Working to Keep Streeterville a Neighborhood.” If this list contains any inadvertent inaccuracies or omissions, we apologize and ask that you contact us at (312) 280-2596 or office@soarchicago.org immediately, so that we can correct the information.

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Reflects contributions \$150 and above for the period of October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010.

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Robert & Mary Jane Asher
Mary Baim & Michael Becker
Susan & James Barney
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Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.
(Helen Keller)

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