

Heather Becker

Heather Becker, Chief Executive Officer, The Chicago Conservation Center, is an artist, author, and entrepreneur. She studied painting and art history on scholarship at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the International School of Art in Italy. As an extension of her painting career, she went into the field of art preservation. In 1989 Becker developed a national business plan for The Chicago Conservation Center, Inc. and in August 2003 she purchased The Center from the founder.

With the addition of new departments and projects, the company has become the largest private art conservation company in the country. In an effort to bring art back into public education, Becker co-founded the largest mural preservation project in the country's history, restoring hundreds of early twentieth century murals in Chicago.

After years of research, Becker authored a book on Chicago murals and art preservation entitled, "Art for the People" (Chronicle Books) in 2002. In addition to her passion for writing, Becker has educated various industries and audiences on the technological advancement of art conservation and the preservation of historical works of art throughout the country. She has spoken at venues such as The J. Paul Getty Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, Art Basel Miami, and Risk Insurance Management Society (RIMS).

In 2004 Becker was awarded "Small Business Person of the Year" for the State of Illinois by the Small Business Association (SBA). In 2006 she was elected to the Board of The Chicago Network. In 2007 The Chicago Conservation Center was awarded the "Chicago Landmark Award for Preservation Excellence" by the City of Chicago.

She has exhibited her figurative oil paintings nationally and in Europe for over two decades. Becker exhibits her figurative oil paintings and drawings at Zolla Lieberman Gallery in Chicago. She has studied the ancient practice of Ashtanga yoga for the last seven years. For nearly a decade Becker has volunteered for Operation Sunrise, a not for profit organization dedicated to helping children with cleft lip and palate and other facial birth defects in medically under-served countries around the world.

Ms. Becker currently serves on the following boards and councils:

Voluntary Boards:

The Chicago Network (www.thechicagonetwork.com)

Midwest Chapter of the National New Deal Preservation Association (www.wpamurals.com/nndpa.htm)

Operation Sunrise (www.operationsunrise.org) or (cleftblog.cleftmission.org)

Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois (LPCI)

Advisory Councils:

The Property Loss Research Bureau (www.plrb.org)

Professional Experience:

- 2003 - Present** Chief Executive Officer, The Chicago Conservation Center, Chicago, IL
- 1998 - 2003** Vice-President, The Chicago Conservation Center, Chicago, IL
- 1994 - 1998** Assistant Director, The Chicago Conservation Center, Chicago, IL
- 1993 - 1994** Marketing Director, The Chicago Conservation Center, Chicago, IL
- 1989 - 1993** Executive Administrator, The Chicago Conservation Center, Chicago, IL
- 1988 - 1989** Assistant Preparator, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago Children's Museum, Chicago, IL
- 1987 - 1988** Assistant, The Art Institute of Chicago, Ryerson Library, Chicago, IL

Professional Memberships:

President Midwest New Deal Preservation Association (NNDPA)

Board Member, Membership Chair, The Chicago Network (TCN)

Member ASCR-NIDR

Member National New Deal Preservation Association (NNDPA)

Member The Arts Club of Chicago

Member Claims Prevention and Procedures Council

Associate Member, PLRB

Board Member, Director of Operations, Operation Sunrise

Member Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW)

Member Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce

Member Illinois Association of Museums (IAM)

Board Member, Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois (LPCI)

Education:

- 1989** The International School of Art in Umbria, Monte Castello di Vibio, Italy.
Merit Scholarship.

1985 - 1989 The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, BFA Painting. Merit Scholarship.

Publications:

2002 *Art for the People: The Rediscovery and Preservation of Progressive and WPA Era Murals in the Chicago Public Schools.* San Francisco: Chronicle Books, November 2002.

2001 "The Definition of a Mural", *Dictionary of American History*, 3rd Edition Charles Scribners & Sons, New York, NY

Documentary:

1999 "The Chicago Mural Preservation Project." Orbis Production, Written by Heather Becker and David Manilow. Chicago, IL.

Research & Funding:

2004 CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT, Chicago, Illinois., Chicago Park Fieldhouses: Calumet, Eugene Field, Fuller, Hamilton, Independence, Jefferson, Palmer, Pulaski, Rutherford Sayre, Sherman, and Warren Park Field Houses. Chicago, Illinois.

1999 PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION, Chicago, Illinois. Mural Restoration Project III: Albert G. Lane Technical High School, Chicago, Illinois, Henry R. Clissold Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Frank I. Bennett Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Lincoln Park High School, Chicago, Illinois, Daniel Wentworth Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Amelia Hookway Transition High School, Chicago, Illinois, John Harvard Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Carl von Linne Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Newton Batman Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Luther Burbank Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Walter S. Christopher Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Hugh Manley High School, Chicago, Illinois, Donald L. Morrill Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Wendell Philips High School, Chicago, Illinois, Maria Saucedo Academy, Chicago, Illinois, Harold Washington Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Joseph E. Gary Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Julia Ward Howe Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, (\$918,595.00)

1997 - 1999 CHICAGO BOARD OF EDUCATION. Chicago, Illinois. Mural Restoration Project II: George B. Armstrong Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Frank I. Bennett Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Frederic Chopin Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Henry R. Clissold Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Joseph E. Gary Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Helen Peirce Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, John M. Smyth Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Edward Tilden Technical High School, Chicago, Illinois, George W.

Tilton Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Carl Von Linne Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Daniel Wentworth Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, William H. Wells High School, Chicago, Illinois. Date Received: November 25, 1997, (\$300,000.00).

- 1996** BAY FOUNDATION, New York, New York. Mural Restoration Project I: "Outstanding American Women" by Edward Millman, Lucy Flower Vocational High School, Chicago, Illinois. Fresco Murals, murals located on the four interior walls of entrance hall. Date Received: May 30, (\$3,000.00).
- 1996** FIELD FOUNDATION, Chicago, Illinois. Mural Restoration Project I: "Outstanding American Women" by Edward Millman, Lucy Flower Vocational High School, Chicago, Illinois. Fresco Murals, murals located on the four interior walls of entrance hall. Date Received: May 22, 1996, (\$10,000.00).
- 1996** CHICAGO BOARD OF EDUCATION, Chicago, Illinois. Mural Restoration Project I: Lucy Flower Vocational High School, Chicago, Illinois, Albert G. Lane Technical High School, Chicago, Illinois, Carl Schurz High School, Chicago, Illinois, Sidney Sawyer Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Louis Nettlehorst Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Martin A. Ryerson Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois, Wolfgang A. Mozart Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois. Date Received: August 28, 1996, (\$300,000.00).

Honors and Awards:

- 2007** 2007 Chicago Landmark Award for Preservation Excellence, for restoration of the mural at Pulaski Park Field House, Chicago, Illinois
- 2004** Small Business Administration Small Business Week 2004 Illinois Small Business Person of the Year. http://www.sb.thehartford.com/sba/success_video_4.asp
- 2004** Nominated, River North Business of the Year.
- 2002** Mayor Richard M. Daley, City of Chicago, recognition award for mural preservation project throughout the Chicago Public Schools and as author of Art for the People
- 2000** CINE Golden Eagle National Award for Arts and Education for "The Chicago Mural Preservation Project" documentary
- 1998** Richard H. Driehaus Landmark Preservation Council of Illinois President's Award for Mural Conservation at the Chicago Public Schools

