

Terry Leja - Director

Terry returned to Chicago in 2002, having lived in San Francisco and Manhattan. As a resident of the Gold Coast, Lincoln Park is now her backyard. Terry walks in the park with her dog and neighbors daily, if not several times a day. She has been active in the Committee to Keep Lincoln Park Public and Protect Our Parks.

Since moving to Chicago Terry has been a hospice volunteer with Northwestern Memorial Hospital and is currently with Horizon Hospice. She also volunteers with PAWS (Pets Are Worth Saving; an innovative non-profit organization founded in Chicago.).

Her corporate career included management positions at Charles Schwab, Inc., The Federal Reserve Bank, The Northern Trust Company, Farrell's Restaurants, and Masonite Corporation. Her consulting practice included working with e-commerce start-ups, international retail businesses, real estate management companies, and other organizations.

She has been involved in numerous business and community groups, both as an active member and in leadership positions.

Her background includes a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Roosevelt University and a Master's degree in Human Resources Management from Loyola University.

Terry C. Leja, Platform for LPAC Office:

Since returning to Chicago six years ago, after a 20-year absence I understand the value of scarce parkland. While living in both San Francisco and Manhattan I have seen that land can be more valuable than gold: in good times and bad. Public parkland is a commodity that must be maintained and protected with a realization that it is our city's treasure. I look to an active role in LPAC as a unique opportunity to ensure Lincoln Park continues to be a safeguarded treasure for all of the public to use and enjoy both today and in the future. Additionally, I am concerned about Lincoln Park and its central role in being an urban sanctuary for the many forms of wildlife that make it their home.

I look to encourage the citizens who live in the residences surrounding Lincoln Park to become knowledgeable park stewards through LPAC membership. And membership in LPAC should include ongoing citizen forums on topics of interest and LPAC sponsored park activity projects.

I hope LPAC becomes a more effective citizens' group that monitors and partners with the Chicago Park District in their plans and operations regarding Lincoln Park. LPAC in its "advisory" role ideally should encourage the Chicago Park District Board to offer transparency and environmental concern in the decision making process.