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SARA DINGES WILL TAKE ANDERSONVILLE HELM AFTER EXPANSIVE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

Andersonville Chamber of Commerce and Andersonville Sustainable Community Alliance Announce New Executive Director to Start on May 1, 2017

CHICAGO (March 30, 2017) – After a thorough vetting process with the aid of a professional search firm, the Board of Directors of the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce (ACC) and Andersonville Sustainable Community Alliance (ASCA) have named their new Executive Director, Sara Dinges, to helm both organizations beginning on May 1.

"The Boards are excited and ready for Sara to join our team," said ACC Board President Carol Jones. "Her experience and talent will serve the business owners, property owners, and residents of Andersonville in so many ways. The boards' priority was to find a strong leader to carry Andersonville into the future, and we are confident we have chosen the right person."

Dinges joins the Chamber and ASCA with eleven years of experience in economic and community development - and a combined nine years working in the communities of Andersonville, Edgewater, and Uptown on Chicago's north side. She brings a strong and demonstrable level of experience, dedication, and passion in small business advocacy, localism, community engagement, and sustainable urban planning and design.

"I am delighted to come home to Andersonville," states Dinges. "I'm eager to build on the Chamber's legacy as a strong, innovative, and collaborative organization."

Dinges returns to Chicago having previously held two Executive Director roles – first in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood, and most recently, Pittsburgh's Strip District neighborhoods where she has overseen and implemented programs that have helped build vibrant commercial corridors.

In addition to her tenure in Uptown and the Strip District, Dinges worked as 48th Ward Alderman Harry Osterman's Director of Economic Development and Communications from 2011-2015. In this role, she assisted business owners, property owners, brokers, and developers on issues related to zoning, licensing, financing, and opening a business in the City of Chicago. She has facilitated CTA and CDOT construction projects on a community level, helping to minimize their impact on small businesses. Additionally, Dinges was instrumental in creating the Argyle Night Market as well as the Argyle streetscape project in Uptown, Chicago's first ever shared street.

Accepting the Executive Director position has also meant a homecoming for Dinges – not only to Chicago, but also to Andersonville. From 2008 – 2011, Dinges served as the Managing Director of the Andersonville Development Corporation (now ASCA) and oversaw ADC's work on economic development rooted in the attraction and retention of small, local businesses, environmental sustainability, and historic preservation. She co-developed and managed ADC's groundbreaking environmental initiative, [eco-Andersonville](#), and because of its recognition, has been a guest speaker at the international USGBC Greenbuild Conference and the national

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Main Streets conference. She has sat on retail and business task forces for the City of Chicago and has been a trusted and knowledgeable advocate for small businesses.

Dinges holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies, with a concentration in Community Development from the University of Pittsburgh, as well as a minor in Italian. A past resident of Andersonville, you may have seen Dinges frequent the summer farmers market, local parks, and businesses along with her husband, Peter, and sons, Theo and Luca.

Dinges looks forward to joining the community at this year's **Andersonville Honors event on Wednesday, April 5 from 6:30-9PM at Mary's Attic** (5400 N Clark), a party celebrating the "Best of Andersonville" with awards given to businesses in the neighborhood for several categories. For more information and tickets to the event, visit andersonville.org.

The Andersonville Chamber of Commerce fosters a vibrant environment in which Andersonville businesses can thrive by attracting a diverse customer base; providing business support services and advocacy; and engaging in business attraction, long-range planning, and economic development.

The Andersonville Sustainable Community Alliance is a not-for-profit dedicated to creating a vibrant and resilient Andersonville neighborhood through innovation, education, and research, and to sustaining the ongoing programs of eco-Andersonville.

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