

# IWF Chicago Overview

The International Women's Forum is an unprecedented organization of dynamic women leaders aligned in their commitment to build better global leadership. IWF Chicago is our local forum with members from Chicago, its surrounding suburbs, as well as throughout the State of Illinois.

Founded in 1982 in the United States, the International Women's Forum has grown across 6 continents to more than 6,500 women leaders participating in 76 forums across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Central America, Australia, the Middle East, North and South America.

Membership in the International Women's Forum (IWF) is by invitation only and is influenced by definitive international standards, personal achievement and aspiration. Often defined by different goals in different locales within democratic and autocratic governments, in both development and underdeveloped countries, our trademark is inclusiveness.

The International Women's Forum offers World Leadership Conferences, International Cornerstone Conferences, Leadership Exchanges, Executive Development Programs and Roundtables as well as sponsors the Leadership Foundation.

**World Leadership Conferences**, conducted annually by the International Women's Forum, draw women from around the world who are the world's leading architects, advocates, catalysts, and pioneers of change – the women who are re-drawing the map for how we'll live, work, produce, and maintain healthy communities in the coming years. As seismic shifts in the world power structure reshape modern economies, politics, and environments, IWF's cutting-edge conferences show the way for women leaders of today and tomorrow, corporations, and governments to build the world that we want.

**International Cornerstone Conferences** are held each year in regions and markets critical to the future, providing access to leaders with insight on topics impacting international progress, business, economics, ecology, enterprise, and the sustainability of human endeavor.

**Leadership Exchanges and Global Delegations** are sponsored by IWF for members and leaders, corporate partners and collaborators who are working to promote women's leadership around the world. These singular exchanges between top government officials and business leaders from developed and emerging markets provide the opportunity for building understanding, cooperation, and better leadership.

**The Leadership Foundation**, founded in 1990, supports the IWF's educational activities for the public. The Leadership Foundation channels the talents of IWF members and the resources of the International Women's Forum's global network into programs that educate, inspire, and empower the next generation of women leaders.

**Global Initiatives** of the Leadership Foundation encourage high-potential women to embrace the past, present, and future of women's leadership around the world.

**Research** gathered at the Leadership Foundation, synthesized from the expertise of the world's leading women, provides data and insights on managing the workforce of the future for individuals, businesses, organizations, and academics.

**Inspiration** and knowledge, provided by leaders around the globe and disseminated by the IWF Leadership Foundation, arm a new generation of women with the determination, understanding, and ideas they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

**Executive Development Programs**, produced by IWF and the IWF Leadership Foundation, provide innovative and unparalleled leadership and executive development programs worldwide. These programs advance opportunities for women in leadership while also creating a profound, positive and sustainable change in the lives of women leaders today and tomorrow.

**Executive Development Roundtables**, produced by IWF with leading corporations and governments around the world, offer seminars customized for organizations sharing IWF's dedication to developing women's executive leadership. Executive Development Roundtables are designed to motivate and inspire women with the potential to become leaders and to introduce regional rising stars to an international array of perspectives and leadership styles.

Reinforcing best practices in management, innovation and communication, Executive Development Roundtables improve the retention of women with the potential to become high-performing executives by providing them with the opportunity to be recognized and engaged in a singular professional growth and global leadership experience. IWF delivers Executive Development Roundtables worldwide while adapting them to local cultures.