**Equity Principles**

The Chicago Network is honored to work our Equity Principles Campaign partners to fight for gender equity in leadership ranks as well as strengthen the pipeline for women leaders. Our focus on achieving gender equity in the workplace and safeguarding against any further setbacks, particularly resulting from the pandemic, is more critical than ever. Targeting for gender equity by 2030 aligns us with the globally recognized benchmark set by the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, as well as a growing number of state and national governments and public, private, and international organizations.

We are excited to continue our Equity Principles Campaign journey by capturing baseline workforce data. Towards that end, we partnered with Mercer, a global HR consulting firm who specializes in diversity and inclusion. Mercer worked with us to gather and measure data using their *When Women Thrive* survey. For Phase I, Campaign partners participated in this process through a survey, providing some individually de-identified workforce data.

The Equity Principles Campaign survey results were anonymously incorporated into Mercer’s *When Women Thrive, Businesses Thrive Global Report,* the world’s most comprehensive research on women in the workplace, designed to uncover the critical drivers of a successful gender diversity strategy. The Chicago Network will use this information to assist Campaign Partners adopt best practices to achieve gender equity.

**Annual Meeting**

Our Annual Meeting was a truly inspiring event. We elected a new slate of Board of Directors, celebrated friendships, and enjoyed the beauty and exhibits of the Chicago History Museum. The program’s theme, “Celebrating Women Firsts”, with our history making panel; Joy Cunningham, Presiding Justice, Illinois Appellate Court, 2nd Division, Ilene Gordon, Former Chairman, President and CEO, Ingredion Incorporated, Lisa Madigan, Partner, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, and Jill Wine-Banks, MSNBC Legal Analyst; Author, “The Watergate Girl”, NBC/MSNBC and moderated by, Tracy Brown, Chief Content Officer, Chicago Public Media, led a dynamic and engaging conversation.  Hearing their leadership journeys and insights on being the first their respective fields was fascinating and moving.

**WIFL**

This year, our Women in the Forefront Luncheon (WIFL)honored Juneteenth and reflected, rejoiced, and showcased the spirit and strength of Black America. We were thrilled to have back Irika Sargent, News Anchor, CBS 2 who once again served as our Emcee. Shawna Thomas, Executive Producer, CBS Mornings joined us as moderator and our keynote speakers Sheila Johnson, Founder and CEO of Salamander Hotels and Resorts and Michele C. Meyer-Shipp, CEO of Dress for Success Worldwide shared their extraordinary leadership journeys, which were both inspirational and in harmony with our purpose, mission, vision, and values. The energy and enthusiasm over 1400 in-person and 400 virtual attendees was outstanding.

**NOTE ON LAUNCHPAD – this was not held in FY22, so technically should not be included in the FY22 Annual Report….**

**Launchpad**

Launchpad, The Chicago Network’s Women’s Leadership Summit, is now a stand-alone event and will be hosted on September 2022. This year’s agenda is filled with relevant and valuable programs, including an assessment and a networking luncheon. This is an ideal opportunity for organizations to recognize and develop high potential women who are in director or vice-president roles who seek C-Suite or senior executive positions

**FY22 Event Titles:**

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| Annual Meeting |
| Arts and Culture and Nonprofit Sector Session |
| Corporate Sector Session |
| Everything You Wanted to Know About Buying and Selling Estate Jewelry |
| Exploring the Truth about Financial Wellness with Terry Savage |
| Fall Dinner |
| Financial Services Sector Session |
| Frida Kahlo Exhibit Tour |
| Health, Science, and Medicine Sector Session |
| Higher Education Sector Session |
| Holiday Reception Open House |
| Law and Government Sector Session |
| Lookingglass Theater | Her Honor Jane Byrne |
| Media and Communications Sector Session |
| New Member Breakfasts |
| New Year's Celebration Virtual Happy Hour |
| Panel Discussion: Why Does Board Service Matter to Me? |
| Pre-Spring Celebration at Lincoln Park Zoo |
| Private Dinners |
| Professional Services and Associations and Mid-size Private Companies Sector Session |
| Timely Topics - Virtual Series |
| Walk Through the Botanic Gardens |
| What Parents Aren't Telling You: The Hidden Struggle of Work-life Balance |
| Women in the Forefront Luncheon |