

Bio Data: Bliss Browne

Bliss W. Browne is founder and President of Imagine Chicago (www.imaginechicago.org), a mother of three, an ordained Episcopal priest, a civic leader, and a former Division Head of the First National Bank of Chicago where she was a corporate banker for 16 years. Since 1992, Imagine Chicago has harnessed hope and imagination for public good by designing and facilitating dozens of collaborative intergenerational partnerships in which uncommon partners have gotten engaged, across well-established divides of age, race, income, culture and class, in transforming families and communities. Imagine Chicago's work has inspired a global Imagine movement of social innovations on six continents.

Bliss is a graduate of Yale University (BA, History 1971), Harvard University (M.Div 1974, in theology) and the Kellogg School of Management of Northwestern (MM, 1978, in finance). She is a sought after keynote speaker, facilitator, consultant and trainer nationally and internationally, in civic engagement, leading and managing systemic change, collaborative leadership, youth development and developing the generative capacity of communities and does consulting work with business, church, health, government and community organizations.

Bliss was a member of the 2 year Saguro Seminar on Civic Engagement in America, convened by Robert Putnam at the Kennedy School of Harvard University that recognized national innovators in developing social capital. She is author of numerous journal articles, two books: "Ten Years of Imagination in Action", a conceptual framework for imagination as a social movement and "Women Alive: A Legacy of Social Justice", as well as a book entitled "Imagine: A Conversation with the Future" to be published by Taos Institute Publishing in 2009.

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Presentation Themes: Bliss Browne

Recent training events have included:

- Citizen Leadership
- Community Engagement
- Using Appreciative Inquiry in Community Regeneration
- Frameworks for Community Change
- Building Strong Community Partnerships
- Of Mothers and Midwives: Empowering Community Creativity
- Cultivating Hope and Imagination
- The Art of Community
- Strengthening school/community partnerships