



# TOM TRESSER

Creativity Champion

Tom Tresser is a consultant, producer, educator and trainer who can help individuals, companies and communities leverage and amplify their creative assets in order to solve problems, create economic value and trigger civic engagement. Tom believes that creativity is America's most precious natural resource. It's renewable, unlimited and universally available. Creativity is our heritage, our promise and the source of our prosperity. And, like a natural resource, creativity needs to be respected, conserved, stewarded and celebrated.



Tom has produced executive education programs for Fortune 500 companies, ideation sessions for advertising companies, and strategic planning sessions using elements of art, entertainment and cuisine. During the Internet boom Tom served as a marketing director and community affairs manager for OurHouse.com, an e-commerce start-up. As a member of the Mayor's Committee on the Digital Divide, Tom created the Community Technology Center Accelerator Program that is being administered by the Information Technology Resource Center.

Tom has acted in some 40 shows and produced over 100 plays, special events, festivals and community programs. Tom was Managing Director at Pegasus Players in Chicago from 1985 to 1990 and created the Chicago Young Playwrights Festival there, which is now in its 22nd season. Tom created Greater Chicago Citizens for the Arts in 1990 and recruited over 200 volunteers to work on civic efforts, including 65 artists who became Deputy Registrars who registered over 1,200 people to vote. For this work, the Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization awarded Tom the 1991 Edwin Astrin Award for Special Service. He was Director of Cultural Development at Peoples Housing, in north Rogers Park, where he created a community arts program that blended the arts, education and micro-enterprise. He served as the lead organizer for the Chicago Park District's effort to transform Douglas Park into a community cultural center.

Tom has lectured and around the country on the topic of "The Politics of Creativity" and conducted training sessions for artists on how to run for local office. Tom was elected to the Local School Council for the Abraham Lincoln Elementary School (Lincoln Park, Chicago) in April 2004. He teaches classes on the arts, creativity and civic engagement for DePaul University and Loyola University. He is currently serving as a marketing and strategic planning consultant for Collaboraction Theater ([www.collaboraction.org](http://www.collaboraction.org)).



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