

## From One to Many: The Ripple Effect

Like the ripple effect that is created by throwing a stone in a pond, the reach and impact of the Ten Thousand Ripples project will have a lasting impact beyond the thousands of individuals who saw the Buddha sculptures, participated in arts or community-based programs, explored new ways to engage in their communities, and came to new realizations of peace.

- Over 15,000 Chicago-area residents involved in arts, community, peace, and civic engagement initiatives throughout nine Chicago-area communities and beyond
- 100 Buddha sculptures
- 87 community, education, and arts organizations involved

### TEN THOUSAND RIPPLES INITIATED ACTIVITIES



### POST TEN THOUSAND RIPPLES COMMUNITY-BASED CONTINUED AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES



## INTRODUCTION

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**I HAVE WATCHED WITH GREAT PLEASURE** the success of the Ten Thousand Ripples project, from its early conception by Indira Freitas Johnson, to the physical manifestation of the project 18 months later in communities throughout Chicago. One hundred images of the emerging Buddha were placed in city lots, under viaducts, and on major thoroughfares, acting as agents of change through the chance encounters of passersby.

What are we to make of these calm Buddhas in repose, rising from the earth, beach sand, or concrete? A great diversity of people in communities from Albany Park to South Chicago created works of art, dance, literature, film, and photography to answer that question.



Indira, well known for her art installations of public engagement, envisioned the symbol of the Buddha as a catalyst for conversation, a provocation of the best kind: the initiation of dialogue on peace and the challenge of ending violence in our city.

Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA) is proud to have been part of this project, which illustrates so clearly LUMA's mission of exploring artistic expression that illuminates the enduring spiritual questions of all cultures and societies. I am so pleased to have been a cultural partner with Indira and Changing Worlds, the non-profit organization who assumed a major role in the project, and our neighborhood communities who brought this project to fruition.

The name *Ten Thousand Ripples* suggests that people can be moved to extraordinary efforts to bring about change. The stories and testimonies that follow illustrate the promise of this ambitious ideal.