

TOM 2010

**TOM TRESSER FOR COOK
COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT**

www.tom2010.us

[Tom Tresser](#) is a long-time arts activist, community development practitioner, organizer and educator. He was a co-founder of [Protect Our Parks](#), which fought the privatization of Lincoln Park. He was the Managing Director at [Pegasus Players](#) (1985-1990) and he created the [Chicago Young Playwrights](#)



[Festival](#) there. He worked for Peoples Housing, a community development organization based in Rogers Park. He organized a [community arts program there](#) (1993-1995) that blended the arts, training and micro-enterprise. He was a cultural development planner for the Park District and [organized the Douglas Park Community Cultural Center](#) (1995-1996). He founded [Greater Chicago Citizens for the Arts](#), a political organization that endorsed and worked for candidates who supported the arts and freedom of expression. He was honored with the Edwin Astrin Special Service Award by IVI-IPO in 1993. He also organized the [Creative America Project](#) and went

around the USA training artists and cultural workers on how to lead in civic life and run for local office. His book, "America Needs You - Why You Should Become A Creativity Champion" should be in book stores everywhere, but it isn't. ([You can download it for free!](#)) He was a lead organizer and webmaster for [No Games Chicago](#) and was a member of their citizen's delegation to Lausanne, Switzerland and Copenhagen, Denmark where they successfully delivered their message and materials to the International Olympic Committee. He serves on the Board of CAN-TV, Chicago's public access network. He teaches civic engagement and public policy at several local universities. He lives in Lincoln Park with his wife, Merle Green Tresser.

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