



HISTORIC CHICAGO  
BUNGALOW ASSOCIATION

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**“Mr. Fix-It” Lou Manfredini and *Inside the Not So Big House* Co-Author Marc Vassallo to Headline the 2006 Historic Chicago Bungalow & Green Home Expo**  
*Expo guests get chance to pick the brains of two nationally renowned home renovation experts on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>*

Chicago - (September 20, 2006) Looking to make improvements around the house? Don't have money to hire a personal consultant? Take advantage of the City's **Historic Chicago Bungalow & Green Home Expo** where you'll be able to pick the brains of two nationally renowned home renovation experts. Joining forces for the first time ever, the nation's leading home improvement celebrities **Lou Manfredini** and **Marc Vassallo** will share their respective expertise in updating a home's interior and using environmentally sound rehab techniques with thousands of bungalow enthusiasts and Chicago homeowners. Their lectures will be part of more than 50 workshops delivered by home design and improvement experts at the free Expo, being held **Saturday, September 30, from 10am – 4pm at the Merchandise Mart.**

Chicago native Lou Manfredini is renowned throughout the area as WGN-AM Radio's "Mr. Fix-It" and the star of NBC's *House Smarts*. Lou Manfredini, also known as Ace Hardware's "Helpful Hardware Man," has a reputation not only for building and renovating homes, but also for enlightening people about how each home's systems and components rely on one another. With his D-I-Y books including *House Smarts*, *Bath Smarts*, *Kitchen Smarts* and *Room Smarts* already available, Manfredini is enhancing the 2006 Expo team to help home owners make the most of their historic homes.

"I will talk about how to bring historic homes into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by embracing our modern conveniences without sacrificing the original integrity of the dwelling's architecture and design," said Manfredini.

Manfredini also will address issues such as: the need to carefully research and spend ample time on renovations; ways to pay for the renovation; and how to balance the time it takes to renovate a home against maintaining everyday life without too much disruption.

For many, Marc Vassallo's co-authored home-improvement book, *Inside the Not So Big House*, is considered a homeowner's bible. Known for his "Not-So-Big" philosophy, Vassallo personalizes well-crafted, carefully designed spaces over immense square footage to result in a more comforting, nurturing home. In the first of two lectures at the Expo, he will explore

emerging mega-trends in design and their underlying spirit. The five mega-trends he will examine include: Home Haven, The New Informality, Design for the Way We Live, Softer Side of Modern, and Sustainability.

“I’ll look through my own lens at some of the trends that have emerged in magazines. I think it’s wonderful when people rediscover houses and the way we live,” said Vassallo.

In a second talk, Vassallo will focus on small homes with energy efficient renovations and other topics from his brand new book, *The Barefoot Home*.

Beyond talks by Manfredini and Vassallo, visitors to the Expo can listen in on workshops from how to assemble a green roof to efficiently heating and cooling your home to reconditioning the original art glass windows. Visitors can hear from the 2006 Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Bungalow Award winners on their home rehab projects. For those interested in receiving financing for home improvements be sure to attend the Step by Step to Homeownership seminar and the Bungalow Energy Savers Grant along with the Bungalow Restricted Income Grant workshop.

In addition to these lectures, more than 140 vendors will be on hand to help Expo attendees with their home improvement questions and to promote their specialized restoration products and services. Among these vendors, approximately 50 will present how-to workshops on everything from choosing the right color of paint to home improvement loans to installing a geothermal heating.

Organizers of The Historic Chicago Bungalow & Green Home Expo, sponsored by the Historic Bungalow Association and the City of Chicago’s Department of Housing and Department of Environment, anticipate in excess of 8,000 home improvement enthusiasts and bungalow admirers to attend.

The Historic Chicago Bungalow Association is the non-profit affiliate of Mayor Daley’s Historic Chicago Bungalow Initiative and works in partnership with the City of Chicago’s Department of Housing to maintain vital and affordable housing choices in Chicago.

The complete workshop schedule is attached to this email. For more information on the Expo, participating vendors and those wishing to attend may find more information by calling the City of Chicago’s information line at 311, or going online at [www.chicagobungalow.org](http://www.chicagobungalow.org).

Sponsors of the 2006 Historic Chicago Bungalow & Green Home Expo include: Abt Electronics & Appliances, Arts & Crafts Homes and the Revival, AT&T, Chicago Conservation Center, Chicago Center for Green Technology, Chicago Department of Environment, Chicago Department of Housing, Chicago Sun Times, Chicago Transit Authority, CitiMortgage, Comcast, ComEd, Harris NA, The Home Depot, Illinois Association of Mortgage Brokers, Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, Illinois Housing Development Authority, LaSalle Bank, Peoples Gas, The Merchandise Mart, ShoreBank, Time Out Chicago and Washington Mutual Bank.