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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Former CDOT commissioner and *Start-Up City* author  
Gabe Klein announced as keynote speaker for  
Chicago Loop Alliance's 2016 Annual Meeting  
Thursday, March 10 from 7:30-9:15 a.m.**



CHICAGO (February 9, 2016)—**Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA)**, the sole service provider for Special Service Area (SSA) 1-2015, announced today that **Gabe Klein**, author of ***Start-Up City*** and former Chicago Department of Transportation commissioner, will be the keynote speaker at its **2016 Annual Meeting** on **Thursday, March 10 from 7:30-9:15 a.m. at the Palmer House Hilton (17 East Monroe Street, Chicago)**. The Annual Meeting includes breakfast and networking with Chicago's civic, business and cultural leaders, and the unveiling of CLA's **2015 Annual Report**. Guests will be the first to learn about **CLA's 2016 initiatives**, including a preview of CLA's **Downtown Futures Series**, which will bring nationally recognized urban thought leaders into public dialogues on future downtown trends and their impact on Chicago's Loop.

Tickets for Chicago Loop Alliance's 2016 Annual Meeting are now on sale for \$60 (members) and \$75 (non-members); tables are priced at \$500 (members) and \$600 (non-members). All guests will receive a copy of *Start-Up City*. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit [loopchicago.com/annualmeeting](http://loopchicago.com/annualmeeting).

"The collaboration between private and public sectors is vital for the future of downtown management, and in his new book Gabe speaks to how these partnerships can result in meaningful improvements for downtowns like Chicago's Loop," says CLA President and CEO Michael Edwards. "We're thrilled to have Gabe join us at the Annual Meeting for what will be a preview of our Downtown Futures Series, speaking to the kind of forward-thinking ideas that will shape Chicago for years to come."

**Gabe Klein**, author of *Start-Up City: Inspiring Private and Public Entrepreneurship, Getting Projects Done, and Having Fun*, was commissioner of the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) from 2011 to 2013. While at CDOT, Gabe oversaw some of Chicago's most innovative transportation projects including the launch of the Divvy bike sharing program. Prior to his time in Chicago, Gabe was director of the District Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C. and regional vice president of Zipcar.

Chicago Loop Alliance's ongoing services and programming in 2015 included enhanced beautification and hospitality services through its Clean Team and Street Team Ambassadors; year-round landscaping and infrastructure maintenance services; and placemaking initiatives such as the holiday destination marketing campaign and *ACTIVATE*, CLA's popular monthly urban celebrations in alleys. Additional details about these programs will be available in the forthcoming 2015 Annual Report.

Support for CLA's 2016 Annual Meeting is provided by: Title Sponsors **DePaul University, Gensler** and **Related Midwest**; Supporting Sponsors **ABC7 Chicago, Broadway In Chicago, ComEd, John Hancock Real Estate, Mid-America Real Estate Group, The Private Bank** and **School of the Art Institute of Chicago**; and Event Sponsors **The Monroe Building, J.C. Anderson, Inc.** and **MODE Events**.

**Chicago Loop Alliance** (CLA), the sole service provider for Special Service Area (SSA) 1-2015, creates, manages and promotes high-performing urban experiences, attracting people and investment to the Loop. For more information, please visit [www.LoopChicago.com](http://www.LoopChicago.com).

The **Chicago Loop Alliance Foundation** develops and promotes artistic, cultural, and public events within the service area of the Chicago Loop Alliance. These initiatives enhance the character of the Loop, contribute to its competitive position as a mixed-use destination, and promote economic development and tourism in the area.

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