



EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN'S COACHING

The Tiara Spotlight

Shining our light on inspiring women around the world.



Ellen Stoner

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AltusWorks is a technically oriented architecture firm specializing in adaptations, expansions, and restorations of existing and historic buildings.

Who are you?

I am an architect who specializes in restoration and historic preservation by trade. I am a tree climber (burr oaks in particular) making my way to the top, an explorer of the unusual, and a collector of beauty.

What are you passionate about?

Making my way in the world while cherishing built edifices that reflect past human successes, inventions, and ways of life.

Why are you involved in your business?

As an architect I have always had an affinity for deciphering and solving puzzles, understanding stresses and strains, and appreciating beautiful, harmonious, safe shelters.

How did you end up here? Share your journey.

I started AltusWorks as a way out of an unhappy work situation. I loved the work itself, but I worked all the time, I was surrounded by negativity, and I felt completely at the mercy of others, unappreciated, smothered, and drained. Creating a business has allowed me to strive for the prestige I desire as a local preservation architect, while defining my daily existence and integrating all aspects of my life.

Concurrent to starting my business several aspects of my family life changed which threw me into a new role and removed a lot of the independence I had always enjoyed as the middle child. I struggled with this, and as a result I was running ragged. In spite of it all, my business was successful. Tiara helped me identify these changes in my life, understand why they occurred, and embrace them without abandoning my personal pursuits.

I have been in business for nine years now, although our staff size has remained constant, our projects' size, status, and complexity have grown exponentially over the past 3 to 4 years.



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How do you recharge your batteries or nourish yourself?

Most profoundly is to travel and experience new and different cultures, adventures, and people. Otherwise I surround myself with music, practice yoga, and spend time with friends and my husband.

What are you grateful for?

I am most grateful for my loving husband who encourages and supports me in following my heart; with him all is possible.

How do your clients benefit from your products/services?

Restored, adapted, and repaired buildings are the results of my efforts. From that my clients gain an understanding of the importance of their properties and can implement their businesses in safe, comfortable, environmentally-responsible structures.

What's next for you and the organization? What are you committed to?

Next? While attentively responding to the changing needs of our most loyal client, Chicago Public Schools, we are strategically tackling new markets of healthcare, transportation, and higher education, which are expanding our reach, exposure, and satisfaction. I am committed to having my business continue to support local architectural preservation efforts and sustainable community development, while setting the stage for others to make their own way to the tree top.