

LINDA W. CHAPIN



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Linda Chapin served as the first elected mayor of Orange County, Florida, from 1990-1998. After leaving office, she joined the University of Central Florida where she founded the Metropolitan Center for Regional Studies, which focuses on issues facing the region, primarily in areas of growth, the environment, and transportation.

Today she serves on a number of civic and community boards, and is currently Chairman of the Orlando Health Board of Directors.

As Orange County Mayor, Ms. Chapin took a strong role in promoting business and industry in Central Florida by developing an economic action agenda that led to annual regional economic summits; incentives for high-technology companies; and trade missions to Europe, Asia and Latin America. Under her leadership, Orange County was the first county in Florida to mandate attention to economic development as part of its local comprehensive plan. In 2004, she became the first woman to receive the James B. Greene Economic Development Award from the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission.

Ms. Chapin's tenure in public office also included the construction of the nation's second-largest convention center, a new courthouse, the Regional History Center, fifteen new parks and recreational trails, and the purchase of over twelve thousand acres of environmentally sensitive lands. At the conclusion of her final term in elected office, the *Orlando Sentinel* described her as "a model of integrity and character."

In 1999 Ms. Chapin was named Distinguished Alumni of the Year by the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and was also awarded an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Central Florida. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center, the Trust for Public Lands, and *myregion.org*.

The Targeted Community Initiative, which Ms. Chapin began in an effort to work with citizens in redeveloping historically neglected neighborhoods, was awarded the 1997 Public Service Excellence Award from President Clinton as the best local government program in the country. A committed proponent of citizen involvement and the need to build social capital and confidence in public decision-making, Ms. Chapin has published articles in the *National Civic Review* and other social policy journals.

A Florida native, she holds a Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University.