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Chicago Architect, the primary outreach tool of AIA Chicago, is published four times a year as an authoritative resource for architects, the larger design community and the public about architecture and related issues of interest to Chicago architects. The magazine communicates industry trends, the value of high-quality design and the role of AIA Chicago and its members in the world of architecture.

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Dear Members,



Cooler weather, football starting and schools in session — fall is here! Before jumping in, I wanted to spotlight Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA, and her diligent work over the past five months as Executive Director. Jen has begun her city-wide listening tour, visiting member firms and partner organizations to learn more about their priorities, ideas, and hopes for their businesses and for their AIA chapter.

PEOPLE — In this issue, we're highlighting some exciting Chicago Architecture Biennial (CAB) projects. This year's theme, *The Available City*, expands upon Artistic Director David Brown's work in understanding Chicago's vacant lots. In our *Façades* section, you'll read about three projects that reimagine vacant or under-programmed spaces. Each project is designed by an architect or group of architects with different relationships with Chicago. First, you'll read about a project by Outpost Office that uses ground-level grid paintings to activate public spaces with minimal waste. Second, you'll read about Germane Barnes of Studio Barnes, an award-winning architect whose CAB project will reimagine an empty lot as a space for our ubiquitous block parties. Finally, you'll learn about Chicago and Los Angeles-based Bittertang Farm and their forthcoming Living Room — an intimate, permaculture seating space at a North Lawndale educational garden.

PARTNERSHIPS — Our feature this issue wraps up a monthslong collaboration between AIA Chicago and City Open Workshop. Led by Paola Aguirre, Assoc. AIA, and Elle Ramel, City Open Workshop is a group of architects, planners, artists, data experts, and more, who meet annually to better understand and engage in issues in Chicago's built environment. In this collaboration, AIA Chicago and City Open Workshop addressed Madison Street

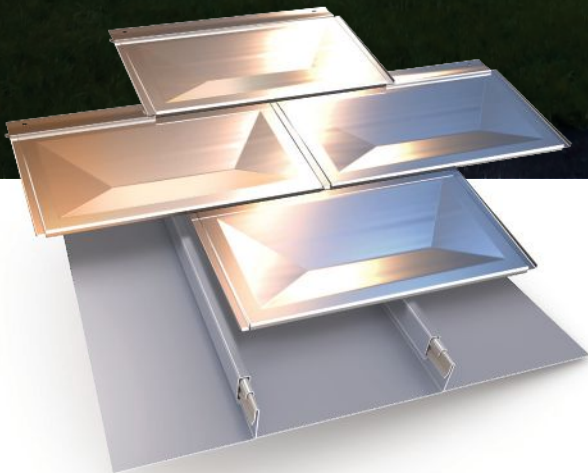
commercial corridor in East Garfield Park. Aligned with the *Available City* theme, this once-thriving community experienced decades of disinvestment and vacancy, with the help of the Chicago design and nonprofit community, is ripe for new ideas. What you'll see in this issue is a documentation process crafted by volunteer designers with diagrams, short narratives, and drawings to illustrate how City Open Workshop thinks collectively through problems, and to expose the importance of collaboration when designing for vulnerable communities.

PROMOTE HOPE — Finally, turn to the Chapter Report to read AIA Chicago's new mission and vision. We arrived on these statements from our yearlong Strategic Planning process that many of you took part in. Clearly defining our mission helps us know what opportunities to say "yes" to and which to say "no" to. By crafting a clear mission statement, we now have defined the parameters of what we will focus on as an organization. W. Clement Stone said "When you discover your mission, you will feel its demand. It will fill you with enthusiasm and a burning desire to get to work on it!"

Finally, AIA Chicago, in partnership with AIA National, has kicked off our 2022 Conference on Architecture planning! Helmed by past presidents Dawn Schuette, FAIA, and Scott Rappe, AIA, this will be an excellent opportunity for members to be involved as 20,000-plus architects from across the country will be descending on our great city and thirsting for in-person connections.

Jessica Figenholtz, AIA

Be Different



"I'm always looking to do something different. When I saw the cupped metal tiles, I said, 'Wow, I want to use this on my residence!'"

-Tom Deignan, Homeowner

Private Residence, PA Contractor: Mount Vernon Roofing Architect: 3GHC Architects
GC: Amicus Construction Photo: hortonphotoinc.com

Precision Series Tiles cupped

Metal Wall System in Bright Annealed

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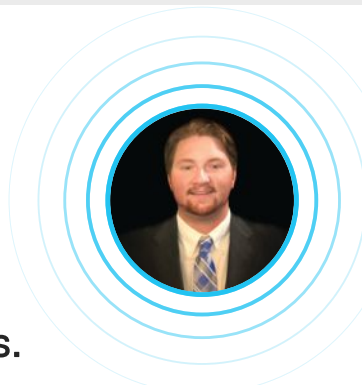
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Available Portraits

The concept of *The Available City* has been more than a decade in the making. Inspired by the potential of vacant lots in Chicago, 2021 Artistic Director David Brown undertook a research initiative to document and explore these spaces and to reimagine their potential.

The Available City will take place almost entirely around the city at sites located across roughly 10 neighborhoods. The former hub of the Biennial, the Chicago Cultural Center will serve as an information and orientation point to provide information about the 2021 program.


Taking over about 10 lots/sites across Chicago, the projects in *The Available City* will bring ideas for the use of these “collective spaces” to life, with contributors working closely with community organizations to create architectural interventions and related programming that will activate the space in ways

that will engage and enhance the community experience.

Read three portraits of three projects taking place at the 2021 Chicago Architecture Biennial:

- A Midwest firm visiting Chicago to activate community spaces with robotic ground paintings
- A native Chicagoan returning to his roots to re-create one

of his formative Chicago memories: the block party

- A Chicago- and Los Angeles-based duo that reimagines the conventional living room for other living beings 

The 2021 Chicago Architecture Biennial, The Available City, opens on September 17 and runs through 2021.

Cover the Grid

Outpost Office

Columbus, Ohio-based Outpost Office brings their acclaimed robot drawings to Chicago in *Cover the Grid*: a two-site installation of street paintings located at the North Lawndale Westside Association for Community Action (WACA) under the Central Park Pink Line stop, and Pilsen's El Paseo Community Garden.

The duo of Ashley Bigham and Erik Herrmann originally developed the concept of using a GPS-controlled field-marking robot, often used to paint lines in temporary sport fields, in their winning 2020 Ragdale Ring competition entry titled "Drawing Fields." Guiding the robotic painting device, Outpost created temporary painted designs on the Ragdale lawn, inviting members of the public to take turns operating the GPS device to create their own unique patterns.

"The robotic device allows us to minimize waste," said Bigham, "and we are always considering the lifecycle of materials. We are able to create these large-scale urban interventions as a high-visibility, low-waste project." The duo plans to use zero-VOC paints that will change with foot traffic and weather.

"We learned a lot from the Ragdale project and we were able to perfect our methods, and now we're bringing those methods to Chicago," added Herrmann.

At both sites, Outpost will create a series of line drawings that respond to constraints and existing infrastructure and amenities, particularly through color. The North Lawndale site, according to Herrmann, is abundant with grays due to the

asphalt plaza, while the El Paseo garden is characterized by verdant greens. The design team, working with those communities, has planned a series of drawings that complement those textures.

"We've based the design a bit on the way color is calibrated through photography. On the WACA site, we produced a spectrum that allows gray to become a color," said Herrmann. "We're not trying to superimpose a new rich color, but instead we're intervening in a way that gives new readings into the sites." The WACA ground drawings will also respond to and refresh the plaza's existing amenities, like a nonregulation basketball court that is frequently used by the community. "They don't have a 3-point line drawn, currently, so we will be able to define that as well as spaces for spectators," said Herrmann. Other drawing elements include defined distances for double Dutch and four square courts.

One important component of this project is improvisation; the team hopes that, while the project will be activated during myriad Biennial events, communities will be able to react to those drawings in unanticipated ways. Though the patterns might appear rigid, they are designed alongside community members who use

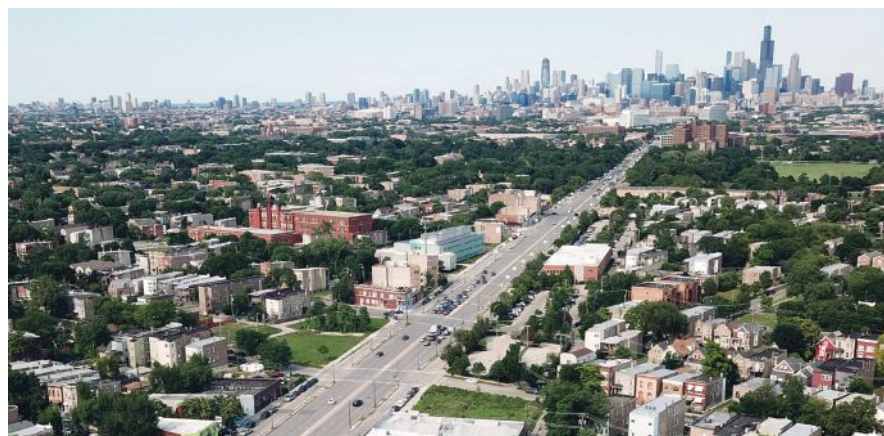


IMAGE AND PHOTO COURTESY OF OUTPOST OFFICE

these spaces for a variety of unprogrammed activity like casual gatherings and free play. "We want people to occupy the geometry," said Herrmann. "We see ourselves with a system with rules and protocols — there are certain things that the robot can do — but we're able to improvise ways those patterns work on each

site. We have a lot of confidence in our audience so we don't try to over-prescribe. Because we feel like sometimes, if you just need a space to do nothing, we'd love to provide that as well as these other kinds of activities. Programs are not framed by the designer but by interpretation and improvisation." **CA**

Block Party

Studio Barnes with Shawhin Roudbari and MAS Context

Architect Germane Barnes has been on a tear: The recipient of a 2021-22 Rome Prize, 2021 Wheelwright Prize winner, and exhibitor in the MoMA Reconstructions exhibition, Barnes has garnered attention through his Miami-based research and design practice.

At the 2021 Chicago Architecture Biennial, Barnes is returning home: born and raised in K-town (North Lawndale) with deep roots in Chicago's West Side, Barnes is designing a series of structures and programs to be included on the Westside Association for Community Action site.

Barnes is working with Craig Stevens, AIA, and Haman Cross III of Under the Grid, a North Lawndale-based organization that employs community youth to do local art and design projects. Working closely with those young people, they have created Block Party: a series of

functional and portable furniture pieces that can be assembled and reconfigured to fit programming needs throughout the year.

"Those boxes can be used for seating for an outdoor movie theater, and can be repurposed as 'obstacles' for an annual kindergarten go-cart race," said Barnes. Youth are co-designing and building these 2-foot pieces, alongside planter boxes and tables. The centerpiece of the site's installation will be a 14-foot play structure designed by Barnes. Painted pink in homage to the nearby Pink

Line, the structure will include climbable and crawlable spaces, with portholes to observe the train above. Reminiscent of a bounce house commonly seen at Chicago block parties, the structure continues the celebratory block party experience.

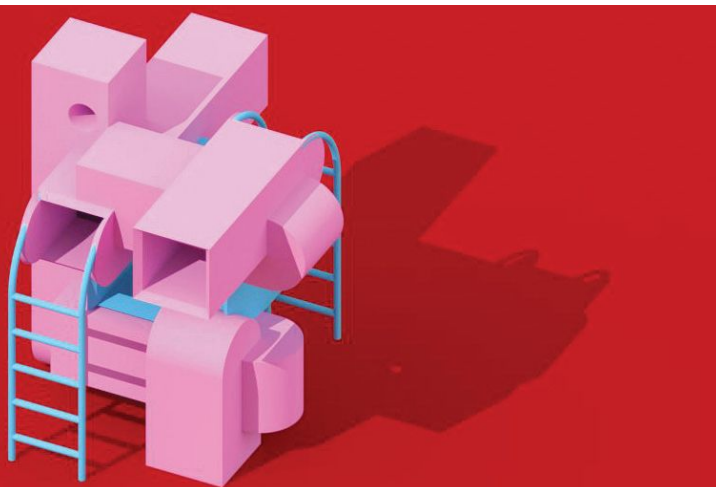
"The entire block party proposal was literally just born out of me thinking about being a kid in Chicago, thinking of families bringing out gifts for the school year, the basketball games and the barbecue, the jump rope. And that these things that we do — that we don't think anything of, because it's just something that we do, like sitting on the porch, going to a block party — are very important and interesting contributions to architecture," said Barnes.

Barnes and his team are planning monthly block parties to activate the site beginning in September, through the Biennial closing date in January 2022, but like Outpost Office, Barnes is banking on improvisation to carry the site's significance even when unprogrammed, and into the future. He hopes that the young people working with Cross and Stevens will become

interested in architecture and design through their work on the project, and that existing community frameworks like the Farm on Ogden and North Lawndale Christian facilities will help bolster the site's presence. "Our ambition is that once we get a lot of these collective events happening along the lot, this will push things forward. How can we get even bigger partners involved? And perhaps, if this goes really well, maybe the Chicago Bulls see what's happening and want to invest some resources, and then it can become something that's more sustainable," he said.

Ultimately, improvisation is a core of Barnes' practice.

"When you're doing community-oriented work, the one thing you have to learn very quickly is that realities change and they change immediately," he said. "These are vulnerable populations that a lot of times don't have consistency. You have to be free within the work and to remove a lot of the ego, which we typically don't as architects and designers. But in the end, if you are really a servant of the people, you have to be willing to alter your vision." **CA**



The play structure by Studio Barnes will invite children to see their neighborhood from different vantage points. IMAGE COURTESY OF STUDIO BARNES

Living Room

Bittertang Farm

In 2013, the Chicago Christian Alternative Academy, located near Pulaski and Roosevelt in North Lawndale, began a new holistic wellness program to introduce healthy lifestyles into their high school curriculum.

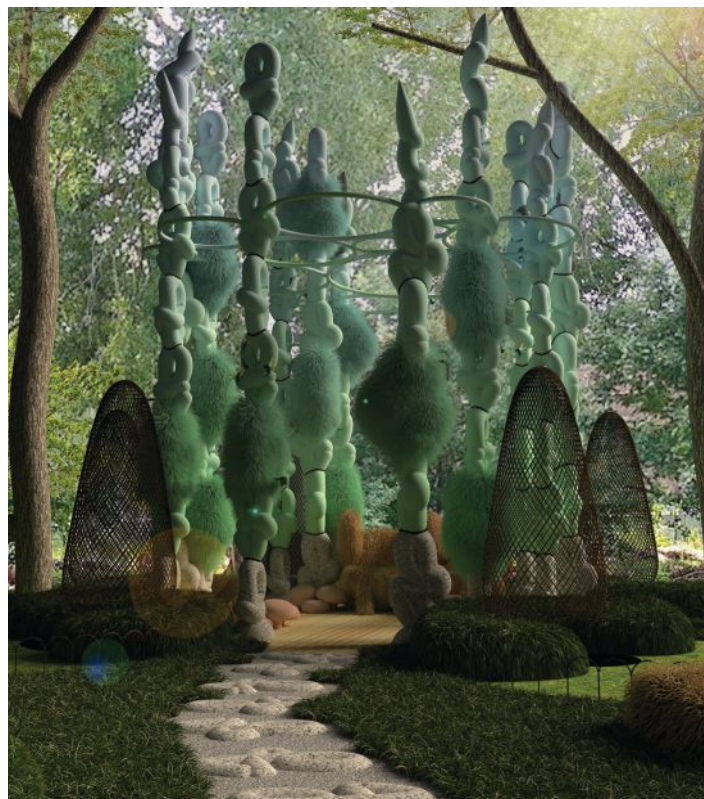
Over the years, the school partnered with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago to bring in designers to help cultivate a new permaculture forest, called the PermaPark. One block south of the school, students have worked with arborists, architects, community members and more to create a space that educates students about horticulture and healthy eating. As part of the 2021 Chicago Architecture Biennial, architecture firm Bittertang Farm — led by Chicago-based architect Antonio Torres (also a professor at the University of Illinois Chicago) and Los Angeles-based architect Michael Loverich — will create a new addition to the PermaPark: a permaculture Living Room.

The Living Room project began with the 2019 Biennial iteration, when Bittertang worked with 2019 participant and 2021 Artistic Director David Brown on a series of student workshops that ideated around a community seating space within the garden. Brown invited the duo back in 2021 to construct a space that melds horticulture

and architecture.

“We were very interested in the way that permaculture organizes space; how it thinks about the sectional qualities of landscaping and gardening. And so we wanted to see if there are ways of incorporating some of those ideas from permaculture into architecture,” said Loverich. The team began thinking about the living room as a place for gathering or communing, laid out similarly to a domestic living room with a variety of furniture, but with a permaculture twist. “A domestic living room creates space for gathering and for people to communicate with each other, but what if we created a place for animals and plants to inhabit it, as well, so that you kind of get this combination of people, birds, and insects and plants?”

To create that type of permaculture-inspired domestic environment, the designers carefully considered materials and textures. Several vertical columns will enclose the living room space, each created by hand with an Illinois chainsaw artist, who will carve each column using hardwoods. To



create softer sculptural elements, the designers are weaving willow branches that, in later seasons, will incorporate live willow branches to create new habitats. As for seating, the team is looking to create “alive” seats integrated with the ground that allow for mushrooms to grow underneath, using shadows cast by the seats that create microenvironments.

“The project is going to be living, so we also imagine that it will transform from season to season, but it’s also going to be permanent. Over the years, it’s going to grow. So there is going to be not just human activity that is occurring here; we anticipate there to be birds and insects, too,” said Loverich.

The space will host programming for the Biennial and will live on to host those birds and insects — as well as students as an outdoor classroom and social space. Its proximity to Pulaski at a busy intersection will beckon passersby with its long vertical columns decorated in woven willows, increasing its presence and impact. “The project is responding to the natural ecosystem created within the park,” described Torres, “but we wanted to also create this vertical structure that races up from the park to become visible from Pulaski Road. And that could be something that starts to draw people that are passing by into this community space.” CA



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A Visionary Future for AIA Chicago

Over the last year, the AIA Chicago Board of Directors has embarked on a strategic planning process — one that has involved our members and stakeholders and guided by our partners at Executive Services Corp. We'd like to express our appreciation for all members and allied partners who contributed to our nine-month strategic planning process. Since that time, AIA Chicago has adopted a new logo and we are pleased to release our new Mission and Vision statements.

This is our first strategic plan in more than 25 years. With this guiding document we can establish an organizational direction and sharpen our focus, specifically over the next three years. We have implemented a system to evaluate and monitor our progress, and will continue to update members as we move through implementation.

With six areas of focus vertically, we have woven in two major threads horizontally: JEDI (justice, equity, diversity and inclusion), and climate crisis

AIA Chicago Mission:

AIA Chicago builds on our city's architectural legacy by advocating for the profession, sharing knowledge among members, and partnering with communities.

AIA Chicago Vision:

Fostering a culture of design excellence for equitable, sustainable places and spaces.

and sustainability. Every decision we make as an organization, we will strive to ensure these guiding principles are a

prevalent and apparent. Stay tuned for updates and the official roll out of the Strategic Plan to membership.

Announcing the 2021 AIA Chicago Foundation Diversity Scholarship Recipients

The AIA Chicago Foundation Board of Directors has announced two recipients of the annual Diversity Scholarship, an opportunity to attract and retain diverse, talented young professionals in Chicago and that recognizes the value of new and unique voices in the profession. One \$10,000 graduate scholarship and one \$10,000 undergraduate scholarship is awarded each year.



Graduate Award:

Hsu Myat Aung, AIAS, Illinois Institute of Technology

Hsu Myat Aung is a first-year graduate student at the Illinois Institute of Technology. She is a co-founder of the nonprofit organization Human Scale.



Undergraduate Award:

William Manzanilla, AIAS, Illinois Institute of Technology

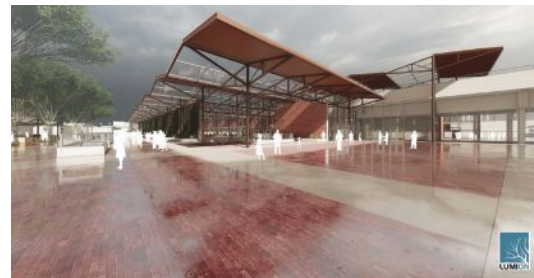
William Manzanilla is an incoming fourth-year student at the Illinois Institute of Technology and an alumnus of the ACE Mentor Program.

2021 Student Awards in Architecture

The AIA Chicago Foundation has announced its 2021 Student Awards in Architecture.



1st Place, Benn Johnck Award
Urban West Dance Center
Yash Mehta
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee



2nd Place:
Lamination, A New Chinatown Market
Noah Donica & Zhiqiang Shi
Illinois Institute of Technology



3rd Place:
A Pantone Pixelscape: Negotiating Thresholds through Gradients
Tasmia Kamal and Cesar Gomez
Illinois Institute of Technology

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

The Sieve: Uptown Chicago Apartments
Yiti 'Alice' Gao & Albert Santoso
Illinois Institute of Technology

Adaptive Reuse as a Tool for Combating the Affordable Housing Crisis
Amanda Fusion
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Under the Umbrella: Chinatown Market Hall
Rama Alsaïd-Souliman, Austin Bower and Lauren Tudor
Illinois Institute of Technology

Open UpTown - Exploring Porosity
Austin Bower, Spencer Goff, Pengbo Liao
Illinois Institute of Technology



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Woodhouse Tinucci Architects received a 2021 AIA national Small Project Award for their Gillson Park Beach House in Wilmette, IL.

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DMAC Architecture has released their proposal for Riverwalk@300SRP—a reactivation of a dormant platform along a stretch of the Chicago River’s South Branch.



Two AIA Chicago members received the 2021 national AIA Young Architect Award: **Jennifer Park, AIA**, and **Danielle Tillman, AIA**. **Tiara Hughes, Assoc. AIA**, received a 2021 national AIA Associates Award.



Kenneth Turner, AIA, has joined **DLR Group** to establish a tall buildings practice.



The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award for Architectural Excellence in Community Design was awarded to three Chicago projects: first place went to **STL Architects** for Williams Park Fieldhouse; second place was awarded to **HED, JGMA, bKL, and Farr Associates** for Lathrop; and in third place was **Canopy/Architecture + Design** for Oso Apartments.

Simeone Deary Design Group recently merged with **KTGY Architecture + Planning** — which operates six U.S. offices — to create **KTGY Simeone Deary Design Group**.

John Vinci, FAIA; **Tim Samuelson**; graphic artist **Chris Ware**; and Urban Remains founder **Eric Nordstrom** co-curated Wrightwood 659's new exhibition, *Romanticism to Ruin: Two Lost Works of Sullivan and Wright*. The exhibition explores two long-demolished masterpieces: Louis H. Sullivan's innovative Garrick Theater and Frank Lloyd Wright's unprecedented Larkin Building, in Buffalo, New York.



Ware Malcomb has completed the Chicago DIRT Experience Center (DXC), an immersive experience center located at 325 North Wells Street in Chicago. In collaboration with DIRT, Ware Malcomb provided interior architecture and design for the project.

PEOPLE + PROJECTS

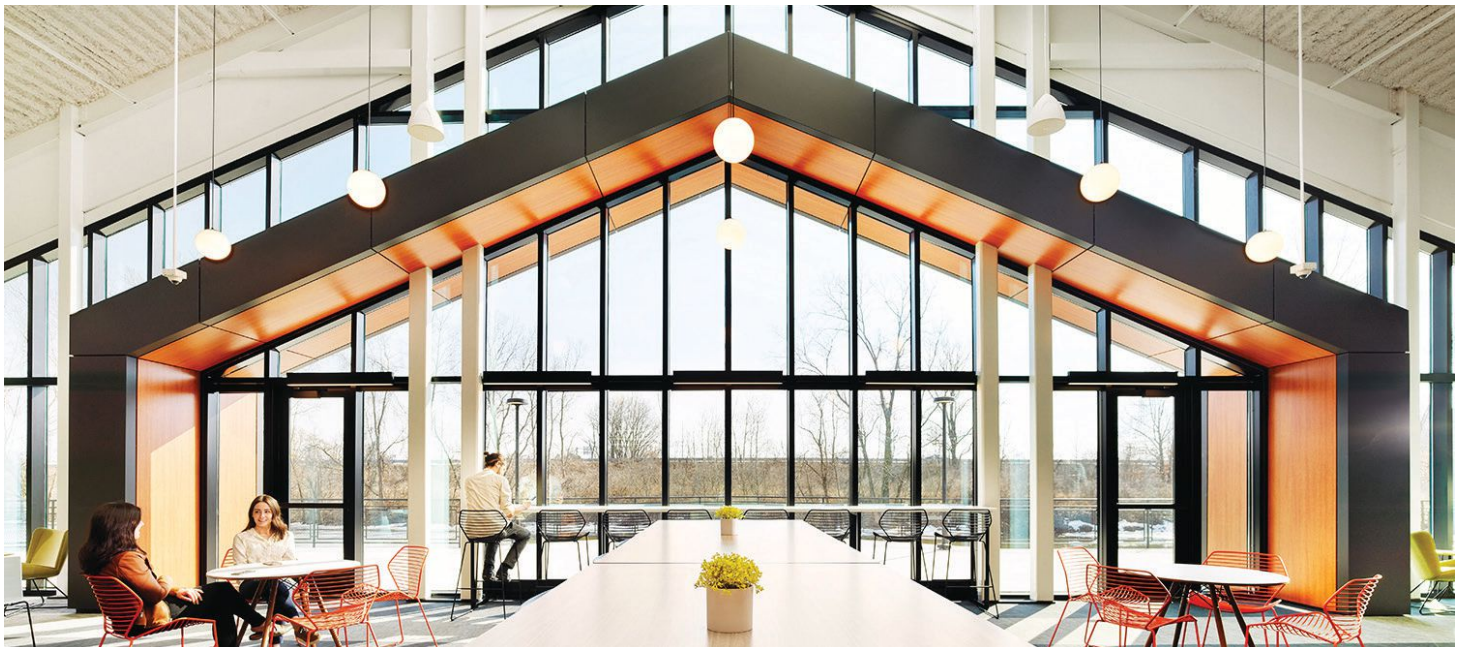


AKA Architects has completed a renovation of the Fertility Centers of Illinois, including design development, finishes, and construction administration.



Burhani Design Inc. and **Epstein** recently collaborated to present their ideas to renovate the Outdoor Recreation field for Talcott Elementary School and were successful in assisting them to secure additional funding to commence design for Phase 1 this summer. The renovation includes the addition of a new turf field, a running track, volleyball and basketball courts, and seating areas to conduct outdoor classrooms.

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Ghafari Associates has completed the Northpointe Bank Operations Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This facility assumes the role of the national operations hub for Northpointe's growing residential lending and servicing groups.



Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture's new Steppenwolf Theater Art and Education Center will open at the end of the summer. It is the largest permanent cultural asset opening in Chicago this year at 50,000 square feet, including a new 400-seat Round Theater (one of its kind in Chicago), two new bars, and Steppenwolf's first dedicated education center, which will provide programming for teens and the community.



Solomon Cordwell Buenz has opened a new office in Boston, Massachusetts, and will be led by Executive Director and Principal **Clara Wineberg, AIA, LEED AP BD+C.** Principal **Bryan Irwin, AIA, LEED AP,** is directing the East Coast office's campus environments studio.

Worn Jerabek Wiltse Architects has been renamed as **WJW Architects**, marking their 30th anniversary.



Christopher Lawton and Micah Stanley of Lawton Stanley Architects have designed Ever, a Michelin-starred restaurant in Chicago.

COLLECTIVELY INVESTED

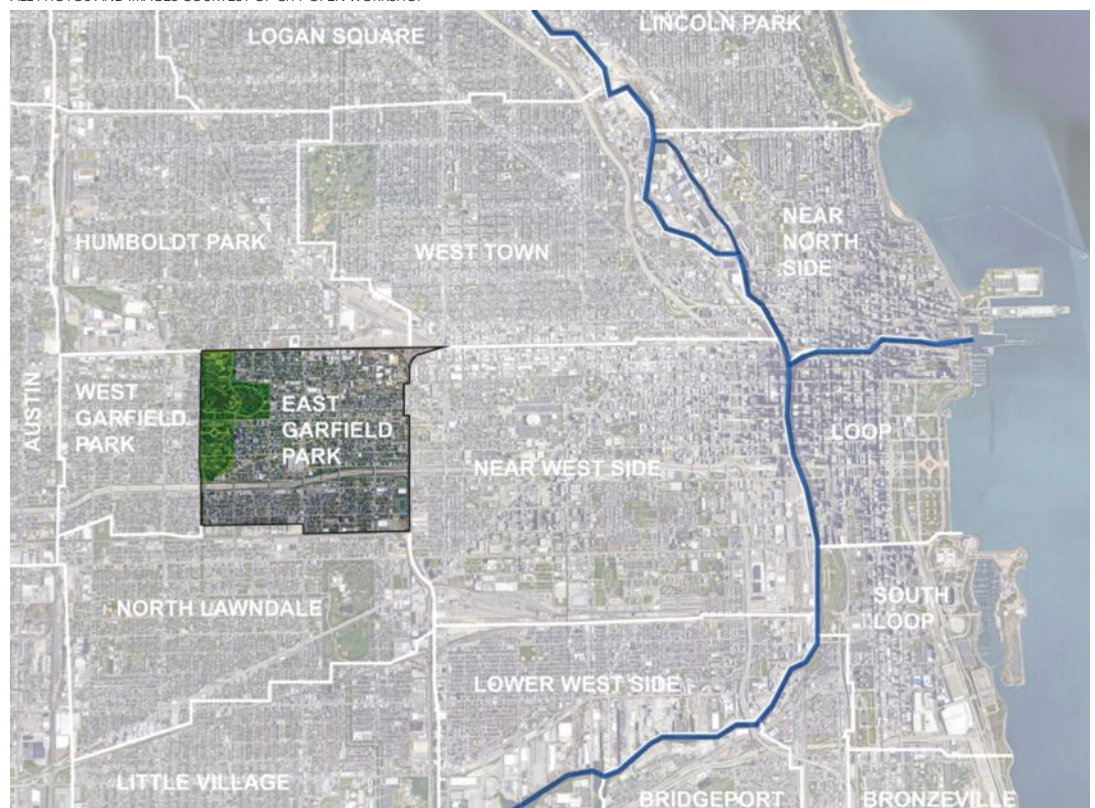
City Open Workshop Is Designing Processes for Community Engagement



Led by Paola Aguirre, Assoc. AIA, and Elle Ramel of GET Cities, City Open Workshop brings design processes to communities as a platform for citizen-driven change. Since 2016, the group of interdisciplinary volunteers ranging from architects to planners, nonprofit professionals to “big data” experts, has been meeting in three-month sessions to build meaningful collaborations between community partners, policymakers and the urban planning and design community to foster civic discourse about Chicago’s built environment and spark curiosity and investment in its communities. In the spring 2021 season, the group gathered to ask the question: How do we imagine more inclusive and meaningful planning and visioning processes for historically disinvested neighborhood corridors?

This season, City Open Workshop focused on the heavily disinvested Madison Street commercial corridor on Chicago’s West Side — East Garfield Park. Inspired by recent reporting from *ProPublica Illinois’* “Disinvested” that documents decades of targeted disinvestment and demolition in the East Garfield Park neighborhood, City Open Workshop dedicated its spring 2021 season to developing research, strategizing outreach and engagement methods — including individual and institutional storytelling — and exploring creative documentation, among others, to collaboratively frame a community visioning process for Madison Street. City Open Workshop, in collaboration with AIA Chicago, dedicated this season to studying

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City Open format: City Open hosts two types of meetups: regular biweekly workshops, which usually include a guest speaker and some breakout exercises, and working group sessions. Working group sessions are the “in-between” sessions (typically alternating with workshop weeks) that provide a “deeper dive” into planning and design discussions. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these sessions were held virtually.

ProPublica Article: Disinvested: How Government and Private Industry Let the Main Street of a Black Neighborhood Crumble

1950's-60's	1970's	1980's	1990's	2000's	2010's
<p>Post WWII</p> <p>Second Great Migration</p> <p>White flight</p> <p>Fifth City formation</p> <p>King and local activists picketed for fair wage</p> <p>'68 riots (200 bldgs destroyed citywide)</p>	<p>1,600 buildings demolished from 1972-1979, incl. + 2,675 buildings in 1975.</p> <p>Model Cities Program</p>	<p>By 1980, 32,000 people left in the neighborhood (less than 1/2 its population 20 yrs earlier).</p> <p>Reagan elected, big-gov programs began shrinking.</p>	<p>Chicago increased demo spending from \$2.5 million in 1990 to ~ \$10 million in 1993.</p> <p>United Stadium opens.</p>	<p>City = largest landowner of West and South sides: 11,000 lots across Chicago: 530 in E Garfield Park, 40 front Madison St.</p> <p>Economic recession.</p> <p>Madison St revitalization plan created but never fully realized.</p>	<p>Ward boundaries redrawn.</p> <p>Mayor Rahm Emanuel launched Large Lots with looser restrictions. E Garfield Park and Englewood were pilot programs.</p> <p>Garfield Park Chamber of Commerce drafts plan to reimagine Madison St.</p>

and framing possibilities for a design and planning process that is responsive to the specific challenges of Madison Street.

In the following pages, you'll read more about their journey toward creating a design engagement

process; examining tools for outreach, documentation and communication; identifying community partners;

and collaboratively framing the most pressing issues faced by the corridor and surrounding neighborhoods.

Identifying the Research: Starting Point

BY GENEVIEVE WASSER, ARCHITECT AT VIA CHICAGO ARCHITECTS, AND LOUISA ZHENG, DESIGNER AT LATENT DESIGN, 2021 CITY OPEN WORKSHOP FELLOWS



This evening we examined the question through an art and historical research lens. Meida McNeal, artistic and managing director of Honey Pot Performance, and University of Chicago and Columbia College faculty member, presented on her research and performance project, *Fifth City Revisited*. Fifth City was located on Fifth Avenue, adjacent to East Garfield Park's Madison Street commercial corridor. Her work delves into the background

of the Fifth City Project. The project was formed in the early 1960s as a unique grassroots development project. Fifth City community members resisted a narrative of disenfranchisement, organizing around participatory self-autonomy and collective empowerment. While sociologists in the 1980s characterized four types of community (downtown, inner city, suburban or rural), Fifth City was born out of a fifth type: a decisional city that could be

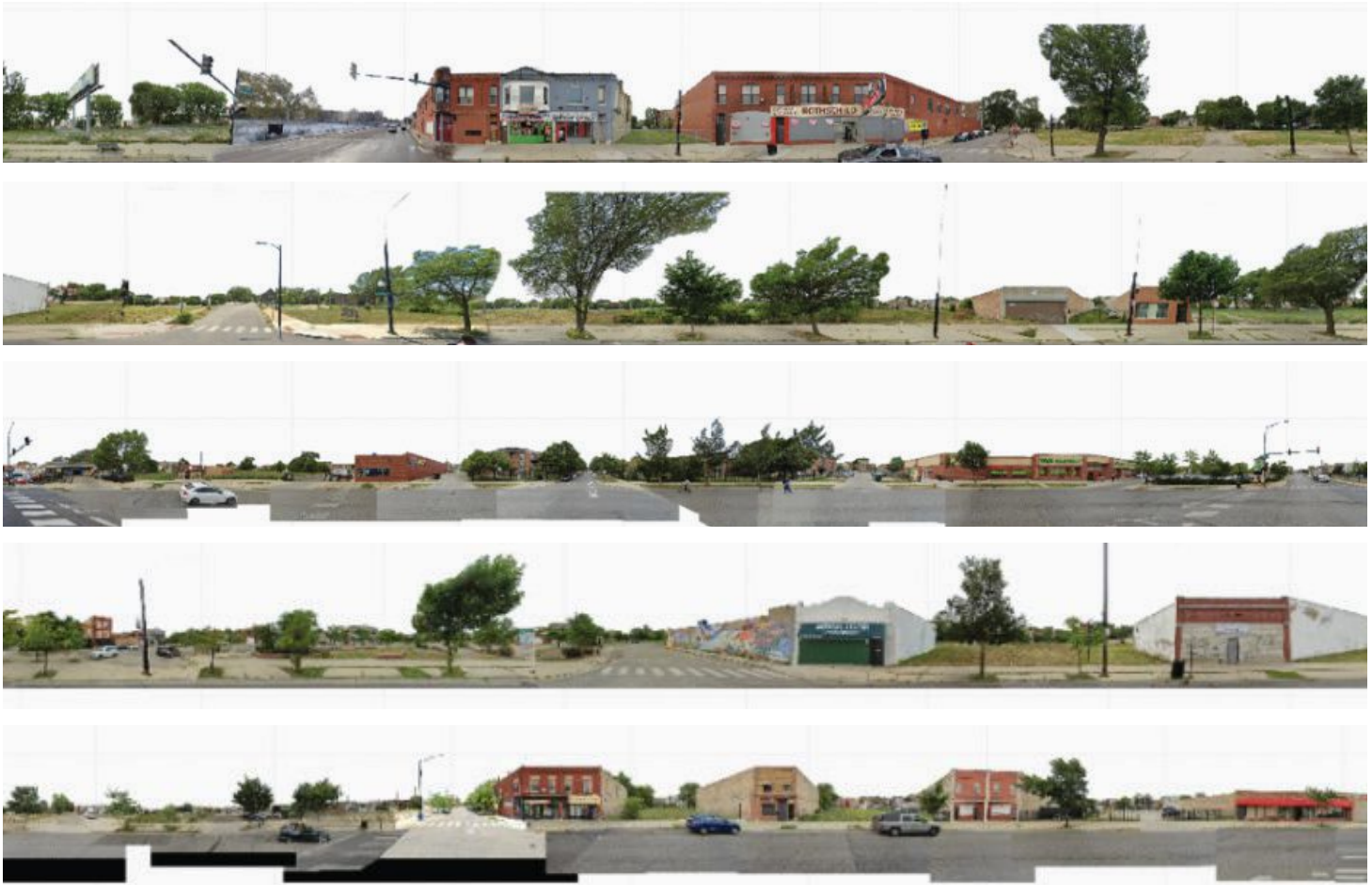
whatever the residents wanted it to be.

After a lively, always-too-short Q&A with Meida following her presentation, we broke into three groups to map our collective knowledge and follow-up questions about the neighborhood. The prompts included:

- What should we know now?
- Who do we need to listen to/learn from?
- What would you like to learn about?

What we learned:

We examined Fifth City as a model and prototype for community care and self-determination in the 1960s and learned how that can help us in the current planning process to consider alternative models for community development.



Site Tour: A Guided Walk Through East Garfield Park

BY JUAN LUNA, OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST AT LUCHA

In the middle of a large lot between two one-story-tall commercial businesses, the first stop of our guided tour of East Garfield Park is Western Union and Catfish Corner. As part of our strategic outreach and engagement methods, we participated in a guided tour of the community. Through his vast historical knowledge and connection to East Garfield Park, our tour guide, Jason Ferguson, provided firsthand insight into the ways community members interact and navigate the space that is the Madison Commercial Corridor.



Jason is the coach of GOlympians at Marshall High School in the neighborhood. A lifelong resident of East Garfield Park and a prominent figure in the community, Jason gave us the pleasure of being our tour guide. As we walked down Madison Street, Jason continued on, effortlessly sewing the history of systemic racism East Garfield Park faced with the current state it is in. He noted the aftermath of the 1968 Chicago riots following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. and the city's part in years of falsely promising to prioritize the rebuilding of Madison Street. The aftermath was large lots that lay empty, neglected or completely abandoned for years, decreasing the storefronts for local entrepreneurs to lease.

Along the way, Jason pointed out the various vacant lots and boarded-up windows,

highlighting remnants of the once-thriving corridor. Jason recounted the several businesses and services that once filled the stretch. He pointed to empty lots and parcels that once housed local businesses, specialized shops, small grocery stores, corner stores, restaurants, and social service offices and clinics.

Our tour then led us to the intersection of Kedzie and Madison. At this intersection, Jason stopped us to recenter our focus on the two buildings. We stood in front of a Dollar Tree with wooden boards blocking the windows. Facing directly across from the Dollar Tree is a historic greystone building. He noted the similarities between the two, referring to how both lost interest from outside as well as local businesses in returning. Although much time has passed since these businesses shuttered, no



organized plan from an institution has been put in place.

Jason guided the group down Fifth Avenue, a diagonal strip in East Garfield Park. As we crossed the street, we could see large empty lots with a few standing two-to-three-flat units along Fifth Avenue. As we continued our tour, Jason pointed out several examples of subsidized housing newly built on Monroe Street, which seems to have become a growing trend. However, as alluded to by Jason, the growth of the community won't happen so easily. Walking down Fifth Avenue, we saw more empty lots along with several buildings in poor condition, and Jason brought back our attention to the current issues the community is facing.

Jason informed the group of the avenue's history and how it has shaped the present. As a way to improve public safety, the City of

Chicago planned to demolish several of the buildings that were seen as blights after the 1968 riots. However, the properties that were demolished remained empty for a while. We paused at a large lot with a real estate agent's "For Sale" sign. Jason informed us more on how the vacant properties were then purchased by speculators, often from outside the community, who had little to no intention of developing the parcels following demolition.

We proceeded walking northeast, bound toward our final stop at the intersection of California and Madison. Here Jason provided the group with more insight into the community's current political issues regarding elected officials and developers, as well as the intercommunity tensions with West Loop expanding its development in the neighborhood. Once the conversation was over, the group continued walking north on Fifth Avenue, approaching the final stop.

Wrapping up the last part of the tour, we stood at the intersection of North California and West Madison. Jason pointed out two important spaces around this corner. The first was Catfish Corner, a once well-known barbecue restaurant in the neighborhood that was often a location where various events were held and groups would congregate. The second was the Fred Hampton Black Panther Party mural. Not so far from this intersection was Hampton's home and the site of his assassination. Jason concluded the tour by pointing out various murals, landmarks of the Black Panther Party, and the landmarks and place-makers acknowledged by local neighborhood residents.

TRENDing: A Look at Community-Serving Corridor Development

BY GENEVIEVE WASSER AND LOUISA ZHENG

This week we were thinking about collective mapping of resources within a neighborhood. Our guest speaker, Lyneir Richardson, co-founder and CEO of the Chicago TREND Corporation, spoke to City Open Workshop about his experience in community-focused residential and commercial corridor development. Lyneir's particular forte is communicating the value of overlooked commercial corridors to retailers. Since starting Chicago TREND in 2016, his projects focus on the central questions of "How can retail strengthen neighborhoods?" and "Can we use capital to empower entrepreneurs of color who lead, own and drive commercial corridor development?"

After Lyneir spoke, City Open Workshop participants raised the following questions, which were addressed in the following abridged Q&A.

Q: *How are development sites determined? Is it based on parcels that are already purchased, or are they chosen based on where the residents live and believe they should be located?*

A: The challenge with urban corridors is that parcels tend to be individually owned by different owners, each with their own goals and objectives for how they use the property. It often comes down to finding a synergy between what the community desires and a risk assessment on behalf of the investor.

Q: *How do you work within a commercial corridor when the surrounding neighborhood is declining in population? Do you*

look for services — healthcare, day care, etc.?

A: Part of Chicago TREND's work was to identify neighborhoods on the cusp of change. Look for the assets in a neighborhood that can serve as an anchor around which to strengthen a corridor. Can you find nontraditional anchors? It's not always about retail but strengthening the corridor. Services like health care or day care centers work really well for this.

Q: *On misalignment of perception vs. reality of the economic development potential in a neighborhood, what approaches are used to mediate it?*

A: I remember it was the first time I looked up the definition of ignorance. Ignorance is ignoring available information. I said this is a great neighborhood — there's density, but there's a

lack of grocery store competition. A lot of this is not just about information, it's about relationships. It's about building a relationship with people who

can help advocate and convince retailers beyond just using the data and the dollars. It's about deal-making and the relationship as well.



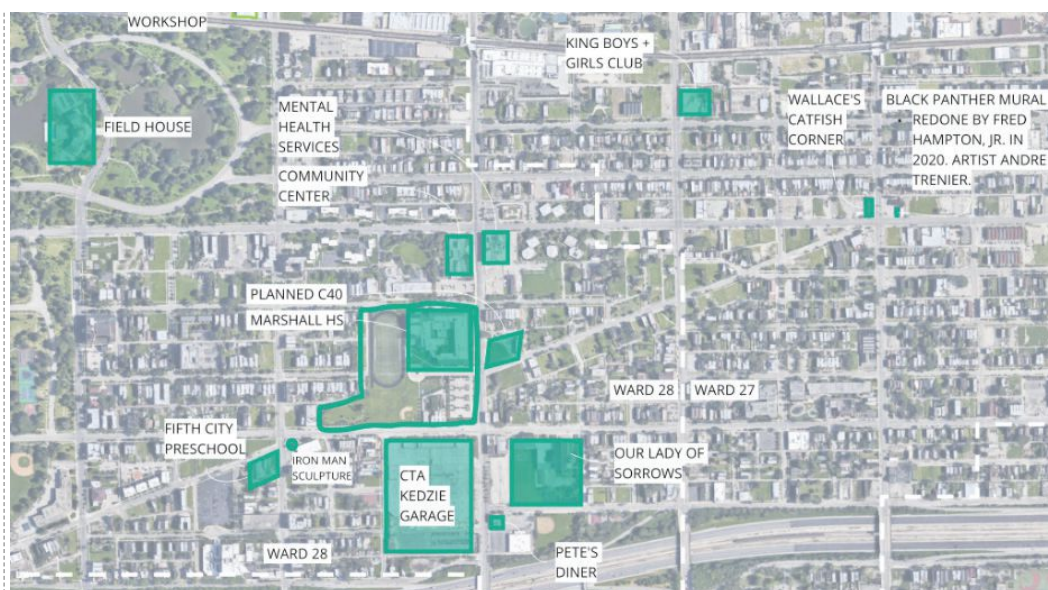
Lyneir Richardson
Chicago TREND

How can retail strengthen neighborhoods? How can we use **capital to empower entrepreneurs of color** that lead, own and drive commercial corridor development in neighborhoods?

What we learned: How retail can strengthen neighborhoods and how we can use capital to empower entrepreneurs of color who lead, own and drive commercial corridor development in neighborhoods.

How Do We Engage (the) Community?

BY TOM MARTIN, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ASSOCIATE AT THE LAKOTA GROUP



One guest speaker, Al Walker, a leader with Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network (CSLN) — an organization that “connects grassroots leaders from communities across Chicago to share resources, support each other’s work, collaborate, build a stronger collective voice, and nurture equitable and impactful relationships with policy makers” — helped City Open Workshop understand how to identify community assets.

Central to CSLN’s founding was the Institute of Cultural Affairs’ (ICA) accelerate77 program, which proposes to accelerate growth within Chicago’s 77 communities by

focusing on assets already present in a given community. For seven years, CSLN has carried out these initiatives, which have aided in the development of several more localized groups like the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, which aim to grow their community with a focus on their green space assets.

You may ask yourself — how do CSLN and affiliated groups identify assets within a community? Simply put: Ask the community. CSLN partners with these localized groups to host “Nourishing Community Events” where leaders and neighbors alike participate in a facilitated conversation regarding the

current issues facing their community and assets that may help in addressing these issues. CSLN’s access to municipal resources and city officials provides a framework for addressing these issues and furthering investment in community assets.

Common assets often in need of investment are burgeoning local businesses. Two Garfield Park examples shared were the Westside Bee Boyz, an organization that utilizes a holistic approach to beekeeping to improve community, and Inspiration Kitchen, an organization that helps train low-income and homeless Chicagoans in the

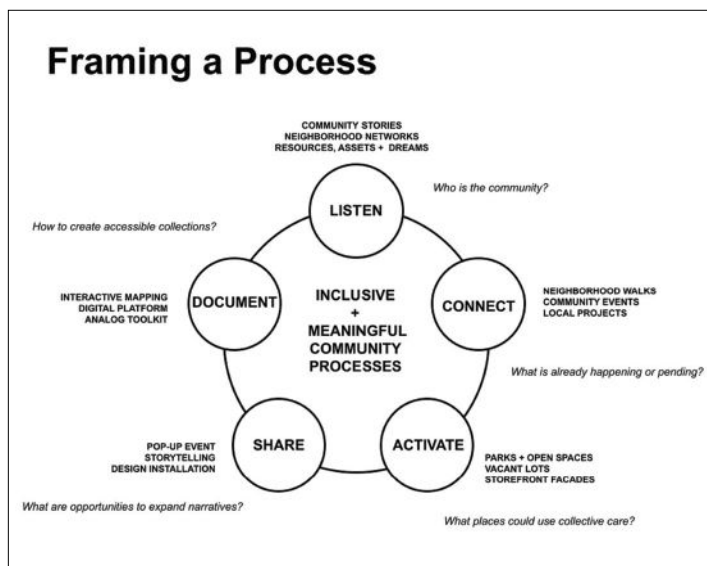
What we learned:
The community knows what their assets are and what is needed. We require tools to be able to capture the community’s hopes, needs, memories and visions.

foodservice industry. These businesses and organizations are essential to the vitality of a neighborhood. Al put it succinctly toward the end of the presentation by noting that “all communities have assets” — a crucial shift in perspective and approach for this season and beyond.

Reflections on a Season of Learning

BY THE CITY OPEN TEAM

Throughout the spring 2021 season, City Open Workshop heard from the above speakers, toured the East Garfield community and broke into working groups to distill what we learned from our guests, tours, research and analysis. Imagine how design and storytelling can contribute to making these stories visible and create opportunities for exchange — what is needed to make that possible? With a more comprehensive understanding of the people and assets that make up the neighborhood, City Open participants were able to generate ideas for analog and digital tools to gather that “soft” data.



The Postcard

City Open Workshop created a postcard: a prepaid, mailable postcard featuring historic photos of Madison Street. Residents can respond to a prompt, asking for short memories or hopes for their corridor. (See Figures 1 and 2)

The Voicemail Service

We also provided a voicemail service that residents can call to leave a message of their thoughts and ideas for Madison Street’s development.

Intercept Interviews

City Open Workshop generated a pop-up toolkit — folding tables, audio recording equipment, snacks, water and signage — that can be transported to community hubs (identified through research and guest speakers) to collect stories in person. (See Figure 3) The kit also includes the postcard to mail in, and business cards that have the voicemail service number in case passersby would prefer to mail in or call in their stories or visions.

After soft data collection, participants decided that sharing these stories and visions would be crucial to influencing any future design or development projects that occur in the area. Documentation and sharing are key to City Open’s practice. (See Figures 4 and 5)

Cultural Asset Mapping Project (CAMP)

CAMP uses digital visualization online to create interactive maps that pair storytelling with GIS. Website visitors can peruse the neighborhood’s digital landmarks, reading stories attributed to each site. (See Figure 5)

Storycatcher

Similar to the intercept interviews, documentation of community vision can be taken to the streets in large-scale, public installations. There are opportunities to create temporary murals or structures that showcase individual stories and hopes for new development. Pairing community visionaries with design experts, these ideas can be translated into intimate visualizations. (See Figure 6)

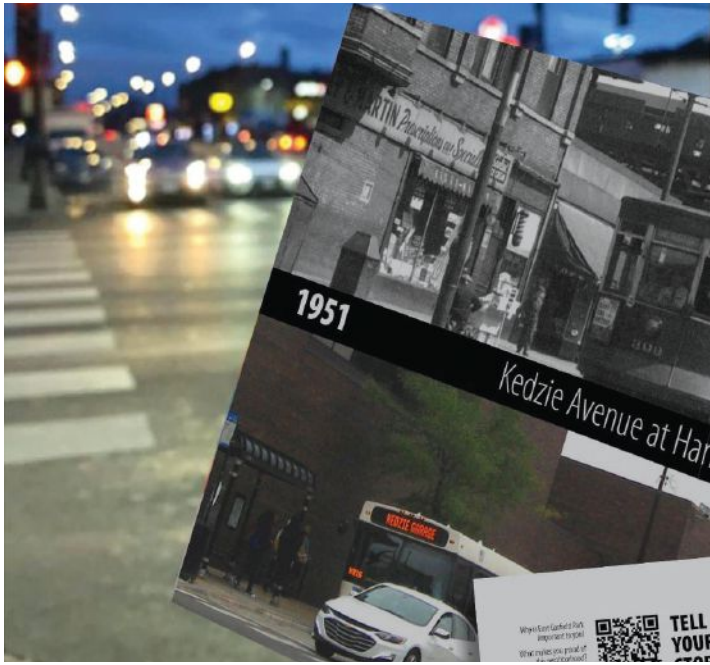


Figure 1

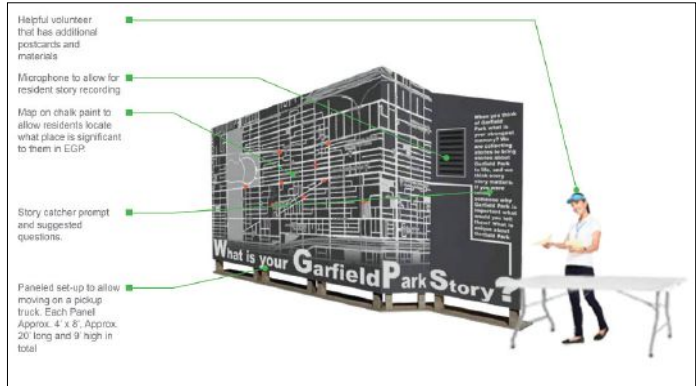


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 2



Figure 5



Figure 6

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ROMANTICISM TO RUIN: TWO LOST WORKS OF SULLIVAN & WRIGHT

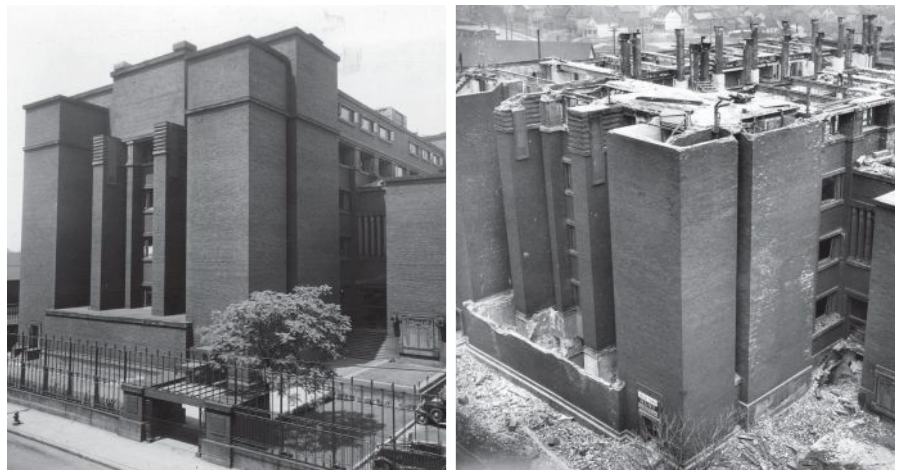
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Wrightwood 659 presents *Romanticism to Ruin: Two Lost Works of Sullivan and Wright*, a dual exhibition that brings to life two long-gone masterpieces: Louis H. Sullivan's innovative Garrick Theater, in Chicago, and Frank Lloyd Wright's unprecedented Larkin Building, in Buffalo.

Two distinct presentations—*Reconstructing the Garrick: Adler & Sullivan's Lost Masterpiece* and *Reimagining the Larkin: Frank Lloyd Wright's Modern Icon*—bring the essence of these titans of modern American architecture to life through 3D models and digital re-creations; salvaged architectural ornaments and artifacts; historical documentation of the design, construction, and demise of the buildings; and archival photographs taken by noted preservationist and photographer Richard Nickel, demonstrating how these iconic designs continue to resonate and remain relevant.



Reconstructing the Garrick: Adler & Sullivan's Lost Masterpiece
Curated by John Vinci with Tim Samuelson, Eric Nordstrom and Chris Ware



Reimagining The Larkin: Frank Lloyd Wright's Modern Icon
Curated by Jonathan D. Katz

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Interior Garrick Theater, 1960. Courtesy of HABS/HAER Collection, National Park Services. Photo by Richard Nickel. Interior Garrick Theater during demolition, 1961. Courtesy of Richard Nickel Archive, Ryerson and Burnham Art and Architecture Archives, The Art Institute of Chicago.
Exterior of Larkin Administration Building, 1934. L37, # 1-2a. Larkin Administration Building demolition, May 1950. #L37, #2-75. Both images Collection of The Buffalo History Museum. Larkin Company photograph collection.

Support for this exhibition is provided by Alphawood Foundation Chicago.


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Major Renovations, Energy Efficiency, and COVID-19

Over the past several months, engineers and contractors have collaborated on new technologies and strategies to mitigate the opportunities to spread COVID-19 in their facilities. Modifications to design standards are becoming more common in the market, including new types of air filters, new applications for UV lighting, and modifications to existing spaces for safer social distancing.

Buildings that are proactively designed to slow the spread of viruses have excellent potential to protect the safety and wellness of the general workforce. The COVID-19 pandemic is pushing many buildings to adopt more health-conscious strategies, and those benefits could last long after the pandemic fades. As offices reopen across the country, many companies are considering all

their options to promote a safe and healthy return to work. Improving air quality is another important component of many office “back to work” wellness programs. By upgrading HVAC systems with improved filtration methods, engineers can improve the indoor air quality and limit the spread of viruses by increasing the circulation of clean air while reducing the circulation of infectious particles.

Measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, like increased ventilation and better filtration, can increase energy usage. If you are considering a major renovation of your space, consider working with the ComEd’s Commercial, Industrial, and Public Sector New Construction Offering to identify energy saving measures that can help offset these costs and help keep your energy

bills low. Measures like optimizing your building envelope, incorporating efficient lighting, and installing a building automation system can help offset the costs and increased energy use sometimes necessary for improved indoor air quality. New construction and major renovations projects can be costly. As a result, many buildings are taking advantage of ComEd’s

Case Study



On one such project ComEd’s Commercial, Industrial, and Public Sector New Construction offering partnered with Sterling Bay and DLR Group to identify energy conservation measures (ECM) for 311 W Monroe Office Renovation Project.

The ComEd team provided energy modeling services and calculated energy savings and incentives for implementing the following ECMs:

- Replaced Interior lighting power density.
- Implemented demand control ventilation system and installed high efficiency roof top air conditioning technology.

A result of the renovation, Sterling Bay and DLR Group will save an estimated \$30,611 in annual energy costs.

Commercial, Industrial, and Public Sector New Construction Offering. The program pairs a technical expert with your design team early in the process to assist and ensure that your building design is incorporating energy conservation measures. In addition to design assistance, we offer a one-time financial incentive to help with the cost of building beyond code.

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period with fewer annual operating costs.

ComEd's Commercial, Industrial, and Public Sector New Construction offering has been supporting Major Renovation, addition/expansion, and new construction projects for more than 10 years and has worked on more than 900 projects.

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- Scope includes significant upgrades to at least two of the following four building energy systems: envelope,

After working with the ComEd's Commercial, Industrial, and Public Sector New Construction offering, you end up with a more efficient, safer building that has a shorter payback period with fewer annual operating costs.

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- Project is at least 5,000 square feet

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ART IN ARCHITECTURE



Anthropocene Mountain

A Yearlong Photographic/
Video Meditation on 8 Billion
People on the Planet

BY TOM ROSSITER, FAIA
ALL PHOTOS BY TOM ROSSITER


“I drink my tea; I drink my cloud,” Thich Nhat Hanh says. He explains if you look deeply at a cup of tea you can see the whole universe, including the clouds, the rain, the soil and much hard work.

The *Anthropocene Mountain* meditation is a deep photographic look at one city, Chicago, as representative of major cities globally, considered in relation to the air, the water and the earth that it touches. It is photographed as so many have captured mountain ranges or vast forests. But this is human-made, as are most of the threats facing not only our civilization but our very planet. Scientists have discussed naming this the post-Holocene epoch, the Anthropocene era. This would signify that for the first time in the Earth’s history, humans have inalterably impacted our planet’s geology.

Still images reveal individual days comprising a sunrise-and-sunset-mirrored image combined. The video combines them into a moving painting that illustrates the passage of time: the sun and the moon, moving north to south and back again as the Earth rotates, depicting the seasons in a silent, endless loop. The city and sky occasionally dissolve into water, fire, stone, people, traffic, viruses and the Milky Way, illustrating the impacts of the way we live on the planet.

While critical action is necessary to address environmental change, the purpose of *Anthropocene Mountain* is to explore the interdependence of cities, people, cultures and wild places. To bring awareness to the relationship of all the elements on, in and around the planet.

It is meant to inspire reflection, thought and, ultimately, action. How do we build livable cities? Is this a significant part of the answer to sustainable life on the planet?

The project is a partner project with the Chicago Architecture Biennial 2021. An exhibition of the images and video will run concurrently with the Biennial beginning with an opening on October 8 from 5-8 PM at Primitive on 130 North Jefferson. Tom Rossiter will discuss the project at Primitive on Thursday, October 14, at 6 PM. RSVP to alison@beprimitive.com. 



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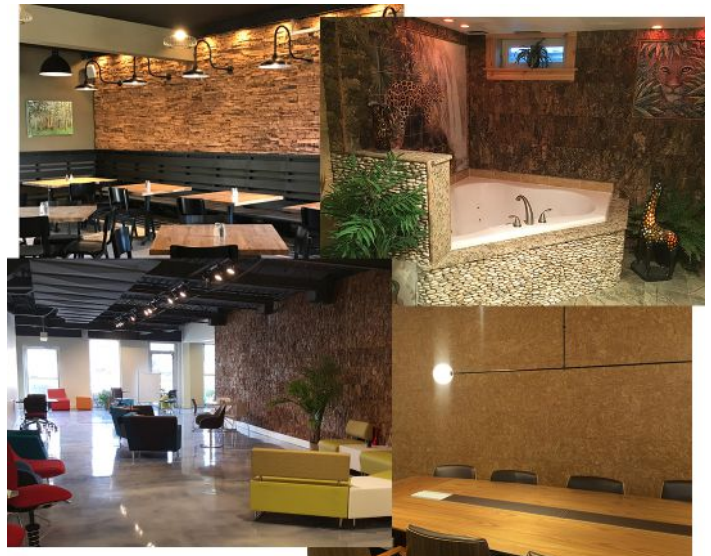


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UNIQUE, DISTINCT, FACADES,

Williston Basin International Airport

Location: Williston, ND
Architect: Alliance

Dri-Design Metal Wall Panels are available in a nearly unlimited palette of colors, materials, finishes and textures, making them a unique offering among other facades. However, what makes Dri-Design distinct, is that it provides this unique range of design options, in a system that installs and performs even better than it looks. A combination of form and function that is truly distinct.

- No sealants, gaskets or butyl tape means no streaking and no maintenance for owners.
- Not laminated or a composite material, so panels will never delaminate.
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