

# RIVER ECOLOGY & GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS WORKING GROUP

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2019

8:30 – 10 AM

10TH FLOOR, ROOM 1003-A  
CHICAGO CITY HALL  
121 N. LA SALLE STREET

## MEETING NOTES

- Meeting: 2 meetings since our last Task Force meeting
- Accomplishments: Established mission, role, community engagement model, collaborations
- Mission: 3-fold
- The mission of the Community Connections working group is to:
- i. Define active communities along the river,
  - ii. Identify opportunities for future engagement, and
  - iii. Seek ways to connect communities along the river to the work of the River Ecology & Governance Task Force
- Role:
- The role of the Community Connections working group is to engage communities in planning, vetting, and eventually implementing the projects and policies of other River Ecology & Governance Task Force working groups
- Community engagement model:
- Community visioning (river connection, access and river/park use)
  - Defining community (multiple neighborhoods, park and river users, neighbors and languages)
  - Identifying leadership (community and political)
  - Articulating successes
  - Examining lessons learned
- Collaborations:
- MWRD Commissioner Josina Morita has made us aware of 2 audits she and her colleagues have commissioned that have synergy with our work:
- Full audit of MWRD non-leasable lands on the river (due end of summer)
    - These properties can be handed over to a government agency who can work with CBOs to create and steward native plant gardens, community gardens, art installations, etc.
    - Full audit of public lands that could be used for urban agriculture
      - Cost productive landscape (audit due September)
    - The Commissioner has agreed to speak at our June 26 meeting
- Tasks: Recruitment (getting other communities on board)  
Roles and responsibilities (mapping)  
Work plan (mayoral fellows collecting and distinguishing data)