

2021 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

COMMISSIONER MAURICE COX
CITY OF CHICAGO • MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT

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City of Chicago

Department of Planning and Development

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Spring 2022



INTRODUCTION

The "Project Highlights" booklet is an overview of Department of Planning and Development (DPD) projects that were either initiated or completed between January and December of 2021.

The featured projects are just a portion of DPD's accomplishments during a global pandemic, but they collectively represent the wide variety of transformative community development initiatives coordinated under Mayor Lightfoot's commitment to a more equitible and sustainable Chicago.

The projects are arranged in sections that generally correspond to DPD's planning, economic development, zoning and housing initiatives. Together, staff worked with private developers, delegate agencies, elected officials, sister agencies and other community stakeholders to ensure City of Chicago resources were efficiently allocated for each project within the context of local and citywide development goals.

DPD resources include grants, loans, land sales, tax credits, property tax reductions, site assembly assistance, planning and zoning review, and a variety of other tools that improve neighborhoods, create jobs and make Chicago one of the most livable cities in the country.

We look forward to implementing many other improvements for a more equitable Chicago in the year to come.

Sincerely,

Maurice D. Cox, Commissioner

Department of Planning and Development

INVEST South/West

Community Areas: Austin, Auburn Gresham, Bronzeville, Greater Englewood, Humboldt Park, New City, North Lawndale, Roseland/Pullman, South

Chicago, South Shore **Status:** Ongoing

The City advanced nearly \$400 million in mixed-use projects in 2021, part of an unprecedented community improvement effort within 10 neighborhood retail corridors.

In March, DPD announced the first three winning responses to requests for proposals (RFPs) issued in 2020. Valued at more than \$65 million, the selected projects included the adaptive reuse of Laramie State Bank in Austin, a mixed-use complex with affordable housing in Auburn Gresham, and an eco-food hub in Englewood that includes the landmark Green Street firehouse.

In August, an additional \$200 million in mixed-use projects was announced through RFPs in Bronzeville, New City, North Lawndale and South Chicago.

In November, to mark the two-year anniversary of INVEST South/West, the City announced the winners of a third round of RFPs. Valued at \$126 million, the projects include the adaptive reuse of of the former Pioneer Bank in Humboldt Park, a new mixed-income rental building in Humboldt Park, and the mixed-use renovation of a historic building in South Shore that will include market rate and affordable apartments.

DPD Assistance:

- Land use planning
- Community outreach
- Requests for proposals









2021 Project Highlights













Department of Planning and Development



We Will Chicago Citywide Plan

Community Area: Citywide

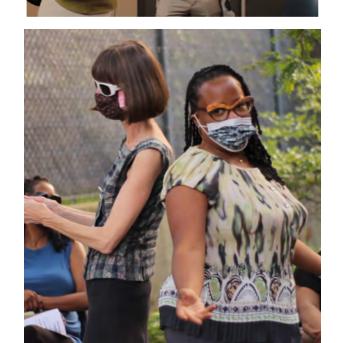
Status: Ongoing

Following an extensive community engagement process in 2020 and early 2021, the We Will planning team in April established a framework to drive We Will Chicago's citywide planning process through 2022.

The framework includes two principles (equity and resiliency), five themes (historical reckoning and trust building, evaluation of equity impacts, community engagement, accountability and interagency and cross collaboration) and seven pillars (housing and neighborhoods, economic development, transportation and infrastructure, environment, climate and energy, arts and culture, public health and safety, and lifelong learning).

In July, City staff and pillar research teams started work on the objectives and goals for the plan. The draft framework for We Will Chicago is expected to be released in summer 2022, with more community engagement to follow.

- Neighborhood planning
- Public outreach





Central City Recovery Roadmap

Community Areas: Loop, Near North Side Status: Implementation underway

In June, the City and the Chicago Central Area Committee released the Central City Recovery Roadmap, unveiling a set of strategies to revitalize downtown in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic. Planning staff worked with dozens of downtown stakeholders on the report, which identified strategies to create a safe and rapid recovery in the central area. In response to the roadmap's recommendations, DPD is partnering with downtown organizations on efforts to enhance portions of Michigan Avenue, State Street and LaSalle Street through planning processes that will continue through 2022.

DPD Assistance:

- Public outreach
- Business engagement
- Neighborhood planning

Fulton Market Innovation District Plan (Update)

Community Areas: Near West Side

Status: Complete

In response to a series of significant planning initiatives and land use changes affecting the Fulton Market area, DPD updated the 2014 Fulton Market Innovation District Plan in January 2021. The updated plan, adopted by the Chicago Plan Commission in February, establishes infrastructure priorities in the district and identifies open space and public art opportunities. The plan also allows residential uses north of Lake Street, prioritizes multi-modal transportation options, and establishes a 30% affordability goal for new residential projects in that area.

- Public outreach
- Business engagement
- Neighborhood planning





Clark Street Crossroads Corridor Study

Clark between Montrose and Foster avenues

Community Area: Uptown

Status: Underway

DPD launched a study of a mile-long section of Clark Street in July to help prepare the corridor for more cohesive, pedestrian-oriented enviornment. DPD is working with area residents to create a unified plan for future investment and public realm improvements between Montrose and Foster avenues. The study will promote growth and improvement along the corridor and produce vibrant, safe public spaces designed for the community. A final report on the study is expected to be released by fall 2022.

- Public outreach
- Neighborhood planning





Altenheim Line Planning Study

Community Areas: North Lawndale, East Garfield

Park, West Garfield Park

Status: Ongoing

A planning study is examining North Lawndale's CSX Altenheim railroad corridor as part of a potential "rails to trails" construction project. The study, focused on a two-mile stretch between Kostner and California avenues, will create a community-driven framework plan for potentially adding a trail and other amenities to the rail corridor. The planning team began hosting engagement meetings in August 2021, collecting community input on the framework of the plan and possible implementation. Improvements along the Altenheim Line would support a comprehensive vision for residential, commercial and industrial redevelopment in North Lawndale, which is central to the INVEST South/West Initiative

nning and Developme







Bronzeville Lakefront

Bounded by 26th Street, the Metra Electric tracks, 31st Street and portions of Vernon Avenue and King Drive

Community Areas: Douglas

Status: Ongoing

In July, the \$3.8 billion, mixed-use redevelopment of the 48-acre Michael Reese Hospital site was approved by City Council. Through the redevelopment agreement, the City will sell the property to GRIT Chicago LLC for \$96.9 million and provide up to \$60 million in new public infrastructure through general obligation bonds.

Guided by more than 70 community meetings and public hearings, the site plan includes up to 7 million square feet of new offices, mixed-income residences, new roadways, parks and other public amenities. The project is expected to create up to 20,000 temporary and permanent jobs.

DPD Assistance:

- Public outreach
- Land use planning
- Land sale



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C40 Reinventing Cities Competition

Van Buren Street and Plymouth Court

Community Area: Loop Status: Construction pending

Assemble Chicago's 20-story, net-zero carbon project was selected in July as the winning proposal for the redevelopment of a City-owned Loop property that was RFP'd through the international C40 Reinventing Cities competition. Designed by Studio Gang with DesignBridge and JAQ Corp, plans include 207 affordable residences, a food hall for minority-owned restaurants, meeting and office space for nonprofits, a grocer, and a medical clinic. The \$102 million project will also provide about \$2 million in improvements for nearby Pritzker Park.

- Land use planning
- Community outreach





PODER Learning Center

3357 W. 55th St.

Community Area: Gage Park

Status: Underway

A former City of Chicago Bureau of Electricity building was sold for conversion into an immigrant integration center following City Council approval in September. The vacant 6,400-square-foot building and 13,000 square feet of adjacent land was sold for \$1 to PODER Learning Center, which provides English language classes, civic education and job training for Spanish-speaking adults. The \$3.5 million project will create training rooms, administrative offices, a community room and an outdoor plaza for clients and neighbors. The project will create approximately 100 temporary construction jobs and retain about 15 permanent employees.

DPD Assistance:

Land sale





Discover Call Center

86th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue

Community Areas: Chatham

Status: Complete

A former Target in Chatham became a Discover customer care center as part of an adaptive reuse project facilitated by a Class 7(b) property tax incentive. Mayor Lightfoot announced plans for the call center in March, a \$45 million project expected to bring nearly 1,000 full-time jobs to the community. The renovation of the 127,000-square-foot facility, which had been vacant for two years, includes about 5,000 square feet of space for community use.

DPD Assistance:

Property tax incentive



Chicago Park District

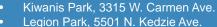
Community Area: Citywide

Status: Underway

Multiple intergovernmental agreements approved by City Council throughout 2021 is providing the Chicago Park District with more than \$25 million in TIF support for new ballfields, modernized playgrounds, renovated auditoriums, paved pathways, additional lighting, stabilized shorelines, improved community gardens and other facility improvements.

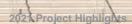
Parks facilities approved for assistance include:

- Brighton Park, 3501 S. Richmond St.
- Broncho Billy Park, 4437 N. Magnolia Ave.
- Douglass Park, 1401 S. Sacramento Drive
- Frank J. Wilson Park, 4630 N. Milwaukee Ave.
- Garfield Park, 100 N. Central Park Ave.
- George Washington Park, 5250 S. King Dr.
- Jessie Owens Park, 8800 S. Clyde Ave.
- John Durso Park, 421 W. Locust St.
- Wentworth Gardens Park, 3770 S. Wentworth Ave.



- Park 594, 3159 S. Halsted St.
- River Park, 5100 N. Francisco Ave.
- Amundsen Park, 6200 W. Bloomingdale Ave.
- Ronan Park, 3000 W. Argyle St.
- Salmon Chase Park, 4701 N. Ashland Ave.
- Theodore Gross Park, 2708 W. Lawrence Ave.
- Winnemac Park, 5001 N. Leavitt St.

DPD Assistance: \$25.9 million TIF









Chicago Public Schools

Community Area: Citywide

Status: Underway

Multiple intergovernmental agreements approved by City Council throughout 2021 are providing Chicago Public Schools facilities with more than \$41 million in TIF support for capital improvement projects, including new and improved heating and air conditioning systems, expanded recreational amenities, and various building repairs.

Schools approved for assistance include:

- Beidler Elementary School, 3151 W. Walnut St.
- Calmeca Elementary School, 3456 W. 38th St.
- Cardenas Elementary School, 2345 S. Millard Ave.
- Clissold Elementary School, 2350 W. 110th Place
- Courtenay Elementary Center, 4420 N. Beacon Ave.
- Farnsworth Elementary School, 5414 N. Linder Ave.
- Greene Elementary School, 3525 S. Honore St.
- Hayt Elementary School, 1518 W. Granville Ave.
- Holden Elementary School, 1104 W. 31st St.
- Kenwood High School, 5015 S. Blackstone Ave.
- Marshall High School, 3250 W. Adams St.
- Penn Elementary School, 1616 S. Avers Ave.
- Peterson Elementary School, 5510 N. Christiana Ave.
- Phillips High School, 244 E. Pershing Road
- Ruiz Elementary School, 2410 S. Leavitt St.
- Skinner North Elementary School, 640 W. Scott St.
- Skinner West Elementary School, 225 S. Aberdeen St.
- Solorio High School, 5400 S. St. Louis Ave.
- Spencer Elementary School, 214 N. Lavergne Ave.
- Vaughan High School, 4355 N. Linder Ave.
- West Ridge Elementary School, 6700 N. Whipple St.

DPD Assistance:

\$41.4 million TIF

Conservatory Apartments

414 N. Central Ave.

Community Area: Humboldt Park

Status: Underway

In November, City Council authorized \$3.5 million in TIF assistance for Conservatory Apartments, a 43-unit affordable housing project located near the Garfield Park Conservatory and two blocks from the CTA Green Line. Being developed by Interfaith Housing Development Corp., the project will be affordable for individuals earning between 30% and 50% of area median income.

DPD Assistance:

\$3.5 million TIF





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Park Station

835-61 E. 63rd St.

Community Area: Woodlawn

Status: Underway

In October, the Community Development Commission approved \$5 million in TIF assistance for Park Station, a \$31.8 million mixed-use project being developed by DL3 Realty and The Michaels Organization. Forty-one of the building's 58 units will be for households earning less than 60 percent of the area median income. Working with the Department of Housing, DPD also provided nearly two acres of City land for the project for \$1.

- \$5 million TIF
- Land Sale
- Planned Development

Neighborhood Opportunity Fund

Community Area: West, South and Southwest sides Status: Ongoing

In June, Mayor Lightfoot announced approximately \$5.4 million in Neighborhood Opportunity Fund grants for more than 30 small businesses and organizations on the South, Southwest and West sides. The recipients included an Auburn Gresham grocery store, a Back of the Yards delicatessen, an Austin fitness center, a custom bike shop in Little Village, and a sit-down restaurant in Bronzeville. Recent program improvements included an increase in grant funding for up to 100 percent of a project's total costs; access to grant funding earlier and throughout the construction process; access to lending and construction coaches; and an online application portal that helps would-be business owners assess the readiness of their proposals.

DPD Assistance:

- \$5.4 million in new grants
- Public outreach
- Applicant assistance

Small Business Improvement Fund

Community Area: Citywide

Status: Ongoing

In December, DPD's Small Business Improvement Fund (SBIF) was approved by City Council for \$60 million in new funding to be distributed to businesses over the next three years. The program simultaneously increased the percentage of project costs available for grant assistance from 75 to 90 percent, including up to \$150,000 for commercial properties and \$250,000 for industrial properties. For the first time, recipients will also be able to draw down on funding through an escrow account during construction instead of at project completion.

DPD Assistance:

- \$60 million over the next three years
- Public outreach
- Applicant assistance

Equitable Transit-Oriented Development

Community Area: Citywide Status: Implementation underway

The City's Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (ETOD) Pilot Program launched in June, an effort to support community-driven projects that promote healthy, affordable and accessible development near transit. The pilot program allocated \$135,000 toward 11 community-driven ETOD proposals, which include a community-owned grocery store near the 95th Street Red Line station, a food hall near the California Green Line stop and an effort to promote development of vacant properties near the 35th and Archer Orange Line station. The pilot program aligned with the June adoption of the City's ETOD Policy Plan, developed over two years to foster more equitable transit-oriented development citywide.

DPD Assistance:

- Public outreach
- Neighborhood planning

Chicago Works Community Challenge

Community Areas: Citywide Status: Construction pending

Mayor Lightfoot launched the Chicago Works
Community Challenge in June as an opportunity for
residents citywide to share their biggest and best
ideas for public works projects in their neighborhoods.
The program created an unprecedented \$10 million
competition to identify opportunities to upgrade
infrastructure at parks, schools, libraries, community
centers and City-owned vacant lots. In addition to
funding seven projects — one for each planning region
in the city — Chicago Works created an opportunity
for DPD and other public agencies to receive input on
community desires for future upgrades and budgeting
considerations

- Public outreach
- Request for proposals

Former Maxim's restaurant

1300 N. Astor St.

Community Area: Near North Side

Status: Complete

In December, DPD initiated the sale of a long-vacant Gold Coast basement restaurant owned by the City as part of a plan to restore the space as a private club catering primarily to neighborhood residents. The 8,120-square-foot property, located in the lower level of the Bertrand Goldberg-designed Astor Tower, was known as Maxim's restaurant from 1963 to 1982. Buyer 24 E. Goethe LLC is purchasing the condominium unit and one indoor parking spot for its appraised value of \$680,000. The sale is expected to close in early 2022.

DPD Assistance:

Land sale







Open Space Impact Fees

Citywide

Community Area: Lincoln Square, Humboldt Park,

Bridgeport, South Deering, West Town

Status: Underway

DPD allocated more than \$1.14 million in Open Space Impact Fees (OISF) in 2021 to support open space expansion and improvement projects throughout the city. The locations include:

- Ainslie Arts Plaza, 4844 N. Lincoln Ave.
- Chicago FarmWorks, 419 N. Kedzie Ave.
- Donovan Park, 3609 S. Lituanica Ave.
- Indian Ridge Marsh, 11753 S. Calhoun Ave.
- Talcott School, 1840 W. Ohio Ave.

OSIF funds are generated via fees paid by residential construction projects. The funds are allocated within the same community area that generated the funding.

DPD Assistance:

\$1.14 million OSIF funding



ndian Ridge Marsh



POPCourts!

Chicago and Lockwood avenues

Community Area: Austin Status: Complete

POPCourts! plaza opened in June through a DPD-led initiative to revitalize vacant and underutilized land at strategic neighborhood locations. Featuring space for active and passive recreation, the \$231,000 award-winning project is the first of approximatley 12 more public plaza sites that are expected to move forward in 2022. Project partners include LISC, United Way and West Side Health Authority, with pro bono design work provided by Lamar Johnson Collaborative.



- Land use planning
- Community outreach











Adopt-A-Landmark Grants

Citywide

Community Areas: East Side, Grand Boulevard, Kenwood, Near South Side, North Lawndale, Pullman, Uptown, South Shore, Woodlawn

Status: Underway

Twelve historic Chicago properties were announced in November as finalists for a combined \$4.3 million in funding from the City's Adopt-a-Landmark fund. DPD identified the finalists from a round of applications that closed in August, selecting outstanding restoration projects that are consistent with Commission on Chicago Landmarks standards. Finalists included the Greenstone United Methodist Church in Pullman, Gunnison Street Lofts in Uptown, K.A.M. Isaiah Israel Temple in Kenwood and the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House in Woodlawn.

DPD Assistance:

\$4.3 million in grant funding















Muddy Waters Home

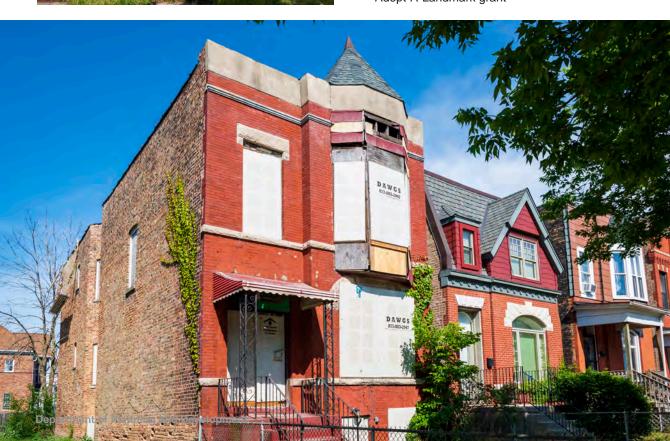
4339 S. Lake Park Ave.

Community Area: Kenwood

Status: Complete

The world's first "house of blues" became an official City landmark in October when City Council granted the designation to the former home of blues legend McKinley Morganfield, known professionally as Muddy Waters. Waters moved into the two-flat in 1954 and purchased it two years later. The home served as a place for Chicago blues luminaries to rehearse and cross paths with internationally established artists who defined the musical art form, including Otis Spann, Howlin' Wolf, Chuck Berry, Little Walter, Jimmy Rogers, Junior Wells, Buddy Guy, James Cotton, Willie Dixon, Hubert Sumlin, Earl Hooker and many others

- Landmark designation
- Adopt-A-Landmark grant



Former Morton Salt Complex

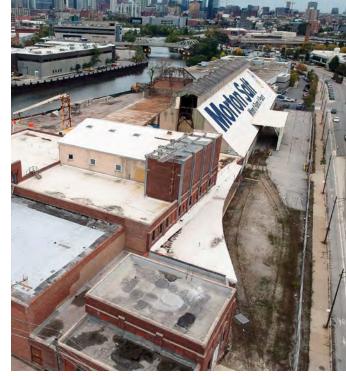
1357 N. Elston Ave.

Community Area: West Town

Status: Complete

The former Morton Salt warehouse complex on the North Branch of the Chicago River became an official City landmark in June. Designed by the Chicago architecture firm Graham, Anderson, Probst & White, the 4.24-acre complex was built in 1930 and used by the Morton Salt Co. for the storage, packaging and distribution of rock salt until 2015. In October, City Council approved a Class L property tax incentive that will help facilitate the conversion of the complex into an entertainment venue.

- Landmark designation
- Property tax incentive
- Planned Development





Illinois Bell Building

225 W. Randolph St.

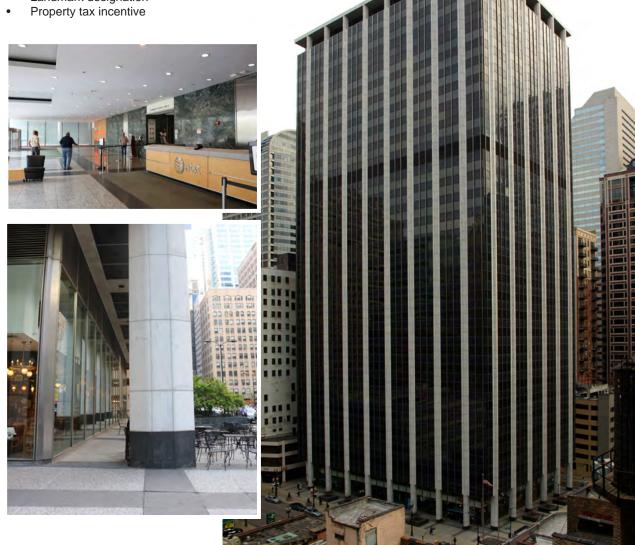
Community Area: Loop Status: Complete

The Illinois Bell Building, a Loop skyscraper that once served as the regional headquarters for the Bell Telephone Co., gained landmark designation following City Council approval in January. The building, completed in 1966, is considered a rare example of a commercial building with characteristic elements of New Formalism. As part of a planned \$188 million purchase of the property and \$154 million commercial rehabilitation project, the City also

approved a Class L property tax incentive for the building.

DPD Assistance:

Landmark designation



Miracle House

2001 N. Nordica Ave.

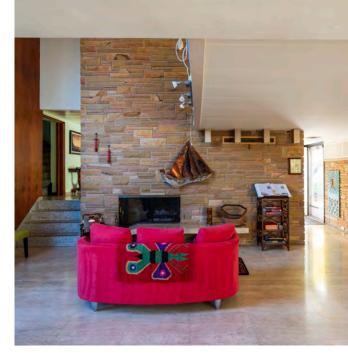
Community Area: Austin

Status: Complete

Once the grand prize for a church raffle, Austin's "Miracle House" was designated as a landmark in April. The three-story modernist home was designed probono and built in 1954 to help raise money for nearby St. William parish. The home's futuristic design features a pair of 36-ton steel trusses that suspend glass curtain walls and a unique open floor plan. The Chicago Bridge & Iron Co. contributed the trusses, General Electric donated the appliances, Chicago retailer Polk Bros. provided the furnishings and trade unions offered their services free of charge.

DPD Assistance:

Landmark designation





Little Village Arch

3100 W. 26th St.

Community Area: South Lawndale

Status: Complete

The Little Village Arch, which has served as an entry to the largest Mexican-American community in the Midwest since 1990, was proposed for formal landmark designation in late 2021. The two-story archway in Little Village's main retail district was designed by Chicago architect Adrián Lozano to recognize the neighborhood's Mexican heritage and culture. Inspired by Mexican Colonial-era gateways, it may be the only arch of its type north of the Rio Grande.

DPD Assistance:

Landmark designation



Laramie State Bank

5200 W. Chicago Ave.

Community Area: Austin

Status: Complete

Work began in October on a court-ordered emergency stabilization project at Austin's Laramie State Bank building, an effort that will help the 92-year-old structure's rehabilitation after years of weather-related damage and deferred maintenance. The TIF-funded stabilization project, carried out by a court-appointed receiver for the building, was essential to ensure the property remains viabile for redevelopment through a mixed-use proposal selected by DPD in 2021.

DPD Assistance:

\$500,000 TIF

















Committee on Design

Community Areas: Citywide

Status: Ongoing

In March, DPD began work on assembling the Committee on Design (CoD), a volunteer advisory body working with City planning staff on major developments and urban design initiatives. Under the two-year pilot program, the 24-member committee meets monthly to review select proposals in advance of their formal applications to City Council, prior to more formal review and approval processes that include the Chicago Plan Commission and City Council. Members represent each of Chicago's seven planning regions and a wide range of interrelated disciplines, including affordable housing, architecture, art, community development, public engagement, landscape architecture and historic preservation.

Each committee member was either recruited or selected through an open application process that DPD launched in spring 2021. Twelve members participate in each monthly meeting.

Proposed projects that are reviewed by the (CoD) included Master Planned Developments, high-rises, projects located adjacent to landmarks or landmark districts, and projects that use City resources, such as Tax Increment Financing.

DPD Assistance:

- Committee selection
- Staff services
- Implementation of committee recommendations

Committee on Design members:

- Catherine Baker, partner, Landon Bone Baker
- Sara Beardsley, technical director, Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture
- Andre Brumfield, principal, Gensler
- Bob Clark, executive chairman and founder, Clayco
- Philip Enquist, consulting partner, SOM
- Bob Faust, designer and artist
- Jeanne Gang, founder, Studio Gang
- Theaster Gates, artist and professor at the Department of Visual Arts, University of Chicago
- Eleanor Gorski, planning and design director, University of Illinois-Chicago
- Hana Ishikawa, design principal, Site Design Group
- Casey Jones, principal, Perkins & Will
- Jackie Koo, principal, Koo Architecture
- Reed Kroloff, dean, Illinois Institute of Technology College of Architecture
- Brian Lee, consulting partner, SOM
- Renauld Mitchell, partner, Moody Nolan
- Juan Gabriel Moreno, president and founder, Juan Gabriel Moreno Architects
- Guacolda Reyes, chief real estate development officer, The Resurrection Project
- John Ronan, founding principal, John Ronan Architects
- Lesley Roth, principal, Lamar Johnson Collaborative
- Ann Thompson, executive vice president for architecture and design, Related Midwest
- Maria Villalobos, assistant professor, Illinois Institute of Technology College of Architecture
- Leon Walker, managing partner, DL3 Realty
- Amanda Williams, visual artist

Planned Developments

In 2021, DPD staff coordinated more than \$11 billion in new construction projects through the Plan Commission review and approval process. The process ensures unified neighborhood planning, promotes economically beneficial development patterns, allows design flexibility, and protects the city's natural resources. Project management was provided by DPD's regional planning teams in close cooperation with leadership and staff from the Bureau of Zoning.







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Chicago Plan Commission noah.szafraniec@cityofchicago.org

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For the most up-to-date DPD information, visit www.chicago.gov/dpd or follow on social media.







