

This meeting summary was produced by City Bureau Documenters, in accordance with our editorial independence policy, with financial support from the city of Chicago. If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email City Bureau at documenters@citybureau.org with "Correction Request" in the subject line.

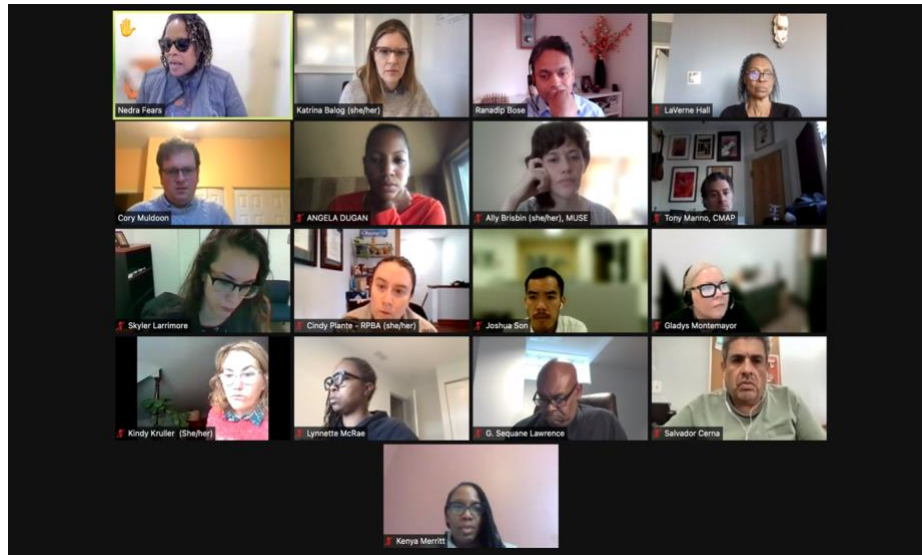
Economic Development Meeting #6

November 2, 2021, 2:00 PM | 2 hours

Documented by: Karen Viado

ATTENDEES

- Katrina Balog
- Ally Brisbin
- Ranadip Bose
- Vamsi Kurakula
- Amalia NietoGomez
- Kenya Merritt
- Cindy Plante
- Kindy Kruller
- Angela Dugan
- Joshua Son
- Alec Singer
- Aaron Dorsey
- Anna Furby
- Tony Manno
- Tim Jeffries
- G. Sequane Lawrence
- Salvador Cerna
- Vanessa Stokes
- Lynette McRae
- Cory Muldoon
- Gladys Montemayor
- LaVerne Hall
- Nneka Onwuzurike
- Abigail Rose
- Nedra Fears
- Jessica McCarihan
- Skyler
- Larrimore



MEETING GOAL

To develop 2-5 objectives for each of the five guiding questions decided upon in past meetings.

WHERE WE ARE



Step 1

We Are

Setting the Stage



Step 2

We Have and Need

Develop A Policy Toolkit



Step 3

We Will

Set Policy Framework

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1

Several group members brought up issues with terminology and language inclusivity of the guiding questions, particularly “small, women, and Black and Brown-owned businesses.” Group members discussed why some identity groups were named and others were left out, like LGBTQIA+-owned businesses. There was agreement that “local businesses” fit the goals better than “small businesses” did, so questions and objectives using “small businesses” were changed to instead say “local businesses.”

2

Group members discussed the need to destigmatize careers that don’t require four-year college degrees and the need to incentivize paid apprenticeships to make learning and training more accessible for all people.

3

Group members discussed the importance of shaping a positive narrative around the city of Chicago, especially the South and West sides, in order to incentivize businesses and consumers to visit.

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

“The corridors need to be updated. It’s hard to attract businesses when your front door looks like your back door.”

Nedra Fears | Greater Chatham Initiative, Executive Director

“Areas that I would like to see duplicated in the inner city ... small, retail businesses that line main thoroughfares ... and the choices of food stores.”

LaVerne Hall | Office of Business Diversity at Chicago Public Schools, Director

“I would offer the phrase ‘race explicit, not exclusive’ used by Race Forward. Race should be central, and we should recognize that race compounds and intersects with other societal issues, including gender, sexuality, ability, immigration status, and more.”

Nneka Onwuzurike | City of Chicago Mayor’s Office, Community Wealth Building Consultant

NOTES

- The meeting, facilitated by Katrina Balog, began with a reflective prompt: Imagine your neighborhood if all the objectives we outlined last meeting were implemented. What would it look like? Participants were given time to reflect individually and then were put into small groups to share.
 - LaVerne Hall mentioned several things that her group talked about: small, local retail stores on main thoroughfares, not just big box stores; choices in food stores; modern schools; and protected bike lanes
- Ranadip Bose shared information about the goals for the meeting and the breakout groups, as well as the difference between objectives and policies.
- Skyler Larrimore mentioned that the group was getting results from the Economic Development survey on the We Will website and events hosted by community partners. Suggestions from surveys and community events were also added to the Google Docs for each breakout group.
- Participants split up into three breakout groups to brainstorm objectives for each guiding question. Attendees were able to choose which group to join, with the caveat that research leads could move people around if groups were uneven. They didn't need to do that, however, as group members evenly split themselves into breakout rooms. A few members stated they were okay with working in any breakout group.
- The goal was to eventually decide on 2-5 objectives per guiding question, then 2-5 policies per objective.
- Each breakout group had a shared Google Doc that included the guiding questions they were working on and notes from discussions in past meetings related to each.
- The objectives that breakout groups brainstormed for each guiding question are listed below:
- **Breakout Group 1:** Facilitated by Ranadip Bose and scribed by Amalia NietoGomez
 - Guiding Question 1: How can we build shared wealth in Black and Brown communities?
 - No objectives were discussed for this guiding question.
 - Guiding Question 2: How can we nurture small, women, and Black and Brown-owned businesses throughout Chicago?
 - This question was amended during discussion to: How can we nurture women, Black and Brown-owned, and local businesses throughout Chicago?
 - Decrease the number of vacant properties in business corridors
 - Increase the number of businesses receiving start-up funds
 - Consolidate retail/commercial at key locations on the South and West Sides (minority/BIPOC communities)
 - Prioritize and codify funding on the South and West Sides (minority/BIPOC communities)

- **Breakout Group 2:** Facilitated by Katrina Balog and scribed by Cindy Plante
 - Guiding Question: How do we strategically invest in equitable and inclusive workforce development in economics sectors for the 21st century?
 - Engage/connect/incentivize employers with diverse local employees/trainees
 - Build (improve?) employer-driven workforce ecosystem
 - Enhance job quality (pay, benefits, and job flexibility) for all Chicagoans (especially BIPOC)
 - Improve job access and career advancement for South and West Side residents
 - Align CPS and City Colleges with jobs of the future
 - Encourage career pathways in jobs that aren't college degree-driven
 - Align educational providers with stable/high-growth/high-potential jobs
 - Create opportunities for students to earn a living during or as part of their education or training
 - Introduce CPS students to career opportunities
 - Expand quality childcare and eldercare options and access
 - Improve career growth and pathways

- **Breakout Group 3:** Facilitated by Ally Brisbin and scribed by Vamsi Kurakula
 - Guiding Question 1: How can we promote equitable public, private, and philanthropic investment in historically marginalized neighborhoods without displacement?
 - Shape the narrative of South and West Chicago
 - Provide equitable financial services across Chicago
 - Incentivize financial institutions and the development of community (organizations and entrepreneurs) to invest in Black and Brown communities and have a geographically-balanced portfolio across the city of Chicago
 - Create vibrant housing, commercial, and industrial corridors in communities that previously did not have these types of revitalization areas
 - Retain (within reason) demographics of a community before a policy
 - Generate a positive narrative association for areas that are developing in Chicago

 - Guiding Question 2: How do we promote Chicago's assets nationally and amplify positive narratives about South and West Side neighborhoods?
 - Change the narrative of Chicago
 - Have the media outside of Chicago report on feel-good stories about Chicago
 - Report on little-known attractions within Chicago
 - Welcome new homeowners and residents in neighborhoods where their demographics may not be currently represented
 - Create promotion opportunities for Chicago neighborhoods and attractions in areas that allow for high traffic, like the airport
 - Increase transportation accessibility in all of the neighborhoods in Chicago

RESOURCES

O'HARE 21 WEBSITE

[The website for the plans to update the O'Hare airport, including the Global Terminal.](#)

Urban Land Institute Chicago Technical Assistance Panels

[ULI Chicago has published over 30 Technical Assistance Reports that cover a broad spectrum of land development topics. These reports are a resource for industry professionals.](#)

We Will Chicago Economic Development Survey

[Survey for the Economic Development pillar group on its Guiding Questions](#)

Race Forward

[Principles for racially equitable policy platforms, which include the "race explicit, not race exclusive" approach mentioned by Nneka Onwuzurike.](#)

NEXT STEPS

- At the next Economic Development pillar meeting, the group plans to brainstorm policies based on the objectives they come up with.
- There is a We Will Advisory Committee meeting on Nov. 16, where each group will report out on their draft objectives.