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We Will Chicago: Advisory Committee #10

May 10, 2022, 09:00AM | 2 hours

Documented by: Karmeisha Boyd

ATTENDEES

- Adrienne Irmer
- Ally Brisbin, MUSE Community + Design
- Amanda Carlson, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events
- April Williams-Luster
- Brad Roback, Department of Planning and Development
- Bridget Hayman
- Charsetta Reed
- Christina Harris, Metropolitan Planning Council
- Christopher E. Chwedyk
- Cliff Helm
- Colleen Mahoney
- Courtney Kashima, MUSE Community + Design
- David Collier King, Department of Planning and Development
- Deepa Gupta
- Dwana De La Cerna
- Ellen Shepard
- Erin Harkey, Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events
- Gabriela Jirasek, Department of Planning and Development
- Isobel Araujo, Territory NFP
- Jamie Osborne, Department of Planning and Development
- Kathleen Dickhut, Department of Planning and Development
- Katrina Balog, MUSE Community + Design
- Lauren Burdette, Office of Equity and Racial Justice
- Libia Bianibi
- Marissa Strassel, MUSE Community + Design
- May Toy
- Nubia Willman
- Rachel Arfa, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
- Rafael Leon
- Ranadip Bose
- Risa Rifkind
- Skyler Larrimore, Office of the Mayor
- Todd Vanadilok
- Todd Wyatt, Department of Planning and Development
- Travis Moore-Murray



A grid of 25 video conference participants. Each tile shows a person's video feed and a name label at the bottom. The labels include names and titles, such as 'ASL Interpreter Jen', 'Courtney (she/her), MUSE', and 'Documenter'. Some tiles are partially obscured or have different labels than the ones above them.

 Skylar Larrimore	 ASL Interpreter Jen	 Courtney (she/her), MUSE	 Cliff Helm (he/him)	 Documenter
 Isobel Araujo	 Gabriela Jirasek, DPD	 Kathleen Dickhut	 Ellen Shepard	 Lauren Burdette
 Libia Bianibi	 David Collier King	 Ally Brisbin (she/her) - M...	 Katrina Balog (she/her)	 Ranadip Bose
 Christina Harris	 Risa Rifkind	 Rachel Arfa	 todd Wyatt	 Colleen Mahoney
 Dwana De La Cerna	 April Williams-Luster	 RAFAEL LEON	 Todd Vanadilok	 Bridget Hayman

MEETING GOAL

Create policy framework for Civic + Community Engagement, a new (8th) We Will Chicago pillar.

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

As the We Will Chicago teams finalize their draft policy recommendations, they are also planning summer engagement to gather public feedback and inform implementation. Engagement will include event pop-up opportunities, surveys and conversations, and swag to build excitement and awareness.

2

A new pillar has been added to the existing seven pillars. Goals, objectives, and policies are being crafted for Civic + Community Engagement.

3

We Will Chicago plans to submit their final framework recommendations to the Chicago Plan Commission for adoption in January 2023.

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

“This isn’t about one agency or one department does one particular thing. There’s a lot of need to collaborate on different initiatives.”

Kathleen Dickhut | Department of Planning and Development

“This vision of equity that we have as a city and as a nation is going to take a long time to achieve. This is huge. This is a lot of work. This is change management. This is doing things differently.”

Lauren Burdette | Office of Equity and Racial Justice

“It’s fine to engage people, but if they’re not actually empowered in that decision-making process, then the engagement is probably worse than not having engaged them at all.”

Ellen Shepard | Volunteer

“There’s been a huge, long process. There’s tons of resources, tons of people, lots of feedback involved... What accountability are we ultimately going to create to the process?”

Cliff Helm | Volunteer

“There’s trust-building that has to happen for people to decide to authentically engage in the process.”

Isobel Araujo | Territory NFP

NOTES

Skyler Larrimore (Office of the Mayor) opened by thanking the team for their commitment. The following metrics were recognized.

- 115 volunteers
- 25 community partners
- 70+ community events
- 29 artists-organizers
- 76 artist engagements
- \$675,000 paid in stipends
- 3,712 survey responses
- 100+ meeting-in-a-box trainees

Roadmap: What's Next for We Will Chicago

Presented by Gabriela Jirasek & David Collier King (both from the Department of Planning and Development)

We Will Chicago Roadmap (Implementation Planning)

Late June 2022: Framework Plan Draft Release

July - November 2022: Broad Public Engagement

November - December 2022: Incorporate Feedback into Framework Plan

January 2023: Submission to Chicago Plan Commission for Adoption

We Will Chicago's website will be used to gather public feedback and inform implementation.

All in-depth notes on implementation strategies, program ideas, and themes will be incorporated into a single, supporting document.

Supporting content will be posted on the website in PDF format.

Summer engagement will include:

- Pop-up engagement opportunities at city summer and fall events
- Surveys and conversations to gather feedback on framework
- Swag to build excitement and awareness
- Conversations focused on identities, experiences, issue areas and geographies that have been identified as content gaps in current draft policy framework

Pillar members and community stakeholders can reach out to David Collier King if they are interested in participating in additional engagement opportunities.

2023 and Beyond

Presented by Kathleen Dickhut (Department of Planning and Development)

January 2023 - Submit plan to Chicago Plan Commission for adoption

Intergovernmental agreements

- Tracking and reporting collaboration
- Regular public updates and engagement

Implementation will look different depending on context and specific policy. Individual policies could be refined for proposed ordinances. However, ordinances are much more difficult to change as opposed to department policy adoptions.

Civic + Community Engagement Policy Framework

Introduced by Skyler Larrimore

This pillar was created to address a community engagement gap within the existing We Will Chicago plan.

Goal 1: Build deeper and more effective civic infrastructure to enable Chicagoans to improve their lives and neighborhoods

Objective 1.1 Create stronger, proactive, long-term partnerships with community organizations, block clubs, and other coalitions to increase engagement.

Objective 1.2 Support and encourage more inclusive and creative community engagement across City departments and sister agencies

Goal 2: Increase public access and participation in civic and democratic processes

Objective 2.1 Ensure equitable access to virtual and in-person public meetings and processes across City departments and agencies.

Objective 2.2 Increase equitable representation and participation in government and democratic processes

Objective 2.3 Welcome new immigrants and strengthen Chicago's leadership as a sanctuary city

Goal 3: Improve government transparency and Chicagoans' access to data

Objective 3.1 Improve and modernize City data collection, aggregation, and distribution systems to develop a best-in-the-world practice of affirmative and automated release of data and records.

Objective 3.2 Ensure equitable access to data for all Chicagoans.

Objective 3.3 Make it easier for Chicagoans to understand and participate in City Council, committee, and other public body processes.

Goal 4: Eliminate barriers to accessing City services and supports

Objective 4.1 Make city processes for residents, workers, visitors, and businesses more streamlined and accessible.

Objective 4.2 Protect and provide resources to support residents who are often excluded from safety net benefits and other services.

Goal 5: Ensure equity-focused and community-driven processes inform policy-making and decision-making

Objective 5.1 Establish standards and structures for community-driven decision-making.

Objective 5.2 Educate city officials and staff on equity and racial justice.

Objective 5.3 Integrate health, racial equity and climate impact tools and analysis into policymaking and planning.

Objective 5.4 Support ongoing truth, reconciliation, and healing efforts.

The pillar team separated into breakout groups. Each group discussed a different pillar goal.

Breakout Group #1

Facilitated by Courtney Kashima (MUSE Community + Design) with notes by David Collier King (Department of Planning and Development)

Courtney began facilitation by asking whether the goals as stated were “as clear and as strong as they can be.”

Several group members expressed the need for more clarity, not only in the goal, but in who is ultimately responsible for implementing the change.

April Williams-Luster commented on the importance of engaging the community members that will engage fellow community members that way they’re ensuring conversation moves beyond these meetings.

Christina Harris (Metropolitan Planning Council) warned against creating fatigue in community members by planning multiple meetings discussing the same topics. Williams-Luster agreed. Colleen Mahoney added that the team should be more intentional and consider any burdens they might be creating for the community.

Group members continued to discuss the responsibilities of different city departments and alderman offices. Team members brainstormed methods for existing committees and departments to work together rather than creating new groups.

Following the breakout session the groups came together to briefly report on their individual discussions.

Final Thoughts

Group 2, which was represented by Ellen Shepard, discussed the need for outreach to be more resourceful and impactful.

Future considerations:

- How does the city get rid of the barriers to access?
- How does We Will provide more training opportunities and leadership development?

Group 3, represented by Isobel Araujo (Territory NFP), uses and types of data.

Future considerations:

- Sensitive data vs access to data
- How will We Will fund data collection?

Group 4, represented by Libia Bianibi, reiterated the need to consciously include equity in future policies while reviewing current processes. They also noted that better outreach is necessary for community involvement.

Group 5, represented by Lauren Burdette (Office of Equity and Racial Justice), discussed establishing equity, historical reckoning work, and community accountability structures.

Gabriela Jirasek (Department of Planning and Development) brought up next steps. Once the frameworks are finalized and adopted over the next six months, there will be a year of refining the specific policies.

Isobel Araujo (Territory NFP) observed how “overwhelming” it was to incorporate the various We Will Chicago discussions and working documents into a specific action plan for her team of young people. Next meeting, Araujo says her team will have an intergenerational discussion about processes for engaging the community.

Skyler Larrimore (Office of the Mayor) requested continued feedback as the team moves forward. Larrimore also wants to make sure there isn't confirmation bias in the next round of surveys and offered her email for further discussion.

RESOURCES

WE WILL CHICAGO

[Welcome to the home for We Will Chicago, a new three-year, citywide planning initiative under Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot that will encourage neighborhood growth and vibrancy while addressing social and economic inequities that impair Chicago's legacy as a global city.](#)

WE WILL CHICAGO: TRANSLATING POLICIES INTO ACTION THROUGH HREIA

[In providing support to the City of Chicago on We Will Chicago, Metropolitan Planning Council has been working with the Chicago Department of Public Health and Illinois Public Health Institute on integrating a health and racial equity impact assessment \(HREIA\) into the plan's recommendations.](#)

GLOBAL VOICES, LOCAL ACTION (EVENT SERIES)

[This is a seven-part series on We Will Chicago, hosted by the Metropolitan Planning Council, Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and the City of Chicago. Each event in the series will feature a panel presentation of international and local city experts, along with an interactive participant workshop to provide feedback and input on the We Will Chicago plan's draft policies. This is the first citywide plan in more than fifty years - don't miss your chance to engage with fellow Chicagoans.](#)

CHICAGO COUNCIL ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS

[Nonprofit co-hosting Global Voices, Local Action event series.](#)

NEXT STEPS

- Pillar team members will review final policies
- June 9, 2022 - first panel conversation in the Global Voices, Local Action series (Topic: Housing & Neighborhoods)
- June 28, 2022 - final meeting with the entire We Will Chicago team