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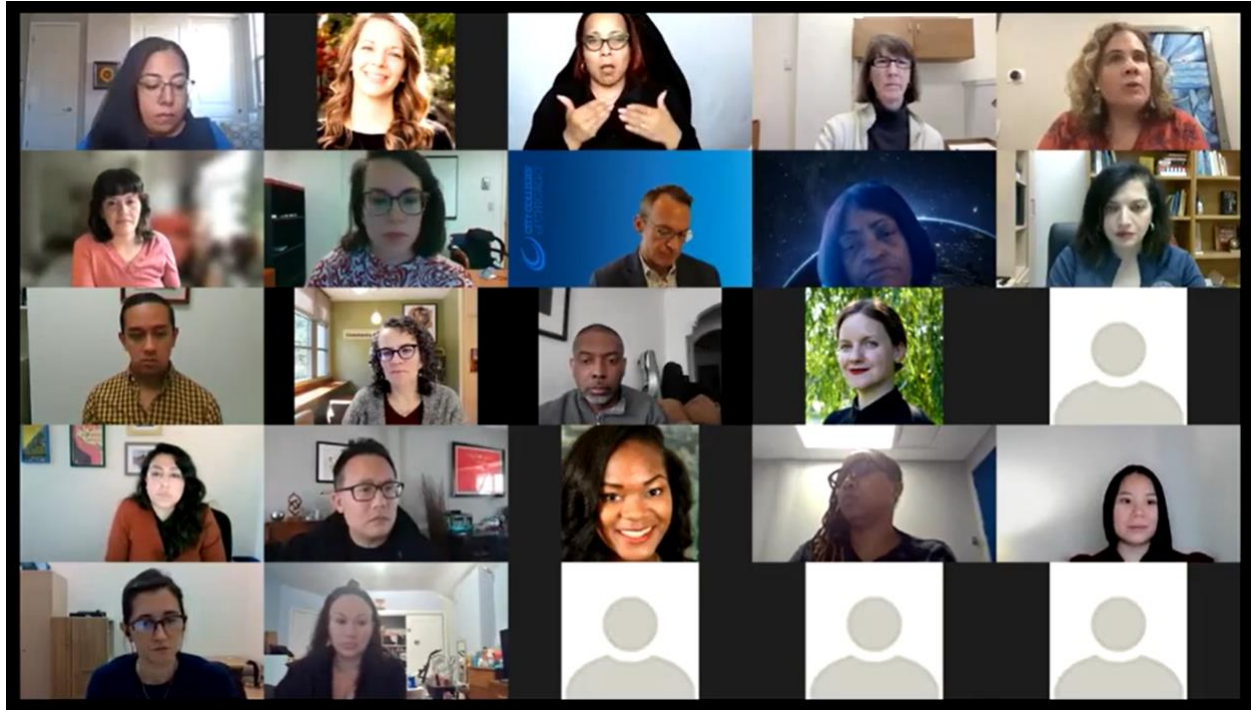
We Will Chicago: Advisory Committee #9

April 5, 2022, 9:00AM | 2 hours

Documented by: Karmeisha Boyd

ATTENDEES

- Ally Brisbin
- Kathy Dickhut
- Kimberly Potts
- Courtney Kashima
- Charsetta Reed
- Alexander Heaton
- Christopher Chwedyk
- Melanie Wang
- Amanda Carlson
- Lynnette McRae
- Mark Potter
- Ranadip Bose
- Iyana Simba
- Mary Kenney
- Todd Vanadilok
- Michelle Roseborough
- Bridget Hayman
- Maureen Burns
- Roberto Requejo
- Katya Nuques
- Melvin Thompson
- Cliff Helm
- Jamie Simone
- May Toy
- Libia Bianibi
- Kate McMahon
- Kenya Merritt
- Juan Sebastian Arias
- Christina Harris
- Marcela Rodriguez
- Skyler Larrimore
- Ellen Shepard
- Risa Rifkind
- Sendy Soto
- Lauren Burdette
- Angela Tovar
- Rachael Arfa
- Isobel Araujo
- Rosa Y. Ortiz
- Adrienne Irmer



MEETING GOAL

Reports and discussion from each We Will Chicago pillar to assess performance and metrics.

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**

We Will Chicago is beginning the process of matching its pillars to corresponding City Council committees. Representatives from each pillar will have the opportunity to brief corresponding City Council committees on their concerns, discussions, and progress.

2

There are a number of pillars that could benefit from additional cross-pillar discussion because of comparable goals and objectives across teams .

3

Community engagement and feedback are crucial, as there is still uncertainty about how the general public will receive and understand We Will Chicago policies.

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

“How do we support artists to not be pushed out of their areas and have to go elsewhere to generate their work?”

Melanie Wang | We Will Chicago Arts and Culture Co-chair

“There isn’t necessarily a clear, transparent process across each ward, across each neighborhood, for how zoning decisions are made.”

Lynnette McRae | We Will Chicago Economic Development Co-chair

“We are talking about Black communities, we are talking about Latinx communities, we are talking about low income, we are talking about Indigenous communities; we wanted to make that very clear because a broad term, maybe as ‘communities of color,’ looks a little bit different than the communities we are really talking about.”

Iyana Simba | We Will Chicago Environment, Climate and Energy Co-chair

“A big, recurring theme that’s come up in our discussions has been public space and the access to public space in areas where it’s traditionally been either nonexistent or it’s been there and it’s been taken away or been kind of over-policed. One of our areas that we’re focusing on is making sure we look at public space as a component of freedom of movement.”

Alex Heaton | Mayor’s Office of Violence Reduction & We Will Chicago Public Health and Safety Co-chair

“It’s not necessarily equitable that each ward gets the same amount of money regardless of its size - its physical size. They’re all the same size by population, but definitely not the same size by geographic area. So it’s really hard for those geographically large wards to keep up with some of the very basic necessities of infrastructure spending...”

Jamie Simone | Chicago Department of Transportation & We Will Chicago Transportation and Infrastructure Co-chair

NOTES

Last week members of the We Will Chicago Advisory Committee and co-chairs from the We Will Chicago Environment, Climate & Energy pillar met with the City Council Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy. Co-chair Iyana Simba, Angela Tovar (Office of the Mayor), and Brad Roback (Department of Planning and Development) presented the pillar's five goals. The City Council expressed interest in engaging further, reminded the pillar representatives to make sure there are metrics, and invited them to return to present updates.

Similar briefings are expected with other pillars and their corresponding City Council committee.

Research Pillar Co-chair Reports

The co-chairs emphasized that full objectives, goals, and policies will be shared with all Advisory Committee members in future briefings. This meeting's goal, however, was to present a snapshot of some of the items that have been discussed by individual pillars and challenges that have arisen.

Arts and Culture (Presented by Co-chair Melanie Wang)

Objective/Policy Highlights

- Regularly gather and analyze data to determine needs and support systems available, as well as identify resource gaps
- Expand funding eligibility to a wider variety of organizations engaged in cultural programming
- Collaborate with city departments and other public and private organizations to provide opportunities

The pillar recognizes that art is more than aesthetic, it enhances quality of life. The pillar is also challenging themselves to focus on clearer language. As they look forward, they want to make sure they acknowledge the challenges of artists rebounding from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Economic Development (Presented by Co-chair Lynnette McRae)

Objective/Policy Highlights

- Create an Office of Community Wealth Building (CWB) in the Mayor's Office or as a division within the Department of Planning and Development to raise awareness and provide wealth building support and training
- Establish a Chicago public finance and banking taskforce to help close financing gaps in private banking

This pillar is interested in promoting shared ownership. The pillar also recognizes that appraisal bias is apparent in both residential and commercial sectors. While most of the city's current plan focuses on economic development downtown, the pillar recognizes there needs to be a renewed focus on neighborhoods.

Environment, Climate and Energy (Presented by Co-chair Iyana Simba)

Objective/Policy Highlights

- Establish an environmental impact assessment, that includes both environmental justice impact and climate impact, for the development process
- Understand and accommodate climate migrants and the impact on existing infrastructure
- Acknowledge impact of loss of land and culture on affected communities as a result of climate change and evaluate options for repair
- Prioritize resource distribution to resolve historic and future issues in industrial corridors and during the PMD (planned manufacturing districts) review process

Pillar members are focused on “recognizing the wrongs that have been done and their measured impacts, but also balancing that with targets and positive outcomes and solutions for communities that are environmentally overburdened.” Pillar members want to acknowledge the past, while repairing the damage that has been done.

The pillar also recognizes that there is a lack of awareness and understanding around the environment. Residents are not sure about what they can do. How do we change resident’s waste reduction behaviors?

Housing and Neighborhoods (Presented by Co-chair Sindy Soto, Department of Housing)

Objective/Policy Highlights

- Provide civic education on development approval and other decision-making processes to support engagement of residents, property owners, and businesses
- Create standard, ward-based engagement processes with enforceable transparency standards
- Support community ownership models such as tenant rights of first refusal and limited-equity housing cooperatives
- Expand eTOD programs that align public funding with local partnerships to achieve community goals

One of the challenges has been crafting inclusive and sensitive language that considers all marginalized communities. The pillar wants to make sure everyone feels represented. Another challenge is figuring out how to require and enforce inclusive and equitable budgeting in all wards.

Lifelong Learning (Presented by Co-chair Mark Potter, City Colleges of Chicago)

Objective/Policy Highlights

- Create Department of Learning to improve collaboration between citywide education organizations and to share learning opportunities available to the public
- Provide additional funding and services to ensure equitable access to the workforce regardless of ability, language, age, and immigration status
- Hire a dedicated city-funded partnership coordinator to support collaboration between key employers, workforce development programs, and educational institutions

- Pursue partnerships between the city, key educational institutions, and key employers focused on serving communities that have been historically disenfranchised

One of the goals of the pillar is to build scale in workforce development across the city. While there is a desire to reinforce existing programs and provide additional funding, there isn't a clear line of sight to what programs exist or are in the pipeline.

The pillar is also considering new objectives and policies that will repair harm in communities where schools were closed, as well as foster a sense of belonging for marginalized populations.

Public Health and Safety (Presented by Co-chair Alex Heaton, Mayor's Office of Violence Reduction)

Objective/Policy Highlight

- Establish a funding program to reopen or open local drugstores in Black and Latinx neighborhoods where there are gaps in pharmacy services

The pillar has experienced challenges while developing public safety policies through a public health lens.

The pillar wants their policies to benefit communities that have been most impacted by the legal system and has identified a method for developing short-term strategies to address the current violence across the city, including strategies that don't include law enforcement.

Co-chair Kate McMahon, Chicago Department of Public Health, also emphasized that the policies of the other pillars directly impact Public Health and Safety. For that reason, they are working to "de-duplicate" policies addressed by other groups. Mental health policies are also being discussed.

Transportation and Infrastructure (Presented by Co-chair Jamie Simone, Chicago Department of Transportation)

Objective/Policy Highlights

- Establish metrics and processes to ensure infrastructure funding is equitable across all wards
- Coordinate across departments to leverage roadway maintenance and utility infrastructure projects as an opportunity to add co-benefits, such as safety enhancements, green infrastructure, fiber optic infrastructure, or electric vehicle charging stations
- Ensure universal access for those in need by investing in high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband service in areas of the city with the lowest rate of household connectivity

Co-chair Melvin Thompson of The Endeleo Institute spoke to the waste of resources that occurs when departments don't coordinate with one another. Infrastructure is challenging because it is expensive and it takes a long time.

RESOURCES

WE WILL CHICAGO

["We Will Chicago" is a 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. This is the first citywide plan of its type since the 1966 Comprehensive Plan.](#)

2022 CHICAGO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

[With historic investments coming in 2022, Chicago is ready to strengthen partnerships and programs across the city to expand access to green space, reduce carbon emissions, and connect residents to meaningful resources and services.](#)

CHICAGO'S EQUITABLE TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

[The Chicago eToD Policy Plan outlines a comprehensive set of actions for the City to take to advance racial equity, wealth building, public health and climate resilience goals through equitable Transit-Oriented Development \(eTOD\).](#)

NEXT STEPS

- The next individual We Will Chicago pillar meetings will take place during the week of April 25, 2022.
- Preparation is underway for the Advisory Committee's June report and a draft of policies for public engagement.