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## Advisory Committee Meeting #4

November 16, 2021, 9:00AM | 2 hours

*Documented by: Ayanna Watkins*

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### ATTENDEES

- Adam Glueckert
- Christopher Chwedyk
- Ally Brisbin
- Katrina Balog
- Bridget Hayman
- Cheri Benson
- Courtney Kashima
- Kelly Greer
- Ranadip Bose
- Fran Rood
- Mary Kenney
- Lynnette McRae
- Dwana De La Cerna
- Travis Moore-Murray
- Rafael Leon
- Sendy Soto
- Kenya Merritt
- Rachel Arfa
- Maureen Burns
- Erin Harkey
- Deepa Gupta
- Katya Nuques
- Melanie Wang
- Kathy Dickhut
- Guillermo Cruz
- Roberto Requejo
- Juan Sebastian Arias
- Skyler Larrimore
- Christina Harris
- Angela Tovar
- Risa Rifkind
- Alexander Heaton
- Rosa Ortiz
- Michelle Roseborough
- Ellen Shepard
- Todd Vanadilok
- Cliff Helm
- Alberto Rincon
- Lauren Burdette
- Iyana Simba
- Kate McMahan
- Jessie Wang
- Mark Potter
- Libia Bianibi
- Adrienne Irmer
- Todd Wyatt
- Isobel Araujo
- Lucinda Roberts
- Candace Moore



#### MEETING GOAL

*The primary objective of this meeting was to gather additional input on what “We Will Chicago” has constructed regarding future community frameworks.*

#### 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 Advisory Committee meetings are in place to connect the past, present and future of Chicago through dialogue, data analysis and historical reckoning.
- 2** | The Advisory Committee is currently prioritizing the development of key objectives. In small meeting spaces, co-chairs are gaining feedback from the community to strengthen the definition of objectives. These objectives will be used to set a policy framework and assess performance.
- 3** | The Advisory Committee plans to actively use all recommendations, data and information used in the current phase to shape the framework of the next.

## CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

*“As we pull back and look at all the pillars, how might we change our community engagement processes as a city to ensure greater participation and representation across all of the work? Not just with this effort, but ongoing.”*

**Deepa Gupta** | Blue Lotus Advisors, Principal and Founder

*“I wonder though if there might be a space to not only think about raising awareness of opportunities but also shape messaging about why lifelong education is worthwhile for any resident of Chicago.”*

**Libia Bianibi** | Arts Alliance Illinois, Senior Director, Finance & Operations

*“We have a huge need across all sectors for translation services: A program that takes native speakers and helps them attain certification as translators and interpreters.”*

**Maureen Burns** | JourneyCare, Community Health Worker

*“When we talk about environmental justice, let’s also remember that when we deny permits for polluters, we should also have clean alternatives that still provide jobs. It should not be a choice between jobs and clean air.”*

**Maureen Burns** | JourneyCare, Community Health Worker

*“There are all of these synergies right now at local, state and federal level and how we sort of meet that moment and prepare ourselves to make these deep investments with the funding that we anticipate will be made available to the city to accelerate climate change mitigation and adaptation and to address environmental justice issues.”*

**Angela Tovar** | City of Chicago, Chief Sustainability Officer

## NOTES

- Recap: We Will Chicago is a 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. (Source: We Will Chicago Website)
- An important tool that We Will Chicago utilizes is the historical reckoning framework:
  - Reflect on our past: Educate and engage about past/present racial injustices
  - Reclaim our present: Identify lessons learned of the past to inform new values and norms
  - Reimagine our future: Vision a more inclusive future state and design policies and equitable outcomes
- Based on previous meetings, here's what the Advisory Committee put together for their action items towards the framework:
  - Define We Will Chicago's approach to historical reckoning
  - Implement the past when planning for the future
  - Develop metrics to track progress of recommended impacts
  - Get all hands on deck (elected officials, public sector, private sector)
- Kathy Dickhut provided engagement updates:
  - 76 artist-organizer events
  - More than 400 responses to online questionnaire
  - Qualitative data analysis working group
  - 14 community partner events held
  - 116 people attended the first training for using the "Meeting in a Box"
- We Will Chicago Framework:
  - We Will Chicago has pillar research work as part of the engagement process. Across the pillar teams, there are over 150 volunteers using the research to build a policy framework with the use of guided questions and objectives.
    - Seven Pillars:
      - Arts and Culture
      - Economic Development
      - Environment, Climate, and Energy
      - Housing and Neighborhood

- Lifelong Learning
- Public Health and Safety
- Transportation and Infrastructure
- In order to have more time to deeply engage with these questions, We Will Chicago has extended their pillar meeting structure through June 2022.
- As of now, We Will Chicago is in Phase Two:
  - Define objectives
  - Refine objectives in small working groups
  - Incorporate what we've heard from engagement
  - Explore cross-cutting themes
- Before heading to the breakout rooms, Bose emphasized the difference between an objective and a policy within the framework.
  - Objective: "Defines the what"
  - Policy: "Defines the how"
    - Edmonton City Plan is being used as a guide
- Break out room 1:
  - Discussion: The first breakout room highlighted housing and economic development issues. An overview of what these pillars discussed thus far was provided to the group. Guided questions were asked to dive deeper into each matter. From there, the group provided additional comments for We Will Chicago to put to further use.
    - Example of guided question/response: How do we preserve and increase the number and types of affordable, quality, and accessible housing choices available for all?
      - "Increase development of affordable housing units across all neighborhoods and income groups."
  - Public comment: A common theme across the comment section has been a need to emphasize the importance of naturally occurring affordable housing. The people also felt that each neighborhood has different challenges that require their own solutions.
    - Highlighted quote: "Excited to rethink community engagement: what it is and how we do that. What's missing is identifying and engaging with community solutions that already exist."
- Break out room 2:
  - Discussion: The second breakout room highlighted transportation and public health/safety issues.

- Example of guided question/response: How can we create transportation networks that support greater connectivity by walking, biking, transit and other more active and sustainable nodes?
  - “Enhance seamless integration between sustainable travel modes creating travel that is easier, safer, convenient and more enjoyable.”
- Public comment: A common theme across the comment section has been a need to emphasize the importance of testing/prototyping. The people also felt that different incentives that reflect the needs and budget of the community should be put in place to test sustainability and effect.
  - Highlighted quote: “Aligning incentives is key and is generally a more effective way to encourage the type of responsive innovation we want to see, compared to opaque and rigid policies that need to be consistently updated through elongated legislative timelines.”
- Break out room 3:
  - Discussion: The third breakout room highlighted the following pillars: arts & culture, lifelong learning & environment and climate & energy.
  - Public comment: A common theme across the comment section has been a need to emphasize the importance of cross-pillar discussions. Many people in this group brought up correlations amongst pillars.
    - Highlighted quote: “Are we paying close attention to what is already being done and what serves as good examples of where we can start and what can build on?” - Libia Bianibi
- Overview:
  - The purpose of the breakout rooms were for co-chairs to hear and document any questions, additional comments, and/or feedback from advisory committee members. Co-chairs also had the space to present an overview of each pillar’s position thus far.

**RESOURCES**

**EDMONTON CITY PLAN**

[Referenced as an example for the We Will Chicago process](#)

**WE WILL CHICAGO WEBSITE**

[Where We Are Now](#)

**MEETING RECORDING**

[Youtube video link](#)



#### NEXT STEPS

- The next We Will Chicago advisory committee meeting will be held December 7, 2021, from 9 to 11:00 a.m.
- Between now and the next meeting, We Will Chicago plans to implement all additional feedback into the notes already produced.
  - Attendees had a grace period to provide any other feedback or information before submission
- Participants were told that the next meeting would discuss the theme of meaningful and accessible community engagement. In addition, the use of information from the current phase will be used to frame the next.