

Economic Development: Meeting #2

August 10, 2021, 2:00PM | 2 hours

Documented by: Mrinalini Pandey

MEETING MATERIALS

[Agenda](#)

[Presentation](#)

ATTENDEES

- Aaron Dorsey
- Alec Singer
- Alexis Esparza
- Amalia Nieto Gomez
- Angela Y. Dugan
- E. LaVerne Hall
- Enneréssa Davis
- G. Sequane Lawrence
- Vamsi Kurakula
- Vanessa Stokes
- William Jefferies
- Gladys Montemayor
- Jennifer Aronsohn
- Jessica McCarihan
- Jo de Presser
- Karin Norington-Reaves
- Kindy Kruller
- Koby Joseph Hill
- Lorne C. Green
- Martha Aguila
- Max Budovitch
- Tony Manno
- Michelle McClendon
- Nedra Sims Fears
- Nneka Onwuzurike
- Rachel Elman
- Rob Fojtik
- Samir Mayekar
- Sandi Price
- Skyler Larrimore
- Tenasha Shaynay Wilcoxon
- Tina Gulley-Augustus

Recording

View

1/2

1/2

Unmute Start Video

Participants Chat Share Screen Record Reactions

Leave

Participants:

- Ranadip Bose
- M
- Skylar Larrimore - City of Chicago (she/...
- Katrina Balog
- Lynnette McRae (she/her)
- Jo de Presser
- Jenny Aronson
- Iaverne
- Aaron Dorsey (City of Chicago) (He/Hi...
- Kenya Merritt, City of Chicago
- Sequane Lawrence
- Serrater Chapman, Greater Chatham I...
- Kindy (she/her) Cook County Bureau o...
- Nedra Fears
- Vamsi (Slalom) (He/Him)
- Cory Muldoon, Chicago Cook Workfor...
- Angela Dugan
- Vanessa Stokes
- Lorne C. Green, Chicago Housing Aut...
- vamsi kurakula (Slalom) (He/Him)
- Koby Hill
- Nneka, Mayor's Offi...
- Michelle McClendon
- Amalia NietoGome...
- Tamieka Hardy, Greater Chatham Inti...

CHA CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY

MEETING GOAL

The primary objective of this meeting was to build team relationships and introduce the members to the priority topic areas that emerged from We Will Chicago's initial planning phase.

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 | Historical reckoning begins with identifying the specific groups affected by historical injustice and acknowledging issues unique to those groups.
- 2 | Instead of talking about historical reckoning solely from a historical point of view, it is important to constantly recognize how these issues continue to play out and examine whether our policies contribute to or alleviate them.
- 3 | Reparative frameworks will need to be a consistent area of focus regarding communities of color.

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

"We will incorporate historical reckoning through the process, and we are creating the future built around the knowledge of what happened in the past and what we put forth has to be rooted in reckoning,"

Katrina Balog | Muse Community + Design, Director

"We have an opportunity to advance a sober analysis and core set of correctives for the good of our City."

Sequane Lawrence | Volunteer

"We have Black businesses that are committed to community, legacy and have a willingness to thrive. Historic black business in thriving black communities that are being resilient despite racism, strategic disinvestment, and limited resources is the economic development that we want to encourage and get more support on."

Serrator Chapman | Volunteer

"Historical reckoning as it relates to my work is in the form of correcting past disparities in the % of the City's taxpayer dollars spent on City contracts with companies owned by people of color or women in general."

E. LaVerne Hall | Volunteer

"The history of redlining and institutionally reinforced racial segregation in Chicago, and how that stripped wealth from black communities and stifled neighborhood economic activity. The foreclosure crisis and all of the wealth stripped from communities, in particular black and brown communities, that reinforced the racial wealth gap. Segregation and institutionalized racism linking to lending patterns and access to capital for economic opportunities in black and brown communities."

Skyler Larrimore | Office of the Mayor

NOTES

Kickoff and Introductions

- Meeting started promptly at 2 pm with 32 participants joining in via Zoom in this Pillar meeting. Throughout the meeting there was robust discussion in the chat section as well as interactive participation through live polling, anonymous feedback, and ideating on Mentimeter and Miro.
- The Zoom session began with a prompt from Balog, who asked the participants to reflect on the neighborhood in which they grew up and the ways in which it brought them and their family members joy. Participants preferred to use the Zoom chat feature to answer this question. For many participants discovering their neighborhood and city on bikes brought them immense joy. Other participants enjoyed playing different sports on their school playgrounds, connecting with friends in neighborhood recreational parks, or celebrating festivals or summer block parties with friends and families. People understand their urban landscape largely through movement and unstructured activities.
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Overview

- We Will Chicago leaders are using Imagine Boston 2030 and OneNYC 2050 as examples to guide the planning process. The We Will plan will similarly engage residents and analyze assets, data and trends to achieve certain goals and objectives. Bose said, for the Economic Development pillar, critical defining metrics such as a policy framework and median income trends by race in the city of Chicago will help them refine and achieve those goals. Bose said that the residents' input in this initiative will help ascertain some of those critical criteria that are unique to Chicago.
- In terms of broader community engagement opportunities, Larrimore said there will be input from artist organizers, feedback from community partners, and a standardized feedback form for anyone in the city to speak to any of the pillars in this city-wide initiative. The We Will Chicago website will also use "Bang the Table", an interactive community engagement platform, to seek feedback from the public throughout the development of the policy framework.
- To gain an understanding about how their work impacts communities, especially communities of color, Balog asked the participants to reflect on three prompts: 1) How are you making sense of historical reckoning? 2) How is historical reckoning connected to your work? 3) How is historical reckoning connected to the Economic Development Pillar?
 - One of the speakers, Lynnette McRae, underscored the importance of historical reckoning to the We Will Chicago initiative, especially for "healing and trust building" in Black and brown communities, and hopes that its impact will be both "reflective and declarative." She added that being intentional about incorporating historical reckoning in designing recommendations for the city's policy framework within the "We Will Chicago" initiative will also address the reparative framework that is often overlooked for communities of color.
 - Kindy Kruller, Talent Solutions Program Manager with the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development, who had previously worked with a group at American Indian Center of Chicago, reflected that much of the historical reckoning work and address issues that relate with it begin with identifying the specific groups affected by historical injustice and acknowledging issues unique to those groups.

- Jo de Presser emphasized that instead of talking about historical reckoning solely from a historical point of view, it is important to constantly recognize how some of these issues continue to play out and examine whether our policies contribute to or alleviate them. This lens forms the basis of his understanding of historical reckoning.
- Amalia Nieto Gomez and Reesie Davis echoed Presser's view and asserted that any conversation about historical reckoning has to begin with history but continue by examining the present. Any such conversation has to be backed up with actions in order to address issues of and serve communities of color.

Agenda

- Recording Consent + Reflective Prompt
- Meet the Co-chairs + Agenda Review + Examples of End Product
- Group Norms Activity
- Strengths and Working Styles Activity
- Historical Reckoning Framework Discussion
- Planning Process and Context Presentation
- Introduction to Phase 1 Priority Topic Areas
- Close-out and Homework

NEXT STEPS

- Participants were asked reflect on the priority topic areas for the Economic Development pillar and think about defining the pillar with respect to their own communities and neighborhoods.
- For Meeting 3, the team will review the framework for policy creation, review priority topic areas and draft guiding questions for the process.