

Housing and Neighborhoods: Meeting #2

August 12, 2021, 10:00AM | 2 hours

Documented by: Daniela Jaime

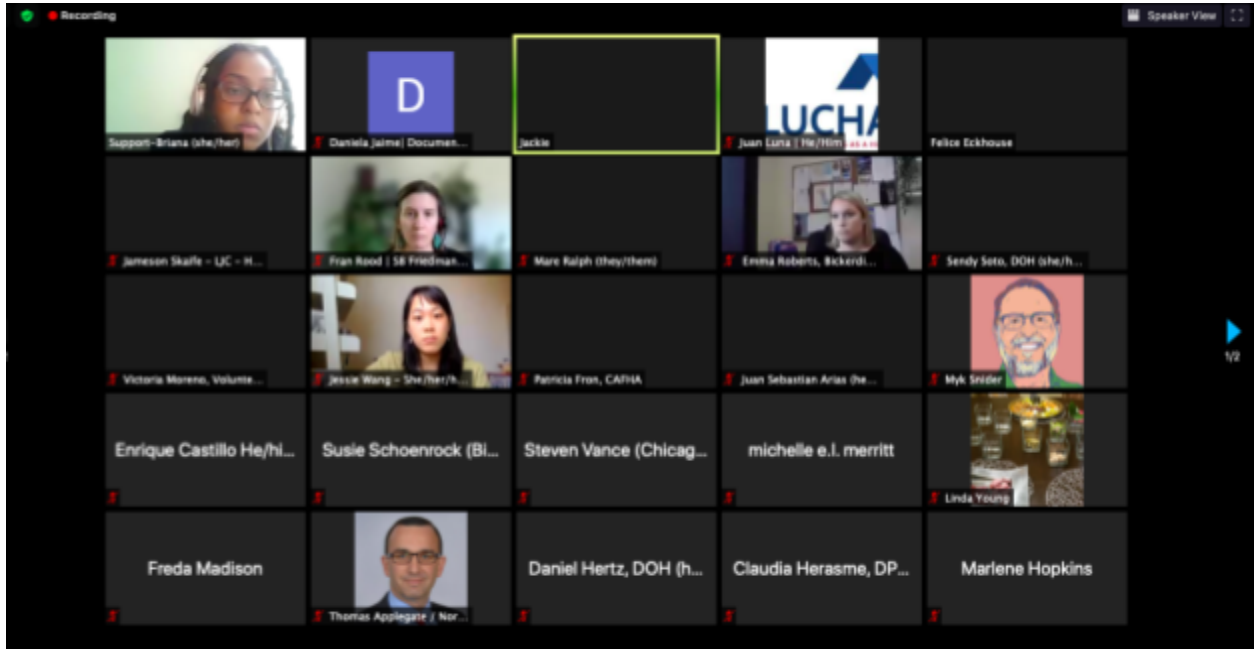
MEETING MATERIALS

[Agenda](#)

[Presentation](#)

ATTENDEES

- Briana
- Myk Snider
- Fran Rood
- Jameson Skaife
- Jackie Paige
- Michelle E.L. Merritt
- Patricia Fron
- Patrick Murphey
- Susie Schoenrock
- Victoria Moreno
- Paola Villegas
- Felice Eckhouse
- Claudia Herasme
- Daniel K. Hertz
- Emma Gonzalez Roberts
- Enrique Castillo
- Mare Ralph
- Marlene Hopkins
- Steve Valenziano
- Thomas Applegate
- Jessie Wang
- Freda Madison
- Frida Palacios
- Grace Chan Mckibben
- Jo de Presser
- Juan Luna Nunez
- Linda Young
- Sendy Soto
- Steven Vance
- Juan Sebastian Arias



A Zoom meeting grid showing 20 participants in a 5x4 layout. The top-left corner indicates 'Recording' is on. The top-right corner shows 'Speaker View' and a volume icon. The grid contains the following participants (row by row, left to right):

- Support-Briana (she/her)
- Daniela Jaime | Documenta...
- Jackie
- Juan Luna | He/Him
- Felice Eckhouse
- Jameson Skaffe - UC - H...
- Fran Reed | SF Friedman...
- Mare Ralph (they/them)
- Emma Roberts, Bickerd...
- Sandy Seto, DOH (she/h...
- Victoria Moreno, Volume...
- Jessie Wang - She/Her/h...
- Patricia Fron, CAPHA
- Juan Sebastian Arias (he...
- Myk Szider
- Enrique Castillo He/h...
- Susie Schoenrock (BI...
- Steven Vance (Chicag...
- michelle e.l. merritt
- Linda Young
- Freda Madison
- Thomas Applegate | Nor...
- Daniel Hertz, DOH (h...
- Claudia Herasme, DP...
- Marlene Hopkins

MEETING GOAL

The We Will Chicago Housing and Neighborhoods team met to establish the outcomes they wish to bring to their Chicago neighborhoods through the citywide plan initiative.

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** Many community members, including volunteers, are reluctant to engage with another housing plan, due to fear that it'll end up being another plan that causes more harm than good, and in the end bring more gentrification to their neighborhoods.
- 2** Housing group notes historical pushback from City Council; this is making a divide between city council, city workers and the team members, with the team members emphasizing displacement of residents and prioritization of residents as a whole
- 3** The City of Chicago continues to insist that inclusivity will be at the forefront of their planning, but the political walkaround seems to frustrate members consistently. Members of the Honey Pot Performance seem more direct though.

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

“One thing that I’ve been concerned about with a lot of community meetings [is that] we don’t seem to have a standard for community engagement and so maybe as we take this journey we can start identifying what those standards should be.”

Linda Young | Volunteer

“Something that is missing is something about avoiding doing harm with this plan.”

Emma Gonzalez Roberts | Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation

“[Historical Reckoning] is why I joined this group. I am a voucher holder, and voucher holders are the largest housing segment in the CHA. Even though they are the largest they’re the most marginalized. Their advocacy group is not chosen by them[...] And that’s something that I am here to adamantly oppose. The largest housing segment has no voice; their group was disbanded three times [in one year], because the CEO did not like what they were saying, and again they have a group chosen by the CEO.”

Jackie Paige | Volunteer

NOTES

Kickoff and Introductions

- Describe your least successful meeting experience. What about the group dynamics or meeting facilitation made it unpleasant?
 - Linda Young: “One thing that I’ve been concerned about with a lot of community meetings [is that] we don’t seem to have a standard for community engagement and so maybe as we take this journey we can start identifying what those standards should be. I know I’ve participated in a lot of City of Chicago initiatives, but five people could show up from the community or 550 people show up, and we say ‘we’ve had successful community engagement,’ and to me that doesn’t seem right.”
 - Emma Gonzalez Roberts: “Something that is missing is something about avoiding doing harm with this plan. As we talked about last time, a lot of plans have led to a lot of destruction of livelihoods in the past, and so just being aware of bad outcomes from past citywide plans and just avoiding those as much as possible.”

Overview

- The City of Chicago is currently following the [2019-2023 Five-Year Housing Plan](#), adopted from December 2018 during Rahm Emmanuel’s last year.
 - Relevant statistics:
 - 2017 Median sale price value of a single family home: \$203,933 [compared to about \\$268k in 2020](#)
 - During the plans quarterly report (July ‘19, about 1 year pre-panini-press) eviction filing rates were 4x’s higher in Black neighborhoods
 - [Majority of missing rent payments were small amounts](#): “Over 80% of evictions had a claim for rent and almost two thirds of those cases were for relatively small amounts of money, with 18% for less than \$1,000 and an additional 44% for under \$2,500.”
 - Majority of the time tenants are under-resourced in these cases: 79% of landlords had attorneys compared to 11% of tenants.
 - The 2020 census found Illinois to have the second largest loss in population since 2010
 - Chicago was only 0.1% of that loss, but due to the census not having an official deadline, official numbers might not be clear until after 2021
 - [361 business closed during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
 - [Homelessness was already on the rise](#) before the pandemic, according to Block Club Chicago, “In January, even before the pandemic, Chicago’s homeless population was already on the rise. The city’s Point In Time survey, a citywide effort to count the homeless population on a single night, found 5,390 people living on the streets or in shelters, a 2 percent increase over 2019.”
- Historical Reckoning: How are you making sense of historical reckoning? How is historical reckoning connected to your work? How is reckoning connected to our pillar?
 - Jackie Paige: “[Historical reckoning] is why I joined this group. I am a voucher holder, and voucher holders are the largest housing segment in the CHA. Even though they are the largest they’re the most marginalized. Their advocacy group is not chosen by them[...] And that’s something that I am here to adamantly oppose. The largest housing segment has no voice; their group was disbanded three times [in one year], because the CEO did not like what they were saying, and again they have a group chosen by the CEO.”
 - Housing also plans to get involved with the health and safety equity group in order to draft plans that take the impact of neighborhood-level environmental racism into account.

- Linda Young: 28:30-30:15
 - The emotional commitment this is for folks who are not city of chicago workers
 - Team members echo this sentiment in the chat
- Michelle E.L. Merritt says Honey Pot Performance has received feedback from residents who are concerned that yet another housing plan about yet another plan for housing will result in little change and more business opportunities
- There have been around 35 housing plans specifically in the City of Chicago—participants question whether those plans have resulted in benefits for residents

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

RESOURCES

Honey Pot Performance

We Will Chicago's Teams: <https://www.honeypotperformance.org/we-will-chicago>

Lawyers Committee for Better Housing

Chicago's 5 year plan quarterly progress report:

<https://www.lcbh.org/news/statement-chicagos-quarterly-progress-5-year-housing-plan>

We Will Chicago

Pillars, Themes, & Principles: <https://wewillchicago.com/pillars-themes-principles>

We Will Chicago's Planning Artists

<https://wewillchicago.com/artists>

Chicago Department of Planning and Development

Press Release:

https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dcd/provdrs/we_will_chicago/news/2020/august/citywide-planning-initiative---we-will-chicago---aims-to-foster-.html

Block Club

Homelessness on the rise pre-pandemic:

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2020/11/10/chicagos-homeless-population-was-already-on-the-rise-before-the-pandemic-now-city-scrambles-to-plan-for-next-wave/>

Housing and Neighborhoods Team members

<https://wewillchicago.com/we-will-teams>

CMAP Illinois Population Report

Illinois Population loss:

https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/updates/all/-/asset_publisher/UIMfSLnFfMB6/content/population-loss-2020-census

We Will Chicago

Initial meeting Documentarian reports:

https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/dcd/we_will/we_will_documents/Documenter_Summary_WeWill_Meeting1_20210728.pdf

NEXT STEPS

- Prioritize topics to cover
- Review housing plans and identify which plans should be elevated in discussion and documentation
- Victoria Moreno recommends expected outcomes be shared with the team along with a clear timeline to avoid any confusion or uncertainty