

Economic Development, Meeting #3

August 31, 2021, 02:04 PM | 2 hours

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MEETING MATERIALS

[Agenda](#)

[Presentation](#)

ATTENDEES

- Katrina Balog
- Ranadip Bose
- Lynnette McRae
- Jo de Pressor
- Vanessa Stokes
- Skyler Larrimore
- LaVerne Hall
- Amalia NietoGomez
- Salvador Cerna
- Cory M
- Max Budovitch
- Kindy Kruller

The section header 'AGENDA' is displayed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To its left is a red six-pointed star, which is preceded by a blue square. The entire header is set against a light gray background that is part of a larger black horizontal bar.

- **Artist-Organizer Engagement: Update + Events** | 10 min
- **Process + Decision-Making Overview** | 10 min | **Presentation**
- **Topic Area Refinement** | 25 min | **Presentation** + **Conversation**
- **Break** | 5 min
- **Guiding Questions Development** | 40 min | **Presentation** + **Conversation**
- **Plans + Data Needs** | 10 min | **Conversation**
- **Q+A + Close-out** | 10 min

MEETING GOAL

To refine Priority Topic Areas and develop Guiding Questions for the next process.

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** | Developed Guiding Questions that will serve as framework for the next process.
- 2** | Refined topic areas collaboratively via Miro board.
- 3** | Brainstormed guiding questions via Breakout groups.

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

“Creating outdoor dining that promotes arts and cultural spaces. Currently, the West Side of Chicago does not have many outdoor eating spaces. Creating these spaces will increase the curb appeal and hosting cultural/arts events near the businesses will increase foot traffic.”

Tina Augustus | Executive Director, Englewood Chamber of Commerce

“The launch of skills/work development programs for neighborhood residents. Such programs helping them to gain skills and certificates that help them compete in the job market.”

Tamiaka Hardy | Volunteer

“Lifting up small businesses in my neighborhood- helping them when they were struggling during the pandemic with food orders and crowd funding.”

Skyler Larrimore | City of Chicago, Deputy Director of Policy

“As part of the Red Line Extension Coalition in West Chesterfield, we are concerned about the \$2.4B project and needed stress on equity with respect to jobs and entrepreneurial activity.”

G. Sequane Lawrence | Volunteer

“It seems that focus areas do not center Chicago residents enough. When we think about Economic Development, we should be thinking about how we are investing in the people of Chicago.”

Cory M | Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership

NOTES

Kickoff and Introductions

- Around 25 participants in this Pillar meeting. Tools used: Zoom chat, Menti, and Miro board in addition to verbal participation on Zoom.
- Reflective prompt exercise: *How do you experience economic development in your neighborhood?*
- Salvador Cerna from ESDC, whose group is focused primarily on Pilsen, talked about the group's "clean-up" efforts in collaboration with local businesses in the neighborhood to capitalize on the ongoing economic development. According to Cerna, if sidewalks are clean and accessible, then people feel comfortable and the neighborhood more welcoming. Another aspect that would inform his experience of economic development within his neighborhood would be through filling up of empty store fronts.
- La Verne Hall, located in north of Bronzeville towards Chinatown area, shared that she experienced economic development in her neighborhood through places to shop and eat. With growing number of malls and other stores in the area, she found it convenient to shop without having to go to downtown.
- Other commenters in the chat section echoed their comments in support of encouraging more local businesses and investing in properties that enhance housing stock.

Overview

- Develop Guiding Questions that will serve as framework for the next process.
- Build on phase 1 meeting and discussions about historical reckoning to identify guiding questions.
- Refined topic areas collaboratively via Miro board. These will be re-organized by the WeWill team after the meeting.
- Brainstorm guiding questions via Breakout groups.
- Priority ranking at least 5 guiding questions through Menti survey.
- Artist-organizer, Vanessa Stokes, addressed this section of the meeting with following updates:
 - Spent the month of August with her team conducting community meetings at Austin, Humboldt Park, and Hermosa.
 - Partnering with the Austin Farmer's Market for an event on Sept. 23, 2021.
 - Various interactive events will be conducted to facilitate feedback from the community to gauge what people are looking for in terms of economic development within their neighborhood.
 - In response to Balog's question about the main takeaways from these artist-organizer events, Stokes responded that people were particularly interested in

knowing the ways in which they can support small businesses and owners, especially those who are new in the market. Another aspect that Stokes observed emerge out of these events were to find ways for small business to network better that help them get investment and aid them in expanding their business.

- In the chat section, Amalia of the ASE organization asked about the exclusive nature of the economic development discussions and the impact it may have on communities that are left behind. To this, another artist-organizer, Jo de Presser responded that the engagement is essentially city-wide and that these communities are used as a hub for economic development discussions.
- Topic areas are essentially groupings that emerged out of discussions about economic development during phase 1 and the last meeting. After taking inputs from participants, a few topic areas defined by the We Will team were:
 - Leverage all assets across Chicago
 - Rebranding Chicago's Image
 - Strong job network between downtown and neighborhoods
 - Distribute resources equitably
 - Foster communication and trust across multiple agencies and sectors
- In upcoming meetings (beginning with meeting #4), the We Will Chicago team will incorporate the Health and Race Equity Impact Assessment (HREIA) which Ranadip Bose said is a community engaged process to assess the implications that could result from a proposed plan, policy, or project. Such a framework has already been adopted by the department of housing and department of health. Through the HREIA framework, the We Will team will develop recommendations for policies that are racially equitable.
- Bose said the Guiding Questions will be used in the process of policy framework development within the Economic Development Pillar. These questions will enable the research team to determine trends and assets for further analysis. They will then be examined in comparison to the best practices adopted during past city planning for Chicago and/or template cites that the We Will team is closely observing. Outcomes of such an analysis will be the foundation for potential objectives and policy recommendations which will inform the final Pillar reports.
- Guiding Questions were brainstormed in consideration with the We Will Chicago's principles of equity and resiliency, themes and pillars, historical reckoning, and the Pillar's working definition all of which can be found on their website.
- Key takeaways from all Breakout Groups:
 - Breakout #1: Making connection between CPS and Entrepreneurship and Innovation to make it more inclusive for young population to be a part of the Economic Development Pillar through entrepreneurship and not just workforce. Additionally, to rebuild trust between various agencies.
 - Breakout #2: To be intentional about identifying communities through a database approach to inform targeted future investment, as well as support women-owned and minority business.

- Breakout #3: Need for communities to have a robust codesign and co-decision process. And the city to strategically invest and prepare communities for 21st century jobs and discourage resident displacement as a result of incentivizing developers.
- Breakout #4: Need for changing the existing narratives about the Southside neighborhoods and other black and brown communities.
- Participants will be sent a Menti survey after the meeting to rank the Guiding Questions which the research team will synthesize further to present to the Advisory Committee.

RESOURCES

We Will Chicago Website

<https://wewillchicago.com>

Confirmed events among Artist-Organizer teams

<https://wewillchicago.com/calendar>

NEXT STEPS

- Participants were asked to continue adding to the Miro board to assist the research team in identifying plans.
- Contribute any lingering thoughts on the existing Priority Topic Areas and Guiding Questions.
- Post any questions for the team on the Miro board.
- Review guiding questions in the next meeting.
- Next meeting on September 21, 2021.