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## Economic Development, Meeting #4

September 21, 2021, 02:00PM | 2 hours

Documented by: Ayanna Watkins

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### MEETING MATERIALS

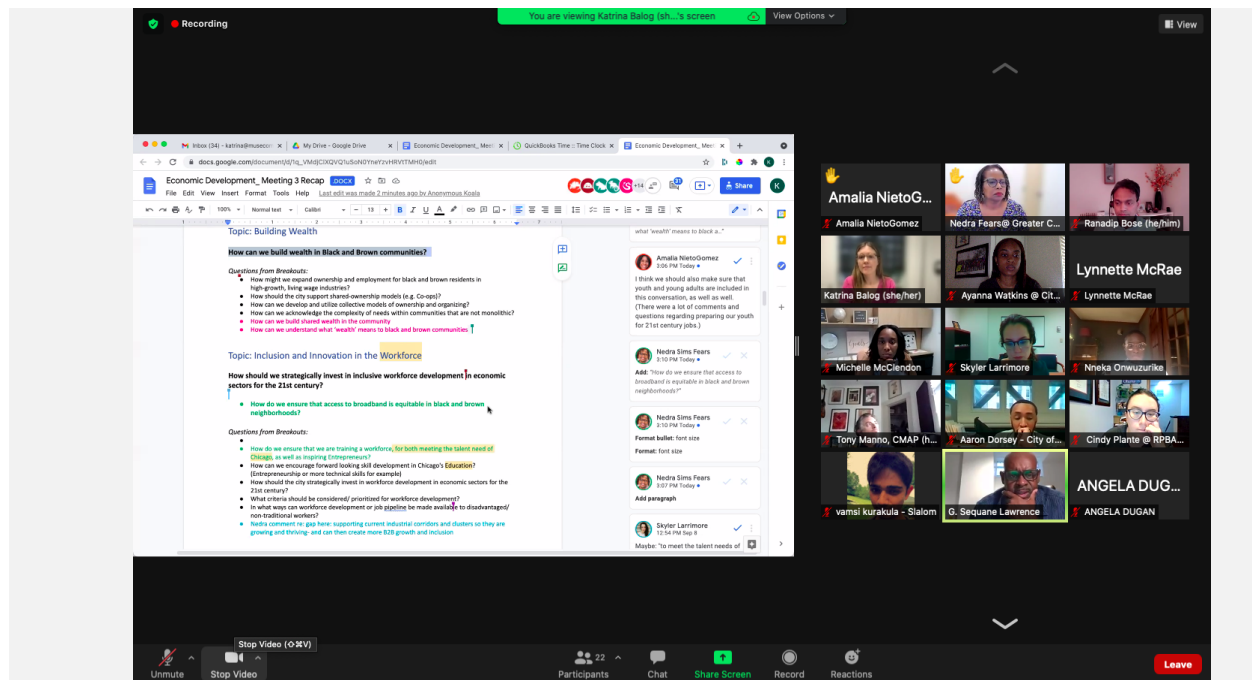
[Agenda <Link to Agenda>](#)

[Presentation](#)

### ATTENDEES

- |                       |                     |                          |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • Kenya Merritt       | • Lynnette McRae    | • Aaron Dorsey           |
| • Alec Singer         | • Alexis Esparza    | • Amalia NietoGomez      |
| • Angela Y. Dugan     | • E. LaVerne Hall   | • Enneressa Davis        |
| • G. Sequane Lawrence | • Gladys Montemayor | • Jennifer Aronsohn      |
| • Jessica McCarihan   | • Jo de Presser     | • Karin Norington-Reaves |
| • Kindy Kruller       | • Koby Joseph Hill  | • Lorne C. Green         |
| • Martha Aguila       | • Max Budovitch     | • Michelle McClendon     |
| • Nedra Sims Fears    | • Nneka Onwuzurike  | • Rachel Elman           |
| • Rob Fojtik          | • Samir Mayekar     | • Sandi Price            |
|                       |                     | • Tina Gulley-Augustus   |

- Skyler Larrimore
- Tony Manno
- William Jefferies
- Tenasha Shaynay Wilcoxon
- Vamsi Kurakula
- Ayanna Watkins
- Vanessa Stokes



#### MEETING GOAL

*<We Will Chicago: Economic Development held a third conversation on the need to create an abundant, more equitable economy for all Chicagoans through policy work and action.>*

#### 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

Based on previous discussions, the Economic Development Pillar is prioritizing the following factors: building trust and investing in people/neighborhoods. Throughout the meeting, facilitators gained feedback from the group to build upon these subtopics in hopes for change.

2

Informing the people on civically engaging matters has been a priority. Many people are unaware of “We Will Chicago” and other initiatives that could potentially support communities.

3

Meeting three highlighted the need for economic sustainability and consistent, equitable support. The people desire access, equity, inclusion, and a seat at the table.

## CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

*“Especially with relationship building, I think the city could do a better job with building relationships with folks from the community. It is a challenge because folks don’t know what it is and people do not like giving up a lot of information.”*

**Vanessa Stokes** | Honey Pot Performance, Artist-Organizer

*“We get people the type of training they need for these different industries, but how can we ensure these corporations or companies that we are enforcing, that they are hiring these people from different neighborhoods and who have attained these skill sets? Because currently I don’t see that being done.”*

**Angela Dugan** | Polaris Solutions, Delivery Director

*“The city focuses on funding but I think at any point that it impacts the city process [...] Especially if we are talking about equity, it should be a part of the permitting process, it should be a part of the zoning process.”*

**Amalia NietoGomez** | Alliance of the Southeast, Executive Director

## NOTES

### Kickoff and Introductions

- Residents should be educated about the city's role as a global leader in certain fields so they can align their own career plans with the workforce opportunities that Chicago offers.
- Chicago should leverage the relationships between downtown and local neighborhoods by ensuring both are prioritized for job-supporting investments involving access, beautification, public safety, marketing, workforce housing, public safety, etc.
- Partnerships between workforce development agencies, business organizations, chambers of commerce, schools, and local government should be strengthened to create a viable employment network.
- Maintenance should ensure all transit modes are safe, providing accountability and nurturing public-private partnerships to monitor current conditions and plans for the future.
- Broadband access should be available in all neighborhoods, regardless of income levels.

### Overview

The group split into break out rooms to build a set of guiding questions that reflect the needs and wants of the community. Thus far, the following questions have been used:

- How do we promote Chicago's assets nationally and amplify positive narratives about South and West Side neighborhoods?
- How can we incentivize equitable investment in historically marginalized neighborhoods without displacement?
- How can we nurture small, women, and Black- and brown-owned businesses throughout Chicago? How do we create demand for their products and services?
- How should we strategically invest in equitable and inclusive workforce development in economic sectors for the 21st century?
- How can we build wealth in Black and brown communities?
- How do we build trust between citizens, civic leaders, and city government?

### Breakout room #3 feedback:

- The job market should be inclusive for all people within the city of Chicago.
- Community organizations play a vital role in building the bridge between the people and city officials. It is important that community organizations are consistent and have "relationship building" at the forefront of organizing. Taking this approach could potentially build trust between the people and politics.
- Addressing the zones and red lines in the city is imperative. These barriers have prevented equitable economic distribution for years, especially towards Black and brown people.

### **Pillar Trends + HREIA Overview:**

- The Economic Development Pillar formulated three high-level ideas based on feedback from previous meetings. The goal is to leave meeting three with more feedback on how to potentially create a strategy from these ideas.
  - Three high level ideas:
    - Building Trust
      - Establishing trust and sharing power
    - Investing in people (Black and brown, women and historically marginalized groups)
      - Building wealth
      - Inclusion and innovation in the workforce
      - Small business development/entrepreneurship
    - Investing in neighborhoods (Black and brown and historically marginalized)
      - Equitable investment and inclusive growth
      - Changing the narrative
  - A data analysis was shown to paint a picture on the current data pulled on Chicago's economic climate.

### **RESOURCES**

#### **We Will Chicago**

<https://wewillchicago.com>

#### **Chicago Health Atlas**

<https://chicagohealthatlas.org/>

#### **Business Licenses- Current Active Data**

<https://data.cityofchicago.org/Community-Economic-Development/Business-Licenses-Current-Active/uupf-x98q>

#### **Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot's Budget Focuses on Housing and Economic Development**

<https://www.bizjournals.com/chicago/news/2021/09/20/chicago-2022-budget.html>

#### **Mayor Lightfoot Releases 2022 Budget Proposal**

[https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mayor/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2021/september/2022BudgetProposal.html](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mayor/press_room/press_releases/2021/september/2022BudgetProposal.html)

**New Economic Opportunities for Southside Possible with ONE Central Transit Hub**

<https://chicagodefender.com/new-economic-opportunities-for-southside-possible-with-one-central-transit-hub/?amp=1>

**NEXT STEPS**

- Participants were encouraged to continue to add/edit the working document from the meeting. In addition, “We Will Chicago” is looking for more resources to build upon (data, research studies, etc) that relates to Arts and Cultures. If anyone has resources please add them to the spreadsheet/working document.
  - Deadline: Before next meeting
- With “Past Plans and Review” participants are encouraged to spend more time reviewing plans and adding any additional comments to further push the needle.