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## Economic Development Meeting #5

October 12, 2021, 2:00PM | 2 hours

Documented by: Benjy Sachs

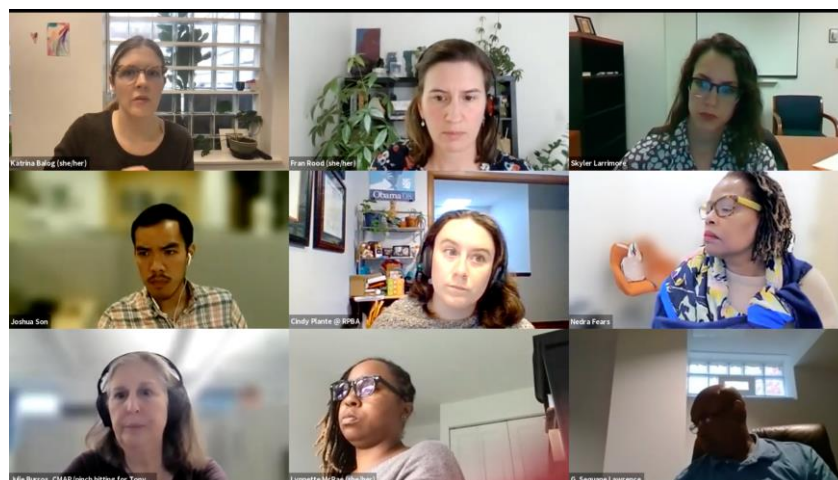
### MEETING MATERIALS

[Agenda <Link to Agenda>](#)

[Presentation <Link to presentation>](#)

### ATTENDEES

- Katrina Balog
- Fran Rood
- Enneréssa "Reesie" Davis
- Aaron Dorsey
- Alec Singer
- Amalia NietoGomez
- Cindy Plante
- G. Sequane Lawrence
- Gladys Montemayor
- Joshua Son
- Julie Burros
- Karin Norington-Reaves
- Vanessa Stokes
- Kenya Merritt
- Michelle McClendon
- Nedra Fears
- Nneka Onwuzurike
- Salvador Cerna
- Skyler Larrimore
- Vamsi Kurakula



### MEETING GOAL

*Review the guiding questions and racial disparities data from the previous meetings and begin to brainstorm objectives and policy ideas to answer these questions and problems.*

### 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

The group reviewed data from the previous meeting showing the deeply ingrained segregation in Chicago stemming from decades of city and federal policy and added their own personal stories and analyses.

2

The group went over and briefly discussed the plan to extend the meeting schedule from 9 meetings to 14. Participants were asked to fill out a survey about this proposed extension.

3

Participants touched on the tension of wanting to use the city's economic plan to address systemic racial inequities while also recognizing that marginalized communities are right to be skeptical of city intervention (due to its past).

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

*"I think too that we want to stem or reverse population loss, particularly since population loss also means loss of congressional seats and federal funding."*

**Cindy Plante** | Rogers Park Business Alliance, Economic Development Manager

*"I also wonder about the opportunity to increase neighborhood tourism as a way to boost small businesses without displacement."*

**Alec Singer** | World Business Chicago, Research Manager

*"Is shared wealth really the goal? Don't we need to create wealth in these communities first and foremost? We need to eliminate the zero-sum mentality that has us pitted one against the other."*

**Karin Norington-Reaves** | Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, Chief Executive Officer

*"Support the childcare, homecare and domestic workforces with safety net and career advancement opportunities."*

**Skyler Larrimore** | Mayor's Office, First Deputy Director of Policy

*"When we have more people visit Greater Chatham, the more likely they will become renters and then homeowners. The best way [to] dispel negative South Side stereotypes is to have people come and see the neighborhood for themselves. Forty percent of Chicagoans are not from Chicago. They have to be educated."*

**Nedra Fears** | The Greater Chatham Initiative, Executive Director

## NOTES

**Kickoff and Introductions**

- Reflective prompt: What stories or context would you add to our overview of data around the challenges our pillar is seeking to address? The group will review the data slides that were covered in the previous meeting and add context from their own lived experiences.
  - “These are more data points which serve as evidence for the case for reparations for African Americans. There are many more,” said G. Sequane Lawrence, president of African American Leadership and Policy Institute; current Chicago Community Trust Fellow at UIC; and president and CEO of RWorks, a 21st century workforce and economic development initiative that weaves together threads of career development, environmentalism, futurism, cooperativism, and entrepreneurship.
- We Will Chicago has proposed extending the pillar meetings from 9 to 14. This meeting, number 5, is the first of Step 2: Developing Objectives. The meetings would run into June 2022. The survey sent out summarizes this decision: “Based on feedback received, the City of Chicago is exploring the possibility of extending the We Will Chicago Pillar Research Team process from a 9 meeting structure to a 14 meeting structure. The expanded timeline, as currently envisioned, will keep the current meetings as scheduled and add 5 additional meetings from mid-February through mid-June 2022. The additional meetings would allow for increased discussion time generally and regarding historical reckoning and additional time for developing and refining objectives and policy recommendations.”
- Amalia NietoGomez, executive director/lead organizer for Alliance of the Southeast, is concerned as a community partner with scheduling two community meetings before the end of the year with the holidays approaching. Amalia inquired as to whether community partner meetings could shift to 2022 with the extended timeline.

**Overview**

- The group reviews data showing the deeply ingrained segregation in Chicago stemming from decades of official city and federal policy from last week’s meeting and adds their own personal stories and analyses.
- There’s a new survey up on the We Will Chicago website to solicit public feedback. The organizers encourage everyone to disseminate that [survey link](#) to their networks.
- Participants answered a series of short answer questions on Menti which were anonymously shared out with the rest of the group.

**Meeting 4 Recap: Review Guiding Questions**

- The group reviewed the guiding questions that were worked out in the previous meeting. Participants are asked to fill out a Menti submission form answering the question “How can we build shared wealth in Black and Brown communities?” in 250 characters or fewer.
  - “Ask local owners of start ups to offer training or mentoring to the Black and brown communities especially on the Southside.” – Gladys Montemayor
  - “limited equity or shared equity partnerships for community ownership over commercial and real estate” – Skyler Larrimore

- “Is shared wealth really the goal? Don't we need to create wealth in these communities first and foremost? We need to eliminate the zero sum mentality that has us pitted one against the other.” – Karin Norington-Reaves
- “Open banks in Black and brown neighborhoods with staff from the neighborhood who can work directly with people to build knowledge and wealth.” – Julie Burros
- “Provide/create mentor/mentee programs for MBE businesses to partner/learn from established businesses” – Michelle McClendon
- “Expand opportunities for affordable homeownership and business real estate ownership (Ties to [Housing + Neighborhoods] pillar)” – Skyler Larrimore
- Next question: How should we strategically invest in equitable and inclusive workforce development in economic sectors for the 21st century?
  - “Invest in small businesses development and entrepreneurship programs.” – Salvador Cerna
  - “Support the childcare, homecare and domestic work workforces with safety net and career advancement opportunities.” – Skyler Larrimore
- How can we nurture small, women and Black and brown owned businesses throughout Chicago?
  - “Repurpose empty lots and empty storefronts for the creation of local neighborhood small businesses” – Salvador Cerna

RESOURCES

**Public feedback survey on Economic Development**

[Your responses to these questions will help us design policies related to Economic Development throughout the city.](#)

**WBEZ article on population loss on the South and West sides**

[Downtown Chicago Grows While The South And West Sides Lose Population](#)

#### NEXT STEPS

- Members should fill out a survey about the proposed extended meeting schedule.