

CITY OF CHICAGO . OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 18, 2023

CONTACT: Mayor's Press Office 312.744.3334 press@cityofchicago.org

Department of Planning and Development 312.744.9267

CITY SUPPORT WOULD REDO WEST RIDGE RETAIL SPACE FOR THEATER ENSEMBLE

A former dollar store in West Ridge would be redeveloped as the permanent home of American Blues Theater through \$2.5M in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) assistance proposed to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

The \$7.1M project at 5627 N. Lincoln Ave. would reconfigure the 10,700-square-foot building as a 148-seat theater and a 40-seat studio space. The project would also include a lobby, box office, concessions, and exterior parking.

The project is expected to create and retain 10 permanent jobs, along with six temporary construction jobs.

Founded in 1985, American Blues Theater is the second oldest professional ensemble theater in Chicago. Its plays are currently performed in leased spaces across the city.

###

LANDMARK STATUS PROPOSED FOR HUMBOLDT PARK'S PIONEER ARCADE

Humboldt Park's historic Pioneer Arcade building would be designated as an official Chicago Landmark under a proposal submitted today to City Council.

Built in 1925 at 1535-45 N. Pulaski Road, the three-story structure features an ornate terra cotta facade with Spanish Baroque Revival-style details designed by Danishborn Chicago architect Jens Jensen. As a social and recreation center, the interior originally featured 20 bowling lanes with room for 600 spectators, and a billiard room that accommodated 35 tables, among other amenities and ground floor retail spaces that catered to the rapidly expanding community.



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The proposed designation would protect all exterior elevations from demolition or alteration, while accommodating a planned six-story affordable apartments project by the property owner, Hispanic Housing Development Corp.

###

CITY LAND SALE PROPOSED FOR 49-UNIT HOUSING PROJECT

A 49-unit, mixed-income building would be constructed at 5036-44 S. Prairie Ave. in Washington Park through a City land sale proposed to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

The \$12M project would rise on .58 acres of vacant land that the City would sell to the developer, 5050 Prairie LLC, for \$300,000. Proceeds would be used for environmental remediation needs.

The four-story, 64,600-square-foot building would include 4,400-square feet of retail space. Ten percent of the planned apartments would be affordable for tenants earning up to 60% of the area median income.

###