



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 15, 2023

**CONTACT:**

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

[press@cityofchicago.org](mailto:press@cityofchicago.org)

Department of Planning and Development

312.744.9267

**FOUR CHICAGO PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS TO RECEIVE TIF FUNDING**

Four Chicago Park District properties will receive more than \$12M in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) support for capital improvements through measures approved by City Council today.

- Clarendon Park, at 4501 N. Clarendon Ave. in Uptown, will receive \$1.4M from the Montrose/Clarendon TIF district to renovate the Clarendon Community Center. Planned improvements include a new roof, accessibility upgrades, and interior remodeling.
- Cragin Park, at 2611 N. Lockwood Ave. in Belmont Cragin, will receive \$7.1M from the Belmont/Central TIF district to replace the park's antiquated recreational building with a new 4,800-square-foot fieldhouse. Additional planned improvements include refurbishments to the park's tennis courts, ballfields, and play areas.
- Kells Park, at 3201 W. Chicago Ave. in Humboldt Park, will receive \$600,000 from the Chicago/Central Park TIF district to relocate the playground and add a walking path, perimeter fencing, drinking fountain, benches, and landscaping.
- Riis Park, at 6100 W. Fullerton Ave. in Belmont Cragin, will receive \$3.5M from the Diversey/Narraganset TIF district to renovate the park's recreational building. Additional improvements will include adding a new playground, new ballfield turf, repaved walkways, and landscaping.

The City's TIF program uses new property tax growth within designated districts to support public and private investment within their boundaries.

###



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



## **CITY GRANT WILL SUPPORT NEW AUSTIN RESTAURANT**

Lincoln Park’s popular Batter and Berries sit-down restaurant will open a second location in Austin through a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreement approved by City Council today.

Planned for a vacant one-story building at 5924 W. Chicago Ave., the restaurant will be operated by Juan and Only LLC, serving breakfast and lunch during the day and catering to special events in the evening. The \$3.2M project also includes an adjacent vacant building owned by the City at 5926 W. Chicago Ave., which will be acquired for its appraised value of \$15,000 and rehabbed.

The \$1.8M in TIF assistance will help pay for building rehabilitation costs. The restaurant will contribute to Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot’s INVEST South/West initiative along Austin’s “Soul City Corridor,” which is repurposing multiple underutilized sites with new retail amenities, mixed-income housing, streetscape amenities, and open spaces.

###

## **SOUTH SIDE FOOD HUB APPROVED FOR FORMER STREETS AND SANS BUILDING**

A former Streets and Sanitation facility in Grand Boulevard will be transformed into a hub for South Side food entrepreneurs and culinary professionals through a sale approved today by City Council.

The one-story building at 5021 S. Wabash Ave. will be sold for \$2 to local developer Urban Equities, which plans to transform the vacant structure into Soul City Kitchens.

The \$8.6M complex will include approximately 8,000 square feet of shared commercial cooking facilities, test kitchen space, individual kitchen cubes, freezers, coolers, and storage spaces that will be leased to food entrepreneurs seeking to grow their businesses. A private dining room and community space will also be available for rent.

Urban Equities successfully responded to a City Request for Proposals (RFP) issued in March 2021 for the site. Constructed in the 1910s, the building’s estimated market value is \$90,000.

The project is also receiving a \$1.85M Chicago Recovery Plan grant, which will help pay for remodeling work.



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



###

### **GRANT WILL SUPPORT EXTERIOR REPAIRS TO GRAND BOULEVARD'S EBENEZER CHURCH**

Exterior repairs to Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Grand Boulevard will be supported by a \$900,000 Adopt-a-Landmark grant approved by City Council today.

The project at 4501 S. Vincennes Ave. includes masonry, roofing, and gutter work estimated at \$1.2M, which will be partly funded by the congregation.

Designed by Dankmar Adler and built as a synagogue in 1899, the church became home to the Ebenezer congregation in 1921. The building is considered the birthplace of the earliest modern gospel choir in the country.

###

### **TIF FUNDING APPROVED FOR GERMAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER**

Lincoln Square's DANK Haus German American Cultural Center will receive \$1.56M in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) support for accessibility upgrades and related renovations under a measure approved by City Council today.

The improvements are part of \$2.3M in planned visitor enhancements to the six-story complex, located at 4740 N. Western Ave., that has served as DANK's headquarters since 1967.

Originally a Three Links Club lodge when it opened in 1927, the building was designed by Paul Gerhardt, architect of Lane Tech and Von Steuben high schools. The 77,000-square-foot building is home to six part-time cultural center jobs and two retail tenants.

###