### Neighborhood/Community Development and Arts and Culture

**Transform and leverage City-owned lots - Dept. of Planning and Development (DPD)**

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| Reactivate vacant city-owned land and build community wealth by streamlining environmental reviews and transferring ownership to neighborhood residents for community benefit. | On February 21, DPD launched a Vacant Lots Survey on-line with questions about perceptions and purchasing city-owned vacant lots. The multi-language survey closed on March 21 with a total of 1,830 people responding. Respondents were asked if they would be interested in participating in a focus group about vacant lots.  
  - Survey results indicated the need for clarity on what city land is available for sale and how to acquire it.  
  - The framework for the on-line marketing of city-owned vacant land is being designed for all applicants interested in acquiring city-owned land for: new housing; sideyards; residential open spaces; new commercial buildings; commercial sideyards/parking and commercial open space (including urban ag).  
  - DPD’s goal is to launch the on-line marketing website in November for an open application period that will run through mid-Jan. Applications would be reviewed and submitted for approval by April with closing to follow. | New program in 2021. |
| Update the City of Chicago’s land sales policies and procedures to expedite the sale of surplus City-owned land for productive private-sector purposes. | Three focus groups were held in May that included a mix of residents, community-based organizations and developers after the results of the survey.  
  - DPD secured authority to have DataMade, the developers of the LargeLot.org website, expand and enhance that user friendly website for a variety of city-owned land sales. | New program in 2022. |
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| **Rehabilitate vacant commercial and mixed-use buildings in neighborhood corridors** for use by residents and business owners, emphasizing areas identified as key violence reduction areas. | **As of July 2022, the Department of Planning and Development has administered two funding rounds for the Chicago Recovery Plan Community Development Grants. Additional projects for the Round 3 awards are anticipated to be made in Q4.**  
**The city selected 106 projects to receive $84 million in City funding which will lead to more than $251 million in development across Chicago.** | **New program in 2022.** |
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**Identify ways to expand broadband access to currently underserved communities - Office of Budget Management (OBM)**

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| Expand Chicago Connected by funding neighborhood-scale broadband, which leverage City assets to increase broadband affordability and accessibility in communities. | - Published an RFP to select a broadband consultant. Consultant has been selected. Awaiting final agreement execution.  
- Launched Chicago Digital Equity Council, a comprehensive community engagement initiative to pinpoint community member needs and challenges as it relates to broadband, digital literacy, and devices. Findings from this effort will inform plans for the dedicated Recovery Plan dollars. | - The Chicago Connected program connected 77,000 students across ~42,000 homes to broadband and completed over 12,000 hours in digital literacy trainings in communities.  
- 42% of Chicago Connected families did not have internet at home outside of a smart phone prior to Chicago Connected, demonstrating that the program made a significant dent in the digital divide. |

The Chicago Digital Equity Council is conducting community conversations in areas of the city with the lowest rates of broadband connectivity, and among populations who face severe barriers to digital equity. This work will culminate in a digital equity plan informing investments in digital equity. Following the Digital Equity Council's recommendations, we hope to form a citywide digital equity coalition to continue to serve as a voice and advocate for digital equity needs on an on-going basis. To learn more and get involved, visit chicago.gov/digitalequity.
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Provide more workforce development opportunities - Dept. Family Support Services (DFSS)

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<td>Provide workforce development programming, including apprenticeship, career services and other wrap-around support for those entering the workforce or new industries.</td>
<td>• Mayor’s Office has convened a taskforce consisting of several city departments and agencies to identify target population and goals for the program and plan for the coordination of resources to connect residents ages 18-29 to training and supportive services for residents who need help finding and sustaining living wage employment opportunities.</td>
<td>New program in 2022.</td>
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Identify additional opportunities for arts and culture through strategic neighborhood programming - Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE)

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| Increase financial support to local cultural organizations and individual artists through the Cultural Grants Program and arts relief efforts. This funding will have a special focus on underserved neighborhoods. | - The 2022 DCASE budget provided $10 million for a dedicated revenue stream from the City’s corporate budget to guarantee a baseline of funding for Cultural Grants and will no longer depend on the hotel tax.  
- The budget for CityArts Program grants to nonprofit arts organizations increased from $1.7 million in 2021 to roughly $6 million this year.  
- CityArts grants increased by 5% to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)-led and organizations on the South and West sides, increasing wards served from 80% to 84%.  
- The Individual Artists Program budget doubled from $750,000 to $1,500,000 and provided grants to artists in all 50 wards.  
- 87% of ‘Chicago Presents’ grants for free, live, outdoor music and dance events are supporting events taking place on the South and West sides.  
- 90% of Neighborhood Access Program grantees will be located on the South and West sides, and 70% will be located in the program’s priority neighborhoods, which include the City’s INVEST South/West (ISW) neighborhoods and other Low and Moderate Income (LMI) community areas that have not received direct funding through DCASE’s Cultural Grants Program over the past two years. | - In 2021, the grants program budget grew to $7.3M, including philanthropic support and Coronavirus Relief Funds.  
- In 2020, the grants program budget increased by 59%, from $1.7M to $2.7M. An additional $1.75M in philanthropic and City support was allocated to relief fund and other grant support, bringing DCASE's total granting budget to $4.45M.  
- 60% of Individual Artists Program grantees are BIPOC as compared to 38% in 2016.  
- Awarded grants to artists/arts organizations in 49 wards in 2021 as compared to 35 in 2016.  
- Community input sessions in 2020 and 2021 guided changes to our application process and eligibility criteria for increased funding distribution equity across.  
- Launched the Neighborhood Access Program (NAP) in April 2021, with broader eligibility criteria to ensure we serve all neighborhood-based arts providers.  
- All NAP grant review panelists were residents of or work in priority neighborhoods, and 94% were BIPOC. 90% of NAP grantees were located on the South and West sides, and 70% were located in the program’s priority neighborhoods. |
Advance the City’s broad arts agenda by ensuring the arts are embedded in initiatives across the city through collaborations with community organizations and multiple City agencies to build long-term cultural vitality in city neighborhoods.

- Developed enhanced cultural programming at Chicago Public Library and Chicago Park District sites through Culture in My Neighborhood Initiative.
- Created additional commissions in Englewood and New City.
- $3.5 million of public art projects for renovated Terminal 5 at O’Hare Airport. Anticipating $12 million for the forthcoming ORD Global Terminal.
- $12 million committed from the City’s Capital plan to invest in public art.
- Planning for large-scale public art mural on the exterior of the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities Ogden Field Office, and launching an NEA-supported Artist in Residence program, the first of its kind at the city.
- Public Art Remaining Tour with You (“pARTy”) design and scoping campaign launched in mid-June with first-in-class planning coordination team of Borderless Studio, PORT, Floating Museum, Englewood Arts Collective, and Vanessa Stokes.
- Design and scoping to occur over 18 months to invest public art in all 10 INVEST Southwest neighborhoods.

- In 2021, launched “Arts77”, a citywide arts recovery and reopening plan for all of Chicago’s 77 community areas, representing an initial investment of over $60 million from the Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events, the Chicago Parks District, other city agencies and private funding to support local artists/organizations.
- Piloted four INVEST South/West (ISW) Artists in Residence in Englewood, Auburn Gresham, Austin, and New City since 2020.
- By year end 2023, there will be 6+ public art installations from ISW artist projects.
- Pilot ISW programs have a budget of just over $1 million worth of investment.
- $3.5 million have been invested in over 20 Chicago artists at ORD, the City’s largest single acquisition of public art in over 30 years.
| **Targeted relief for individual artists and cultural organizations not eligible for other federal relief programs (Chicago Recovery Plan).** | • The 2022 DCASE budget provided $20M in American Rescue Plan investments, $10 million to provide targeted relief focusing on artists and organizations not able to access other forms of federal economic support, such as individual artists, local museums and other art and educational organizations. | • Establishing the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund, a private/public partnership that distributes funds to artists and arts organizations.  
• The Arts for Illinois Relief Fund provided over $8.18 million in financial relief to 2,859 workers, non-profit organizations, and creative businesses impacted by COVID-19.  
• In 2021, launched the Chicago Creative Worker Assistance Program, providing $3.3M to artists and creative workers that lost income due to COVID-19. |
| **Support for projects that utilize community engagement to produce cultural projects including community-led public art installations, historical walking tours, neighborhood and educational websites, pop-up galleries, and other cultural activations.** | • Together We Heal Creative Place program to award up to 50 grants totaling $5M for arts projects focused on healing and transformation in Chicago’s low-income communities (i.e., those that have seen economic inequality and community safety issues exacerbated by COVID-19). Program goals include activating public spaces; promoting health and safety; encouraging movement, dialogue, and connection; beautifying communities; and celebrating local culture. Co-designed by DCASE and OERJ.  
• Awarded projects will occur over a two-year timespan (2022-2024).  
• Project support includes workshops, networking, technical assistance, and strategic guidance for grantee collaborators. | New program in 2021. |
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<td><strong>Implement new initiatives to expedite sign and public way use permit processes, making it easier for businesses to advertise their services and enliven retail corridors.</strong></td>
<td>• BACP implemented reformed public way use permit processes beginning in 2022. This included rolling out the new sidewalk sign permit, allowing businesses to advertise using A-Frame sidewalk signs.</td>
<td>• BACP has issued thousands of permits to date through the new process, saving businesses up to 60 days on each permit application.</td>
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| **Implement comprehensive economic recovery programs** including expedited restaurant licensing, new and extended hospitality licenses and permits, and public safety reforms to allow event venues and public vehicles to operate more efficiently. | • As part of the ChiBizStrong initiative, BACP implemented these initiatives during the Q1 of 2022. In order to support public vehicles servicing business and venues, the following ChiBizStrong initiatives were implemented:  
  o Utilization life of taxicabs increased  
  o Eligible taxicabs extended  
  o Electric vehicle public passenger vehicle license created  
  o Safety on charter buses enhanced  
  o Criteria for chauffeur licensing made equitable | • Over 20 expedited restaurant licenses have been issued to date. |
| **Provide grants and business support services** to revitalize commercial corridors and support new small business owners; local artists involved in beautification projects; also includes community programs to drive local participation in the planning process and workforce participation in community-driven development projects. | • As part of the ChiBizStrong initiative, BACP provided approximately $20M in grants to businesses during Q4 2021.  
  • BACP launched a Small Business Support program during Q4 2021, with the goal of building capacity of small business owners while also launching programs to drive consumers back to our commercial corridors. | • In 2020, BACP launched the Chicago Business Centers - small business resource hubs focused on licensing support, access to capital and professional services. |