INVEST
SOUTH/WEST
Two-Year Update
Advancing Equity and Community Goals
Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot
Mayor Lightfoot at an INVEST South/West Celebration, March 2021

Cover: West Side children shoot hoops at the grand opening event for POPCourts!, a community plaza at Chicago and Lockwood avenues in Austin, June 2021.
November 2021

From the Desk of the Mayor

On my first day as Mayor, I prioritized the need for transformative, bold investments within Chicago’s historically underserved South and West Side communities. Approximately two years later, the City and our partners are creating equitable and resilient changes which are improving neighborhoods that haven’t experienced growth for generations.

Made possible through INVEST South/West, the investments are founded on the needs and goals of current residents whose voices provide the most direct routes to successful neighborhood revitalization efforts. With that in mind, more than $1 billion in public and private sector investments have been committed to the 10 unique communities being targeted by INVEST South/West, primarily as grants to businesses, support for mixed-use construction projects, new public amenities, and other neighborhood enhancements that are creating jobs, improving safety, providing housing options, and restoring hope for the future.

Though substantial progress has been made, the work has only just begun. The next phase of INVEST South/West will create even more resources, partnerships, public improvements, and high expectations that these neighborhoods have long deserved.

Together, through a community-driven process, the promise of INVEST South/West will be fulfilled on behalf of all Chicagoans, regardless of their neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot

Produced by the City of Chicago with generous support from Perkins+Will
WHAT IS INVEST SOUTH/WEST?

INVEST South/West is an unprecedented community improvement initiative by the City of Chicago that is strategically reversing decades of systemic public and private disinvestment within the city’s West and South Side neighborhoods.

Initiated in fall 2019 and supported by more than $750 million in public funding, INVEST South/West is targeting the commercial cores of 10 neighborhoods with focused improvements that include new, mixed-use construction projects, the adaptive reuse of historic buildings, new plazas, small business grants, and related public realm improvements that restore neighborhood vitality and provide a catalytic foundation for ongoing public and private investment.

As of fall 2021, the City of Chicago has invested more than $525 million in public funding towards the initiative, while private and non-profit committed capital has exceeded $575 million.
Invest South/West Is A ‘Spark’ For Equity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>Engagement</th>
<th>Unprecedented Collaboration</th>
<th>Workforce Development</th>
<th>Preservation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$750M</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committed Public Funding</td>
<td>Community Roundtables</td>
<td>Public Agencies Collaborating</td>
<td>Chicago Business Centers on the Priority Corridors</td>
<td>Historic Buildings Slated for Renovations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additionally, the City of Chicago created an innovative community development model that catalyzes strategic sites along existing neighborhood corridors by partnering with private developers—many of whom are emerging minority firms—through a competitive, community-based selection process to realize mixed-use projects that meet community goals.

Each project achieves both design excellence and equitable development objectives set forth by the City.

The projects featured in this document will create more than 300 permanent jobs for neighborhood residents, and provide more than 350 units of mixed-income housing.

■ DPD Commissioner Maurice Cox engaging Far South Side stakeholders at the Pullman Community Center, January 2020
PUBLIC INVESTMENT & PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSE

More than $1 billion dollars catalyzed between the public and private sectors thus far.

PUBLIC INVESTMENT

>$525M

PRIVATE INVESTMENT

>$575M

Within just two years, more than $525 million in public investment attracted an even higher amount of private investment of $575 million—a strong indication of the private sector responding to strategic investments made by the City of Chicago.

Public spending covers a wide range of neighborhood investments, especially on traditional civic and social infrastructure like streetscapes, parks, and business support that catalyze the private sector into action.

Most of the private investment is actively deployed in supporting commercial and housing development across INVEST South/West neighborhoods. Furthermore, more than $275 million in sustained private capital is committed to advancing INVEST South/West goals.

Deployed Funding

>$300M

COMMERCIAL + HOUSING

Committed Funding

>$275M

PHILANTHROPY + LOANS

Note: These investment figures do not include more than $250 million of incremental capital mobilized in support of planned mixed-use projects solicited through Requests for Proposals (RFPs). See Page 12 for more details.
Through INVEST South/West, more than $575 million in private and philanthropic funding is committed toward advancing equitable, inclusive economic development. For instance, Fifth Third Bank committed $20 million to support the revitalization of the South Chicago community. Discover opened a Customer Care Center in the Chatham neighborhood, making a commitment to hire its 1,000 employees locally from the South Side. Finally, the Healthy Lifestyle Hub is coming to the Auburn Gresham neighborhood thanks to philanthropic support from the Pritzker Traubert Foundation's Chicago Prize grant, as well as additional public funding through INVEST South/West.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

01. PopCourts! plaza in Austin is providing West Side residents with an attractive destination for active and passive recreational activities.

02. The Terminal creative loft complex in Humboldt Park is repurposing a former manufacturing complex with a mix of commercial uses.

03. Discover's new call center in Chatham is bringing 1,000 new jobs to the South Side.
Coordinated public investments in streetscapes, plazas, and public art is helping INVEST South/West create walkable corridors with family-friendly public amenities within the 12 targeted corridors. Designed through pro-bono architectural services and similar private sector partnerships, the improvements are contributing to corridor identities and providing programmable, place-making opportunities that enhance community cohesion.

Public investments in nearby parks, libraries, schools, housing, and cultural locations are demonstrating the City of Chicago’s commitment to each area and the promise of INVEST South/West outside of each corridor.

Through fall 2021, more than $525 million has been allocated toward public realm projects in INVEST South/West community areas.

- Enhancements at more than 50 Chicago Park District properties in INVEST South/West neighborhoods, including Sumac Park, Ogden Park, Douglass Park and many more
- Improvements to streetscapes, including ADA ramp installations, traffic sign replacements, and viaduct restorations
- Expansion of transportation options, including 66 new Divvy Stations and the planned CTA Red Line extension to 130th Street
- Multiple permanent public art projects, music festivals, artistic lighting projects, and the Artist-in-Residence program
01. The Douglass 18 mini golf course in North Lawndale

02. The Ford Calumet Environmental Center in Big Marsh Park

03. Viaduct artwork in Englewood supported by the Chicago Department of Transportation

04. The new South Shore Beach House

05. Mercado Del Pueblo ribbon-cutting in Humboldt Park, February 2021
CREATING PLACES

High-quality design is as important to Chicago’s under-invested neighborhoods as it is to downtown.

Design excellence helps to create memorable places regardless of the location.

INVEST South/West place-making activities are engaging architects, residents, businesses and other stakeholders to envision the future of local retail corridors, vacant lots, underutilized public spaces and other neighborhood assets. With a primary focus on the pedestrian experience and in conjunction with multiple City departments, INVEST South/West design initiatives are fostering the creation of wider sidewalks, native plantings, improved street lighting, and building materials that make for welcoming, memorable places.

Design excellence also helps ensure the viability of economic development projects through attractive, functional layouts that serve community needs.

01. Austin Farmer’s Market hosted by the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, July 2021

02. Musicians perform at the grand opening of the 75th Street Boardwalk in Chatham, September 2020.
The Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events’ Artist-in-Residence Program leverages art and creativity to add vitality to the neighborhood cores targeted by INVEST South/West. Artists’ work include temporary and permanent installations, engagement activities, and other efforts that help residents enjoy neighborhood aesthetics.

PROMOTING THE ARTS

- 01. “Proud” by Englewood artist-in-residence Eric Hotchkiss, photo courtesy of the Englewood Arts Collective (EAC)
- 02. Images from the Austin Art Showcase organized by Austin artist-in-residence Antonia Ruppert, photo by BNHoskins Photography
- 03. Community mural at Star Farm with New City artist-in-residence Fernando Ramirez
- 04. “Color Me Southside” outside a Mariano’s store by Bronzeville artist-in-residence Dorian Sylvain
The City of Chicago is utilizing a community-driven RFP process to identify corridor locations for redevelopment with uses that meet neighborhood goals. The RFPs have been developed with pro-bono technical and advisory support from leading design and consulting firms in Chicago through the Chicago Central Area Committee, a non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to the continued and equitable growth of Chicago.

Unlike a traditional RFP, INVEST South/West RFPs seek to leverage community-driven goals by:

• Leveraging local architecture firms and illustrating community preferences.
• Valuing partnerships between established and emerging development firms.
• Preferring responses that contribute to neighborhood wealth-building and diversity.
• Creating spaces for community input to be incorporated into the evaluation process, and other components.

To date, INVEST South/West has issued a dozen RFPs for key development sites that have generated more than 35 responses. Through a neighborhood-based selection process, the first 10 projects selected are valued at more than $250 million. Financing and zoning entitlements for the projects are being finalized, with most projects expected to break ground in 2022.
Far South Side residents identify opportunities for strategic community improvements during a INVEST South/West kick-off celebration, January 2020.
OPPORTUNITY SITES

INVEST South/West’s community-driven process has produced 10 Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to date for strategic sites along neighborhood commercial corridors.

MOBILIZED CAPITAL: $250 MILLION

33 TEAMS

>60% MBE/WBE/DBE

10 SELECTED WINNERS

Competition

200+ Firms Responses
90+ Community Partners
10 Site RFPs Issued

04. Greater Englewood

6200 S. Green St.

08. Humboldt Park
North Avenue

4000 W. North Ave.
PROMOTING DESIGN EXCELLENCE

Building upon Chicago’s legacy of architectural and urban design, INVEST South/West is committed to high-quality improvements that celebrate the unique features of each corridor and neighborhood. Each RFP project, each small business grant, and every public realm improvement is held to the highest standards of design excellence.

As a cornerstone of equity, the City’s formal structure for promoting design excellence includes a newly formed Committee on Design as well as a set of Guiding Principles and Neighborhood Design Guidelines.

The Neighborhood Design Guidelines provide specific recommendations to enhance development along the city’s commercial corridors with the goal of promoting the pedestrian realm and accommodating multiple ground-floor uses that activate the street life.

The draft guidelines are organized into six categories:

- Sustainability
- Program
- Site Design
- Public Realm
- Massing
- Façade

How Do We Engender A Culture That Values Design Excellence In Everyday Life?

The City of Chicago focuses on several thematic principles:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equity and Inclusion</th>
<th>Innovation</th>
<th>Sense of Place</th>
<th>Sustainability</th>
<th>Communication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achieving fair treatment, targeted support, and prosperity for all citizens</td>
<td>Implementing creative approaches to design and problem-solving</td>
<td>Celebrating and strengthening the culture of local communities</td>
<td>Committing to environmental, cultural, and financial longevity</td>
<td>Fostering design appreciation and responding to community needs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Read more about the City’s Neighborhood Design Guidelines by scanning the code.
Pro-bono design services by leading Chicago architects are helping West and South side residents envision the future of underutilized land. (Credit: JGMA)
Evergreen Imagine is a $35.7 million, mixed-use proposal currently being refined for two City-owned development sites in Auburn Gresham. The redevelopment of one site, at 79th and Green, is envisioned as a three-story building containing ground-floor retail and parking, and residential units on the floors above. The other site, at 79th and Halsted, is envisioned as a four-story building with ground-floor retail, and parking and residential units on the floors above. In total, 53 units are currently planned. The project is a joint venture of the Imagine Group and Evergreen Real Estate Group.
04. Evergreen Imagine: Evergreen Real Estate and Imagine Group's winning RFP response

05. The Healthy Hub, recipient of the Chicago Prize, and financing from the Department of Planning and Development
AUSTIN

Priority Corridor:  
Chicago Avenue, between Kilpatrick Avenue and Austin Boulevard  

Ald. Emma Mitts / Ward 37

Planned for the former Laramie State Bank building and 20,000 square feet of adjacent land, the proposed $37.5 million Austin United Alliance development will renovate the landmark structure with commercial uses that include a blues museum, bank branch, café, and business incubator. The adjacent land will be redeveloped with a mixed-income, multi-story rental building that includes a green roof, public plaza, social spaces, and outdoor art. The project is a joint venture of the Oak Park Regional Housing Center and Heartland Alliance.
**BRONZEVILLE**

Priority Corridor:
Cottage Grove Avenue and adjacent blocks on 43rd and 47th streets

Ald. Pat Dowell / Ward 3

The **Legacy District** is a $19.2 million proposal planned for 0.6 acres of vacant, City-owned land on the southwest corner of 47th Street and Vincennes Avenue. The proposed project will create a six-story building containing 12,000 square feet of commercial space and 25 mixed-income residential units. The project is a joint venture of KMW Communities and LG Development in partnership with Bronzeville Community Partners.

An additional team selected for alternative sites, the 47th/Vincennes Partnership, is in active discussions with the City and Ald. Dowell on implementing portions of its mixed-use proposal on City-owned land on 47th Street. Additional project details could be announced in 2022.

01. Deputy Mayor Samir Mayekar, Bronzeville Winery proprietors Eric Williams and Cecilia Cuff, and Mayor Lightfoot celebrate the restaurant’s Neighborhood Opportunity Fund grant, April 2021.

02. Local residents shop at the Bronzeville Market, hosted by the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, July 2021.

03. Mayor Lightfoot and stakeholders cut the ribbon at 4400 Grove, a new 84-unit, mixed-income housing project on Cottage Grove Avenue, October 2020.

04. Up to $3 million in TIF is helping Lillian Marcie Legacy Co. to repurpose a former warehouse at 4343 S. Cottage Grove Ave. as a performance venue.
The Legacy District: KMW Communities and LG Development’s winning RFP response
GREATER ENGLEWOOD

Priority Corridor:  
63rd and Halsted streets and adjacent blocks  
Ald. Stephanie D. Coleman / Ward 16

Planned as the second phase of the Englewood Square development on the northwest corner of 63rd and Halsted, **Englewood Connect** is a $10.3 million “eco-food hub” that will establish culinary-related uses that empower, employ, and feed neighborhood residents. The project will adaptively reuse the landmark Green Street fire station as a commercial kitchen, establish a business incubator to train start-up businesses, create a community “living room” for local events, and repurpose vacant land with hoop houses that provide year-round farming operations. A public plaza will serve as its focal point. Later phases will include a flexible market space and an event center. The project is a joint venture of Ignite Technology and DL3 Realty.
NEW CITY/BACK OF THE YARDS

Priority Corridor:
47th Street and Ashland Avenue and adjacent blocks
Ald. Jeanette B. Taylor / Ward 20

United Yards is a $51.5 million development proposal for multiple vacant and improved properties near Ashland Avenue and 47th Street. The project will redevelop a vacant, City-owned lot at 1515 W. 47th Street with a 50-unit affordable apartment building that includes a ground-floor business hub and youth programming space.

Additional phases will revitalize a largely vacant, four-story commercial building at 4701 S. Ashland Avenue with 30 senior rental apartments and a ground-floor coffee shop; redevelop vacant land at 1641 W. 47th Street with a pair of affordable, three-flat buildings; and enhance an existing supportive living center at 4707 S. Marshfield Avenue with a medical clinic, dialysis center, and park space.

The project is a joint venture of Celadon Partners and the Blackwood Group.
NORTH LAWNDALE

Priority Corridor:
Ogden Avenue between Kedzie Avenue and Pulaski Road
Ald. Michael Scott, Jr. / Ward 24

Lawndale Redefined is a $31.4 million proposal planned for an acre of vacant, City-owned and private land on Ogden Avenue between Homan and Trumbull avenues. The project consists of 60 mixed-income apartments, three market-rate townhomes, retail and restaurant space, and a stand-alone community center with technology and arts programming.

Outdoor amenities include a plaza with public art and other cultural amenities. The project is a joint venture of GRE Ventures, the Imagine Group, and 548 Development.

01. Residents review long-term plans for the proposed Altenheim Line rail-trail, October 2021.

02. Farm on Ogden, a project of the Chicago Botanic Garden and Lawndale Christian Health Center

03. Residents review long-term plans for the proposed Altenheim Line rail-trail, August 2021.

04-05. Lawndale Redefined: GRE Ventures, Imagine Group and 548 Development’s winning RFP response
HUMBOLDT PARK

CHICAGO AVENUE

Priority Corridor:
Chicago Avenue between Kedzie Avenue and Pulaski Road

Ald. Walter Burnett, Jr. / Ward 27

The Ave. is a $25.3 million proposal planned for a 0.6-acre property at the southeast corner of Chicago and Central Park avenues. The site, currently occupied by a small commercial building containing the West Side offices of Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS), is planned to be redeveloped into a five-story, mixed-use, mixed-income complex with 44 residential units and approximately 21,000 square feet of restaurant, gym, and daycare space, in addition to a new office space for NHS.

The project is a joint venture of KMW Communities, Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) and CEC.
The Ave: KMW Communities, POAH and CEC's winning RFP response
HUMBOLDT PARK
NORTH AVENUE

Priority Corridor:
North Avenue between Kedzie and Kostner avenues
Ald. Roberto Maldonado / Ward 26

Planned for the former Pioneer Trust & Savings Bank building and an adjacent, 0.75-acre parking lot, the $53.9 million Team Pioneros proposal will rehabilitate the vacant landmark with an entrepreneurial incubator space, Latino cultural center, and office space. New construction will include a nine-story, 100 percent affordable, 75-unit building; offices for Humboldt Park Family Health; and a potential branch library.

The project is a joint venture led by Park Row Development with JGMA and All Construction Group.
GREATER ROSELAND

Priority Corridor:
Michigan Avenue between 110th and 116th streets; portions of 111th Street between Wentworth and Ellis avenues
Ald. Anthony A. Beale / Ward 9

In consultation with the community and elected officials, the City is finalizing an RFP that will seek people-centric, mixed-use development at one or more corridor locations. The RFP would build on significant planning and development momentum in the neighborhood, most notably the master planning process for the Roseland Community Medical District and the National Park Service’s recently opened Pullman National Monument.
Galleria 89 is a $23.5 million proposal planned for for a half-acre site occupied by underutilized properties on the 8800 block of South Commercial Avenue. The project will create a four-story building with 35 mixed-income apartments and rehabilitate an existing, three-story building with 10 mixed-income apartments. Approximately 12,000 square feet of commercial space on the ground floors of both buildings will include a café, business center, and bike shop. The project is a sole venture of 548 Development.
SOUTH SHORE

Priority Corridor:
79th Street between Stony Island Avenue and Metra’s Electric Line tracks
Ald. Gregory Mitchell / Ward 7

Thrive Exchange is a $43.1 million proposal planned for multiple sites adjacent to the Cheltenham station on Metra Electric’s Main Line near 79th and Exchange streets. The mixed-use project will create 39 residential units on the south side of 79th Street.

The proposal will also rehabilitate the historic Ringer Building on Exchange Avenue for commercial uses and 24 adjacent condominiums. The project is a joint venture of DL3 Realty, Revere Properties and Claretian.
Thrive Exchange: DL3 Realty, Revere Properties and Claretian's winning RFP response
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

City of Chicago

Mayor
Lori E. Lightfoot

Commissioner
Department of Planning and Development
Maurice Cox

City of Chicago Departments
Office of the Mayor

Department of Assets, Information & Services (AIS)
Department of Buildings (DOB)
Department of Business Affairs & Consumer Protection (BACP)
Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events (DCASE)
Fire Department
Department of Family & Support Services (DFSS)
Department of Housing (DOH)
Department of Planning & Development (DPD)
Police Department
Department of Public Health (CDPH)
Department of Streets and Sanitation (DSS)
Department of Transportation (CDOT)
Department of Water Management (DWM)
Office of Budget and Management (OBM)
Office of Emergency Management (OEMC)

Other City Agencies
Chicago Housing Authority (CHA)
Chicago Park District (CPD)
Chicago Public Library (CPL)
Chicago Public Schools (CPS)
Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)
Public Building Commission (PBC)

INVEST SOUTH/WEST
Report Project Leadership

Chicago Central Area Committee
Mark Hopkins – Executive Director
Gregory Hummel – Board Chairman

Perkins&Will
Gina Berndt - Principal, Chief Marketing Officer
Casey Jones - Principal, Design Leadership Council
Andrew Broderick - Senior Associate, Urban Design Lead
Angela Miller - Senior Associate, Graphic Designer
Neil Reindel - Urban Designer
Florent Mettetal - Urban Designer
Julia Bova - Graphic Designer

Photo Credits

Other credits noted in captions.

INVEST SOUTH/WEST
Pro Bono Advisory Services (Chicago Central Area Committee Members)

Belgravia Group, Ltd.
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Byrnes & Walsh LLC
Compass
D'Escoto Inc.
Focus
Gensler
The Habitat Company
HED Design
HOK
HR&A Advisors
Integra Realty Resources
JGMA
John Buck Company
The Lamar Johnson Collaborative
Landmark
Lendlease
Level 1 Global Solutions
Perkins&Will
P3 Legal & Strategy Advisors LLC
Related Midwest
Smith Group
SOM
Studio Gang*
Sam Schwartz
SB Friedman Development Advisors
SCB
Sterling Bay
V3 Companies
Wight & Company

* Denotes non-CCAC Member
2021 INVEST SOUTH/WEST Corridor Managers

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Caroline Rendon, LISC
Dionne Baux, Urban Main

Austin - “Soul City” Corridor
Malcolm Crawford, AAABNA
Corey Dooley, AAABNA

Auburn Gresham & South Shore
Melinda Kelly, Chatham Business Association
Jennipher Adkins, Chatham Business Association
Cynthia Love, Chatham Business Association

Bronzeville
Rhonda McFarland, Quad Communities Development Corporation
Yvette Warren, Quad Communities Development Corporation

Humboldt Park - Chicago Avenue
Adrienne Whitney-Boykin, West Humboldt Park Development Council
Nefertiari Cutler, West Humboldt Park Development Council

Humboldt Park - North Avenue
Nadya Henriquez, Puerto Rican Cultural Center

New City
Craig Chico, Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council
Alex Nunes, Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council

North Lawndale
Rodney Brown, New Covenant CDC
Jesse Green, North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council

Pullman/Roseland
Beth Dybala, Calumet Area Industrial Commission
Sheliah Robinson, Calumet Area Industrial Commission
Kasey Shipp, Calumet Area Industrial Commission
Tracy Murray, Calumet Area Industrial Commission
Andrea Reed, Greater Roseland Chamber of Commerce
Donald Higgins, Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives
Joshua Watson, Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives

South Chicago
Thomas M. Schell, South Chicago Parents and Friends
Dave Price, Special Service Area 5
Angela Hurlock, Claretian Associates
Cory Davis, Claretian Associates

INVEST SOUTH/WEST Awarded Developers

Auburn Gresham - “Evergreen Imagine”
Evergreen Real Estate Group, Imagine Group*

Austin - “Austin United Alliance”
Heartland Housing Alliance, Oak Park Regional Housing

Bronzeville - “The Legacy District”
KMW Communities*, LG Development, Bronzeville Community Partners

Englewood - “Englewood Connect”
McLaurin Development*, Farpoint Development

Humboldt Park at Chicago Avenue - “The Ave.”
KMW Communities*, Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH), CEC*

Humboldt Park at North Avenue - “Team Pioneros”
JGMA*, Park Row Development, All Construction Group*

New City - “United Yards”
Celadon Partners & Blackwood Group*

North Lawndale - “Lawndale Redefined”
GRE Ventures*, 548 Development*, & Imagine Development Group*

South Chicago - Galleria 89
548 Development*

South Shore – “Thrive Exchange”
DL3 Realty*, Revere Properties*, Claretian

* Denotes MBE