

NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGY OVERVIEW

WE RISE

FOR AN
EQUITABLE
& JUST
RECOVERY

TOGETHER

We Rise Together: For an Equitable & Just Recovery is a funders collaborative working with community members to respond to the urgent economic needs of Black and Latinx communities. Our model for community investment at scale supports coordinated, community-led commercial and economic development. Through strategic grants to community-directed real estate development projects that leverage additional investment, we are building thriving neighborhoods and a stronger Chicago.

Since September 2021, we have strategically invested more than \$35 million, including support for more than 30 neighborhood anchor real estate investments worth over \$365 million. Of these projects, nine have already opened, providing immediate and continued impact: new activities for young people, new jobs, much-needed healthcare, childcare, recreation, healthy food, and more. We are layering in grants to support thriving Black- and Latinx-owned businesses and equitable employment opportunities in the neighborhoods surrounding our anchor investments.

This document includes details on *We Rise Together* grants made to date across all three portfolios—neighborhood anchor grants, as well as grants to support workforce development and Black and Latinx businesses. As grantmaking continues, this document is updated to reflect our latest grants.

With Loyola University's Center for Urban Research and Learning and Quinlan School of Business in partnership with MAPSCorps at Northwestern University—an evaluation firm that trains young people from disinvested communities to conduct research on communities' assets—we are assessing the impact of our work on an ongoing basis. The goal of evaluation is to learn more about the types of investments that are having the biggest impact in communities, and how those investments can build upon each other.

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ONGOING FUNDRAISING

Housed at The Chicago Community Trust, *We Rise Together* benefits from a deep bench of expertise and knowledge. The Trust continues to raise funds, identify investment opportunities, and build partnerships that benefit the communities *We Rise Together* serves.

Yet the Trust cannot do this work alone. We invite all Chicagoans to join *We Rise Together* for this once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform Chicago communities. Through donations to the Trust or direct investments to projects vetted and championed by *We Rise Together*, all interested people, corporations, and foundations can help support more equitable economic development in the Chicago region. For more information about *We Rise Together* and partnership opportunities, or to make a donation to the fund, please contact Jeromé Holston at jholston@cct.org.

LOCATIONS OF NEIGHBORHOOD ANCHOR PROJECTS FUNDED BY WE RISE TOGETHER

ROUNDS ONE AND TWO

\$12.1 MILLION IN NEIGHBORHOOD ANCHOR PROJECTS FUNDED

1. Brown Sugar Bakery, Ashburn/ Auburn Gresham

The purchase and transformation of the existing Cupid Candy Factory into a production site to support the growing Brown Sugar Bakery business in Auburn Gresham, at Navy Pier, and online.

2. ChiFresh Kitchen, Greater Grand Crossing*

A new kitchen and office space is open, enabling this catering and food service contracting business to expand. The next phase will include a retail store serving Greater Grand Crossing and surrounding neighborhoods, offering culturally relevant, affordable, individually packaged meals.

3. Esperanza 63rd Street, West Lawn*

Esperanza developed a new health center in West Lawn, expanding the size and offerings of a long-time local pediatric clinic to provide a full range of health services for the entire household, including mental health care, in culturally sensitive ways.

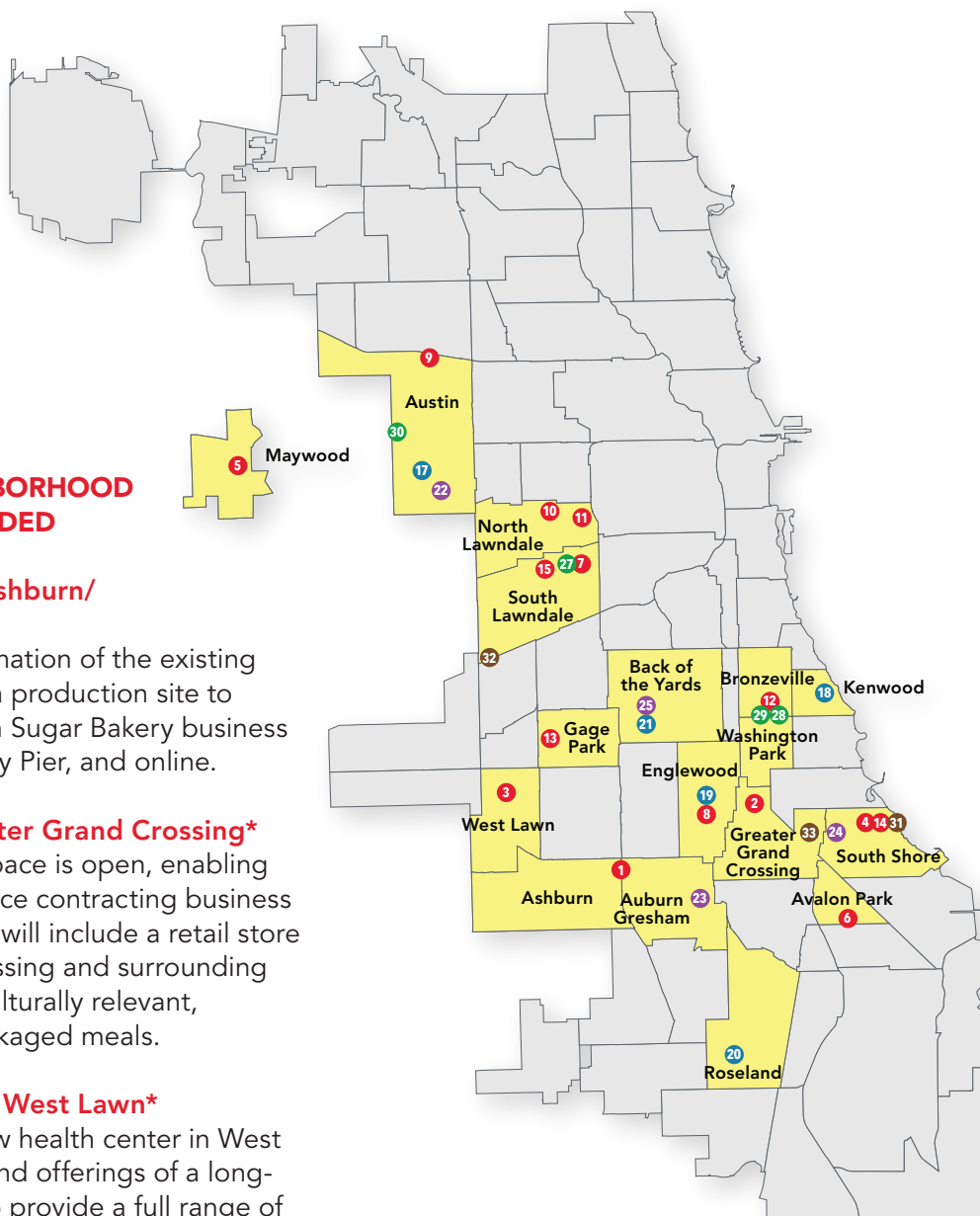
4. Inner City Entertainment, South Shore

New dining and entertainment experiences including a theater, restaurants, and a bowling alley. Inner City Entertainment is a social enterprise led by South Shore residents who are committed to urban revitalization in their historically underserved and undercapitalized neighborhood.

5. Interfaith Housing Development Corp. 5th Ave. Development, Maywood

Building out newly constructed commercial space on the ground floor of Fifth Avenue Apartments to house a grocery store in response to community input.

*Projects that have opened their doors.



16 Matteson project is outside of map boundaries.
26 Sauk Village project is outside of map boundaries.

6. Justice of the Pies, Avalon Park*

James Beard-nominated pastry chef Maya-Camille Broussard renovated a vacant building on a key commercial corridor to expand her brand with a production kitchen, retail counter, dine-in seating area, outdoor patio with seating, and demonstration kitchen for culinary workshops—all designed with accessibility.

7. Latinos Progresando, South Lawndale

Acquiring and rehabilitating a former Chicago Public Library branch building that has been vacant since 2009 to restore it to its original community service purpose. The 9,330 sq. ft. building will be

occupied by Latinos Progresando and two partner tenants, Esperanza Health Centers and Lincoln Park Zoo.

8. Little Angels, Englewood

The development of a new facility to expand the services of Little Angels Family Day Care, increasing the availability of high-quality day care and enabling Englewood residents to return to the workforce.

9. North Austin Community Center, Austin*

A partnership between By the Hand Club for Kids, Grace and Peace Church, and Intentional Sports, this 150,000 square foot community center is hosting amateur sporting competitions (projected to draw 250,000 visitors to the community each year), as well as after school and sports programs serving 25,000 local residents each year.

10. North Lawndale Employment Network Campus, North Lawndale*

This new campus allows NLEN to deliver community and economic development programs once offered at four separate locations, with industry-specific training rooms, classrooms, computer labs, a Wintrust bank branch, and production and retail space for NLEN’s Sweet Beginnings LLC honey products social enterprise and café.

11. Ogden Commons, North Lawndale*

A new development that is improving access to quality healthcare with services provided by

Sinai Health System, as well as new retail amenities and quality jobs for residents of North and South Lawndale.

12. Overton Center, Bronzeville/Washington Park

A creative hub accessible to the community that supports arts, technology, nonprofit start-ups, and local businesses.

13. Poder Headquarters, Gage Park*

A renovation and expansion of a vacant building to serve as Chicago’s first immigrant integration and job training center, providing English language and workforce development programming and other community and City of Chicago partner resources.

14. Studio Yogi, South Shore*

The neighborhood’s first dedicated yoga studio opened, with future plans to offer additional health and wellness services and resources to the community in an accessible, welcoming space.

15. Xquina Café, South Lawndale

A partnership-driven, commercial and cultural amenity that aims to enhance the livelihood of Little Village community residents by redeveloping approximately 13,000 sq. ft. of commercial retail including a business incubator, co-working office, local café, and shared commercial kitchen.



*Projects that have opened their doors.

ROUND THREE

\$4.5 MILLION IN NEIGHBORHOOD ANCHOR PROJECTS FUNDED

16. 4343 Ascending House, Matteson

An e-commerce business incubator in the south suburbs focused on creating, supporting and growing entrepreneurs of color.

17. Aspire Center, Austin

A multipurpose facility focused on workforce training and business development in Austin housed in the renovated 87,000 sq. ft. former Robert Emmett Elementary School.

18. Carver 47 Café, Kenwood

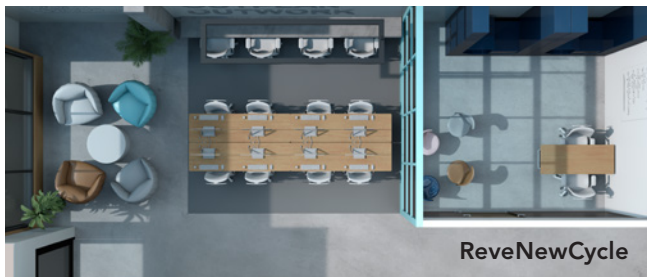
The expansion of Little Black Pearl’s Carver 47 Cafe into a sit-down restaurant, which will enable the nonprofit to increase their workforce training opportunities in culinary arts and grow their service accessibility to the community.

19. Englewood Connect, LLC, Englewood

The renovation of an existing firehouse and the surrounding two-acre property as a business incubator focused on growing and supporting start-ups to create new local economic opportunities, jobs and community space.

20. ReveNewCycle, Roseland

The rehabilitation of a vacant building into a locally owned medical billing and coding company that works with medical providers serving low-income Black and Latinx communities. The building will also include co-working and community gathering spaces.



21. The Fresh Market, Back of the Yards

A fully functional retail food store run by Star Farm, which will rehabilitate an existing building and activate an adjacent vacant lot with gathering and cooking spaces and a community garden.

ROUND FOUR

\$4.9 MILLION IN NEIGHBORHOOD ANCHOR PROJECTS FUNDED



22. BUILD, Austin*

The new BUILD campus supports young people in Austin, including affordable space available for rent to partner nonprofits that provide wraparound services to the youth and their families.

23. Green Era, Auburn Gresham

Development of the new Anaerobic Digester portion of the Green Era Renewable Energy and Urban Agriculture Campus in Auburn Gresham, a facility that will convert food waste into renewable energy, compost, and fertilizer.

24. The Desk/South Shore Chamber of Commerce, South Shore

Rehabilitation of a dilapidated property as the new offices of the South Shore Chamber of Commerce, along with four businesses including the Artisans’ Collective, supported by the Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago.

25. United Yards, Back of the Yards

A retail development on 47th Street that will be run by and eventually owned by a group of local entrepreneurs

*Projects that have opened their doors.

ROUND FIVE

\$4 MILLION IN NEIGHBORHOOD ANCHOR PROJECTS FUNDED

26. Dardur Medical Group, Sauk Village

A Black woman-owned healthcare startup that will develop a two-acre parcel in partnership with Southland Development Authority as a 6,000 sq. ft. medical clinic and eventually a more extensive medical campus.

27. Enlace, Little Village

Enlace's second community service hub housed at a redeveloped 7,500 sq. ft. building to meet the need for increased violence prevention and mental health services, particularly for at-risk youth; and for additional Enlace programming around education, workforce, and immigration.

28. Policy Kings, Hyde Park

A Black-owned, mixed-use commercial and residential development that will catalyze the revitalization of the 51st Street corridor by creating space for locally owned businesses and enterprises in the arts, culture, health, wellness, and food.

29. Urban Juncture, Bronzeville

The renovation 320-332 E. 51st St. to house four new culinary businesses, workforce programming, and small business support services, adding to a transit-oriented development that has already brought community gardens, business services, and more than 50 jobs to the Bronzeville community.

30. The Bruce and Batter & Berries, Austin

A collaboration between two Black-owned businesses--Juan & Only events production company and Batter & Berries restaurant in Lincoln Park—will renovate a vacant 4,000 sq. ft. building as a new restaurant, The Bruce.

ROUND SIX

\$1.5 MILLION IN NEIGHBORHOOD ANCHOR PROJECTS FUNDED THAT WERE FINALISTS FOR THE CHICAGO PRIZE

31. Exchange Crossing, South Shore/South Chicago

Acquiring, developing, and re-programming the Star Plaza retail center at 7908 S. Exchange Ave. with locally owned community businesses and amenities.

32. The Green, the former LeClaire Courts

Creating The Green Business Institute ("The Green"), 4942 W. 44th St., a cradle-to-career green business development center that will be an extension of the Cultivate Collective Community and Sustainability Hub, which broke ground in April 2022.

33. Xchange Grand Crossing, Greater Grand Crossing

Developing a 50,000 square foot building constructed on approximately two acres at 7327-7369 South Chicago Ave., where graduates will train for and secure jobs in technology, address health care needs, and start new businesses.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

\$1.7 million in grants are helping the following organizations prepare Black and Latinx workers for quality jobs as Chicago puts federal infrastructure funding to work.

Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership is expanding workforce services to more places and people across Chicago and Cook County, enabling more effective use of federal funding.

Revolution Workshop is providing construction skills training for non-union work with wrap-around services to ensure job placement and retention.

Chicago Urban League is focusing on job readiness training, placement and retention services in emerging and high-growth industries such as solar, transportation and pharmacy.

HIRE360 is expanding strategies to encourage greater diversity in Chicago trade unions, including expanding its Civic Engagement Initiative to ensure engagement with community partners serving areas hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition is providing training and support to assist adult job seekers by increasing their access to and ability to navigate the technology required to apply for jobs in today's economy.

Instituto del Progreso Latino is focusing on workforce training for Latinx job seekers interested in medical professions with ongoing support for advancing career paths.

One on One is providing individual, weekly career coaching paired with managerial training to help entry-level workers strengthen the soft and hard skills they need to obtain, retain and advance their careers.

BLACK AND LATINX BUSINESS GRANTS

\$2 million in grants are helping the following organizations support Black and Latinx businesses in our focus communities.

HACIA's Executive Fellows program is launching their cohort-based business development curriculum aimed at growing and scaling contractors of color.

mHub is launching the Catalyze Initiative by funding deep partnerships in communities of color and ongoing support for the entrepreneurs that come from these communities.

Greater Chatham Initiative is working to strengthen the restaurant ecosystem in Chatham and its six surrounding communities through storytelling, building the "Soul-Delivered" platform, and offering nutritional evaluation and labeling.

Northwest Side CDC is launching the CRECER small business incubator in Belmont Cragin including programming provided for the businesses in the incubator.

Women's Business Development Center is expanding the ScaleHigher curriculum into the Chicago market and supporting participating businesses in learning about and accessing digital tools to scale their businesses.

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