Engaging Chicago’s Diverse Communities in the Chicago Climate Action Plan

COMMUNITY #9: CHICAGO’S SOUTHWEST SIDE

Research Report

Submitted by: Environment, Culture, and Conservation (ECCo), a Division of Science at The Field Museum

To: The City of Chicago Department of Environment
This research was commissioned by the City of Chicago Department of Environment Research was conducted by: Environment, Culture, and Conservation (ECCo), a Division of Science at The Field Museum

with our partners:
City of Chicago Department of Environment
Arab American Action Network
Academy for Global Citizenship
Healthy Chicago Lawn

October 2013

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Project Overview

Engaging Chicago Communities in the Chicago Climate Action Plan - Community #9: Chicago’s Southwest Side is the ninth and final community study in a series commissioned by the City of Chicago to identify strategies for effectively engaging diverse communities throughout the city in the implementation of the Chicago Climate Action Plan (CCAP). The plan lays out ambitious goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% of 1990 levels by 2050, with an interim goal of a 25% reduction of 1990 levels by 2020.

Eight qualitative research studies have been completed to date: South Chicago, Roseland, Forest Glen, Austin, NKO/Bronzeville, Chicago’s Polish Community, the Mexican community in Pilsen, and the South Asian community in West Ridge. A large area of Chicago’s Southwest Side, east of Midway Airport and south of Interstate 55 (see Research Area p.3), was selected for this final study for a number of reasons. Perhaps most important is the way a working class character overlays significant diversity in terms of ethnicity, religion, and length of residency. This is an ideal area in which to explore what sorts of organizations, leaders, and issues bridge social differences and for what issues these communities look inward to find the social and cultural capital with which to respond.

Ethnographic research activities were designed and conducted collaboratively by a team including anthropologists from The Field Museum’s division of Environment, Culture, and Conservation (ECCo) and our community partners: the Academy for Global Citizenship (AGC) and the Arab American Action Network (AAAN). AGC is a charter elementary school with a focus on experiential learning, global mindedness, and environmental sustainability. It draws students citywide but the majority come from Southwest Side communities. AGC actively works to build meaningful connections with residents in its surrounding community. AAAN is a long time periodic partner of ECCo, having collaborated in the past on educational and community building projects. AAAN offers a variety of social services to the surrounding community out of their 63rd St. location, including a summer youth program, in which participants are majority, but not exclusively, Arab American young people.

Shared interests and existing relationships made it possible to work through these partners’ networks to complete a significant part of the research. Given the size of the research area, we also built ad hoc relationships with a few other organizations that could link us to their networks and ultimately help us to understand the range of civic activity. The most important of these partners were the Healthy Chicago Lawn network and the Greater Southwest Development Corporation. Finally, other residents’ groups, school representatives, churches, businesses, and individuals participated in the research, primarily through interviews, focus groups, and events.

Research was conducted over a roughly four-month period, from early June...
PROJECT OVERVIEW

until the end of September 2011. We engaged roughly 90 adults (including community leaders, residents, aldermen, and the constituents of civic organizations) and nearly 100 young people attending area day camps in the research, although this latter group was primarily observed and engaged within educational contexts and not formally solicited for data. Research methods included:

- Participant observation on nearly 20 occasions including tours, meals (Iftar dinner and summer-camp breakfast), civic organization meetings, rummage sales, workshops, a press conference, and drop-in visits without an event focus in a range of locations such as schools, parks, stores, community organizations, homes, a Mosque, and a hospital.
- 9 focus groups with participants drawn from community organizations, a public health network, and residents affiliated with our partners. Focus groups also included both a methods training and a discussion of preliminary findings with our partners.
- More than 47 individual interviews with community leaders and other stakeholders, most affiliated with organizations in the networks of our community partners. This number includes 19 rapid-format interviews mostly administered to participants at public events and users of public spaces.

Given the large size of the research area, internal demographic divisions, and the rapid nature of the research, the study is very much an ethnography of participating organizations and their networks, and not inclusive of many other people and stakeholders within the research area.

Key demographics for the research area and for our research participants are displayed side-by-side in the table Research Demographics. The overrepresentation of women is unsurprising given our work with professional organizations that address health and provide social services and education. The large deviation from the actual educational profile of the community is similarly a product of our focus on community leaders and community based organizations, often with professional staff. The 49% of our sample who had no college education is still reflective of what is more typical of the area as a whole. Overall we reached the people we needed to in order to assess the organizational capacity of Chicago’s Southwest Side to take on climate action in the near future.

This report reveals many linkages among community priorities and the priorities of the CCAP. The report concludes with recommendations for translating findings into engagement activities that will help communities take ownership of climate action. Communities that feel invested in the CCAP will not only implement its strategies, but also mobilize residents to devise their own creative solutions for achieving a sustainable region.
COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The research area is the Southwest Side of Chicago just east of Midway Airport, specifically the Chicago Community Areas of Archer Heights and West Eldson to the north and much of West Lawn and Marquette Park to the south. This is a very large area that has both unifying characteristics that makes it a logical choice for study and significant internal differences that are reflected in the built landscape and the experience of those who live and work there. These patterns are outlined in the points that follow:

1. This is an industrial area. Extensive transportation infrastructure is the backbone of the area’s industrial base. Multiple rail lines bookend the research area on the north and south. In Archer Heights to the north, where these lines run both parallel and perpendicular to the Sanitary and Ship Canal and to Interstate 55, roughly 60% of the community’s surface area is dedicated to manufacturing and bulk transportation. Industries in or adjacent to the research area include steel finishing, food processing (Nabisco, Tootsie Roll), chemical, and packaging (Sweetheart Cup).

RESEARCH AREAS

The research area included most of four Chicago Community Areas: Archer Heights, West Eldston, West Lawn, and Chicago Lawn. Including most of four community areas, exclusion of the southwest portion of Chicago Lawn and extension of the western boundary of the research area to Cicero Avenue reflect the service areas of our research partners and the reach of their networks.

An area the size of Chicago’s Southwest Side is bound to include a number of distinct areas within it that exhibit significant variability. It is home to retail businesses both large and small (top row), bungalows and multiunit dwellings (middle), all underpinned by an industrial base of transportation infrastructure, warehousing, and manufacturing (bottom).
COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

2. Midway Airport and the Chicago Transit Authority’s Orange Line are also economic drivers. The revitalization of the airport in the 1980’s led to more area jobs and the building of the Orange Line rapid transit service to the airport in the nineties. Mass transit has led to renewed interest in residential neighborhoods along the line and rising property values.

3. The majority of area residents are working class, holding jobs in manufacturing, the service sector, or blue collar government services (e.g. police and fire).

4. North of 55th Street, and in the southwest of the research area, the residential neighborhoods are part of Chicago’s low-density Bungalow Belt, developed extensively in the 1920’s and 1930’s and then after WWII up to the 1960’s. South of 55th Street and East of Kedzie Ave, the neighborhoods start to have a more typical urban Chicago feel due to the two, three, and six flats that come to dominate the housing stock. The foreclosure crisis has hit the whole research area, but hardest in Marquette Park particularly in the northeast portion, where the Latino and African American residents are among the least well off in the area.

5. Historically the area was ethnically Eastern European (Lithuanians and Poles). Demographic shifts in the last two decades have resulted in a Latino majority in Archer Heights and an African American and Latino majority in Marquette Park and West Lawn, with an Arab American influx and exodus taking place over the last 30 years in these two communities. The contemporary ethnic mix of all these groups corresponds to religious diversity. Major religions with houses of worship in the area include Catholicism, Protestantism, Judaism, and Islam.

6. Commercial development in the northern two community areas includes a couple of large retail plazas with anchor tenants like Target, Home Depot, and Jewel, surrounded by a mix of smaller retail offerings. There is also a significant commercial mix along the major retail corridors of Pulaski Rd. and 63rd St. west of Pulaski. Offerings on these strips include bakeries, butcher shops, car dealerships and parts stores, accounting and insurance firms, flower shops, and entertainment (video rental, bars, and

Located at the southeast of the research area, Marquette Park has sports fields, a large lagoon system, gardens, and paths attracting a diverse mix of recreational users.
small night clubs and restaurants). East of Pulaski, and along less significant commercial strips, retail offerings are more limited to businesses like fast food restaurants, personal electronics stores, and hair and nail salons that seem to characterize retail in less affluent areas in much of the city.

7. Marquette Park and West Lawn have a civic infrastructure of community organizers (political organizing around a range of neighborhood and social issues), social service providers, religious institutions, block clubs, and ethnic organizations. Archer Heights and West Eldston are similar in that they have churches, block clubs and ethnic organizations. They also have fewer social service providers; and long standing civic associations are mostly concerned with homeowner concerns of appearance, community character, and safety.

A mural on the side wall of a local business depicts some of the diversity of residents in the Chicago Lawn community: African Americans, Arab Americans, and Latinos. This artwork was created by young people with a local youth support program. Slogans in Spanish and Arabic make statements such as “schools not jails” and “books not bombs” and give area youth a voice in how to address pressing local and international concerns.
The number and activity of community-based organizations (e.g. civic, religious, social service) increases as one moves south from the northern part of the research area: that is, from Archer Heights and West Elsdon down to the more active neighborhoods of West Lawn and Chicago Lawn. Traditional community organizing – building links among civic groups based on taking action around shared issues – follows the same pattern, being strongest in the southeast. This more robust social service and civic infrastructure is in areas that underwent significant demographic shifts earlier, in the 1970s rather than starting in the 1990s, and where rates of foreclosure, poverty, and unemployment run higher still today. The disruptive nature of earlier rapid waves of demographic change was a driving factor behind the development of the mature community organizing structure seen today.

Additionally, in Archer Heights and West Elsdon, we found sharper demographic distinctions in group membership between older residents, typically white, and newly arrived residents, more commonly Latino. The older residents were active in the civic associations of their respective neighborhoods (e.g. West Elsdon Civic Association and Archer Heights Civic Association), while the Latino residents formed their own organizations most often closely aligned with their parish (e.g. The Mexican Civic Society of Illinois, Inc. and Iglesia de Cristo Senero de Esperanza-Chicago. In these organizations, business was conducted primarily in Spanish.) To the south in West Lawn and Chicago Lawn, community organizations tend to be more diverse, offer more social services, and collaborate to a greater degree.

The research documented the following networks on the northern and southern ends of our research area:

**NORTHERN PORTION OF THE RESEARCH AREA**

1. In Archer Heights and West Elsdon, civic associations are linked to other local institutions such as schools, churches, and social clubs. These resident groups have been an effective collective voice with influence over local city policy and services. For instance, West Elsdon Civic Association, through links to the Local School Council at Currie High School, influenced the Board of Education’s decision regarding a principal. With regard to individual residents’ service needs, the president of this association noted: “I know it’s difficult as a city dweller to get your tree trimmed or get a branch cut down. But if we go as a civic association, it gets done.” The size, activity, and strength of the long standing civic associations has diminished with the demographic turnover from the older (white) to newer (Latino) residents. These new residents have formed new civic groups or built connections to organizations that are active in communities such as Pilsen, where some of them lived before they moved further southwest.

2. Research partner Academy for Global Citizenship (AGC) partners with organizations from outside of the research area to enhance their curriculum, offer educational resources to families outside of the school day, and support an organic lunch program. School organized events like a rummage sale and gardening workshops, which took place during the research period, offer parents opportunities to build connections with one

With a median age of 30 for the research area in the 2010 census, families with children are important stakeholders actively looking out for their interests. The Academy for Global Citizenship has an active PTA that early in the research organized a rummage sale at which members served as primary vendors helping themselves economically and raising the visibility of the school as a community organization that wants to connect with and support the neighborhood.
STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING

another and the school staff. AGC has had periodic interactions with area businesses and nonprofits to support school events or school expansion. School staff used partnering on this research as an opportunity to start building relationships with organizations south of 59th street where the largest portion of the student body lives but the school has had few if any connections.

SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE RESEARCH AREA

1. A cluster of religious institutions, schools, and area non profits are partners in Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP), which coordinates may local efforts to address community concerns such as housing, job creation, economic justice, and community safety. Typically organizations that address these sorts of issues look to do so by coordinating their individual efforts through SWOP. Leaders of religious congregations and faith based organizations pointed to a religious calling to serve social justice and equity as reasons for joining coalitions that engage beyond their own faith community (see Community Engagement and Collaboration Patterns p.8).

2. Healthy Chicago Lawn (HCL) was a southwest side coalition focused on issues of individual and community health. It grew out of research looking at food quality and accessibility issues across the city, the findings of which led the City’s Department of Public Health to establish healthy community coalitions in a number of regions of the city (see photo collage at right). At the time of the research, the city was poised to end its direct funding of the healthy community coalitions, which, at least for a time, will leave in place the many relationships created by the initiative.

3. An important community organization is Greater Southwest Development Corporation (GSDC), a nonprofit that works to strengthen the business sector (industrial and commercial) by assisting existing businesses and working to attract new ones. GSDC manages the city designated and supported Special Service Area (SSA) on 63rd Street, focused on beautification and maintenance issues. GSDC often uses workshops to build the capacity of area businesses, making sure they are aware of a range of government initiatives that might support their operations and

Healthy Chicago Lawn built connections among its partners, as illustrated by the explanatory collage on display at its regular networking meeting (above right). Hospitals, clinics, universities, and community organizations used this regular gathering to share their programs, help one another recruit participants, and form new partnerships. HCL coalition partners have a holistic view of individual physical health and the health of people’s social relationships and communities. This is reflected in HCL’s vision statement (bottom left) and the coordinating and hosting responsibilities HCL took on for the International Human Relations Council’s annual Unity Picnic and Back to School Fest (upper image).
bottom line. GSDC works through the area’s coalitions and partners with individual institutions, such as Saint Xavier University, to offer training in operations issues such as workplace safety.

4. Some of the frequent collaboration in this part of the research area is rooted in the intertwined history of organizations, which often have their roots in the same ethnic or religious community. This is the case for Arab American Action Network (AAAN) and Southwest Youth Collaborative (SWYC), which do not simply collaborate on programming, but also share a founder and commitment to serving the needs of area youth.
AWARNESS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND INTEREST IN ADDRESSING IT

Given the focus of this research study on assessing the capacity and relationships of organizations, there was less focus in this research area on individual awareness of climate change.

Nonetheless, interviews and focus groups revealed a few patterns in how stakeholders view the issue of climate change and responsibility for addressing it:

1. Many study participants understand climate change through their understanding of other, older or more familiar environmental or human challenges. So for instance, as in some of the other CCAP community studies, disruption of the ozone layer and pollution were frequently referenced as causes of climate change (see What three words…? p.10). But also violent, disruptive short term events, such as nuclear detonations or conventional explosions, were cited by some as disruptive to the balance of nature and related to climate change.

2. Most participants recognized humans as the major cause of climate change, but views on who is responsible for addressing the issue varied. Some participants pointed to widespread individual fossil fuel use and stated or implied shared personal responsibility. Some participants attributed causality and responsibility more to governments, corporations, or the wealthy. These seemingly disparate views were often held by the same individuals. This pattern of overlap is not surprising considering the number of participants in the research who were active participants in organized religions that stress individual moral responsibility and action (Christianity, Islam, Judaism). A sense of personal responsibility for action led more than one participant into community organizing and social justice work. This work in turn correlates with their awareness of social inequities in access and use of resources as well as access to power, and supports their view that responsibility for a problem like climate change is not equally shared by all.

3. Area residents cited strategies like drinking water, going to the lake, staying inside, and taking showers as responses to warm weather and climate change. This is in contrast to communities with a larger number of high income residents studied in earlier reports, who looked more to technology to lead the way in both adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

Schools are where reducing one’s carbon footprint is most visibly on display on the Southwest Side. The requirement that all new school buildings be LEED certified turns these buildings into demonstration sites for the students and potentially their families. At Tarkington Elementary, the first LEED certified school in Chicago, and both campuses of Academy for Global Citizenship, environmental education is part of the curriculum and the messages that go along with that curriculum are on public display.
WHAT THREE WORDS COME TO MIND WHEN YOU HEAR “CLIMATE CHANGE”? 

As part of our interviews and focus groups, participants were asked this question. The word cloud presents all recorded responses with more frequently occurring words appearing larger.

The size of “Global Warming” reflects awareness that climate change is a new term for what used to be called global warming. The size of terms such as “Hot” and “Cold,” along with “Storms” and “Extremes,” shows many participants understand climate change will manifest in more ways and more variably than just warmer temperatures; although, for a few respondents, the use of some of these terms, as well as “Weather,” indicates they do not differentiate the concept from seasonal variation. Words like “Melting,” “Wildlife,” “RainForests,” and “SeaLevels” place the impacts far from our lives in Chicago, while respondents used and discussed words like “Storms,” “Extreme” and the smaller “Crops,” “GrowingSeason,” and “BreathingProblems” to place impacts closer to home. That a majority of respondents understand the general gravity of the threat is made clear by terms like “urgency,” “Severe,” “Importance,” and the smaller “Survival,” and “Scary.”

Words like “HolyKoran,” “Imam,” “Spirituality,” “EndOfDays,” “Greed,” “PersonalResponsibility,” and “PeopleDon’tCare” illustrate the degree to which participants see climate change as an ethical and spiritual challenge; while “Racism,” “Gentrification,” “NoPeace,” “Tension,” “Politics,” “Disorder,” and “Communicate” point to thinking about the challenge as a social one.

A number of words, albeit each just used once, including “Petroleum,” “Energy,” “Cars,” “CarbonEmissions” and “Exhaust,” reflect many participants’ awareness of the link between fossil fuel use and climate change.

Residents and other stakeholders’ outlooks often revealed barriers to participation in climate action, although in some cases what may look like a barrier can point to a possible entry point for action.

1. Residents are typically more engaged with more immediate life concerns than climate change, such as job and housing security, safety and school. However, some residents expressed a desire to receive more information on climate action, including older residents who want to be able to engage younger generations around the topic.

2. Spiritual leaders recognized scriptural basis of stewardship of the earth, but did not always feel it was as morally urgent for them to take action as were other immediate issues of their constituents. Some did not have a sense of how stewardship might link to the issue of climate change.

3. An exception to this climate action ambivalence among spiritual leaders is the national Green Ramadan movement. The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC) is a regional and national leader in this movement, and some individual research participants are members of CIOGC. The movement calls for Muslims to adopt green practices during Ramadan as a conscious first step in changing their energy consumption habits throughout the year. In
2011, a coalition of Chicago Area and Midwestern Islamic organizations made an explicit call for Muslims to see the connections between climate change and famine in the horn of Africa, and to use this awareness to motivate climate action in themselves and their spiritual communities.

4. Some participants view going green as an elite agenda, social status marking behavior in which people throw money at organics or fancy technology.

5. Immigrants did not always connect popular buzz words like “green” and “organic” to their ways-of-life in their countries of origin. So for instance a former farmer may not describe the pesticide free farming he used to do as organic, unless someone tells him it was organic farming. This suggests there is room for residents to gain new, validating perspectives on their own traditions.

6. A great deal of climate information available in English is not available in Spanish, so primary Spanish speakers get their information filtered through the understanding of bilingual family and friends, who may not have the knowledge to do this translation.

Representations of environmental stewardship often link it to residents’ own wellbeing, particularly when trying to elicit buy-in on the part of the viewer. The picture of the three people planting a seedling is on the boarded up window of a foreclosed property of which a community group was taking legal possession. The words “Community Property” are above the figures’ heads. Planting is a metaphor for starting a process of renewal as well as part of a vision of community renewal. These images also point to the tendency to think of environmental action in very concrete terms such as cleaning and greening, rather than the abstraction of carbon levels.
COMMUNITY CONCERNS
SPRINGBOARDS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Southwest Side community leaders and residents identified a number of concerns facing their community. This section considers the five that were most frequently cited and highlights local responses. The concerns are:

- Crime and Safety
- The Economy
- Education and Youth Development
- Health
- Community Character

While economic development and improved health outcomes are cited in popular discussions of climate change as co-benefits of taking climate action, the other three concerns are typically not, but still represent potential entry points to community level climate action.

CRIME AND SAFETY

Crime and safety was the concern most often cited on the checklist of community concerns we regularly used with participants to initiate discussions around community issues. Drug offenses, prostitution, and gang activity were cited as particular problems by residents or appeared at high rates in arrest records. Civic associations, block clubs, service organizations, and religious organizations work with the police to address public safety through programs such as CAPS, neighborhood watch, Dare, Cease Fire, Safety Zone, and Safe Passage. Action often takes the form of holding community meetings or participating in marches and demonstrations. Youth crime is an issue of particular concern, and a program like Southwest Youth Collaborative’s University of Hip Hop is an attempt to steer young people clear of criminal activity and build their confidence in their own abilities to take a path other than crime to build a meaningful life.

Overzealous or overly punitive law enforcement directed at young people was another aspect of the crime problem brought up by participants. Area religious and secular organizations, particularly those that work with youth, maintain a dialogue with police that at times touches on issues of the fairness and long term effectiveness of heavy handed law-enforcement approaches and offers alternatives. For instance, working at a political level, the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) and Developing Justice Coalition worked to pass the Substance Abuse Management Addressing Recidivism through Treatment (SMART) act that offers alternative sentencing to first time drug offenders. It would keep first time offenses off young people’s criminal records and require completion of course work instead of incarceration.

Area nonprofits generally look to address crime through its connections to other community challenges. Some organizations work to address the foreclosure issue and stabilize neighborhoods in part to head off increases in criminal activity. Others intervene with youth to offer alternatives to gang life, and/or work with the city, local businesses, and other organizations to generate more jobs in the depressed economy. One barrier cited by a youth organization that would like to plug young people into green jobs is their own lack of expertise in that employment sector.

THE ECONOMY

For reporting purposes, this category is an aggregate of unemployment, economic development, housing, cost of living, poverty, and entrepreneurialism—all categories that were frequently checked off on the checklist form and discussed with study participants. Foreclosure rates in the Marquette Park area were among the highest in the city at the time of the research, youth unemployment in 2008 hovered around 10% (with higher rates among African American youth), and job creation was stagnant in the context of a stagnant national economy.
Religious and secular community organizations are working with the city and financial institutions to arrive at creative responses to the housing crisis, particularly in the hard hit areas south of 55th Street. Greater Southwest Development Corporation and Neighborhood Housing Services have programs to reopen foreclosed homes to potential buyers. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program promotes the affordability and energy efficiency of area homes as a reason to buy in Chicago Lawn. These and other programs include tours, workshops, bilingual aids, and other information and resources to aid buyers. Faith based and development community based organizations are working together to buy back a limited number of foreclosed homes to use them for cultural and social service programs, group housing, and eventual resale. This is in part an effort to get other groups and individuals to think about taking back their neighborhood.

Area job development programs are designed to aid individuals in becoming competitive in the employment market. Typically they target or extend to include youth and formerly incarcerated residents. Many programs are provided in Spanish. In addition to local organizations feeling limited by their lack of expertise in the green economy, another barrier to effective job placement has been the focus of programs on soft skills, like office etiquette, without addressing hard skill gaps.

Greater Southwest Development Corporation (GSDC) works with other organizations and city government to support businesses and business development. Notable are efforts along 63rd Street that offer storefront businesses low cost rents and other incentives to attract entrepreneurs, while maintaining the appearance of the business corridor. Some stakeholders cited the problem of business owners not spending their money in the area as an impediment to these efforts having greater impact. GSDC coordinates other programs that draw on resources like St. Xavier University and the Chicago Police Department to increase the operational capacities of industrial employers, making it desirable to maintain or expand their operations in the area and to find quality employees on the Southwest Side.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Southwest Side’s youth population has been growing in recent decades with the influx of new young families. This has raised concerns around issues of school overcrowding, the length of the school day, the availability of after school programs, and the need for curriculum that prepares youth for college and other career options.
COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Institutional responses have included the building of new schools, the establishment of charter schools, and scheduling children in shifts, with one cohort starting quite early and another coming in after them and staying late. Schools have also brought in resources by forming partnerships with outside organizations, including university partnerships; organizations that do specific curriculum on environment, conflict resolution, or the arts; and a multischool partnership with a local community organizing project that brings parents into classrooms to help out. Community organizing has impacted the scale and breadth of responses to educational needs. In one notable instance, youth-led organizing brought a college prep program to Gage Park High School that subsequently was expanded to five other schools and now is a citywide board of education model.

The Chicago Park District has after school and summer programming. Research participants identified price and a lack of interest in the golf related activities of the Marquette Park golf course as barriers to participation in these programs, as well as the fact that there are simply not enough options offered by the Park District and schools to meet the demand. Area organizations have run a number of youth development programs in recent years, typically organized around social issues. A notable example that includes the arts is the Southwest Youth Collaborative and Arab American Action Network partnership to create the Hip Hop Dance Academy, which brings youth together across ethnic lines.

HEALTH

Chronic disease associated with lifestyle and diet are issues that a number of organizations work to address on the Southwest Side. As in many other places in the city, these issues are currently being viewed, discussed, and addressed through the approach of improving food access. There are a number of supermarket size grocery stores on the Southwest Side, so most parts of this large area are not a “food desert” in the same sense as other parts of the city where full service grocery stores have simply not been present for years. Still, residents and other stakeholders cited a few ways in which eating a healthy diet is a challenge for area residents. These challenges included 1) not having the income to regularly provide food or at least not healthy foods, 2) residents’ preferences for processed foods and lack of understanding of the value of healthier diets, and 3) the unavailability of a wide variety of organic produce or health food items such as what is available at a Whole Foods or other high end supermarkets.

Organizations offer a variety of responses to healthy diet concerns. Faith based organizations take a lead in basic food assistance, operating food pantries, soup kitchens, and meal programs for families or youth. A transitional housing organization serving the homeless, Southwest Chicago PADS, has started a food garden operated by clients to build their sense of personal efficacy as well as specific skills. In the southeast of the study area, where grocery stores are least prevalent, community pressure has led some corner stores and liquor stores to stock relatively small quantities of produce, but businesses have struggled to have these fruits or vegetables sell. Research partner Academy for Global Citizenship (AGC) collaborates with Goodness Greenness to offer parents discounted subscriptions for weekly delivery of boxes of organic produce. AGC

Creating access to healthy foods reaps other benefits. Signs on the planters at AGC’s Hearst Elementary location extoll the health and other values of eating fresh organic produce. This sign points out the economic and social value of eating locally grown food (left). The community garden started by HCL in Marquette Park offers opportunities for exercise and building social connections in addition to fresh produce (right).
also holds gardening workshops for families, incorporates gardening into their curriculum, and serves students all-organic meals.

Gardening is an approach that starts to address the issue of increasing physical activity levels among people suffering from chronic illnesses associated with sedentary lifestyles. The Healthy Chicago Lawn Network held regular networking meetings that bring together personnel from a range of health initiatives and institutions so they can promote and connect their efforts. A project of the Network was creating a community garden in Marquette Park. A majority of gardeners, each with their own designated beds, grow food and herbs. During the research period, the garden also appeared to be poised to link some of the gardening efforts of PADS, AGC, and others in the research area.

COMMUNITY CHARACTER

This concern could also be described as concern with community change, particularly fears that newcomers will not share the communities’ middle class sensibilities, but instead will fail to take care of their homes (particularly if newcomers are renters), loiter or engage in crime, and through these actions driving down property values and quality of life. As noted earlier, the influx of residents of color has made them majorities in these community areas that twenty years ago were majority Euro American. Older residents often work through neighborhood associations to address concerns they have about the change and community divides, having associations offer awards for home and yard appearance, coordinating with CAPS programs to address issues like vandalism and property crime, and supporting efforts to expand local schools and their offerings.

South of 59th Street, community organizing, often faith-based and through SWOP, has been the approach for attracting municipal resources and overcoming institutional barriers for lower income residents or relative “newcomers,” helping them to successfully assimilate to their new neighborhoods and building bridges between community groups. An event like the annual Iftar dinner at the police district headquarters brings different racial and ethnic groups together, with law enforcement as well, creating the context for positive dialogue and mutual understanding.
Southwest Side residents and organizations regularly engage in a variety of environmentally-friendly practices (EFPs). The most popular EFPs, as reported by study participants, are listed in the figure below.

These activities correspond to values, circumstances, and other aspects of practitioners’ heritage illustrated in the following observations and patterns:

1. Conserve water
2. Open windows for comfort
3. Shop at local businesses
4. Use CFLs (compact fluorescent light bulbs)
5. Use drapes/shades/curtains to control temperature
6. Unplug lights, appliances, chargers, and TV when not in use
7. Recycle
8. Exchange or share used items with friends and family
9. Outdoor recreation/relaxation
10. Reuse and repurposing*
11. Safely disposing of household hazardous waste*
12. Bring your own shopping bag*
13. Community beautification*

*10-13 were all tied with 14 reports each of participation.

1. The majority of popular EFPs reflect values of frugality and the importance of cost-savings. Homeowners consider practices like turning off the water, unplugging unused devices, or opening windows to be accessible money saving strategies for controlling utility costs. Other EFPs, like sharing and repurposing unused items, allow working class families to get things like children’s clothes that they need to get frequently at little to no cost.

Items for sale at AGC’s rummage sale ran from used clothes, shoes and household items to flower and vegetable seedlings (under the blue canopy) as well as snack cups of raw vegetables. Note that the cups are not disposable.
2. The appeal of specific activities often lies in how easy or fun they are. One participant described the appeal of composting as lying in its simplicity and the immediacy of its results: “it’s the easiest thing in the world to do and it’s fun to actually see this piece of fruit turn into dirt…it’s easy, it’s all that and I understand why I am doing it, then the rest of it doesn’t matter.”

3. For most research participants who were immigrants from Mexico, many of their EFPs were influenced by memories and values they bring from Mexico. Typically, the continuation of home gardening, especially cultivating ethnic foods such as tomatoes and peppers, and the purposeful conservation of water are linked to earlier experiences in Mexico. For instance, one man describes his conservation of water not as a result of necessity, but as a habitual practice passed down from his father and rooted in his father’s concern over water scarcity in Mexico.

BARRIERS TO ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY PRACTICES

1. Residents cited safety concerns as a leading source of their discomfort with riding public transportation. This anxiety and inconveniently located CTA stops are barriers to more frequent CTA usage. A strong preference for using cars was expressed by one resident who explained: “We are a driving community,” implying that it is simply a preferred practice.

2. Participants reported that more expensive “green” practices are too expensive for many of the working class and retired residents of the area. They also reported that many green practices are also too expensive for the small organizations on very limited operating budgets where many of them work on the Southwest Side.

3. The periodic use of the “elitist” label to describe organic food reflects class differences in the area and may justify its dismissal in the minds of some as just another form of snobbery. Furthermore, confusion over what the terms “local,” “organic,” or “green” actually mean, and the benefits they provide, hinders the adoption of practices or goods associated with these terms, for better or worse. One resident explained his skepticism, “I don’t think there are any locally-made goods in this area.”

4. The desire to be an assimilated American, difficulty in procuring ingredients, and the low cost of fast food all drive a shift by immigrants from their heritage diets to an “American” diet. This is true even in cases where the traditional foods might be healthier or have a lower carbon footprint than the American or Americanized alternatives.

5. Although the recent arrival of more large produce sellers has reduced the perception of the community as a “food desert,” the continued lack of variety in organic options adds the burden of travel for residents interested in an organic diet. It is unclear if the community could support a well publicized purveyor of relatively less expensive organics. Local produce sellers confess that currently they only sell a few organic items, as that is all they experience demand for. Many residents report organics cost too much when they are available.

6. Participants cited safety, crime (including gang activity), and lack of youth programming as limiting outdoor recreation and other uses of green spaces in the area. Crime curbed outdoor space usage both directly (fear of crime) and indirectly. Young men and their families feared the young men would be hassled by law enforcement, i.e. at times it seems illegal to be young, male, outdoors and not engaged in a clearly structured activity. In this context staying indoors becomes encouraged by parents.

ORGANIZATIONAL ENGAGEMENT WITH EFPs

In addition to individuals’ EFPs, several organizations in the community play an important role in practicing and promoting climate action. These organizations are engaging in several environmentally-friendly initiatives. And while they value the holistic way these initiatives address both environmental and other community concerns, they derive much of their mission-driven motivation from addressing the other concerns that include improving individuals’ health, reducing community tension, responding to the housing crisis, controlling cost-
ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY PRACTICES, VALUES, AND TRADITIONS

of-living, and increasing company bottom line. Notable examples of initiatives include:

1. Inner City Muslim Action Network (IMAN) programs promote the consumption of nutritious foods partly by working with local retailers to make healthy produce more available at corner stores. IMAN also works with a number of other partners to reclaim foreclosed and abandoned properties in the community, using gardening and the creation of art, among other actions, to make neighborhoods safer and to conserve structures in the hopes they can serve as homes and community centers.

2. Healthy Chicago Lawn (HCL) maintains a community garden within Marquette Park for the purposes of connecting local residents to healthy produce while promoting an active lifestyle and use of urban green space.

3. The Southwest PADS shelter builds clients’ esteem, skill sets and independence through gardening, which in turn produces healthy food for shelter residents and others.

4. Greater Southwest Development Corporation (GSWDC) facilitates local industry in gaining information and rebates to improve energy efficiency and reduce waste production. This assistance has included workshops for businesses and residents on City of Chicago green programs that encourage and incentivize practices such as using rain barrels, planting trees, and installing energy efficient lighting.

5. Academy for Global Citizenship (AGC) uses its school grounds and educational programs to demonstrate healthy living as well as green practices and technology. Environmental education is an integral part of the curriculum. It is offered by both staff and partner organizations, and incorporates the onsite garden (including laying hens) and demonstration windmill and solar panel. Parent engagement includes workshops like that offered on composting during the research period, a school rummage sale, and the ongoing opportunity for families and staff to purchase boxes of organic produce through the school.

Without great concerns for whether it is organic or organic certified, Southwest Side Euro American and Mexican American residents grow and purchase significant amounts of fresh produce. Above are images from a resident’s backyard, the community garden in Marquette Park, and one of the three new markets in or very near the research area that have competing produce sections.
The most popular environmentally-friendly practices for both residents and organizations are those that save money, reduce waste, and/or are simple and fun.
Residents and stakeholders reported getting information from a variety of sources including:

1. Religious organizations (churches and faith based CBOs).
2. Civic organizations (block clubs and neighborhood associations) that are important sources of hyper local information for the block or neighborhood.
3. Organizations that are charged with working in the community through partnerships to build local capacities, e.g. Greater Southwest Development Corporation, St. Xavier University, The University of Chicago, and Holy Cross Hospital.
4. Networks to which churches, organizations, clubs, or service providers belong.
5. Public places and offices such as libraries, churches, and schools as well as aldermanic offices. This information often takes the form of flyers, pamphlets, or bulletins.
6. Local or ethnically specific newspapers, such as the Southwest Herald, and the Chicago Crescent for Arab Americans. The Herald reports increasing difficulty in the last ten years getting news from or to newcomers.
7. Internet fora including Chicago/WL Portal, Marquette Park Blog, and Every Block, which allow participants to read about the concerns of others in their community.

Residents and organizations use a variety of venues and modes to communicate with their peers and constituents. These include:

1. Services/masses and meetings (through presentations, announcements, or printed materials)
2. Community events and tours, particularly popular with networks and organizations charged with working through partnerships.
3. E-mail lists and e-mail blasts, and the online fora mentioned above.
4. Youth programs with a peer-to-peer communication emphasis, for example Voices of Youth Changing Education (VOYCE) at Gage Park High School, through which participating students invite other youth to their events. Other schools in the area have similar programs supported by CBOs and NGOs.
Ties within faith or ethnic communities facilitate the flow of information. A large number of the Catholic congregations on the Southwest Side are members of Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) and communicate through it. In fact, SWOP started as essentially an action alliance of Catholic parishes and organizations looking to build bridges to other faiths and among ethnic groups. We also found that local Muslim study participants who knew about the national and citywide Green Ramadan movement did so through organizational links. Others knew about the solar panels and other environmentally-friendly initiatives at the Mosque Foundation, a new Mosque in the southwest suburb of Bridgeview, because of membership in or other ties to that congregation.

Residents most often expressed learning about climate change by reading and listening to mainstream news. Some parents expressed a greater environmental awareness because of their child’s attendance at AGC; however they were reluctant to share this knowledge with others in the community out of concern for being misunderstood. Others expressed the view that there is need for popular education due to a lack of climate change information in Spanish.

The social and geographic divisions mentioned elsewhere (see Community Concerns: Community Character p.15) are barriers to information flow on the Southwest Side. The networks and partnerships set up to bridge organizations, groups, and neighborhoods are the most effective at communicating across these divides.
CREATIVE MODELS
FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our research identified four models that organizations on the Southwest Side have used to mobilize community members around shared concerns and interests and that may be effective strategies for mobilizing around climate change.

MODEL ONE: COLLABORATING ACROSS ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS LINES

Marquette Park and West Lawn have undergone multiple demographic shifts in past decades, resulting in great ethnic and religious diversity. Collaboration across social boundaries helps residents adapt to the decline in other forms of cohesion once common in these neighborhoods. Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) unites a diverse set of stakeholders to address issues such as education, housing and immigration. Under this decentralized umbrella organization, groups that in other contexts might have opposing interests come together to gain access to resources and achieve common goals. Another group, the International Human Relations Council, hosts a “Unity Picnic” each year in Marquette Park. As with SWOP, organizers of this event actively emphasize cultural diversity, boundary-crossing and bridge-building in their language and approach.

MODEL TWO: CREATING STRUCTURES FOR PEER DIALOGUE

Area residents express a concern with crime and an interest in providing youth with alternatives to violence. Organizations are working to create programs, models and spaces that allow and/or encourage peer-to-peer dialogue, especially among youth. For example, Southwest Youth Collaborative (SWYC) has led public school students in “talking circles” to resolve conflict. Models like this one, as well as other youth programs and CeaseFire, create safe spaces where concerns and differences can be discussed and better understood – ideally, before they result in violence.

Bilingual messages and messages of inclusion point to the importance for these religious and ethnic organizations of connecting across social boundaries. Rooted in faith and cultural values of practicing and promoting tolerance and compassion, organizations are sometimes motivated to take on issues because doing so represents an opportunity to connect across a social boundary and break it down.
MODEL THREE: REPURPOSING SPACE

The Southwest Side was historically an industrial area, but some industrial spaces have been vacated in recent years. The area has also been hit hard by foreclosure. Several organizations are taking an interest in these empty spaces and giving them new life. The Academy for Global Citizenship operates in a former barrel factory and its administrators are considering, among other sites, a former post office and a vacated trucking depot as they search for a larger space. Nationally, in the midst of an economic recession and decline in manufacturing, creative repurposing of industrial space has emerged as a popular model for neighborhood revitalization. The Plant, a vertical farm and brewery in a former meatpacking facility on the South Side (not far from the research area), has attracted attention as a local representation of this national trend.

MODEL FOUR: PARTNERING FOR OUTSIDE RESOURCES

The major standing community support networks and individual community organizations through ties external to these networks have been very successful in bringing outside resources to the Southwest Side. City departments, universities with research and community support interests, and citywide NGOs, like Cease Fire, all work through and with local partners to bring resources to the area. Particularly important is the City’s 63rd Street Special Services Area (SSA). Administered by Greater Southwest Development Corporation, it brings city dollars to the commercial district for beautification and other soft infrastructure improvements to make the area appealing to businesses and customers. AGC’s partnerships with produce distributors, environmental educators, and universities is just the latest round of this approach to meeting local challenges.

Eberhart is one of the Southwest Side schools where Southwest Youth Collaborative has been leading “talking circles” to encourage peer-to-peer dialogue and reduce violence. Other youth development organizations operate similar programs at other area schools.
RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR DEEPENING ENGAGEMENT

While this series of reports has been commissioned by the City of Chicago, the recommendations they include are intended for any government agency, national or citywide nonprofit, network of organizations, community based institution or group, and anyone else looking to inspire and organize residents, businesses, schools, and other local stakeholders in taking meaningful steps to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Based on the research findings summarized in this report, we offer the following key recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of climate action engagement efforts on Chicago’s Southwest Side.

1. In developing climate action outreach initiatives for the Southwest Side, recognize the diversity of the area (ethnic, racial, religious, and length of residency) represents a set of resources and opportunities as well as challenges for stimulating community change.

2. Engage organizations that are looking to build bridges between old and new residents or across divided geographies (the north and south of the research area). Design climate initiatives to help them reach these goals of breaking down social barriers. For instance, Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) has a number of faith based organization members that look to do bridge building based upon ethical commitments to ecumenicalism, social justice, and performing good works.

3. Because building relationships among diverse Southwest Side residents and organizations has been a decades-long process, work through the existing social infrastructure to quickly increase the reach of initiatives. Perhaps the most timely approaches would include:
   a. restoring, under new leadership and support, the extensive Healthy Chicago Lawn network with its holistic approach to community wellbeing, even if not with the same mission and name.
   b. exploring collaborative opportunities with and through Southwest Organizing Project, the extensive and well respected organizing network anchored for over two decades by area faith based institutions.
   c. working with citywide organizations that are interested in climate change issues and already have a presence or affiliates in the area. A good example of such an organization is the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicagoland (CIOGC) and its Green Ramadan program that it promotes to local affiliates.

4. Help faith based leaders understand climate action through the lens of social justice that they already bring to their work.

5. Appeal to values of frugality, healthy living, and self-help. These values align with many southwest siders’ heritage values and middle class ambition. This approach avoids the contentiousness that arises from discussing causes and responsible for climate change as an approach to motivating action.

6. In working with community organizers, social service providers, and their constituents, either avoid using poorly understood terms like “organic” or show participants the connections between sustainability buzz words and their heritage practices. In the latter approach participants can understand that they are already engaging in climate action, even at the cutting edge of trends. Avoid promoting climate action through expensive technologies or sustained increases in household spending for environmentally-friendly products.

7. Actively use climate change awareness and climate action materials in Spanish.

8. Consult and collaborate with local schools and youth organizations to ensure that climate change education and action become educational and work-development opportunities for area youth. Take advantage of the
fact that new public and charter schools in the research area typically have “green buildings” and some teach environmental sustainability as part of the curriculum.

9. Consistent with a history of reuse and repurposing of industrial spaces, provide information on retrofitting and adapting industrial spaces to new uses in energy-efficient ways to encourage the development of new area businesses and nonprofits. A key partner in such an endeavor would be Greater Southwest Development Corporation.

10. Use “green” tours of the area to spread awareness of and foster pride in environmentally-friendly home practices. Connect local interest in beautification to climate action related to homes, gardens and parks. Tours should not exclusively highlight green designed or retrofitted buildings, of which a number exist in the research area, but should also showcase attainable, everyday actions like those popular with many Southwest Side residents and organizations.

Chicago’s Southwest Side is the largest and by some measures most diverse research area of the nine where we conducted inventories and produced reports to catalyze community based climate action. Given this diversity and a history of interracial and other intergroup tensions, a unifying factor today is the commitment of the organizations we encountered to building bridges among the diverse people and different organizations of the Southwest Side. Community groups do this relationship building work to blunt potential intergroup tension, work towards a vision of mutual appreciation, and find collective strength from which to address the pressing economic and educational concerns of the area. In this context, a strategy of making it clear that climate change is a concern that has the potential to unite people and to produce action that addresses more acutely felt concerns has the best chance of enlisting community leaders in promoting a climate action agenda for the Southwest Side.
COMMUNITY ASSET MAP

ASSETS INSIDE
COMMUNITY AREA

Businesses
1. Aldi
2. Andy’s Dad (Electronic Repair)
3. Archer Bank
4. Bank of America
5. Costco
6. Food 4 Less
7. Ford City Mall
8. Fresh Moves
9. Garifuna Flava
10. Home Depot
11. Huck Finn Restaurant
12. Indio 2
13. Jewel Osco
14. Jewel Osco
15. Lawn Lanes Bowling Alley
16. Malti Dance Academy
17. McDonald’s
18. Midway Hotel Center
19. Nabisco Biscuit Company
20. New China Tea Restaurant
21. Olive Mount Mart
22. Pete’s Fresh Market
23. Republic Bank
24. Rio Valley Supermarket
25. San Juditas Panadería y Pastelería
26. Save-A-Lot
27. Sears
28. Senior Suites Autumn Green at Midway Village (Senior Living Corporation)
29. Solo Cup Company
30. Southwest News Herald
31. The Sock Shoppe
32. Tony’s Italian Beef
33. Tootsie Roll Company Incorporated
34. Whole Foods
35. Zaca Tacos

Places of Worship
1. Chicago Islamic Center
2. New Life Community Church (Midway)
3. Sisters of St. Casimir
4. St. Mary Star of the Sea Church
5. St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish
6. St. Rita’s Parish
7. The Divine Word Polish National Church

Community Organizations
1. 63rd Street Growth Commission
2. 6400 S.Troy Block Club
3. Arab American Action Network (AAAN)
4. Archer Heights Chamber of Commerce
5. Archer Heights Civic Association
6. Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture
7. Block Club on Avers
8. Greater Southwest Development Corporation (GSDC)
9. Healthy Chicago Lawn
10. Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN)
11. International Human Relations Council
12. Latino Organization of the Southwest (LOS)
13. Marquette Park Security Commission
14. Social Services Assisting Neighborhood Arab American Development (SANAD)
15. Southwest Chicago PADS
16. Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP)
17. Southwest Women Working Together
18. Southwest Youth Collaborative (SWYC)
19. West Elsdon Civic Association

**Gardens**
1. Healthy Chicago Lawn garden
2. Residential Sustainable Backyard

**Government Agencies**
1. 13th Aldermanic Office
2. 8th District Police Station & CAPS office
3. Archer Heights Library
4. Chicago Lawn Library
5. U.S. Army Reserve Training Center

**Green Homes**
1. Green Bungalow
2. Green Bungalow
3. Green Bungalow
4. Green Bungalow

**Health Care**
1. Chicago Family Health Center - Chicago Lawn
2. Greater Lawn Health Center
3. Holy Cross Hospital

**Public Parks/Natural Areas**
1. Archer Park
2. Catalpa Playlot Park
3. Curie Park
4. Marquette Park
5. Senka Park

**Schools/Universities**
1. Academy for Global Citizenship (AGC)*
2. Curie Metropolitan High School
3. Eberhart Elementary School
4. Fairfield Elementary Academy
5. Gage Park High School
6. Hancock High School
7. Hearst Elementary School Buildings
8. Hubbard High School & Athletic Field
9. Irene Hernandez Middle School
10. Maria High School
11. Mariano Azuela Elementary School
12. Marquette Elementary School
13. Morrill Elementary School
14. Pasteury Elementary School
15. Peck Elementary School
16. Phoebe A. Hearst Fine Arts Magnet School
17. Richard Edwards Elementary School
18. Richard J. Daley College
19. St. Bruno Catholic School
20. St. Gall School
21. St. Richards Elementary School
22. St. Turibius
23. Tarkington School of Excellence*
24. Tonti Elementary School
25. UNO Soccer Academy*
26. Young Scholars Development Institute

**Other Nonprofit**
1. Greater Chicago Food Depository
2. Metropolitan Family Services
3. Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago

* Officially recognized by the City of Chicago as a Green Building.
REGIONAL ASSET MAP

REGIONS ASSETS

Businesses
1. Allied Waste
2. Bleeding Heart Bakery
3. Blue Star Energy Solutions
4. Brighton Park/McKinley Park Life Newspaper
5. Cermak Produce
6. Chartwells
7. Chicago Crescent
8. Chicago Mercantile Exchange
9. ComEd
10. Goodness Greenness
11. Green Grocer Chicago
12. Harvest Moon Farms
13. Iris Krieg and Associates, Inc.
14. KPMG LLP Accounting Firm
15. Kurier Codzienny Chicago
16. Lawndale News
17. Lee Lumber
18. Newshound
19. PortionPac Chemical Corporation
20. Shop & Save
21. Shop & Save
22. Shop & Save
23. Steelhead Corporation
24. Telemundo Chicago
25. Univision Chicago
26. Urban Worm Girl
27. W.R. Grace & Company
28. WalMart Express

Places of Worship
1. Faith Temple Church of God in Christ
2. Good Shepherd Church

Community Organizations
1. 18th Ward’s Gospel Festival
2. Blocks Together
3. Centers for New Horizons
4. Chinese American Museum of Chicago
5. Community Center (future)
6. Daily Plaza Farmer’s Market
7. Erie Neighborhood House
8. Evanston Green Living Fest
9. Imagine Englewood If...
10. Kenwood Oakland Community Organization
11. KLEO Peace Fest and Back to School Rally
12. Lill Street Art Center
13. Metropolitan Area Group for Igniting Civilization (MAGIC)
14. Midway Community Choir
15. National Hellenic Museum
17. NRI West Chicago Communities CATs Team
18. Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP)
19. Stray Dog Theatre
20. Swedish American Museum Center
21. Target Area Corp
22. The Woodlawn Organization (T.W.O.)
23. Uptown United
24. Washington Park Consortium

Gardens
1. Englewood Community Garden

Government Agencies
1. 14th Ward Aldermanic Office
2. 18th Ward Aldermanic Office
3. 23rd Ward Aldermanic Office
4. Chicago O’Hare International Airport
5. Chicago Public Library
6. City of Chicago Department of Public

LEGEND

Business: 3, 7, 8, 13, 14, 24, 25
School/University: 7, 8, 9, 16, 19, 21
Park/Natural Space: 4
Non-Profit: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 31, 32, 33, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45
Health Org.: 2
Gov. Agency: 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11
Community Org.: 6

ASSETS IN LOOP:

Business: 3, 7, 8, 13, 14, 24, 25
School/University: 7, 8, 9, 16, 19, 21
Park/Natural Space: 4
Non-Profit: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 31, 32, 33, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45
Health Org.: 2
Gov. Agency: 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11
Community Org.: 6
7. Former City of Chicago Department of Environment
8. Congressman Dan Lipinski’s office
9. Forest Preserve District of Cook County
10. Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS)
11. Department of Housing and Economic Development (Facade Rebate Program)
12. Title VII Indian Education Formula Grant Program

Health
1. Advocate Christ Hospital and Medical Center
2. Children’s Memorial Injury Prevention and Research Center

Public Parks/Natural Areas
1. Gage Park
2. Gateway Park
3. Turtlehead Lake
4. Walnut Park
5. Washington Park Conservatory

Schools/Universities
1. Adlai E Stevenson Elementary School
2. Bogan Computer Technical High School
3. Catholic Theological Union
4. Chapin Hall Center for Children (University of Chicago)
5. Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences
6. Chicago State University
7. Egan Urban Center at DePaul University
8. Eric Solorio Academy High School
9. Illinois Institute of Art
10. Jane Austin Hull House Museum
11. John F. Kennedy High School
13. John Whistler Elementary School
14. Joseph Stockton Elementary School
15. Loyola University Chicago
16. Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation (Roosevelt University)
17. Marcus Garvey Math and Science School
18. Nightingale Elementary School
20. Prescott Elementary School
21. Roosevelt University
22. St. Ignatius College Preparatory
23. St. Monica Academy
24. St. Rene Goupil School
25. St. Sylvestre School
26. St. Symphorosa School
27. St. Xavier University
28. UIC Institute for Health Research and Policy
29. UIC Urban Health Program, Resource Center
30. Universal School
31. Uplift Community High School
32. Westcott Elementary School

Other Nonprofits
1. Active Transportation Alliance
2. After School Matters
3. Anti-Cruelty Society
4. Archdiocese of Chicago
5. Big Shoulders
6. CeaseFire office
7. Chicago Area Project
8. Chicago Conservation Corps (C3)
9. Chicago Cultural Alliance
10. Chicago Historical Society
11. Consortium on Chicago School Research
12. Crossroads Fund
13. Faith in Place
14. FamilyFormed.org
15. Girls in the Game
16. Grassroots Collaborative
17. Green Star Movement
18. Growing Home
19. Growing Power
20. Horizons for Youth
21. Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation
22. Illinois Network of Charter Schools (INCS)
23. Illinois Violence Prevention Authority
24. Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF)
25. Jewish Council on Urban Affairs
27. Lincoln Park Zoo
28. LISC/Chicago
29. Mercy for Animals
30. Museum of Science and Industry
31. National Association of Women Business Owners, Chicago Area Chapter
32. Opportunity Advancement Innovation
33. Pastoral Migratoria (Archdiocese of Chicago)
34. Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
35. Purple Asparagus
36. Radio Islam
37. ReBuilding Exchange
38. Teen REACH
39. The Chicago Foundation for Women
40. The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC)
41. The Leo S. Guthman Fund
42. The Mosque Community Foundation
43. The Newberry Library
44. The Wieboldt Foundation
45. Woods Fund of Chicago
46. YMCA
47. Young Women’s Empowerment Project
48. Zakat Foundation

ASSETS OUTSIDE REGIONAL MAP

Businesses
1. Market Day
2. Peapod Deliveries
3. Reedy Industries Inc.

Government Agencies
1. 15th Ward Aldermanic Office
2. Library of Congress

Other Nonprofits
1. 1Sky
2. Farm Aid
3. Humane Education Advocates Reaching Teachers? (HEART)
4. KaBOOM!
5. NeighborWorks America
6. Out & Equal Workplace Advocates

Places of Worship
1. American Islamic Association mosque

Schools/Universities
1. College Preparatory School of America
2. Elmhurst College
OUR TEAM

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PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

1. 8th District City of Chicago Police Department
2. 63rd Street Center
3. 6400 S. Troy Block Club
4. Academy for Global Citizenship (AGC)
5. Arab American Action Network (AAAN)
6. Archer Heights Civic Association
7. Belzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture
8. Beth Shalom Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation
9. Chicago Islamic Center
10. The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC)
11. Goodness Greenness
12. Greater Southwest Development Corporation (GSDC)
13. Healthy Chicago Lawn
14. Holy Cross Hospital
15. Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN)
16. Morrill Elementary School
17. Neighborhood Housing Services
18. OhSoWe.com
19. Olive Mount Market
20. SANAD Social Services
21. Southwest News-Herald
22. Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP)
23. Southwest Youth Collaborative (SWYC)
24. St. Rita of Cascia Parish
25. St. Bruno Church and School
26. Tarkington School of Excellence (CPS elementary school)
27. West Elsdon Civic Association

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BIBLIOGRAPHY


