

Neighborhood Action Initiative - West Humboldt Park Neighborhood

The Chicago Avenue Corridor, once a considerable retail thoroughfare in the West Humboldt Park neighborhood, has suffered from decades of disinvestment and neglect. Today, community organizations have taken root to become a stabilizing force in support of residents. The 'West Humboldt Hub' seeks to become the nexus, linking these supportive services to residents and local entrepreneurs while creating a catalyst for further development, spawning from the center of the corridor outward. Although several promising opportunity sites had been identified through the engagement process, the proposed development integrates the crucial insight attained through diligent research and inclusive community visioning workshops. The master plan is anchored by Neighborhood Housing Services' (NHS) Westside Office Hub which will continue to strive for equitable pathways to homeownership for residents within the community. Storefront commercial space will create the opportunity for local entrepreneurs to provide essential services accessible to residents including pharmacies, banks, and restaurants serving fresh, healthy foods. Continuing along the ground level, a public plaza will define outdoor space for farmers markets, recreational activity, and social gatherings. Above, a community amenity space will allow for a plethora of wellness possibilities for all generations, especially seniors and youth. Additionally, multiunit residential establishes a development strategy that provides affordable housing and an 'eyes-on-the-street' approach to a safe and active streetscape. Finally, the proposal culminates with a rooftop garden which provides ample outdoor space for residents and an equitable project focused on the health and wellbeing of the community.

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