



MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

CCAC Completes Brand Refresh



Chicago Central Area Committee has recently completed a brand refresh project with the goal of revitalizing the organization's logo and materials to represent CCAC as it is today and what we're working toward in the future.

The red "Spark" graphic was inspired by the compass inlays at key Chicago intersections, such as State and Madison -- the city's zero zero point. The colors were selected to reflect the past and represent a focused future.

The entire pro-bono project was led by **Jisu Chang**, Graphic Designer at HOK, and we'd like to thank her and her colleagues **Rana Lee**, **Kim Dowdell** and **Mo Martinson** for making this important effort possible.

The new logo and treatment will soon be coming to a re-imagined website and other CCAC materials.

May Monthly Member Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

(PLEASE NOTE: THIS DATE IS OFF OUR REGULAR SCHEDULE)



Please join fellow CCAC members for an enlightening convening focused on real estate momentum in Chicago.

Important initiatives already underway have started to yield positive

results. Included in the conversation will be:

- "Cut the Tape" Facts and Figures
- LaSalle Street Adaptive Reuse Projects in Process
- The City's Overarching "Build Better Together" Strategy

SPEAKERS



Ciere Boatright
Commissioner
Department of Planning & Development



Phil Clement
President & CEO
World Business Chicago



Kenya Merritt
Deputy Mayor
Business, Neighborhood & Economic Development

New investors are coming to Chicago, drawn by significant value and upside potential. Several are bringing new and different sources of capital to adaptive reuse projects at some of Chicago's most treasured buildings.

Projects are achieving important city approvals in record time.

Join the conversation and help move Chicago's real estate market forward even more quickly.

EVENT DETAILS:

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Location:
HOK
One Prudential PLaza
130 East Randolph Street, Suite 1400
Chicago, IL 60601

Lunch will be served.

Special thanks to our friends at **HOK** for hosting this event.

REGISTER HERE FOR "CHICAGO REAL ESTATE MOMENTUM"

April Monthly Meeting Recap



Chicago developers have built some very successful affordable housing projects as of late, but there are even more required to fulfill the almost overwhelming demand for affordable units.

A sold out crowd heard from three developers who have built thousands of units in the city. In addition to the successes, several challenges were identified and discussed; many of which may be the focus of an

upcoming CCAC research project to identify and implement possible solutions.

Thanks to our panelists **Kemena Brooks** with The Community Builders, **David Doig** with Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives and **Dave Mevis** with The Habitat Company.

Thanks also to **Andre Brumfield** for moderating the conversation and to him and his colleagues **Steven Wilson** and **Elise Luna** at **Gensler** for hosting the event.



City Seeks Redevelopment Proposals for More Than 400 Vacant Properties



The City of Chicago made more than [400 parcels of vacant land available](#) for purchase and redevelopment.

Included are 54 lots being offered for Missing Middle housing on the Far South Side, a CTA site to be used for mixed-income housing in Lake View, and more than nine acres of industrial land for mixed-uses in Armour Square and New City.

Part of the City's "Build Better Together" initiative, these properties "represent some of the best private investment opportunities in the entire city" Mayor Brandon Johnson said at the announcement.

The properties are being marketed through the [ChiBlockBuilder.com](#) website.

Interested parties are advised to investigate opportunities right away as deadlines for submissions of interest are as early as May 15, 2025 on some properties.

Chicago Preservation Excellence Awards



Monday, May 19 | Chicago Cultural Center

CHICAGO 2025 PRESERVATION EXPO



Join DPD for the 2025 Preservation Excellence awards ceremony on May 19 at the Expo!

Monday, May 19 | 4-8 p.m.
Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St.

Chicago's top historic preservation projects, programs and practitioners will be celebrated at the second annual Chicago Preservation Expo.

The free event will feature more than 40 exhibitors that offer products and services, including the Chicago Bungalow Association, Landmarks Illinois, the Coalition of Black House Museums and Harboe Architects. [View a full list of exhibitors.](#)

The expo will also include the 25th edition of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks Preservation Excellence Awards, emceed by WGN's Ana Belaval.

Held in honor of Preservation Month, the awards showcase the best preservation work to advance through the Landmarks Commission in the last year. The 2025 awardees include:

- CircEsteem, 4730 N. Sheridan Road, Uptown
- Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave., Loop
- Gunnison Lofts, 1215 W. Gunnison Ave., Uptown
- Little Village Arch, 3100 W. 26th St., South Lawndale
- Pui Tak Center, 2216 S. Wentworth Ave., Armour Square
- St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, 835 N. Oakley Blvd., West Town
- 6901 Oglesby Cooperative Apartments, 6901 S. Oglesby Ave., South Shore
- Single-family homes at 2139 N. Cleveland Ave., Lincoln Park, and 2037 W. Haddon Ave., West Town
- The Elijah Muhammad House, 4847 S. Woodlawn Ave., Kenwood
- And the late Ben Weese, architect, who will be honored with the John Baird Award for stewardship in historic preservation.

The awards will be presented from 6-7 p.m. in the Claudia Cassidy Theater at the Chicago Cultural Center.

[GET TICKETS HERE](#)

Funding Pipeline Guidance for Federally Funded Organizations



Many local non-profit and academic organizations rely on federal funding to implement their programs and services. As the federal government goes through a wide-ranging analysis of spending, many previously-approved funding streams are on hold during the review.

Follow the link below to an excellent article that provides these organizations guidance on how to evaluate and plan for delays and possible cancellations.

With many CCAC members serving on local boards, this information may be valuable to several of the important organizations that make Chicago great.

[READ THE ARTICLE HERE](#)



CCAC MEMBERSHIP

Members make all of our work possible.

To learn about membership options, please contact Mark Hopkins at 312-991-1202 or mhopkins@ccac.org.

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