



Chicago Central Area Committee

Working to Make Chicago the Best Place to Live, Work and Invest Since 1956

April 2025 Newsletter

April Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM



David Doig, Chicago
Neighborhood Initiatives



Jeff Head, The Habitat
Company



David Mevis, The Habitat
Company

Affordable housing in Chicago has been a major challenge for decades and local developers have created successful projects in virtually all of the city's neighborhoods.

Join us to hear of the successes with both large-scale and smaller projects that have brought much-needed housing to our city. Additionally, we'll talk about the common challenges to developing affordable units and ideas to solve these challenges.

As we look ahead to the next decade and beyond, the affordable housing shortage is predicted to grow and now is the time to identify solutions.

EVENT DETAILS:

Tuesday, April 8, 2025
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Location:
Gensler
11 East Madison Street, Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60602

Lunch will be served.

RSVP now to reserve your spot.

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

[RSVP HERE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUCCESSES](#)

March Monthly Meeting Recap



Members and guests gathered at Arcadis to hear from Camila Simas, Associate Principal, about her in-depth retrospective impact study of four urban master plans that were developed and implemented 30 years in the past.

The study included the area in Los Angeles around LA Live and three neighborhoods in the Dallas - Fort Worth area; one an urban section of Dallas and two that were in the connecting suburban areas. Many criteria were studied and the general result was that planned areas were more beneficial to residents than areas that developed without overarching strategies for walkability, traffic, heat island effect and more.

One common challenge with each of the four evaluations was identification of accurate pre-planning statistics for some of the criteria studied and others that would have been valuable to include.

The impact studies proved that comprehensive urban planning, implemented as planned, has significant positive effects on the areas developed.

Special thanks to Camila Simas, LeeAnn Tomas Foster and Nikki Batcha at Arcadis for hosting us and for the presentation.



79 W. Monroe "Groundbreaking" & Build Better Together Announced





A very large crowd of invited guests and the press gathered at 79 West Monroe Street -- the site of the first LaSalle Street adaptive reuse project to get underway -- to celebrate the ceremonial groundbreaking of the Monroe Street project and the announcement of the Mayor's comprehensive "Build Better Together" initiative.

Build Better Together is the citywide, comprehensive strategy to plan, promote and invest in important catalytic real estate developments across the city. This will include the five projects in the LaSalle Street corridor, new efforts to develop many of the city-owned vacant lots in strategically placed neighborhoods, as well as new initiatives that can be funded by existing TIF districts and the recently-passed development bond that provided \$250 million annually for DPD and DOH initiatives.

There was positivity in the air and many of those present were discussing current and future projects with this effort in mind.

Wintrust "Regional Roadmap to 2037"
An Invitation for CCAC Members & Supporters

Join us

**Getting Out of Our Own Way —
A Regional Roadmap to 2037**

Tuesday, April 22 | Doors Open 3:30 PM | Panel Discussion/Q&A: 4 to 5:30 PM
Cocktail Reception: 5:30 to 7 PM
231 S. LaSalle Street | Wintrust Grand Banking Hall

What lies ahead for Chicagoland? From economic hurdles to emerging opportunities, the decisions we make today will shape the future of our region. Everyone's contribution counts. Join us for a discussion with leading professionals in public policy and planning as we explore how to strengthen Greater Chicago's economy and communities.

- Key topics include:
- Chicago's Strengths & Challenges: What does a sustainable, inclusive growth strategy look like?
 - Quality Jobs & Economic Equity: How can we create more opportunities while addressing income inequality and inter-generational poverty and tapping into emerging industries like water and quantum technology?
 - Global Leadership & Sustainability: How can Chicago maintain its edge in transportation and logistics while advancing policies to reduce congestion and our carbon footprint?

Don't miss this opportunity to gain insights into our region's future and how we can all contribute to shaping it.

Featured Speakers:

Joe Ferguson, President, The Civic Federation

Joe has been president of the 130-year-old Civic Federation since January 2024. Previously he served for twelve years, spanning three mayors, as the inspector general for the City of Chicago, managing one of the country's leading municipal oversight agencies, which during his tenure received national acclaim for its work in government performance audit and police oversight and its innovations in government data transparency. Prior to that, Joe spent 15 years with the U.S. Attorney's Office, where he directed cases related to terrorism financing, government programs, health care and financial institution fraud, racketeering, and public corruption. He is an adjunct at Loyola (Chicago) Law School where he established its National Security and Civil Rights Program, and at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Administration where he teaches Government Oversight.

Dan Lurie, President & Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC)

President & CEO of MPC since September 2024, Dan leads MPC as it works to transform policies and practices to advance racial and economic justice in our communities, infrastructure, and public systems. Dan is a nationally recognized policy leader who has crafted and implemented innovative inclusive economic growth and social safety net programs at the highest levels of government and civil society. An attorney, he is a veteran of Chicago’s City Hall, the Obama-Biden White House, the National Endowment for the Arts, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Washington, D.C. think tank New America, and the Chicago Transit Authority. Dan most recently founded the Municipal Governance Initiative that is addressing the state capacity crisis threatening local governments’ ability to solve critical social problems.

RSVP HERE FOR "A REGIONAL ROADMAP TO 2037"



CCAC MEMBERSHIP

Members of CCAC 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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