



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 2020

CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

Department of Planning and Development (DPD)

312.744.9267

**NEIGHBORHOOD OPPORTUNITY FUND GRANT WOULD SUPPORT NEW
CAMPUS FOR NORTH LAWDALE EMPLOYMENT NETWORK**

A vacant North Lawndale banking facility would be redeveloped as the new campus for the North Lawndale Employment Network (NLEM) through a \$2.5 million Neighborhood Opportunity Fund grant introduced to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

The funding would support the \$6.9 million rehabilitation of the two-story building at 1111 S. Homan Ave. The work would create approximately 48,400-square-feet of space for the organization to centralize its operations.

The new complex would include dedicated space for offices, training, and an apiary and production area for NLEM's workforce development entity Sweet Beginnings LLC, a local purveyor of raw urban honey and honey-infused skin care products. The project also includes a café and Wintrust bank branch with drive-through service.

City support would also include \$1.1 million in New Markets Tax Credits, which are issued by the City through a U.S. Treasury tax incentive program.

The project is expected to create up to 13 new jobs and retain 41 positions that would be consolidated on site.

NLEM is a community-based organization that provides training, coaching, and support services to the formerly incarcerated and others with significant barriers to employment.

The Neighborhood Opportunity Fund uses voluntary payments from downtown construction projects to support neighborhood commercial corridors in low- to moderate-income communities on the South, Southwest, and West Sides. Projects with grant amounts exceeding \$250,000 require City Council approval.



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



###

NEW ARTS PLAZA PROPOSED FOR LINCOLN SQUARE

A new arts plaza would be developed in Lincoln Square through a financial proposal introduced to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

Partly financed by \$57,000 in Open Space Impact Fees, the Ainslie Arts Plaza would replace an underutilized, half block-stretch of Lincoln Avenue between Gunnison and Ainslie streets. The plaza would include planters, a festival tent, storage shed, fencing, picnic tables, murals, movable seating, hammocks, food truck parking, landscaping, signage and lighting.

The balance of the \$87,000 project would be funded by the Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce, which would maintain the site for use by local residents. Work is expected to be completed later this fall.

Open Space Impact Fees are generated by new residential development projects are earmarked to improve and expand public open spaces within the City's 77 community areas.

###

TAX EXEMPT BONDS WOULD SUPPORT CREATION OF NEW MULTIFAMILY DEVELOPMENT FOR LOW TO MODERATE INCOME FAMILIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION

New multi-family affordable rental housing for families and special needs populations that include the blind and visually impaired would be created through the issuance of \$13 million in tax exempt bonds introduced to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

The funding would support the estimated \$37 million project, which will generate over \$2 million in Low Income Housing Tax Credits along with \$2.5 million in donation tax credits.

Brinshore Development Company is partnering with The Chicago Lighthouse for the proposed construction of a new multifamily development in the Illinois Medical District, which will be designed with a focus on the needs of the blind and visually impaired. Consisting of 76 units of rental housing targeted to low- and moderate-income families, this development will be a short walk to the Polk Pink Line El



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



station and major bus routes along Damen Avenue, Ashland Avenue, and Roosevelt Road. This transit access is especially critical for the building's blind residents who will rely on bus and train for access to jobs and resources.

The development site is located at the northwest corner of Roosevelt Road and Wood Street, in the Near West Side community area within the Illinois Medical District, the largest concentration of healthcare facilities in the United States. The site is approximately two miles southwest of downtown Chicago.

In addition to the 76 residential units, the development will also include ground floor commercial space.

###

LAND SALE WOULD FACILITATE THE CREATION OF 11 AFFORDABLE SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES IN HUMBOLDT PARK

An ordinance to authorize the sale of six vacant parcels to L&MC Investments, LLC, to facilitate the construction of eleven (11) affordable single family homes in Humboldt Park under the City Lots for Working Families (CL4WF) program was introduced to Chicago City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot. The CL4WF program authorizes the sale of city-owned lots for \$1 (per buildable lot) as an incentive for developers to build affordable housing.

Since the appraised value of the vacant parcels is above the typical threshold of \$125,000, this introduction uses a modified version of the CL4WF to establish long-term affordable homeownership in this higher cost area. The modified CL4WF would also allow for all the homes to be sold as affordable while placing the homes into the Chicago Community Land Trust so that they are affordable for at least 30 years. L&MC Investments, LLC is a minority-owned firm.

###