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**RIDGE AVENUE FIRE STATION APPROVED FOR REDEVELOPMENT AS FILM
PRODUCTION CENTER**

The historic Ridge Avenue fire station in Edgewater will be redeveloped as a center for film and media arts under a plan approved today by City Council.

“Repurposing the Ridge Avenue fire station will ensure that an important historical building in the Edgewater community will continue to serve and enrich the community,” said Mayor Emanuel. “Chicago Filmmakers’ proposal will retain the building’s historical and cultural character while bringing to Edgewater a unique film hub that will be open to children and adults for years to come.”

The City-owned building at 5714 N. Ridge Ave. will be sold to the non-profit Chicago Filmmakers, which will transform its interior into dedicated areas for film screening, production, equipment rental, offices, and classroom space. The sale price is \$36,000.

The two-story, 84-year-old structure was home to Chicago Fire Department Engine Co. #59 until 2008, when a larger station opened nearby. Trimmed in terra cotta and ornamented with Classical-style details, the 5,900-square-foot building was designated a Chicago Landmark in 2003.

Currently based in the Andersonville neighborhood, Chicago Filmmakers is a 37-year-old media arts group that fosters the creation, appreciation, and understanding of film and video for artistic and personal expression, as well as social and community impact. Its

\$600,000 renovation plan for the building was selected in response to a Department of Planning and Development request for proposals in 2013.

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