



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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TIF FUNDING PROPOSED FOR FOUR CHICAGO PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Four Chicago Park District properties would receive more than \$12M in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) support for capital improvements through proposals introduced to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

- Clarendon Park, at 4501 N. Clarendon Ave. in Uptown, would receive \$1.4M from the Montrose/Clarendon TIF district to renovate the Clarendon Community Center. Planned improvements include a new roof, accessibility upgrades and interior remodeling.
- Cragin Park, at 2611 N. Lockwood Ave. in Belmont Cragin, would receive \$7.1M from the Belmont/Central TIF district replace the park's antiquated recreational building with a new 4,800-square-foot fieldhouse. Additional planned improvements include refurbishments to the park's tennis courts, ballfields and play areas.
- Kells Park, at 3201 W. Chicago Ave. in Humboldt Park, would receive \$600,000 from the Chicago/Central Park TIF district to relocate the playground and adding a walking path, perimeter fencing, drinking fountain, benches and landscaping.
- Riis Park, at 6100 W. Fullerton Ave. in Belmont Cragin, would receive \$3.5M from the Diversey/Narraganset TIF district to renovate the park's recreational building. Additional improvements would include adding a new playground, new ballfield turf, repaved walkways and landscaping.

The City's TIF program uses new property tax growth within designated districts to support public and private investment within their boundaries.

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CITY GRANT WOULD SUPPORT NEW AUSTIN RESTAURANT

Lincoln Park's popular Batter and Berries sit-down restaurant would open a second location in Austin through a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) proposal introduced to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

Planned for a vacant, one-story building at 5924 W. Chicago Ave., the restaurant would be operated by Juan and Only LLC, serving breakfast and lunch during the day and catering to special events in the evening.

The proposed \$1.8M in TIF assistance would pay for eligible building rehabilitation costs, with funding made available through a Chicago Recovery Plan grant application announced by DPD in July 2022. The proposed project also includes an adjacent, vacant building owned by the City at 5926 W. Chicago, which would be acquired for its appraised value of \$15,000 and rehabbed.

The \$3.2M project would contribute to Mayor Lightfoot's INVEST South/West initiative along Austin's "Soul City Corridor," which is repurposing multiple underutilized sites with new retail amenities, mixed-income housing, streetscape amenities and open spaces.

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FORMER STREETS AND SANS BUILDING SALE WOULD CREATE NEW FOOD HUB

A former Streets and Sanitation facility in Grand Boulevard would be transformed into a hub for South Side food entrepreneurs and culinary professionals through a sale proposed to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

The one-story building at 5021 S. Wabash Ave. would be sold for \$2 to local developer Urban Equities, which would transform the vacant structure into Soul City Kitchens.

The \$8.6M complex would include approximately 8,000 square feet of shared commercial cooking facilities, test kitchen space, individual kitchen cubes, freezers, coolers, and storage spaces that would be leased to food entrepreneurs seeking to grow their businesses. A private dining room and community space would also be available for rent.

Urban Equities was the successful respondent to a City Request for Proposals (RFP) issued in March 2021. Constructed in the 1910s, the building's estimated market value is \$90,000.



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In May 2022, Mayor Lightfoot announced the project as the recipient of a \$1.85M Chicago Recovery Plan grant, which will help pay for remodeling work.

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GRANT WOULD SUPPORT RESTORATION OF PULLMAN'S GREENSTONE CHURCH

Exterior repairs to Pullman's Greenstone United Methodist Church would be supported by a \$1.08M Adopt-a-Landmark grant introduced to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

The project at 11211 S. Lawrence Ave. would repair and reclad the green, New England stone on the church's historic belltower, which is deteriorating due to weather-related conditions. The congregation would finance the remainder of total project costs, estimated at \$1.1M.

The church building dates to 1882, when it was constructed with the original town of Pullman. Named for the color of its exterior masonry, Greenstone Church was designated a Chicago landmark in 1972.

The City's Adopt-a-Landmark program is funded by downtown construction projects through the Neighborhood Opportunity Bonus system. Ten percent of bonus proceeds are allocated toward the restoration of designated City landmarks.

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GRANT WOULD SUPPORT EXTERIOR REPAIRS TO GRAND BOULEVARD'S EBENEZER CHURCH

Exterior repairs to Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Grand Boulevard would be supported by a \$900,000 Adopt-a-Landmark grant introduced to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

The project at 4501 S. Vincennes Ave. includes masonry, roofing and gutter work estimated at \$1.2M, which would be partly funded by the congregation.

Designed by Dankmar Adler and built as a synagogue in 1899, the church became home to the Ebenezer congregation in 1921. The building is considered the birthplace of the earliest modern gospel choir in the country.

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GERMAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER PROPOSED FOR TIF FUNDING

Lincoln Square's DANK Haus German American Cultural Center would receive \$1.56M in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) support for accessibility upgrades and related renovations under a proposal introduced to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

The improvements are part of \$2.3M in planned visitor enhancements to the six-story complex, located at 4740 N. Western Ave., which has served as DANK's headquarters since 1967.

Originally a Three Links Club lodge when it opened in 1927, the building was designed by Paul Gerhardt, architect of Land Tech and Von Steuben high schools. The 77,000-square-foot building is home to six part-time cultural center jobs and two retail tenants.

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