

PUBLIC ART VISION GREATER ENGLEWOOD

MAY 2023



PLANNING TEAM

CITY OF CHICAGO

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) of the City of Chicago commissioned this report as part of the planning process to develop Public Art Neighborhood Visions for the INVEST South/West initiative. This report documents the research and engagement process undertaken between May and December of 2022.

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPECIAL EVENTS (DCASE)

DCASE is dedicated to enriching Chicago’s artistic vitality and cultural vibrancy. It provided oversight throughout the process.

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Public Art Reimagining Tour (P.A.R.T.Y) Phase 1 event on a “Vinyl & Vittles” event at the Englewood Village Plaza, Chicago, IL

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Public Art Reimagining Tour
August 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Over the last three years, Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) has invested unprecedented funding to support artists and the creative economy, and expand access and participation in the arts throughout Chicago's 77 neighborhoods. In collaboration with the Department of Planning and Development and the Department of Transportation, we've committed over \$12 million for public art in all ten neighborhoods of Mayor Lightfoot's INVEST South/West initiative.

To determine where and how that funding manifests in new public art, we assembled a team of some of Chicago's most talented and most generous artists to develop Public Art Vision plans within each neighborhood that identify priorities for public art investments that create new and innovative uses of the public way. Through the Public Art Reimagining Tour with You (P.A.R.T.Y.), artists have led this planning process starting in Auburn Gresham, Austin, Bronzeville and Englewood, creatively bridging the complexity of government processes with authentic dialogue around community needs and dreams.

In this report, you'll find the results of months of rich conversations and workshops amongst artists, residents, business owners, elected officials, community organizers, and more. You'll learn how each neighborhood reflected about its past and present cultural identity, its visions for reshaping the visual landscape of central commercial corridors and beyond, and the role they envision for public art in contributing to those aspirations – including priority projects identified for the City to fund starting in 2023.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the incredible artist cohort whose energy, creativity and commitment has made P.A.R.T.Y. a meaningful and joyful experience: Englewood Arts Collective, Floating Museum, and Vanessa Stokes/VS Creative Consulting, along with planning and urban design firms Borderless Studio and PORT.

The future of public art is bright in Chicago, and we look forward to keeping the P.A.R.T.Y. going in all ten INVEST South/West neighborhoods.

Erin Harkey, Commissioner
Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events
City of Chicago

“Public art should bring people together and uplift spirits, elevate conversations, provide positive and inspirational images. It should remind people of their greatness and possibilities.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the outset of the INVEST South/West initiative, The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and the Department of Transportation (CDOT) identified priority investment corridors in each neighborhood for significant streetscape and public realm enhancements, including new roadways, sidewalks, light poles, bike lanes, landscaping and community plazas. In order to align public art investment with CDOT corridor renovation projects and DPD investment strategies, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), initiated an artist-led public engagement campaign, titled P.A.R.T.Y. (Public Art Reimagining Tour with You) to inform a Public Art Vision for each of the ten INVEST South/West neighborhoods.

The first phase of the P.A.R.T.Y. campaign was carried out over the Summer and Fall of 2022 and focused on four neighborhoods: Auburn Gresham, Austin, Bronzeville and Englewood. The artist-led engagement teams organized and carried out a sequence of four public events in each neighborhood, ranging from neighborhood walks, event pop-ups and community conversations.

This report **documents the values, stories, themes and priorities** shared by community members throughout the engagement sessions so that these key narratives may be reflected in new permanent public art installations in Englewood. It **identifies the type and location for actionable public art projects** strategically aligned with ongoing DPD- and CDOT-led INVEST South/West priority corridor capital projects.

Throughout the community events of the Public Art Reimagining Tour, Englewood residents and stakeholders provided a broad range of ideas and input about what they would like to see reflected in public art in their community. These insights are organized in four main categories representing possibilities for themes and storytelling shaping public art projects:

Community + Belonging Black History + Culture Environment + Resilience Wellness + Safety

DCASE, in collaboration with partner departments, will **develop and issue requests for artists** to submit qualifications to be commissioned for the design and installation of public art projects in Englewood.

The three primary opportunities identified in the report for new permanent public art investment in Englewood are:

- 1) A gathering installation at Englewood Plaza on 63rd Street;
- 2) A mural at Englewood Plaza on 63rd Street; and
- 3) Various installation and sculpture opportunities along the Englewood Nature Trail.

The community also expressed a strong interest in design processes that are inclusive and engage members to be involved in the process of design and implementation of public art.

Therefore, this vision document will **serve as a resource for commissioned artists** as they develop and lead a community-centered engagement, design and installation processes for their permanent public art implementation projects in Englewood.

GATHERING PAVILION EXAMPLES



HYLE, Juan Angel Chavez - Chicago, IL



SECOND LINE, Jamex and Einar De La Torre - Los Angeles, CA

MURAL EXAMPLES



MURAL, Max Sansing - Washigton Park, Chicago, IL



ELECTRIC STREET, David Guinn and Drew Billia - Philadelphia, PA

GATHERING INSTALLATION EXAMPLES



THE TRUTH IS THAT I SEE YOU, Hank Willis Thomas - Brooklyn, NY



BLOCK PARTY, Barnes Studio - North Lawndale, Chicago, IL

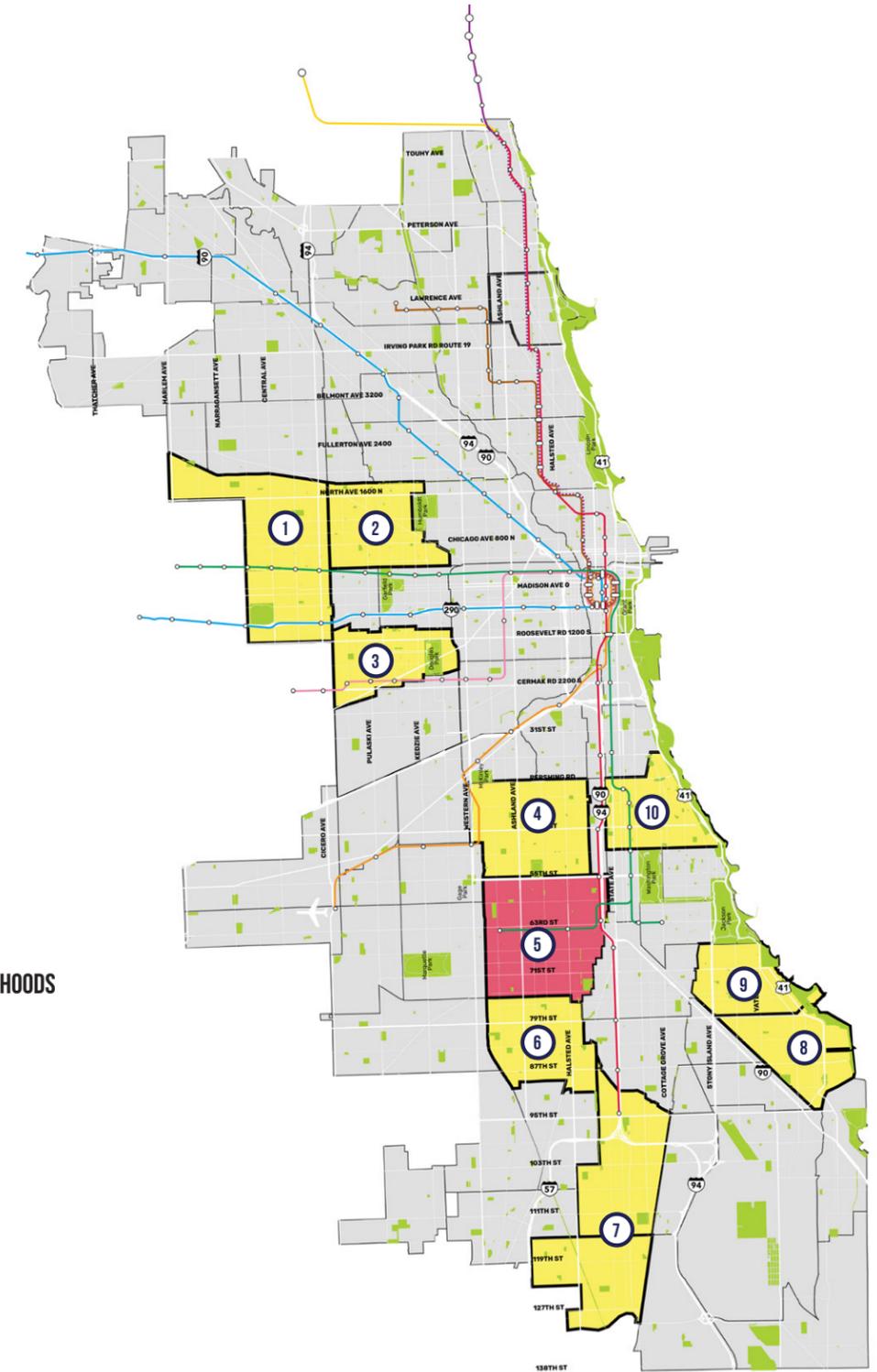
INTRODUCTION: INVEST SOUTH/WEST + P.A.R.T.Y.

INVEST South/West is an unprecedented community improvement initiative by the City of Chicago that is strategically reversing decades of systemic public and private disinvestment within the city's West and South Side neighborhoods.

Initiated in Fall 2019 and supported by more than \$750 million in public funding, INVEST South/West is enhancing 12 commercial corridors in 10 neighborhoods with focused improvements that include new, mixed-use construction projects, the adaptive reuse of historic buildings, new plazas, small business grants, and related public realm improvements that restore neighborhood vitality and provide a catalytic foundation for ongoing public and private investment.

As of Fall of 2022, the City has aligned more than \$2.2 billion in public and private investment, and has invested more than \$1 billion in public funding. The initiative is providing support for small businesses, creating public realm improvements, restoring historic buildings, and fostering equity and resilience where it's needed most.

DCASE also sponsored Artist-in-Residence programs in Englewood, Auburn Gresham, Austin, and New City, where artists assisted City agencies and community stakeholders on projects that leverage local culture and creativity as part of integrated neighborhood improvement plans. P.A.R.T.Y. is an extension of these efforts.



INVEST SOUTH/WEST NEIGHBORHOODS

- ① Austin
- ② Humboldt Park
- ③ North Lawndale
- ④ New City
- ⑤ Greater Englewood
- ⑥ Auburn Gresham
- ⑦ Greater Roseland
- ⑧ South Chicago
- ⑨ South Shore
- ⑩ Bronzeville

Figure 1-INVEST South/West neighborhoods
Source: INVEST South/West 3-Year Update, November 2022 (chicago.gov)

P.A.R.T.Y

PUBLIC ART REIMAGINING TOUR WITH YOU

The artist-led cohort facilitated opportunities to engage in conversations with the Englewood community throughout three distinct phases, and collected input and feedback related to:

- **WHAT:** Stories, themes, narratives, ideas
- **WHERE:** Site opportunities, types of spaces
- **HOW:** Art type, size, form

This process also brought visibility to the multiple overlapping projects converging around neighborhood improvements such as public infrastructure investment by the City, private development, and community-led initiatives that emphasized the need for continued alignment and coordination.

This integrated understanding helped to identify these three **goals for public art** project opportunities:

- **Amplify:** public art that contributes to planned or ongoing investment in neighborhoods
- **Revitalize:** public art that inspires and invites different activities through renewed identity of public places
- **Catalyze:** public art that catalyzes new investment and neighborhood improvements

Finally, community also expressed a strong support for a **multi-phased inclusive engagement process** that involves a broad spectrum of participation - from ideation to implementation of public art:

- Brainstorming and idea generation
- Prototyping and feedback
- Activation and programming

Documentation of these events can be found in the Appendix.



PHASE 1

AWARENESS

- Outreach + Connections
- Community Pop-ups
- Informational Activities

PHASE 2

VISIONING

- Deeper Discussion
- Group Conversations
- Cultural Narratives

PHASE 3

RESPOND

- Collected input + feedback
- Focused group reviews
- Priority projects + sites

NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR

June 25, 2022
 Boombox Plaza, Englewood Village Plaza, Go Green on Racine & Woods Academy, R.A.G.E. Plaza

- What is happening in the neighborhood?
- Who is already working on public art interventions?
- What public art projects have been successful? Why? How?
- How could public art improve the neighborhood corridor?



1. AWARENESS

July 10, 2022
 Englewood Village Plaza

- What does public art mean to you?
- What stories from the community should be celebrated or acknowledged?
- In which places would public art investment support neighborhood vibrancy and safety?
- What sites and why could be key places for public art?



2. VISIONING

September 8, 2022
 Parker Community Academy (as part of the Englewood Nature Trail meeting)

- What should be honored in Englewood?
- What would you like public art to do for Englewood? And where?



3. RESPOND

November 3, 2022 Englewood Nature Trail Meeting #5 and November 9, 2022 Go Green Community Fresh Market

- Which projects could have the most impact and benefit?
- How would you prioritize these opportunities and why?
- How can these projects represent / respond to community needs?



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This Public Art Vision Plan aims to widen the discussion regarding the role of public art in the lives, surroundings, and legacies of Chicago communities. The visioning process intentionally emphasized the necessity of public art investments. Public art, in addition to beautifying, can:

- Contribute to a neighborhood's vitality & safety
- Support economic development
- Create Unique Cultural Destinations
- Reflect Inclusive Processes

Public Art Requests for Proposals (RFPs) will include reference to these guiding principles – and emphasize engagement as an expected approach to create more inclusive processes that result in public art outcomes reflecting more meaningfully community identity and stories.

IMPROVE NEIGHBORHOOD LIFE & SAFETY

Public art can take different shapes to improve the safety and livelihood of communities. A few examples are activation of sidewalks with street furniture, traffic calming curb extensions and painting and diverse street lighting.

- Active Sidewalks
- Safe Pedestrian Space + Street Crossings
- Street Lighting



Rayobello, Graham Projects - Baltimore, MD

SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Public art can be a catalyst for economic development attracting visitors and encouraging new activities. Businesses benefit from attractive and creative public art interventions, and become more invested in public space improvements.

- Active Storefronts
- Creative Businesses
- Clear Wayfinding



Little Black Pearl Art & Design Center - Chicago, IL

CREATE CULTURAL DESTINATIONS

Distinct landmarks, gateways and signature sculpture pieces are some of the typologies that can turn a place into a cultural destination. Cities and neighborhoods around the world become destinations due to the presence of public art.

- Welcoming Gateways
- Memorable Landmarks
- Signature Public Art



Muddy Waters, Eduardo Kobra - Chicago, IL

REFLECT INCLUSIVE PROCESSES

Communities want to be involved in shaping the stories that are told through public art in their neighborhoods. Opportunities for community engagement could be designed in different phases during the creative and implementation processes.

- Brainstorming and idea generation
- Prototyping and feedback
- Activation and programming



Colors of Community, Dorian Sylvian - Chicago, IL

INTRODUCTION: GREATER ENGLEWOOD IN CONTEXT

Greater Englewood, consisting of the Englewood and West Englewood communities, is one of 10 priority areas selected as a part of the initial phase of INVEST South/West. Launched in October 2019, INVEST South/West's goal is to re-activate neighborhood cores that have historically served as focal points for pedestrian activity, shopping, services, transportation, public spaces and quality-of life amenities for local residents. In Greater Englewood, the priority focus is the intersection of 63rd and Halsted streets and adjacent blocks.

Greater Englewood is bordered by West Garfield Boulevard to the north, West 75th Street to the south, South Racine Avenue to the west, and South State Street to the east. It is located approximately seven miles from the Chicago Loop which includes the City's central business district. According to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Englewood has a total population of 23,792 with 9,101 total households and an average household size of 2.6. The community is 94.1% Black non-Hispanic, 4.3% Hispanic or Latino, 0.7% White non-Hispanic, and 0.3% Asian non-Hispanic. The median age is 33.8, with 28.8% of the population 19 years old or younger and 13.8% 65 years old or older. Median income is \$21,275.

63rd Street and Halsted Street are key neighborhood corridors through the Englewood community and the source of new energy and investment aligned with recent redevelopment processes spearheaded by the Department of Planning and Development through Requests for Proposals, as well as active business owners, non-profit leaders, residents, and artists. Neighborhood organizations and civic leaders, such as the Greater Englewood Community Development Coporation (GECDC), Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce, Grow Greater Englewood, Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN), Residents

Association of Greater Englewood (R.A.G.E.) are actively involved and invested in different projects recognizing the potential as an economic and cultural driver for 63rd and Hasted Streets.

Among key catalytic plans and projects under development are **Englewood Connect** at Englewood Plaza, The **Englewood Nature Trail**, and **Go Green on Racine** which includes a Community Fresh Market and The Regenator at former Woods Academy.

The planned Englewood Trail (formerly, the 59th Street Line) is a 1.7-mile long former Norfolk Southern elevated rail line that will be converted into a multi-use trail to provide recreation, transportation, cultural amenities, and connections to other key parks, schools and assets in and near the Englewood community.

Just north of the ISW development sites, the Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events (DCASE), the Department of Planning and Development (DPD), and the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) partnered to renew the former rail viaduct located at 5800 S. Halsted. In 2020, DCASE commissioned the Englewood Arts Collective to create a "gateway" mural that signals entrance to the nearby commercial district at 63rd and Halsted. DCASE also launched the INVEST South/West Artist-In-Residence program, which is investing in local artists in multiple neighborhoods, including Englewood. Local artist Eric Hotchkiss was selected to work directly with DCASE, DPD, and other city agencies, local organizations, and residents to develop and implement a series of community engagement, public art, and site-specific cultural programs that reflect each neighborhood's history and residents to create spaces that promote the health, happiness and well-being of the entire community.

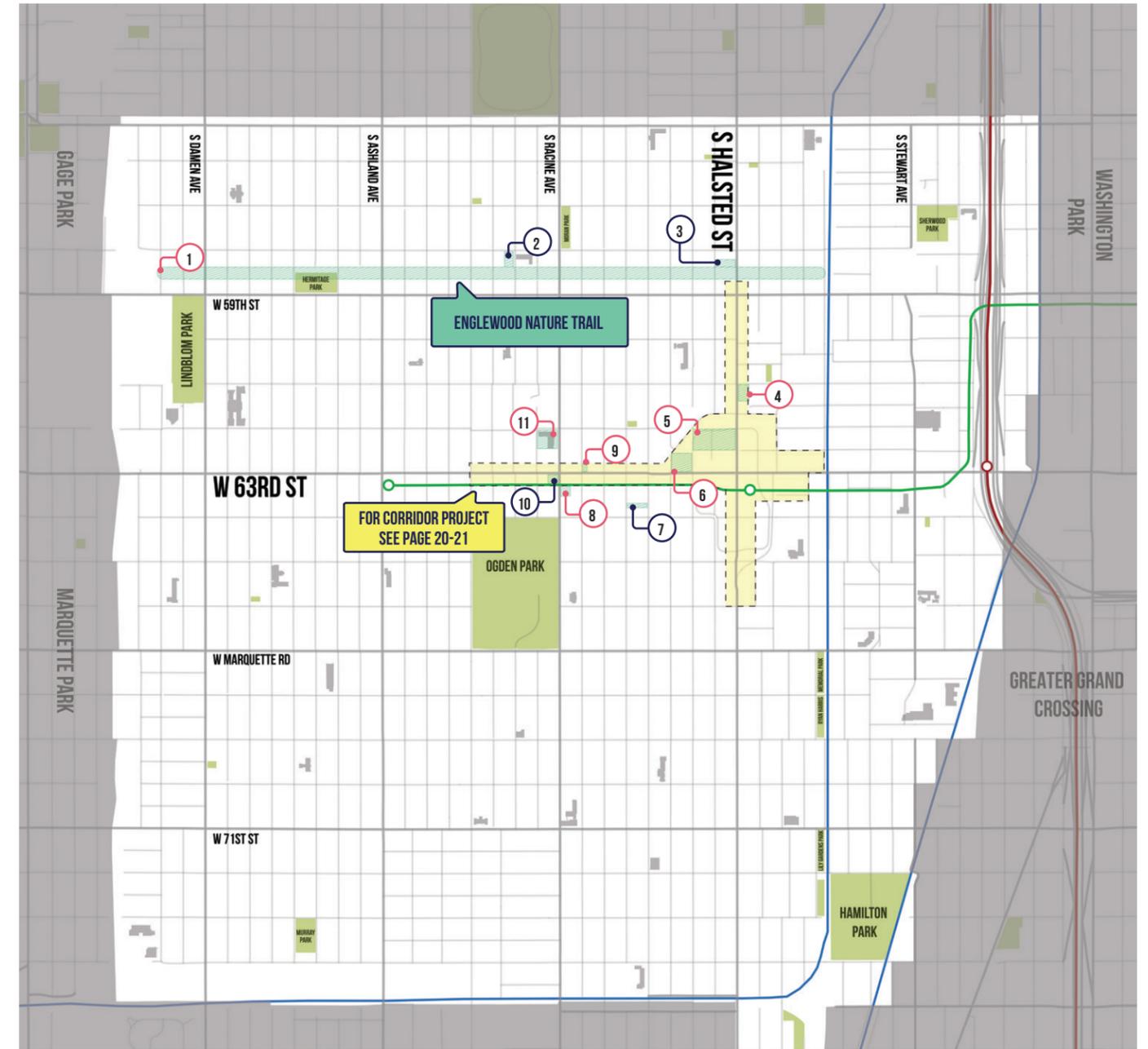


Figure 2-Neighborhood initiatives in Englewood

Source: Invest South West, City of Chicago, CBS News (2022), Grow Greater Englewood, Go Green on Racine

GRAPHIC LEGEND

- Neighborhood Initiatives
- ISW Corridor
- School
- Planned
- Implemented

NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Englewood Nature Trail 2 Sistas In The Village Garden 3 Englewood Village Plaza 4 6100 S Halsted 5 Englewood Connect 6 Thrive Englewood 7 Libations to the Ancestors Garden | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 Racine Village 9 E.G. Woode Incubator 10 Go Green Community Fresh Market and Plaza* 11 The Regenerator |
|---|---|
- *The market is implemented, and the Plaza is planned.

PLANNED + ONGOING CATALYTIC PROJECTS

This Public Art Vision seeks to align with other initiatives that have been identified as catalytic projects aiming to transform the neighborhood in the coming years while improving its vibrancy and vitality. One catalytic project is the **ISW Corridor Improvement Project** led by CDOT focused on 63rd and Halsted Streets. It includes improvements of sidewalks and street intersections, as well as street lighting and other wayfinding elements. Additional projects that also represent opportunities for public art interventions are:

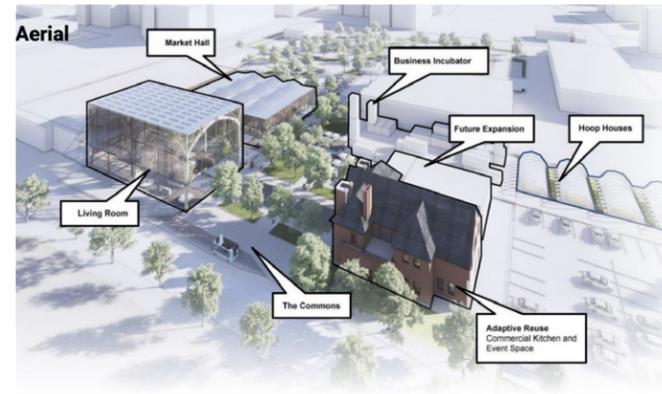


1. ENGLEWOOD NATURE TRAIL

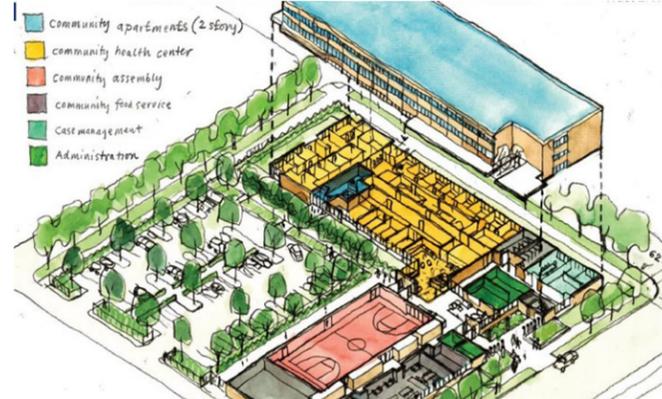


10. GO GREEN COMMUNITY FRESH MARKET AND PLAZA

- **The Englewood Nature Trail**, a two-mile long green infrastructure reuse project that will turn abandoned railway tracks into a walking and cycling trail.
- **Englewood Connect**, “eco-food hub” that will establish culinary-related uses that empower, employ and feed local residents.
- **Go Green Fresh Market and Plaza**, a community-run grocery store and a future plaza attached to it.
- **The Regenerator**, a hub for housing, reentry services and green innovation at former Woods Academy.



5. ENGLEWOOD CONNECT



11. THE REGENERATOR



Figure 3-Map of catalytic projects in Englewood

Source: Block Club Chicago (February 2018), Block Club Chicago (July 2019), Chicago Yimbi (June 2021), Block Club Chicago (June 2022), Construction News (August 2022), Go Green on Racine, Invest South West P.A.R.T.Y Engagement Events, Music Lives Here

GRAPHIC LEGEND

- ISW Corridor
- Catalytic Projects
- Special Service Area 69
- Special Service Area 32

EXISTING PUBLIC ART

- Murals
- Sculptures
- Infrastructure
- Markers/Wayfinding

CATALYTIC PROJECTS

- 1 Englewood Nature Trail
- 2 Sistas In The Village Garden
- 3 Englewood Village Plaza
- 4 6100 S Halsted
- 5 Englewood Connect
- 6 Thrive Englewood
- 7 Libations to the Ancestors Garden
- 8 Racine Village
- 9 E.G. Woode Incubator
- 10 Go Green Community Fresh Market and Plaza
- 11 The Regenerator

INVEST SOUTH/WEST PRIORITY CORRIDOR: 63RD STREET + HALSTED AVENUE

The INVEST South/West Priority Corridors for Englewood includes the section of 63rd Street between Loomis Boulevard and Wallace Street and Halsted Street between 59th Street and 66th Street. CDOT improvements to the streetscape will include, but are not limited to, widened sidewalks and bump outs, new lighting, bike lanes, youth led seating designs referred to as peace circles, light-pole neighborhood identifiers and two priority corridor gateways. DCASE will work closely with CDOT to complete these planned improvements in two phases which will shape the future vibrancy of the corridor.

The planned CDOT improvements to the 63rd Street Priority Corridor will ultimately create more public space, near-term opportunities for public art that can interpret Englewood's history and additional communal spaces that foster meaningful community interactions.

KEY PLACES LEGEND

- ① 7th District Police Department
- ② Police Department Special Units
- ③ Go Green on Racine: An Englewood Rising Project
- ④ Go Green Community Fresh Market
- ⑤ Momentum Coffee
- ⑥ INVEST South/West Priority Redevelopment Lots
- ⑦ Englewood Village Plaza
- ⑧ Our Englewood Mural
- ⑨ Kennedy-King College
- ⑩ CTA Halsted Greenline Station
- ⑪ City Sports
- ⑫ Resident Association of Greater Englewood - R.A.G.E.
- ⑬ Kershaw Elementary School
- ⑭ Sistas In The Village Garden (5800 S. Ada St)
- ⑮ Libations to the Ancestors Garden

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- CDOT**
- 63rd Street (Phase 1)
 - Halsted Street (Phase 2)

CATALYTIC PROJECTS

- ① Englewood Nature Trail
- ② Englewood Village Plaza
- ③ 6100 S Halsted
- ④ Englewood Connect
- ⑤ Thrive Englewood
- ⑥ Racine Village
- ⑦ E.G. Woode Incubator
- ⑧ Go Green Community Fresh Market and Plaza
- ⑨ The Regenerator

EXISTING PUBLIC ART

- Murals
- Sculptures
- Infrastructure
- Markers/Wayfinding

ENGLEWOOD INVEST SOUTH/WEST PRIORITY CORRIDOR

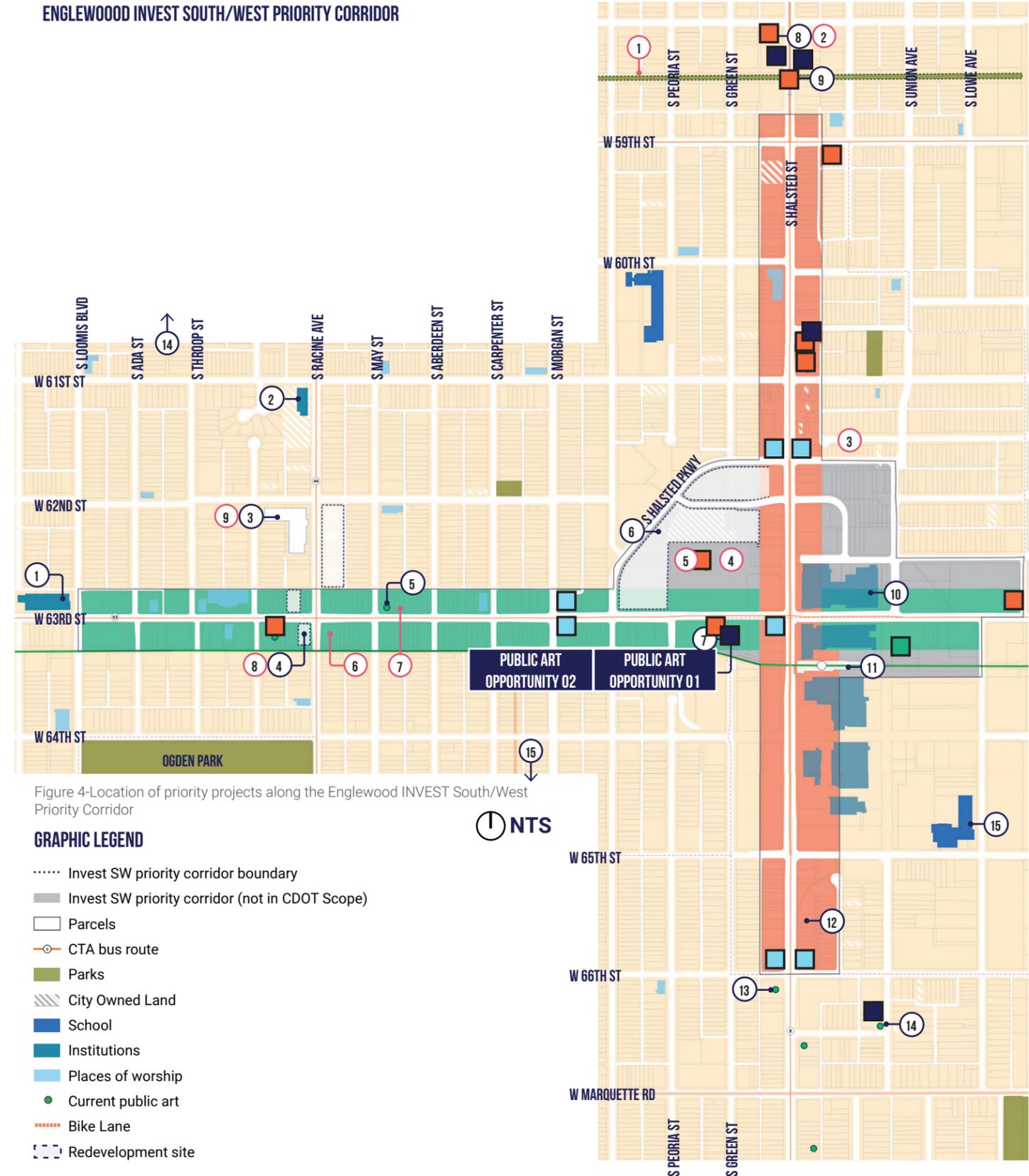


Figure 4-Location of priority projects along the Englewood INVEST South/West Priority Corridor

GRAPHIC LEGEND

- Invest SW priority corridor boundary
- Invest SW priority corridor (not in CDOT Scope)
- Parcels
- CTA bus route
- Parks
- City Owned Land
- School
- Institutions
- Places of worship
- Current public art
- Bike Lane
- Redevelopment site

WHAT WE FOUND: EXISTING PUBLIC ART NARRATIVES IN GREATER ENGLEWOOD

Cultural narratives are stories told by a group of people about themselves, their shared ideals, and their experiences. Cultural narratives influence the character of a location and impact the values of the people in that area. Identifying existing cultural narratives is the first step to understanding which untold stories should be represented in public spaces.

Englewood’s public art narratives are shaped by the strength and compassion of its community. By documenting existing public art in Englewood, three main overarching themes have been identified to create cultural context for new public art:

- Unity + Social Justice
- Wellness + Resilience
- Hope + Imagination

UNITY + SOCIAL JUSTICE

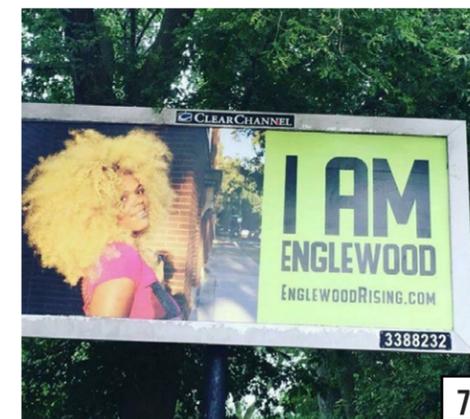
Pieces that help to change the narrative about the community.

WELLNESS + RESILIENCE

Art that translates and uplifts the spirit and character of the community.

HOPE+ IMAGINATION

Pieces that instill a sense of hope towards the future and excitement about its possibilities.



Source: City of Chicago Parks - Public Art Dataset; City of Chicago Mural Registry; Chicago Sun-Times Murals and Mosaics Interactive Map, Google Street Englewood Arts Collective, View Children’s Home & Aid (2019), Chicago Sun-Times (2021).

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 "Peace Mural" | 7 "I Am Englewood" |
| 2 "#GoodInEnglewood" | 8 "Vision Values Voice" |
| 3 "Inequity For Sale" | |
| 4 "Englewood Proud" | |
| 5 "Our Englewood" | |
| 6 "Original Totem #1" | |

WHAT WE LEARNED: STORYTELLING + THEME OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PUBLIC ART

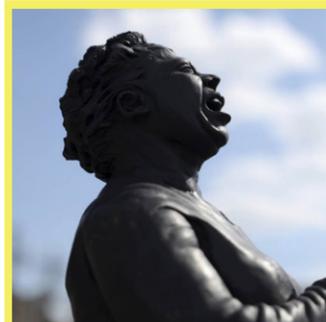
Throughout the P.A.R.T.Y. events, neighborhood residents and stakeholders provided a broad range of ideas and input about what they would like to see reflected in public art in their community.

These insights are organized in four main categories representing possibilities for themes and storytelling shaping public art projects. These themes will be shared with artists as part of the Request for Proposals and project implementation process.

The list below includes images of public art projects to demonstrate an example of how each theme might guide the design or creative process for a public art installation.

In addition to the broader categories and themes, on the following page are featured excerpts shared by community members offering what they want to see in future public art opportunities.

COMMUNITY + BELONGING



Mahalia Jackson
Gerald Griffin
Chicago, IL

- Honor influential community members and leaders
- Celebrate public figures with influence in the community's identity
- Bring visibility to local community stories

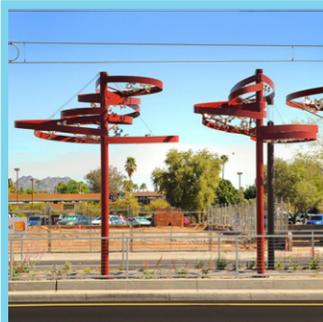
BLACK HISTORY + CULTURE



All Power to All People
Hank Willis Thomas
New Orleans, LA

- Showcase historic events and movements
- Represent Black culture (art, music, costumes, food, etc.)
- Celebrate Black symbology and heritage

ENVIRONMENT + INFRASTRUCTURE



Aritz Ona
Franka Diehnelt & Claudia Reisenberger
Phoenix, AZ

- Create a better experience along the public transportation network
- Improve wayfinding with neighborhood gateways and identifiers
- Create spaces for sitting and gathering

WELLNESS + RESILIENCE



Autumn (...Nothing Personal)
Teresita Fernandez
Cambridge, MA

- Attract people by creating a neighborhood destination
- Improve safety
- Promote a sense of pride and generates positive feelings

COMMUNITY + BELONGING

“Public art should be about people who live in the hood.”	“Mayor Taylor with a caption of his life and success as a cyclist.”
“Public art should be a tribute to Block Club Presidents.”	“I would like to see you honor all the artists / celebrities from Englewood. Example: Jennifer Hudson, Bernie Mac.”
“Public art should honor pioneers who moved to Chicago communities including Englewood during the Great Migration.”	“Public art should honor the people, the families and the youth of Englewood.”
“Public art should honor pioneers who moved to Chicago communities including Englewood during the Great Migration.”	“Principal Brown and her decades of service.”
	“The history of the people of Englewood should be captured and displayed.”

WELLNESS + RESILIENCE

“Public art should make Englewood look alive and festive.”	“I would like to see art that will liberate folks from mental slavery.”
“Public art should elevate the community - perceptually and actually - in the minds of residents and others.”	“Art should foster love, peace and abundance.”
	“Public art should make people smile and think.”
	“Public art should connect the residents.”
“Make it a tourist attraction in the middle of Englewood so people have to drive through.”	“Public art should capture the heart & soul of the community and instill a sense of pride for the community.”

BLACK HISTORY + CULTURE

“The culture and ethnicity of people from Englewood should be honored.”	“Public art should honor the unique culture of Black Chicagoans and the specific culture, customs and traditions of Englewood.”
“Public art should honor the Black migration into Englewood.”	“I would like to see art that centers Black culture by artists of color, specifically Black artists.”
“I would like public art to keep history / memories / tradition / hope.”	
“Public art should honor the migration from the south, our people’s struggle, our progress and the work that others have invested in the community.”	

ENVIRONMENT + INFRASTRUCTURE

“Can we supplement the plaza lighting or furniture?”		
“Public art should be a functional gathering space.”	“Public art should be all along Englewood Nature Trail - at all nodes.”	
“Playgrounds.”		
“Public art should be at Racine Station.”	“Public art should attract new developments.”	“Public art should be in schools, stores, blocks.”
“I’d like public art to be a conversation starter throughout the neighborhood! In parks, at major intersections, on bridges, at bus stops, everywhere!”		

ENGLEWOOD VISION BOARD + PROPOSED PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES

During the Public Art Reimagining Tour residents and community members responded to vision boards featuring public art project examples - including sculptures, gathering installations, play structures among others types. The vision board on the following page highlights examples that received most the most enthusiastic response.

The vision board on the following page highlights potential sites along and adjacent to 63rd and Halsted Street (the Invest South/West corridor) in Greater Englewood. These project opportunities were identified by collecting the community's feedback on specific areas along the corridor.



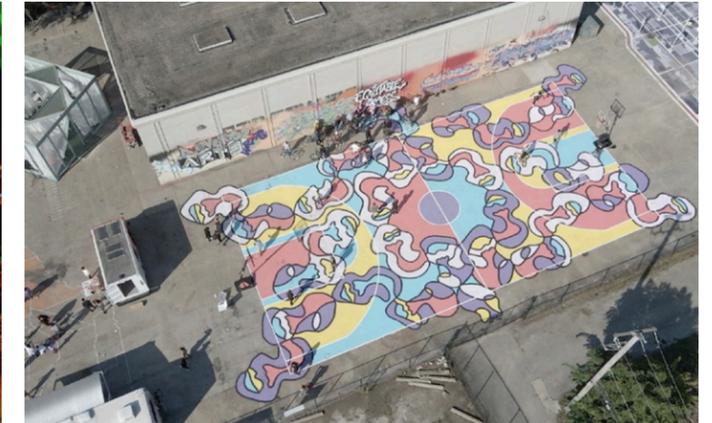
Public Art Reimagining Tour
July 2022

LIGHT INSTALLATIONS



PRISMATICA, RAW Design - New York, NY

MURALS



MEET ME IN THE MIDDLE, Jade Foreman + Borderless - Chicago, IL

GATHERING PAVILIONS



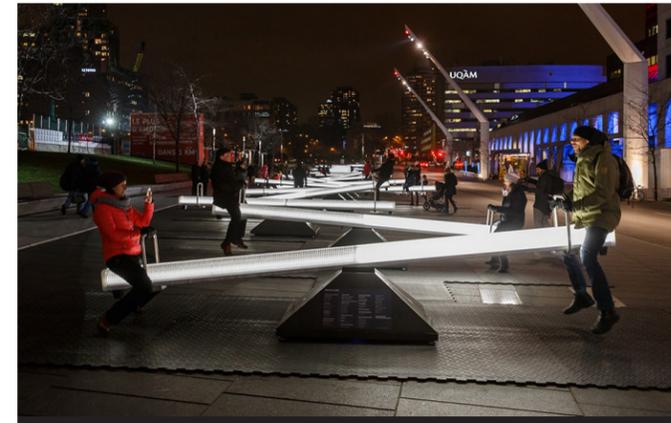
CALUMET PARK, Floating Museum - Chicago, IL

GATHERING INSTALLATIONS



CITY THREAD, Sports - Chattanooga, TN

PLAY STRUCTURES



IMPULSE, Lateral Office - Montreal, Quebec

SOUND INSTALLATIONS



SONIC PLAYGROUND, Yuri Suzuki - Atlanta, GA

PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY 01

ENGLEWOOD PLAZA GATHERING INSTALLATION

As part of the ISW Streetscape improvements, CDOT is working with the Greater Englewood CDC to renovate and revive the identity of the Englewood Plaza. Current conditions consist of a vacant Boombox installation and large planters. Its proximity to the S Halsted Avenue and 63rd Street priority corridor intersection and visual relationship to the CTA Green Line makes it a prime location for public art to showcase Englewood's identity and culture.

The plaza improvement project is led by CDOT team, in collaboration with community partners Greater Englewood Community Development Corporation.

This gathering installation is proposed to be integrated into the plaza improvements, and as an opportunity for visual identity and placemaking.

ENGLEWOOD PLAZA DIMENSIONS

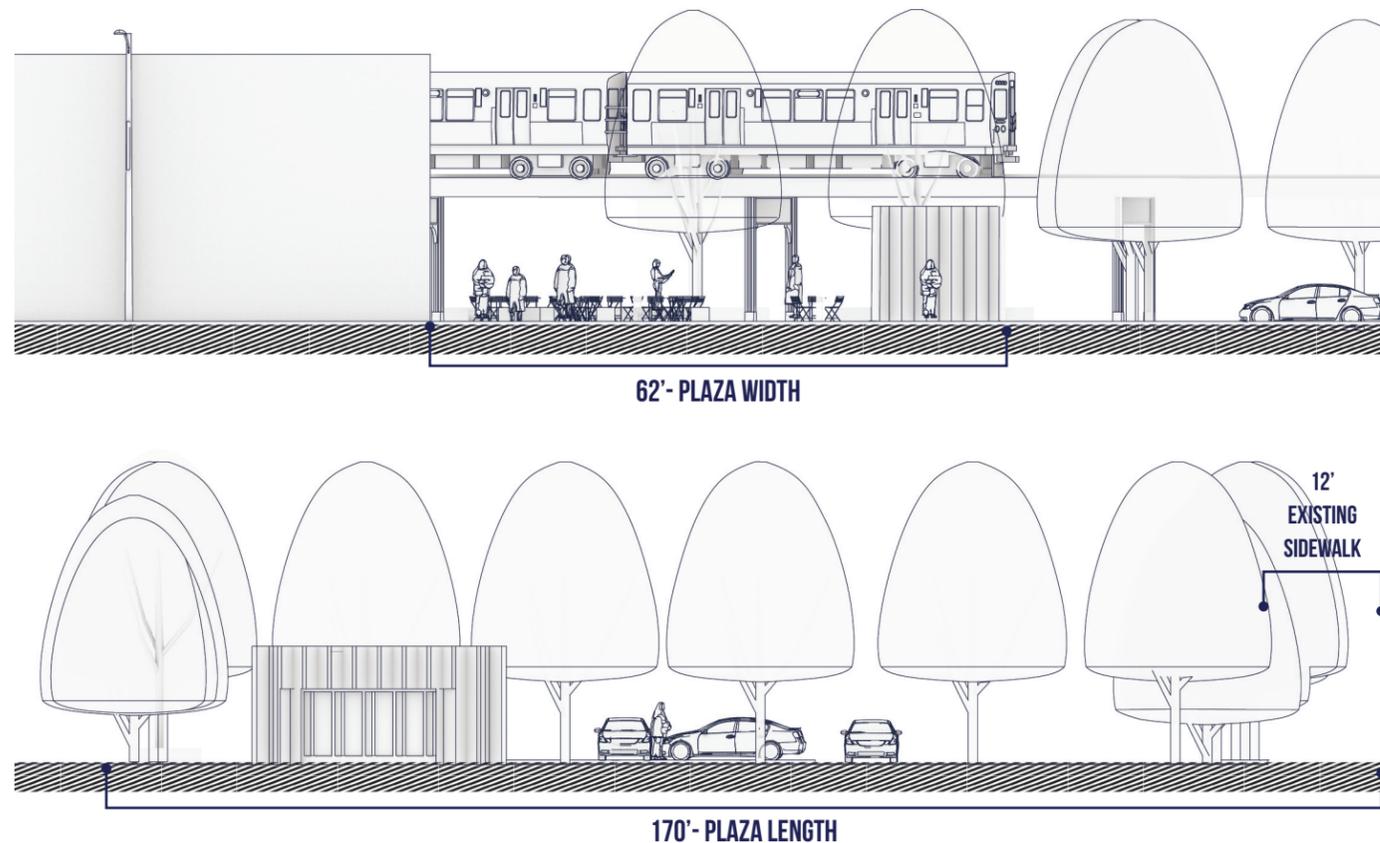


Figure 5-Gathering landmark design considerations

ENGLEWOOD PLAZA GATHERING INSTALLATION

NOTES: DRAWING DOES NOT REFLECT PROPOSED DESIGN OR PLACEMENT

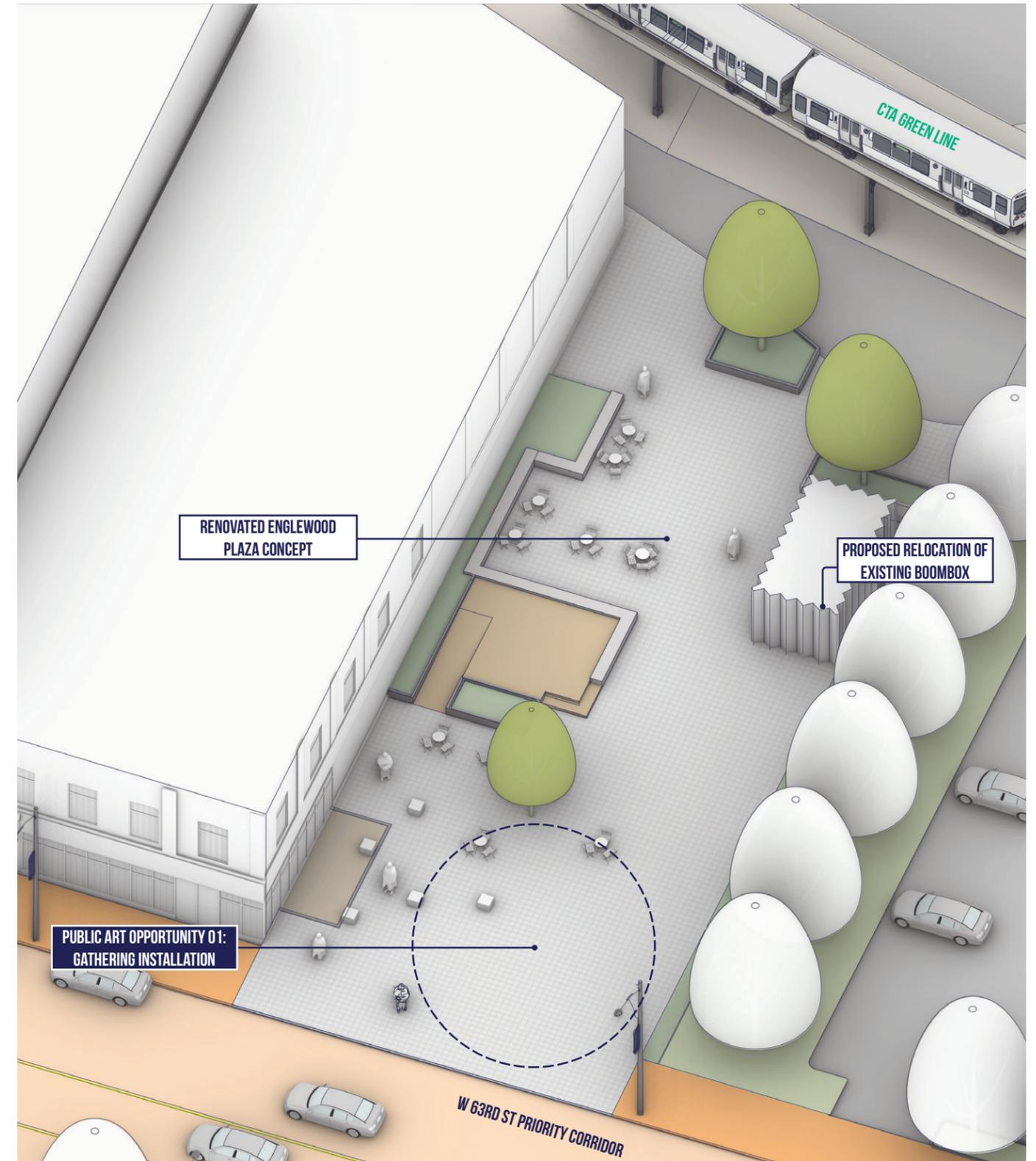


Figure 6-Contextual considerations for proposed Gathering Landmark

PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY 02

ENGLEWOOD PLAZA MURAL

In coordination with the Englewood Plaza improvements, a mural is envisioned as an improvement for the Englewood Plaza. The mural is proposed on the side of the building creating the western edge of the plaza. While the building is currently vacant, it has a strong potential to be reactivated with its position along the 63rd Street INVEST South/West Priority Corridor. The mural has the opportunity to set a powerful narrative for Englewood as it will be visible from the corridor and the CTA Green Line.

DCASE will collaborate with CDOT and community partners including The Greater Englewood Community Development Corporation to coordinate project implementation.

ENGLEWOOD PLAZA MURAL

NOTES: DRAWING DOES NOT REFLECT PROPOSED DESIGN OR PLACEMENT. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.

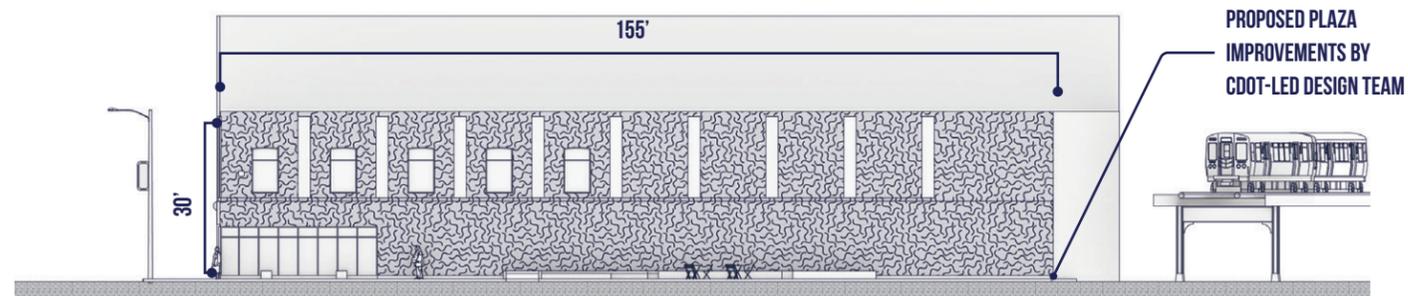


Figure 7-Mural design considerations

ENGLEWOOD PLAZA MURAL

NOTES: DRAWING DOES NOT REFLECT PROPOSED DESIGN OR SPECIFIC AREA / PLACEMENT

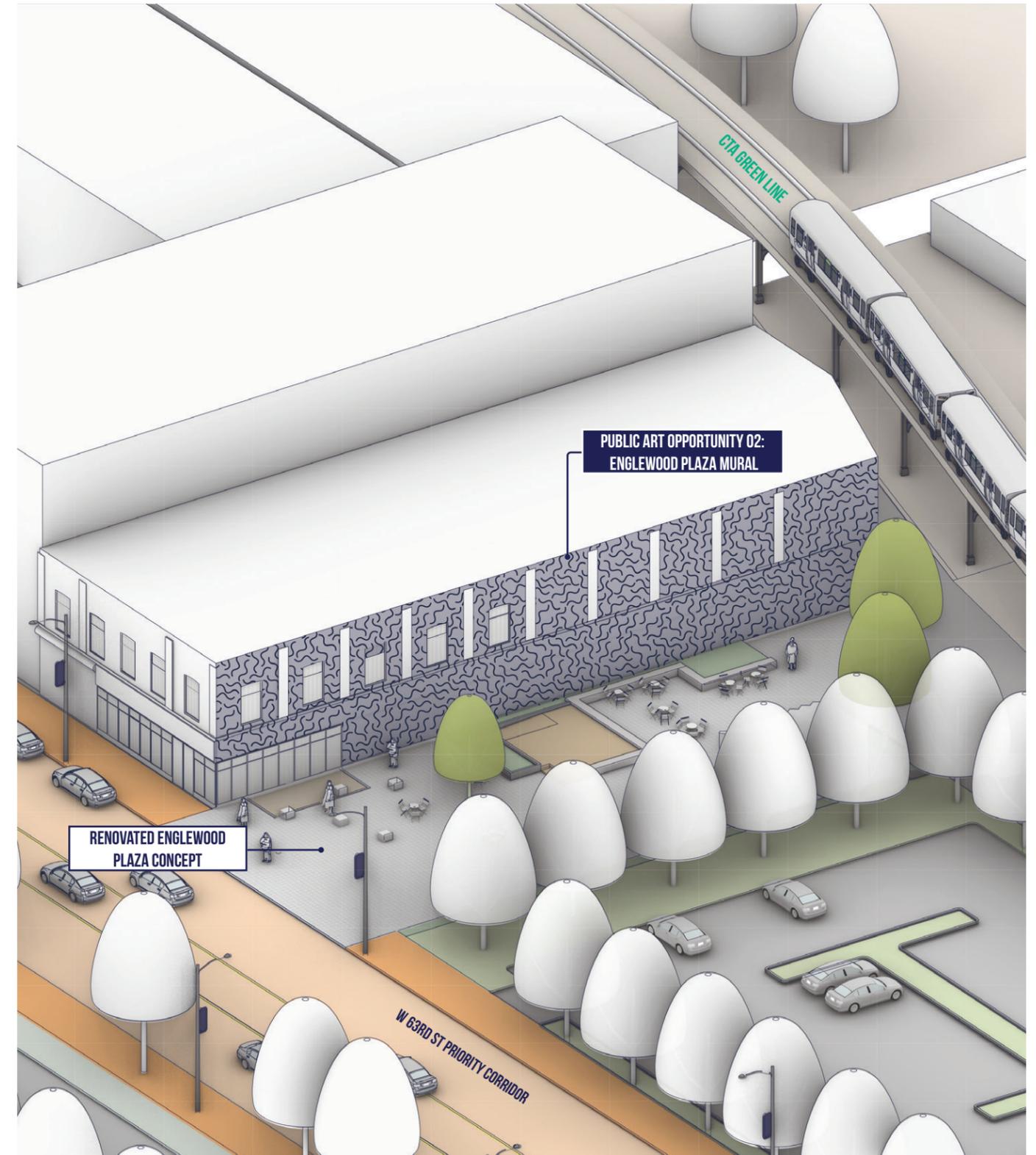


Figure 8-Proposed mural location

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: ENGLEWOOD NATURE TRAIL

The Englewood Nature Trail, an collaborative effort by CDOT and DPD, seeks to transform an abandoned elevated railroad corridor into a 1.75 mile nature and walking path. The Invest South West 63rd Street corridor connects with the proposed trail on Halsted Street, offering opportunities for city agencies and residents of Englewood to collaborate in shaping public art and the overall vision of this public space.

The future site of the trail is parallel to 59th Street between Lowe Avenue and Hoyne Avenue, with potential intersections for art activations noted at Racine Avenue and Halsted Avenue.

DCASE will continue coordination with CDOT, DPD and community partner Grow Greater Englewood to recommend public art project opportunities.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ART ALONG THE ENGLEWOOD NATURE TRAIL

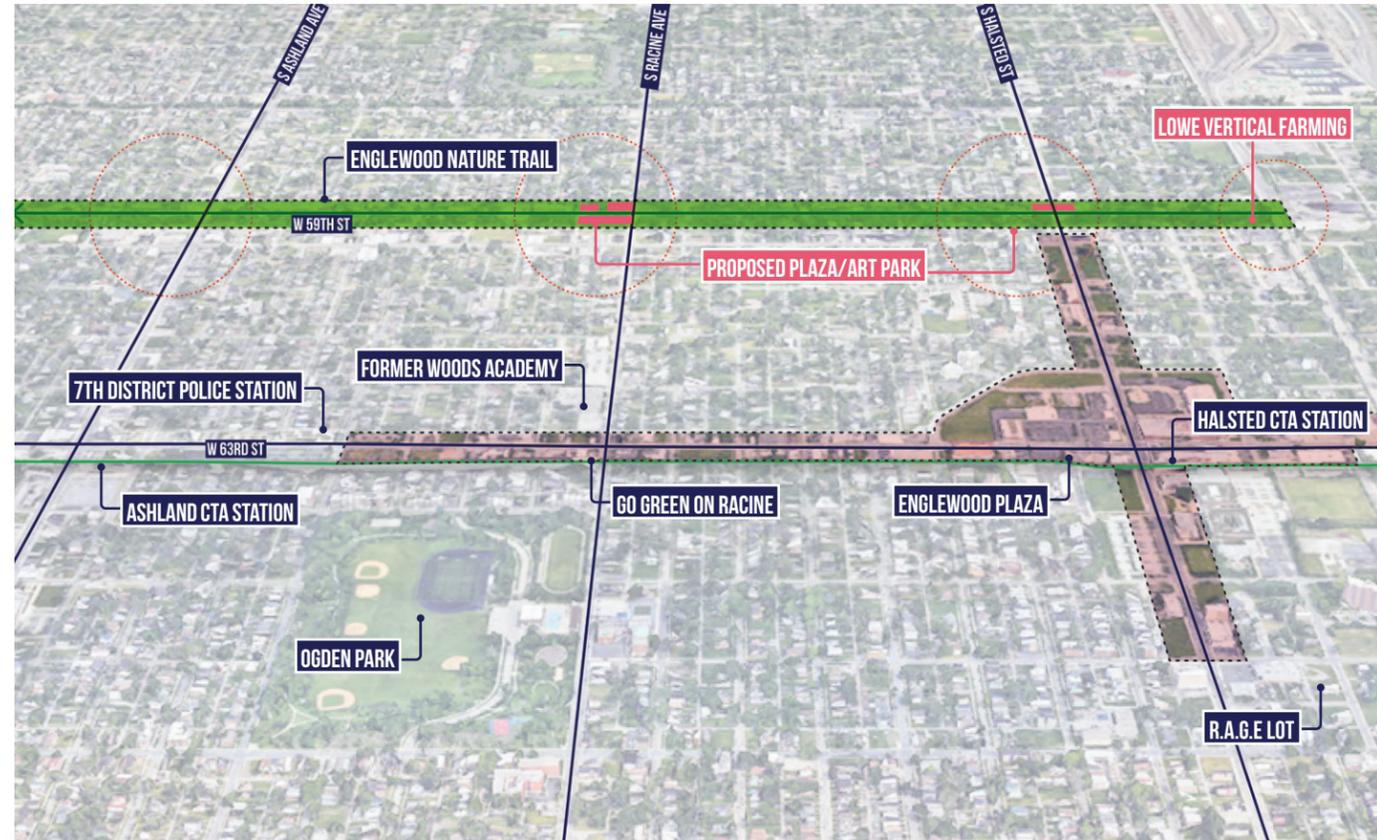


Figure 9-INVEST South/West Corridor in context of the Englewood Nature Trail corridor

EXISTING CONDITIONS AT SITES FOR THE PROPOSED ENGLEWOOD NATURE TRAIL



Existing conditions along the proposed Englewood Nature Trail



Englewood Nature Trail crossing over S Halsted Street, just north of W 59th Street

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: 63RD ST + RACINE AVE

Another area identified through the feedback from Englewood’s residents and stakeholders is the intersection and surroundings of 63rd St and Racine Ave. Some of the opportunities include:

- Integrate a sculptural landmark to the CTA’s abandoned Green Line Racine Station.
- Create a gathering space on the vacant lot on 6338 S Racine Ave.
- Improve the urban fabric with design installations on existing businesses.

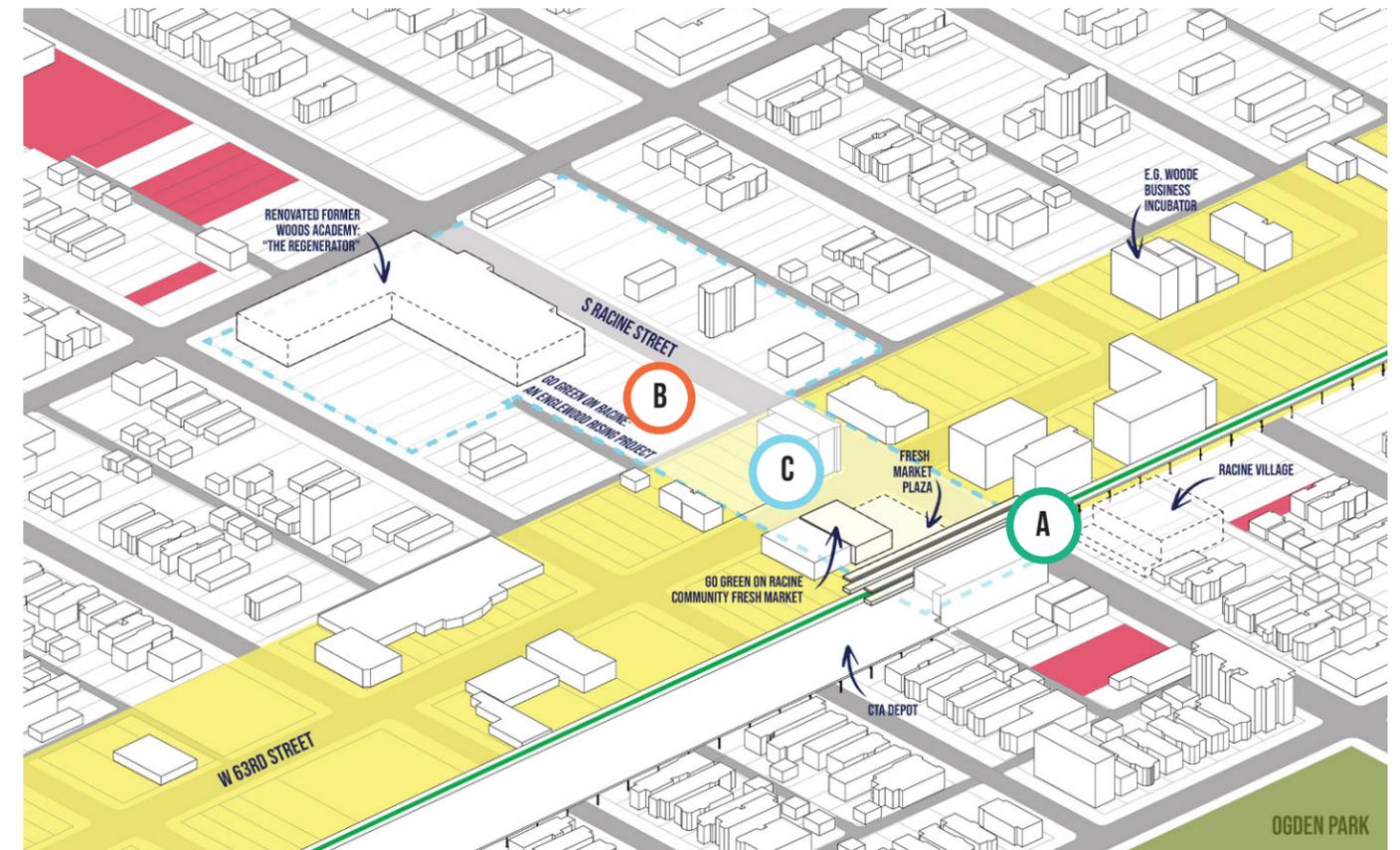


Figure 10-63rd Street and Racine Avenue opportunities

GRAPHIC LEGEND

- City owned vacant lots
- ISW Corridor
- Key Sites
- Proposed Buildings

EXISTING CONDITIONS



A

INFRASTRUCTURE

Abandoned Racine Station



B

PARKING LOT

Former Woods Academy



C

ADJACENT URBAN FABRIC

NW corner of 63rd St

OPPORTUNITIES



A

SCULPTURAL LANDMARK

Bubble Forest - Nice, France
Coda Worx



B

GATHERING SPACE

Everywhen - Austin, TX
Augustina Rodriguez



C

DESIGN INSTALLATION

Con de Cons - Valencia, Spain
Nituniyo + Memosesmas

WHAT'S NEXT HOW TO STAY INVOLVED

Based on the planning and engagement process, DCASE will work with City departments, elected officials, and community partners to help steward implementation of recommended projects.

Additionally, DCASE has existing resources to stay updated and connected regarding upcoming public art opportunities:



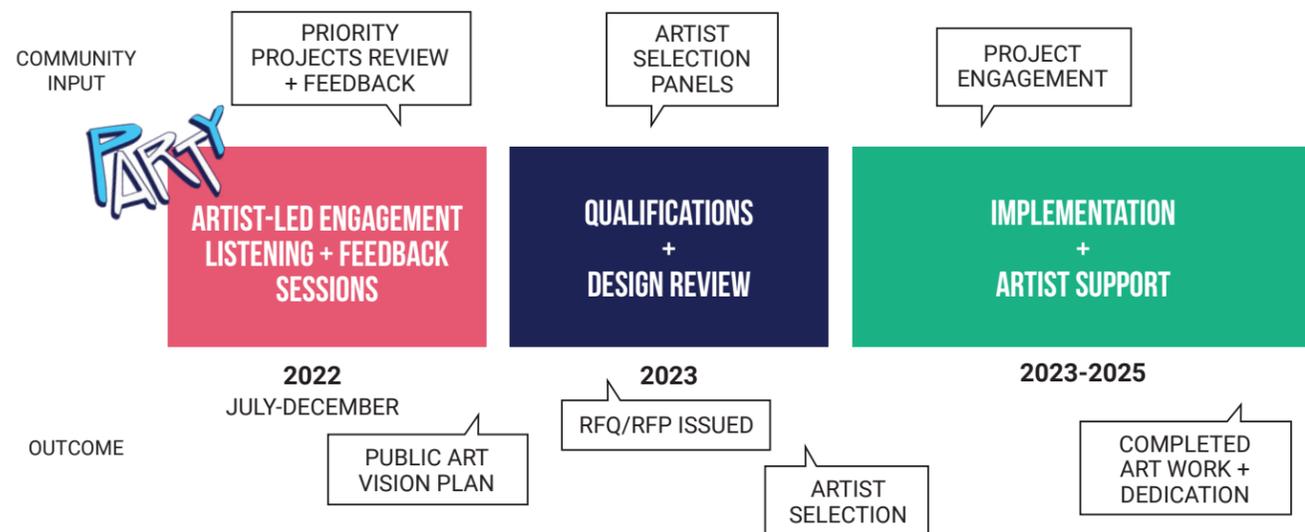
If you are an **artist**, make sure you are DCASE's mailing list to receive RFQ/RFP notifications.

Sign up visiting bit.ly/DCASEnewsletter or scan this QR code.



Visit [ISWpublicart.org](https://www.iswpublicart.org) and:

- Sign up to be considered to participate in **artist selection panels**.
- Find about **project updates**, plan documents, and stay connected.



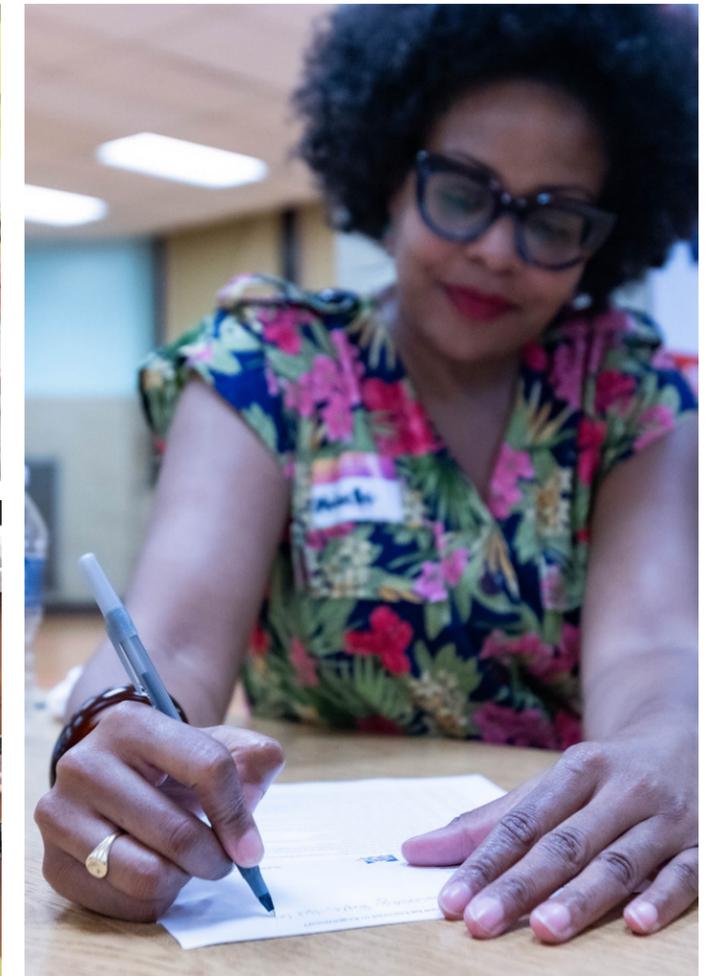
“Public art should capture the heart & soul of the community. It should tell the story of our people and instill a sense of pride for the community.”

DOCUMENTATION AND RESOURCES

P.A.R.T.Y. engagement events were hosted between July and November 2022, and explored different formats for gatherings and conversations to accommodate inclusive engagement. From neighborhood walks, pop-ups and focus group conversations, this artist-led process created connections with residents and community stakeholders who shared their insights, perspectives and questions about the Public Art Vision process and outcome.

This section includes:

- Community mapping documentation
- Summary of artist-led community events
- Feedback on engagement activities
- Acknowledgements
- Referenced artwork



Public Art Reimagining Tour
July - October 2022

NEIGHBORHOOD WALK

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The neighborhood tour took place on June 25, 2022, starting at the Boombox Plaza at 63rd St. Before any community engagement was held, the P.A.R.T.Y. team met with local stakeholders to listen and learn about areas of opportunity for public art in the neighborhood:

- Projects and initiatives in the pipeline
- Existing infrastructure
- Areas for intervention for improved safety

Englewood Arts Collective helped organize this tour to speak with stakeholders in the community and introduce the planning and engagement process.

This neighborhood tour included stops and conversations at the following locations:

1. Boombox Plaza on 830 W 63rd St
2. Englewood Village Plaza on 5800 S Halsted (Grow Greater Englewood)
3. Go Green on Racine & Woods Academy on 6210 S Racine
4. R.A.G.E. Plaza on 6622 S Union Ave

Main observations collected during the walk are summarized on the following page.

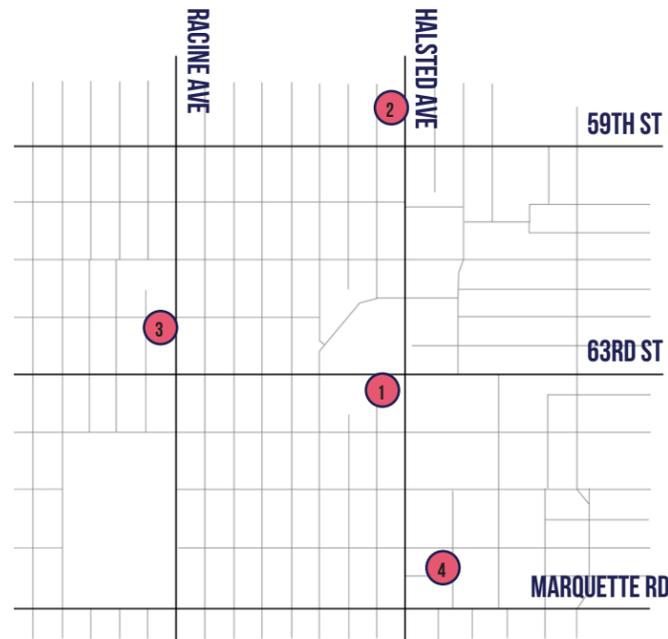


Figure 11-Map of neighborhood walk

FOLLOW THE TRACES

The vacant lot on the SW corner of 63rd and Halsted currently has a “desire-line” path corner to corner – could the highly visible site be activated in some way in the near-term?

ACTIVATE IN-BETWEEN SPACES OPPORTUNITIES

There are numerous large vacant lots on 63rd between Racine and Carpenter. There is momentum for Halsted and Racine intersections, but what can be done in-between?

KEEP BUILDING ON THE MARKET-LED ACTIVATIONS

Grow Greater Englewood is increasing activities and programming in this plaza with the market days, music events, pop-up art and semi-permanent design installations. This plaza acts as the gateway for the Englewood Nature Trail.

ALIGN PUBLIC ART WITH CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS

The Englewood Nature Trail is undergoing a framework planning process supported by the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) between May - October 2022.

Community feedback for Public Art Reimagining Tour June 2022



Public Art Reimagining Tour June 2022

PHASE 1 - AWARENESS

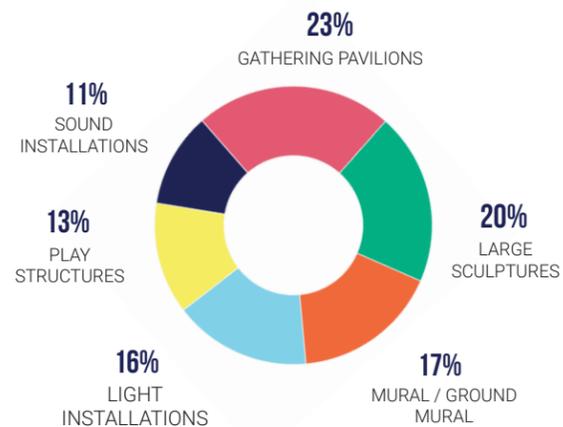
ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

This Phase 1 event was held on July 10, 2022, at the Englewood Village Plaza at the intersection of Halsted and 63rd. The goals of this first event were to:

- Introduce the artist cohort, the planning process and timeframe of this campaign, and the funding ready/available for investment in public art projects.
- Gather initial insights and input about themes, ideas, locations and types for public art possibilities.
- Inspire new possibilities for permanent public art through the public art catalog.

This artist-led pop-up joined the event series Vinyl & Vittles hosted by Grow Greater Englewood at the Englewood Village Plaza. Some of the conversation questions and prompts included:

- What does public art mean to you?
- What stories from the community should be celebrated or acknowledged?
- In which places would public art investment support neighborhood vibrancy and safety?
- What sites and why could be key places for public art?



The Public Art Catalogue was a key part of the engagement toolkit used to elicit input from the community about what types of public art they prefer and why. This catalogue compiled nearly 50 examples of implemented public art projects located in Chicago, the U.S. and the world.



CALUMET PARK
Floating Museum
Chicago, IL



CITY THREAD
SPORTS
Chattanooga, TN



MEET ME IN THE MIDDLE
Jade Foreman + Borderless
Chicago, IL



PRISMATICA
RAW Design
New York, NY



IMPULSE
Lateral Office
Montreal, Quebec



SONIC PLAYGROUND
Yuri Suzuki
Atlanta, GA

I WANT PUBLIC ART TO BE ABOUT...

- People who live in the neighborhood
- Passion, love, family, legacy, empowerment
- Gathering spaces for youth and community
- Nature, art, play
- Health and wellness
- People, food, agriculture
- History of Englewood and Ogden Park
- Fashion in the middle of the street

I WANT PUBLIC ART TO...

- Build of momentum at Go Green in Racine
- Activate with interactive art for youth near schools
- Create gathering spaces to highlight artists
- Beautify areas with existing businesses
- Heal our community
- Support art incubation and makers lab
- Reflect unity, respect and love

Community feedback for Public Art Reimagining Tour
July 2022



Public Art Reimagining Tour
July 2022

PHASE 2 - VISIONING

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The P.A.R.T.Y Phase 2 event took place at the Parker Community Academy on September 8, 2022, in conjunction with the Englewood Nature Trail meeting.

The goals of the second event were to identify potential themes and locations for public art in the neighborhood - and also reference opportunities about the connections of the Invest South West corridor and the Englewood Nature Trail.

The Floating Museum led the artist cohort presentation, and solicited written feedback from residents and community members using the following prompts:

- What should be honored in Englewood?
- What would you like public art to do for Englewood? And where?



Public Art Reimagining Tour
September 2022

PEOPLE + BELONGING

- "The presence and spirit of families should be honored - people who have lived, labored and loved in the community."
- "Singers, actors/actresses should be honored. All artists / celebrities that were born and raised in Englewood. Jermaine Stewart, Jennifer Hudson, Bernie Mac."
- "The people, their resiliency and commitment to positive change should be honored."
- "Public Art should honor Deon P. Lucas; Anton Seals Jr.; Ay-Shay Butler; Cecille De Mello; Granville T. Woods."
- "Principal Brown and her decades of service should be honored."
- "Public art should take pictures of youth and make more senior citizens be appreciated by the residents."
- "Public art should be a tribute to Block Club Presidents. My grandmother was a BCP from the 70s-80s. 5724 S. May."
- "Public art should honor Mayor Taylor with captions of his life and success as a cyclist."
- "Public art should highlight artists from Englewood."

WELLNESS + RESILIENCE

- "A memorial to all the schools that closed in Englewood. For the community & alumni to remember."
- "It's legacy of being a former successful vibrant and thriving well known business district, accessible by elevated train, bus and expressway where people from all over the city came to shop. We should honor the sacrifice made by residents when the Dan Ryan expressway was dug and built and as a result generation upon generation of residents were afflicted with asthma. Englewood has the highest rate of residents in the city with Asthma."
- "Sense of positivity in place. Focus on the people who love Englewood."
- "We should honor the strong neighborhood connections, resilience & history of Black people in its neighborhood."
- "Public art should promote calm, peace, positivity."
- "Public art should bring people together and uplift spirits, elevate conversations, provide positive and inspirational images. It should remind people of their greatness and their possibilities."

BLACK HISTORY + CULTURE

- "The Black migration into Englewood, culture and the ethnicity of peo, African-centered pasts, presents and futures should be honored."
- "Block Clubs were a pillar in the Englewood community"
- "Unique culture of Black Chicagoans and the specific culture, customs & traditions of Englewood"
- "Pioneers who moved to Chicago communities including Englewood during the Great Migration. Black-owned business. Neighborhood Institutions including Antioch Baptist Church, the elevated train system, Ogden Park, etc."
- "Art that centers Black culture by artists of color, specifically Black artists."
- "Public art can Elevate and inspire (like the new statue/ tribute to Ida B. Wells "The Light of Truth")."
- "Public art should reflect the history of the old southtown YMCA and Urban Progress Center where Catherine Dunham, Darlene Blackburn taught, Wilson Jr. College and Chicago's teacher's college were housed."
- "Murals, statues, and other iterations of culturally relevant history that liberate folks from mental slavery."

Community feedback for Public Art Reimagining Tour
September 2022

ENVIRONMENT + INFRASTRUCTURE

- "Public art should center in on the Racine to Loomis corridor. To bring to life this recreational corridor - Sherman to Ogden Park. Nature, people, birds, sports - Racine Station (Native Suns Books)."
- "Public art should be interactive."
- "Public art should bridge neighborhoods and historic with the entire community."
- "Public art should be a functional gathering space."
- "I'd like public art to be a conversation starter throughout the neighborhood! In parks, at major intersections, on bridges, at bus stops. Everywhere!"
- "Public art should attract new developments."
- "Public art should beautify the community with visual art. Make it look alive, festive."
- "Public art should bring residents back to Englewood. Generate interest and excitement to folks to visit and then move to Englewood. Help make Englewood safe by using lights as art at the viaducts."
- "Public art should Emphasize love & positivity at entry points and at places where a lot of people pass through."

PHASE 3 - RESPOND

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Phase 3 event was held on November 9, 2022 at the Go Green Community Fresh Market.

Its main goals were to:

- Provide overview of PARTY / Public Art Planning
- Report back on what was heard in the previous phases
- Engaging community in responding to project opportunities
- Provide clear understanding of next steps

Two project opportunities were presented to the community:

- A gathering installation on Englewood Plaza
- A mural at Englewood Plaza

In addition to sharing their views on the projects above, participants also engaged in conversation sparked by the following questions:

- How can these projects have the most impact and benefit?
- How could they amplify or catalyze ongoing projects and initiatives?
- What else should be considered?
- How these projects could reflect / respond to community need?
- How can the RFQ/RFP process be more inclusive?



Public Art Reimagining Tour
November 2022

INCLUSIVE PROCESS

- “The language in RFPs can deter people with less experience in large scale public art from applying. How can there be more equity in the process?”
- “The process should include both a RFQ and RFP, where in the RFQ multiple submission formats could be accepted (power points, video, text, drawing, etc.) for those who don’t have experience with standard tools.”
- “The panel for reviewing the RFQ should be a full community led group, which would pick finalists to submit RFPs. A second panel, then, could include a variety of people who understand building limitations in the public way.”
- “The selection process should be collaborative, where artists without large scale building experience can be hired to design and paired with a fabricator.”
- “There should be video tutorials explaining the RFP process for amateurs.”
- “RFPs should be very clear about timelines.”
- “There could be a community nomination process for the RFPs.”
- “Artist cohorts can be cliky, and encouraging community nomination might make it harder for up and coming artists to participate.”
- “The City could provide resources for finding vendors and fabricators, who should also be rooted in Englewood.”
- “There should be multi-generational representation and participation.”

ART THEMES AND TYPOLOGY

- “Art should be able to uplift the future green line station.”
- “It’s important to start from a history of abandonment, a remembrance of what used to exist before the city removed elements like the CTA green line station. Art should also acknowledge the fact that Englewood was a transportation / commercial hub, reference the comic book culture, etc.”
- “There should be emphasis on past and future residents of the neighborhood.”
- “History, tradition, the Great Migration.” “Functional spaces that emphasize play.”
- “Wayfinding pieces for getting off the Green Line.”
- “Englewood neighborhood markers as connection to Midway + Presidential Library.”

Community feedback for Public Art Reimagining Tour
November 2022

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

- “Future Green Line station.”
- “Art that can uplift the existing streetscape project happening on 63rd.”
- “Intersections of 55th, 59th and 63rd with Halsted and Ashland.”

LIMITATIONS AND CONCERNS

- “The RFP should be very explicit with CDOT public way requirements like footings, height, and limitations for particular sites.”
- “The boundaries of the ISW corridor should be reconsidered.”
- The RFP should be transparent about requirements such as insurance and budgets so that artists can be realistic about the budget that they are provided with.”

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY MAPPING

Throughout community engagement events, community members and stakeholders pointed out potential locations and projects that could help activate or revitalize different areas of the neighborhood. They identified places and suggested public art typologies and programs that could help activate or revitalize different areas of the community. A few proposals heard from Englewood residents and stakeholders were:

- To include art that focuses on the history of Englewood and Ogden Park at Ogden Park
- To add a wood sculpture on a vacant lot at the intersection of Honore St and 63rd St
- To provide interactive art for youth near schools
- To create an agricultural art sculpture at the Englewood Village Plaza to cover the WIFI tower



HISTORICAL ART AT OGDEN PARK



INTERACTIVE ART FOR YOUTH NEAR SCHOOLS



WOOD SCULPTURE AT HONORE AND 63RD



AGRICULTURAL ART SCULPTURE TO COVER WIFI TOWER

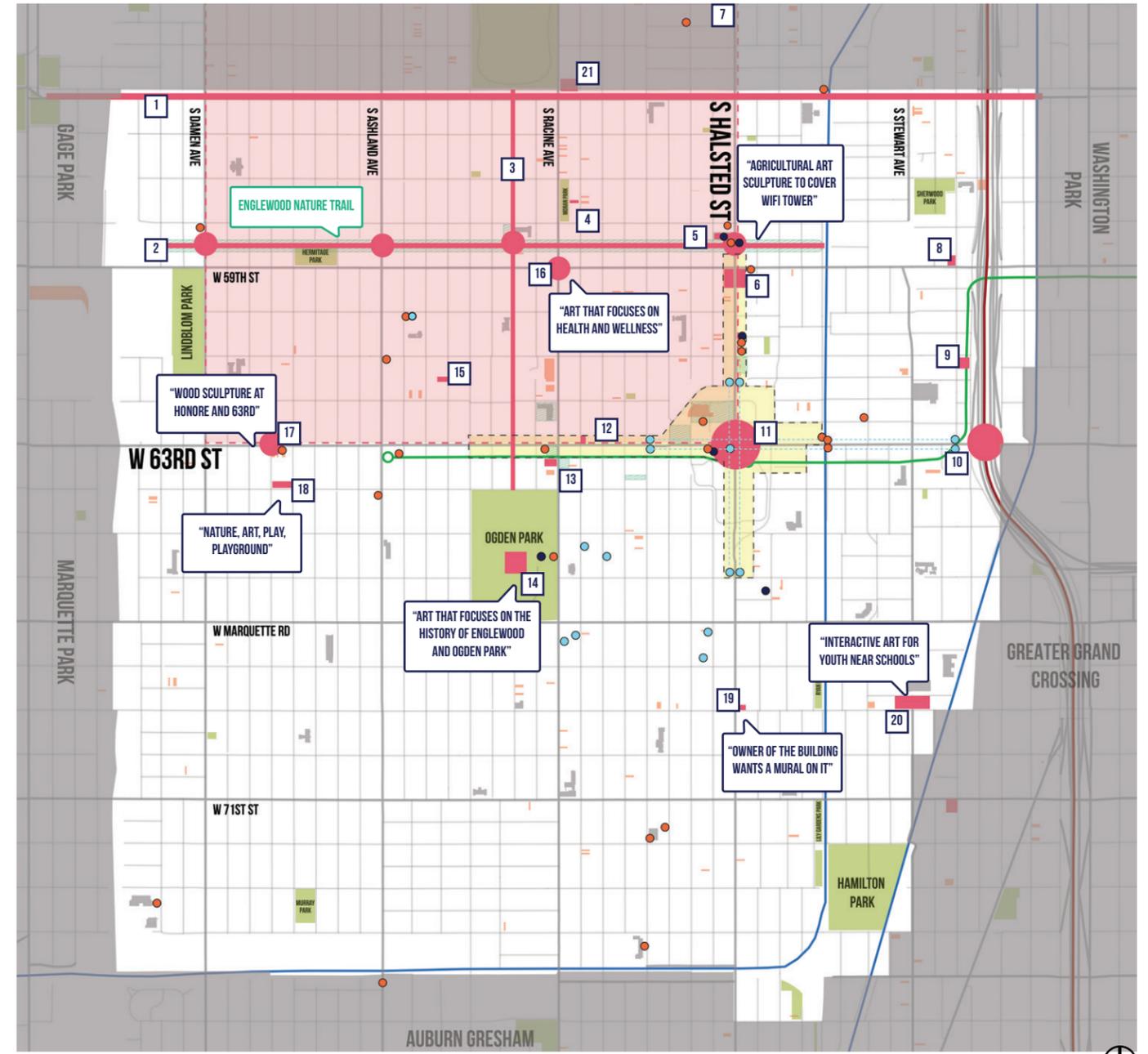


Figure 12- Sites and opportunities identified by the Englewood community

Source: Invest South West, City of Chicago, CBS News (2022), Grow Greater Englewood, Go Green on Racine, City of Chicago Parks - Public Art Dataset, City of Chicago Mural Registry, Chicago Sun-Times Murals and Mosaics Interactive Map, Google Street View, P.A.R.T.Y Events (2022), Music Lives Here

GRAPHIC LEGEND

- Neighborhood Initiatives
- City Owned Vacant Lots
- Schools
- ISW Corridor
- Parks
- Site Opportunities

EXISTING PUBLIC ART

- Murals
- Sculptures
- Infrastructure
- Markers/Wayfinding

SITE OPPORTUNITIES MAPPED BY COMMUNITY

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Garfield Boulevard | 8 St Martin Church | 15 Tish's Garden |
| 2 Englewood Nature Trail | 9 Sherwood Peace Garden | 16 59th and Racine |
| 3 Connect Sherman and Ogden Parks | 10 63rd St and Dan Ryan Expy | 17 Honore and 63rd St |
| 4 5724 S May | 11 Halsted and 63rd St | 18 64th and Honore St |
| 5 Englewood Village Plaza | 12 E.G. Woode Popwells Barbershop | 19 Building Wall |
| 6 Vacant lots at Halsted and 59th | 13 Racine Station | 20 Englewood STEM High School |
| 7 Zone between Halsted and Ashland, 53rd and 63rd St | 14 Ogden Park | 21 55th and Racine St |

ENDNOTES

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1-INVEST South/West neighborhoods
- Figure 2-Neighborhood initiatives in Englewood
- Figure 3-Map of catalytic projects in Englewood
- Figure 4-Location of priority projects along the Englewood INVEST South/West Priority Corridor
- Figure 5-Gathering landmark design considerations
- Figure 6-Contextual considerations for proposed Gathering Landmark
- Figure 7-Mural design considerations
- Figure 8-Proposed mural location
- Figure 9-INVEST South/West Corridor in context of the Englewood Nature Trail corridor
- Figure 10-63rd Street and Racine Avenue opportunities
- Figure 11-Map of neighborhood walk
- Figure 12- Sites and opportunities identified by the Englewood community

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS PHOTOGRAPHY:

Buzz McBride
 Borderless Studio / PORT
 Glenn Willoughby

REFERENCED ARTWORK: EXISTING PUBLIC ART

“Be Your Higher Self” - Rahmaan Statik
 “Peace Mural” - EarthHeart Foundation + Green Star Movement
 “Junction Grove Heritage Mural” - Rahmaan Statik
 “Trumbull WWII Memorial Fountain” - Frederick Cleveland Hibbard
 “Boombbox” - Latent Design
 “Inequity For Sale” Landmark - Tonika L. Johnson
 “#GoodInEnglewood” - Just Flo
 “Inequity For Sale” - Tonika L. Johnson
 “Englewood Proud” - Eric Hotchkiss + Englewood Arts Collective
 “Our Englewood” - Englewood Arts Collective
 “Original Totem #1” - Eric Hotchkiss + Englewood Arts Collective + CUJO
 “I Am Englewood” - Tonika L. Johnson
 “Vision Values Voice” - Bryant Jones + One Summer Chicago

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Quality of Life Plan - Englewood Rising (2016)

www.teamworkenglewood.org/eqlp.html

CDOT Complete Streets

Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)
<https://chicagocompletestreets.org/portfolio/isw-greater-englewood/>

Invest South West: Greater Englewood

Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/invest_sw/home/greater-englewood.html

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The City of Chicago and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) commissioned this report to develop a framework for Englewood’s Public Art Vision. DCASE and the artist cohort composed by Englewood Arts Collective, The Floating Museum and VS Creative Consulting provided oversight throughout the process.

The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) have been key in this process, and coordination with them will continue in pursue of strategic alignment of implementation efforts, funding and resources.

This Public Art Vision also benefited from the feedback and insights from Englewood’s community leaders and members who participated in the community engagement events:

Ainsley Strong
 Anton Seals, Grow Greater Englewood
 Asiaha Butler, R.A.G.E.
 Bane Stevens
 Ben Duncan
 Bweza Itaagi, Grow Greater Englewood
 Brandon Bradford, 16th Ward
 Cameron Purnell
 Chelsea Moore
 Christian Oiticica
 Clifton Williams
 Corie Luckett, Englewood Branded
 Danielle Wallace
 Deon Reed
 Dionne Victoria Milton
 Jay Readey
 Joanna Vaughan
 Jonathan Brooks

Kenneth J Johnson Jr
 Kiara Hardin
 Larry D. Williamson
 Lexi Arjona
 Mark Thompson
 Michelle T. Rashad
 Nanette Tucker
 Nathalie Charles
 Ndidi Okakpu, IMAN
 Ouida Jones
 Rami Nashashibi, IMAN
 Rick Batres
 Sadia Nawab, IMAN
 Susan Carlotta Ellis
 Syda Taylor
 Trae Wright
 Thomas Randall
 Tray Walker

