

# INVESTING IN OUR CHICAGO

THE LIGHTFOOT ADMINISTRATION'S FIRST 2 YEARS



LORI E. LIGHTFOOT  
MAYOR OF CHICAGO



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## LETTER FROM MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT

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Dear Neighbor,

Since Day One of my Administration, I have strived to build a more inclusive and equitable Chicago that works for all of our 77 neighborhoods, all of our people, and not just some. I knew from the very beginning that this goal was ambitious, some might say audacious or use more colorful terms to describe my determination to break up the status quo – a status quo that failed too many, for too long.

We are fundamentally a great city with many proud chapters in our history. But throughout that history, there have been moments where people have been left behind, their aspirations for a better life unmet or ignored entirely. So we have work left to do. And the best way for us to build on the foundation laid these last two plus years is by working together to bring catalytic, positive change to communities that need the most support.

When each of us have equal opportunities to succeed, we all prosper. It's for that reason and more that I named my transition effort "Better Together." In thinking about all we've accomplished over the past two years, I cannot help but think about my own humble beginnings and those whose stories are similar to mine. Folks who look like me or have a similar background, people of color, the working class, should not have to beat the odds to get a high-quality education, a good job or to pursue their passions, or start a family. Every person in this city, regardless of their circumstances, should be able to unlock their God-given potential and climb up the ladder of social mobility. That was the vision I had when I was elected and I am determined more than ever to make that vision a reality across every Chicago neighborhood. Two years and some change later, I am proud to say we are closer to making that vision a reality.

As you read through the rest of this book, you will learn about the incredible City investments that showcase this progress. These kinds of accomplishments are impressive in normal circumstances, but as we all know, nothing about the past 18 months has been normal. Despite the many challenges presented by the pandemic, we still showed up for our residents to deliver the resources they need to not just survive, but thrive well into the future.

I remain deeply grateful to each of our residents and City, community, and business partners for not only making these investments possible, but for also recognizing that we truly work "Better Together." As we come out of this crisis and progress further down the path of recovery, I am looking forward to working even closer with you to build on the successes of the past two years and continue laying the foundation for a stronger Chicago.



Lori E. Lightfoot

Mayor of Chicago



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# INVESTING IN OUR PUBLIC HEALTH





## INVESTING IN OUR PUBLIC HEALTH

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Health has been top of the mind for so many of us over the last 18 months. In Chicago, we recognize that health challenges manifest both internally and externally, in ways that are visible and invisible, and often impact some communities more than others. As a result, Mayor Lightfoot's administration has not only addressed COVID-19 head-on, but has worked to build a more equitable health infrastructure to address wellness needs that pre-date or have been amplified by the pandemic.

- Launched 11 free COVID-19 testing centers on the South and West Sides.
- Invested \$56 million to establish a citywide COVID-19 Contact Tracing Corps, which resulted in grants to 31 CBOs in Chicago's hardest-hit communities and the hiring of 450 contact tracers and 31 supervisors.
- Distributed more than 18 million units of medical grade PPE across the healthcare system and nearly 4 million free masks to community organizations, as well as mobilized the City's Safe Passage workers to distribute PPE and provide information about vaccines to 400,000 households.
- Formed the Racial Equity Rapid Response Team to develop hyperlocal, data-informed strategies to slow the spread of the COVID-19 and improve health outcomes among communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 infections and death, ultimately producing the most equitable vaccine distribution in the country among large cities through Protect Chicago Plus.
- Tripled the City's budget to address mental health and expanded access to community based health centers.
- Committed \$11 million to healthcare developments in North Lawndale and Auburn-Gresham.
- Passed an ordinance to prevent employers from retaliating against their employees for taking time off when they were sick with COVID-19 symptoms or going to get the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Launched the Family Connects pilot to improve infant and maternal health by offering families a free home nursing visit to assess health and family needs and connect them to community-based resources.

# INVESTING IN OUR ECONOMY



## INVESTING IN OUR ECONOMY

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Our 77 community areas are incredibly unique and truly make Chicago unlike anywhere else on the planet. However, historically, not all of them have been invested in equitably. That's why Mayor Lightfoot's administration has made it clear time and time again that equity and inclusion must be our North Stars—guiding our decision making, investment strategies, and more. This commitment can be seen clearly in everything done thus far to support and uplift our disenfranchised communities.

- Launched INVEST South/West, which in the first year alone deployed over \$70 million of public capital in 10 neighborhoods to catalyze over \$300 million from the private and philanthropic sectors. Second year investments are set to significantly increase both topline figures.
- In 2021, INVEST South/West successfully awarded an additional seven RFP winners to develop on vacant land or rehab neglected buildings—representing close to \$200 million of investment.
- The Neighborhood Opportunity Fund has awarded over 90 projects with support, totaling approximately \$26 million in funding and \$70.2 million in total investment.
- Launched Chicago Works, the City's first ever five-year Capital Plan which commits \$3.7 billion across five years, beginning with \$1.4 billion over 2021 and 2022 to leverage capital investments to spur economic development and job creation.
- Issued two new Emergency Rental Assistance Programs with nearly \$100 million in federal funding to assist renters and landlords who have been financially impacted by COVID-19, and passed an amendment to the Keep Chicago Renting Ordinance to keep tenants in foreclosed buildings safely housed.
- Positioned Chicago as one of the top global research and innovation hubs for Quantum Technology with \$230 million of investment from the Department of Energy and the first quantum startup accelerator in the world.
- Developed the first comprehensive workforce strategy to connect displaced workers with opportunities in high growth sectors.
- Partnered with the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership and World Business Chicago to launch HIRE Chicago, a month-long hiring initiative to connect job seekers to employers offering training, coaching, and interviewing support.

# INVESTING IN OUR SMALL BUSINESSES



## INVESTING IN OUR SMALL BUSINESSES

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Some small businesses gain national attention and others are known only by the residents in their neighborhood. But together, they make up the spine of Chicago. Running a small business is no small feat. Not only does it take determination and grit, but it also takes a deep understanding of the communities they serve. Mayor Lightfoot's administration has identified many ways in which the City can make it easier for small businesses to operate and thrive, from shortening the amount of time it takes to get a business license to providing innovative ways to keep their doors open long after the pandemic is over.

- Established the Chicago Small Business Resiliency Loan Fund, which is the largest City-run small business loan fund in the country. The \$100 million it leveraged helped to provide a lifeline to nearly 1,800 small businesses and nonprofits and saved 9,000 jobs and it particularly benefitted those that would not be served by federal programs. These include cash businesses, businesses owned by immigrants, and those that are less well-banked (over 63% of recipients were in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods).
- Established the \$10 million Hospitality Grant Program to bring \$10,000 grants to restaurants and bars and a \$5 million Microbusiness Recovery Grant to help businesses with four or fewer employees.
- Created nearly \$10 million Together Now grant program to provide relief to small businesses working to recover from COVID-19 impacts and damage sustained during nationwide protests and unrest—resulting in over 2,300 grants made and South and West Side businesses making up 61% of grant funding.
- Created the \$25 million Vendor Impact Fund to provide priority access for City vendors certified as Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE), Women-Owned Business Enterprises (WBE), Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (VBE), and Business Enterprises Owned or Operated by People with Disabilities (BEPD) to loans from the federal Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and 7(a) loan program.
- Issued \$7.2 million in conditional grants to small businesses through the Small Business Improvement Fund.
- Launched 8 regional Chicago Business Centers to provide licensing support directly to small businesses—increasing access to City services at a neighborhood level.

# INVESTING IN OUR WORKING FAMILIES



## INVESTING IN OUR WORKING FAMILIES

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When you look at all of the big cities in the United States, Chicago might be considered one of the most affordable. However, many residents still face significant hurdles in finding work that pays well enough to keep the lights on, food on the table, and a roof over their heads, as well as treats them with dignity and respect. Mayor Lightfoot's administration recognizes these challenges, which were only amplified during the pandemic, and has made investments, developed strategies and created legislation to protect workers and make safe and affordable housing more easily accessible.

- Raised the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2021 for most Chicagoans.
- Eliminated the sub-minimum wage for workers with disabilities.
- Passed Fair Work Week legislation to give lower-wage workers and their families predictability in scheduling and fairer working conditions.
- Passed Chicago's first Wage Theft Ordinance—granting the City greater ability to protect and recoup stolen wages for its workers.
- Launched the Fresh Start debt forgiveness program, making 21,000 former CCC students eligible to return to college, clear their debt, and earn a college certificate or degree.
- Launched the Utility Billing Relief (UBR) Program to cut water and sewer bills in half for working families, as well as forgive any owed debt so long payments are made for a year.
- Reopened libraries on Sundays.
- Eliminated library late fines and patron debt.
- Installed payment kiosks at all library branches so that residents can pay City bills in neighborhoods without needing to travel downtown.
- Reformed fines and fees by creating affordable payment plans and instituting a City sticker ticket amnesty.
- Suspended booting, towing and debt collection during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Led the nation by passing legislation to require that people with disabilities receive minimum wage by 2024—currently no floor exists to protect this population of vulnerable workers.
- Hired Chicago's first Director of the Office of Labor Standards.
- Invested \$10 million in the 2020 budget in affordable housing and homelessness.
- Invested \$35 million in the expedited housing initiative to house 2,550 by September 2022.
- Financed the development of nearly \$300 million in new and preserved affordable housing.
- Halted water shutoffs for non-payment.

# INVESTING IN OUR POLICE REFORM & PUBLIC SAFETY





## INVESTING IN OUR POLICE REFORM & PUBLIC SAFETY

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Keeping our communities safe has always been the number one priority for Mayor Lightfoot and the City of Chicago. All of our investments must be viewed through the lens of community safety and quality of life. And the solutions to the challenges we are facing lie first and foremost in addressing the root causes of violence and second, in supporting the intervention ecosystem which helps disrupt those causes. Critical pieces of that community safety ecosystem were badly damaged by the consequences of COVID-19. Nonetheless, we have and must continue investing in them. Equally important is making the necessary reforms that restore legitimacy in policing and build community trust. In these first years of Mayor Lightfoot's Administration, we have taken the following bold steps and key investments:

- Appointed the first director of the Mayor's Office of Violence Reduction to provide dedicated staff and resources to proactively address violence in Chicago and support the communities most impacted.
- Convened an ongoing Public Safety Cabinet for the first time in April 2019 to bring a whole of government approach to public safety.
- Increased funding by 1400% for community approaches to violence reduction by investing nearly \$25 million in 2020 and 2021 to build out the City's street outreach and victim services provider network.
- Increased the homicide clearance rate by double digits, with more homicides cleared in 2020 than any year since 2005.
- Invested in programs for youth most likely to be impacted by gun violence, including Choose to Change and SCaN to connect young people with wraparound services.
- Won historic reforms around accountability and transparency in police contracts including the investigation of anonymous complaints, preservation of disciplinary records against destruction and safeguarding the names of complainants to guard against retaliation.
- Signed an Executive Order to update the City's police video release policy, which now allows people who have made complaints with the Civilian Office of Police Accountability about an incident to receive requested copies of video and audio within 30 days in most cases.
- Revised the foot pursuit policy to better protect our officers, the public and potential suspects.
- Developed in-service training for veteran officers that increased the number of annual mandatory training from 0 to 40 hours, which includes procedural justice and use of constitutional force.
- Revised the foot pursuit policy to better protect our officers, the public and potential suspects.

# INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH & EDUCATION



## INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH & EDUCATION

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The last 18 months have been exceptionally challenging for our young people and our school system. Here in Chicago, we believe that investing in our youth of all ages is essential to ensuring a bright future for our beloved city. We know that education isn't confined to the classroom, but rather, it is an entire ecosystem. So, we have not only invested money, time and resources into this ecosystem, but we have also engaged our youth to find out what's important to them and how we can be better partners to ensure an equitable future for them, their families, and our entire city.

- Created the first-ever Mayor's Youth Commission to bring youth voice and leadership to the Lightfoot Administration's policies and initiatives.
- Created My CHI. My Future., a signature youth initiative dedicated to connecting young people to meaningful out-of-school experiences.
- Launched the Chicago Youth Service Corps, a first-of-its-kind, paid, year-round service program that directly engages young people in the City's COVID-19 response.
- During the summer of 2021, the Summer Kick Back Series launched, which is a part of the My CHI. My Future. Initiative. The effort leveraged partnerships with 15 community-based organizations on Chicago's West and South Sides to employ 230 young people, create youth-focused opportunities, and enhance vaccine advocacy. In total, the Series attracted over 9,500 residents.
- Created Chicago Connected, a \$50 million program aimed at eliminating the digital divide for CPS students and their families by providing free access to Wi-Fi and broadband internet.
- Employed more than 71,750 youth through One Summer Chicago and the Chicago Youth Service Corps, with 20,000 alone being employed in 2020 through a virtual work experience.
- Committed \$5 million annually to address the housing needs of LGBTQ+ youth and all youth experiencing homelessness.
- Committed to 200 more school social worker positions, 250 additional nurse positions, and an expansion of special education case managers through a new five-year contract at Chicago Public Schools.
- Piloted Career Launch Chicago, a new public-private partnership to build a robust youth apprenticeship system to connect 1,000 high school students by 2024 to education and workforce training, and ultimately into high-demand careers.
- Created Teach Chicago Tomorrow, a plan to build a new pipeline of talented and diverse teachers by creating a structured pathway with intensive supports for CPS graduates who want to be educators.
- Created the Chicago Roadmap, a first-of-its kind partnership between Chicago Public Schools and City Colleges of Chicago to build durable pathways for high school students to move seamlessly to college and their future careers over the next five years.

# INVESTING IN OUR IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES



## INVESTING IN OUR IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

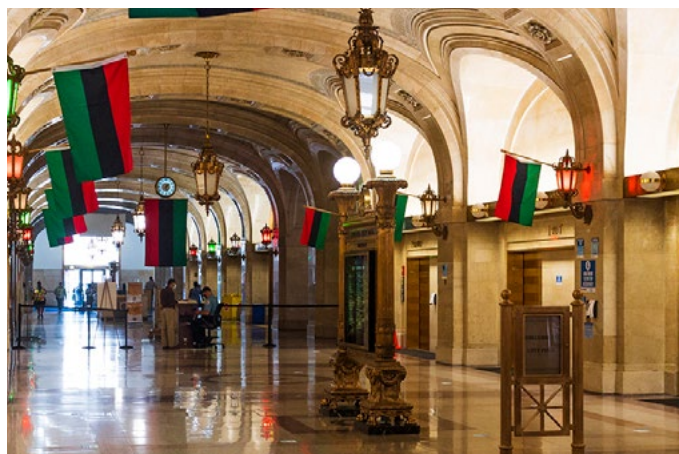
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Here in Chicago, we take great pride in our diversity. However, not all of us know what many immigrants and refugees go through to settle here. That's why Mayor Lightfoot is committed to enhancing Chicago's reputation as a Welcoming City and a Sanctuary City, and has taken many steps to support our immigrant and refugee communities and help them build the successful lives they deserve.

- Removed all carve-outs from Chicago's Welcoming City Ordinance, eliminating local police collaboration with ICE and ensuring undocumented crime victims can interact with City departments including CPD without fear of deportation.
- Created the first-ever Immigrants and Refugee Rights Committee in City Council. The Committee takes on legislation and resolutions that impact Chicago's immigrant and refugee communities.
- Increased funding by nearly 20% for the Legal Protection Fund, a \$1.5 million fund that provides free legal immigration services and Know Your Rights education to Chicago residents.



# INVESTING IN OUR ARTS & CULTURE



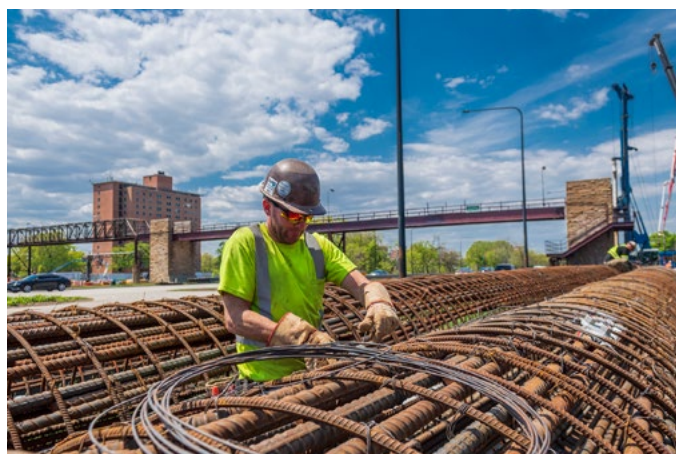
## INVESTING IN OUR ARTS & CULTURE

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When residents are asked about why they love Chicago, it's not uncommon for someone to respond with "all the live music" or "we have the best museums". Chicago's vibrancy is in part thanks to its tremendous and beloved arts and culture community. Arts and culture provides an important medium for people to better understand our past, present, and future. It also remains a huge economic driver for our city—drawing people from near and far. Mayor Lightfoot's administration understands just how important it is to support our arts and culture community and has made tremendous strides in strengthening it.

- Provided \$1.3 million in direct support to the local theatre community during the 2019 Year of Chicago Theatre.
- Created an \$8 million artist relief fund in partnership with the State to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Provided over \$5 million in direct support for the music sector that benefitted over 200 music organizations and venues, and hundreds of musicians and creative workers during the Year of Chicago Music.
- Created the Performance Venue Relief Fund to provide grants of at least \$10,000 to performing arts venues.
- Committed over \$10 million to support new public art projects through the Chicago Works Capital Plan and aviation expansion projects.
- Announced "Arts77", a citywide arts recovery and reopening plan for all of Chicago's 77 community areas, representing an initial investment of over \$60 million from the Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events, the Chicago Parks District, other City agencies and private funding to support local artists and organizations.
- Awarded \$8.2 million in artist commissions and arts organization grant opportunities.

# INVESTING IN OUR TRANSPORTATION





## INVESTING IN OUR TRANSPORTATION

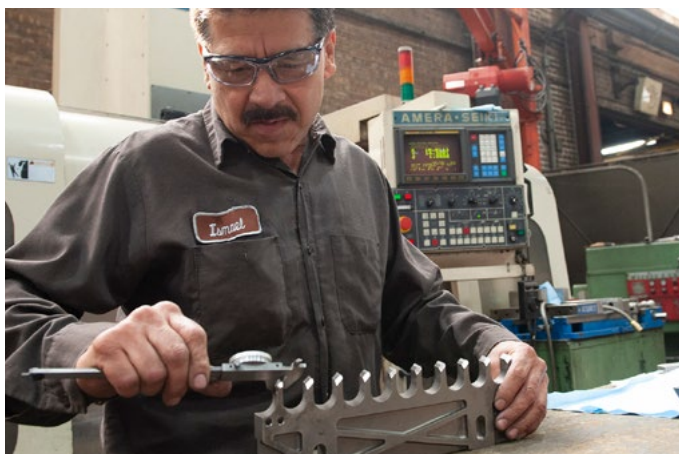
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Chicago's public transportation system has long been heralded as one of the best in the country and we pride ourselves on its ability to get people where they need to go in an affordable and convenient manner. Making sure that all of our neighborhoods have access to this transportation system is therefore foundational to creating a more equitable Chicago. Mayor Lightfoot's administration has invested deeply in this space to ensure our transit system remains top-notch and available to residents and visitors alike.

- Invested \$20 million in bus priority zones to speed up CTA bus service along several key routes serving neighborhoods and added 7.6 miles of Pop-Up Bus Lanes.
- Launched a major expansion of Chicago's bike share system, Divvy—bringing bike share for the first time to the far South Side of Chicago and installing 66 new bikeshare stations and 12 new e-stations for Divvy e-bikes. This expanded the network by almost 60 square miles.
- Installed, replaced, or repaired 45,000 traffic and street signs, filled nearly 400,000 potholes, paved more than 700 blocks of streets and alleys, installed 1,000 ADA ramps, and planted over 1,600 trees.
- Installed 30 miles of new bikeways and re-striped 50 miles of existing bike lanes.
- Invested \$850 million in capital improvements at O'Hare.



# INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE



## INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

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The investments highlighted in this book are a just a fraction of all that has been accomplished in the first two years of Mayor Lightfoot's administration. As the Mayor said at her inauguration address, "We must follow the four stars: schooling, safety, stability and integrity. No matter who you are, no matter where you live, no matter your circumstance in life, Chicago is now on a mission to include you, to join hands with you, to share power with you, and to give you reason to believe that we can all pull in the same direction to make Chicago, better, together."

To be the Chicago we want to be, we must continue to follow these guiding stars. We must invest in our communities and our people. If we continue to work towards this, we will be unstoppable and Chicago will truly be an inclusive and equitable city for all.



