

City of Chicago Budget Engagement Report

2025

UIC Great Cities Institute





2025 Budget Engagement Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 City of Chicago Budget Engagement Report documents a comprehensive process aimed at incorporating resident feedback into budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. Organized by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) and the Mayor's Office of Community Engagement, in partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago's Great Cities Institute (GCI), the engagement spanned multiple months and involved in-depth sessions to gather community input. The engagement was conducted in three phases, including public roundtables, virtual surveys, youth-specific events, and direct community outreach, with an emphasis on transparency, equity, and accessibility across all activities.

In Phase 1, the city invited community members, local organizations, and advisory groups to participate through surveys and informational meetings, creating an early framework for budget priorities. Phase 2 then engaged city stakeholders in the design and planning of community roundtables, focusing on selecting the most relevant budget categories for community discussion. Finally, Phase 3 encompassed broader public engagement through in-person roundtables at locations across the city, including Malcolm X College, Truman College, and Kennedy-King College, as well as targeted youth engagement. A variety of budget topics were explored, including affordable housing, mental health, environmental justice, and youth services.

Feedback was gathered through multiple channels, including demographic surveys, comment cards, online submissions, and roundtable discussions. This data was then analyzed and presented by UICNI, capturing diverse community voices. Insights showed

differences in priority between general public and youth participants, with youth emphasizing job opportunities, homelessness services, and digital infrastructure, while the public focused on affordable housing, public safety, and sustainable community development.

The engagement process gathered a broad demographic of participants, with efforts to reach historically marginalized groups and ensure inclusive representation. African American or Black residents were notably overrepresented in youth engagement (43%) relative to their proportion in Chicago's population, aligning with the city's goal of amplifying voices from these communities. Latino or Hispanic representation was also significant in youth sessions (34%), although lower in general public engagement (16%). Age distribution data showed even participation across adult age groups, while youth engagement centered on residents aged 14-24. The process aimed to capture a range of perspectives, ensuring input from varied socioeconomic backgrounds and aiming for balanced insights into community needs.

This extensive engagement effort underscores the City of Chicago's dedication to listening deeply to its residents and building a budget that truly reflects the voices and values of its diverse communities. By actively involving a wide range of stakeholders, from young voices to seasoned residents, the city fosters a spirit of collaboration and shared vision for a brighter, more inclusive future. The insights gathered through this engagement not only help shape the current budget but also strengthen trust and build lasting connections across neighborhoods, setting a foundation for equitable growth and prosperity in the years to come.



Photo
Participant at the youth engagement roundtable at Harold Washington Library Center. Credit Vashon Jordan, Office of the Mayor.

BUDGET INTRODUCTION

“

The presentation was awesome. This is my first time attending, I look forward to more meetings and opportunities.

—Participant at Truman College engagement session

“

A good way to incorporate community voice would be to inform communities from all over the city about opportunities that allow them to express concern & needs.

—Youth participant at Harold Washington Library Center

“

It was nice to have conversation!

—Participant at Malcolm X College engagement session

This report on community engagement to inform the City of Chicago’s 2025 budget reflects the complex reality facing City officials: balancing essential public services, community needs, and commitments to equity and progress. In partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Neighborhoods Initiative (UICNI) at Great Cities Institute, this year’s engagement process was designed to reach a wide range of Chicago residents.

UICNI, the Office of Budget and Management, and the Mayor’s Office of Community Engagement used participatory, equity-focused, and transparent approaches to gather insights on priorities like affordable housing, arts and culture, community



Photo

Mayor Brandon Johnson speaks with a young participant at the youth engagement event held at Harold Washington Library Center. Credit Vashon Jordan, Office of the Mayor.

engagement, community safety, economic development, environmental justice and infrastructure, neighborhood development, public health, mental health, and youth services.

By involving residents throughout the year, the City gains knowledge that shapes not only the current budget but also informs future programs and measures of progress. This structured, multi-phase engagement, guided by UICNI, fosters transparency and trust by actively involving a range of advisory and engagement groups across Chicago's neighborhoods. This ongoing exchange builds shared responsibility and collaboration, ensuring budget decisions are guided by the City's commitment to equity while using community insights to enhance the effectiveness of public programs over time.

In a year marked by significant financial challenges, when immediate crises could easily overshadow resident input, this commitment to listening remains essential. Preliminary findings from early engagement phases were shared with the Office of Budget and Management ahead of the budget release on October 30, 2024. This final report presents a fuller picture of community priorities across all phases of the engagement process, reinforcing the City's commitment to making informed, balanced decisions that reflect long-term priorities for Chicago's communities.



ENGAGEMENT DESIGN

The City of Chicago's Office of Budget and Management (OBM) and the Mayor's Office of Community Engagement partnered with University of Illinois at Chicago's Neighborhoods Initiative (UICNI) at the Great Cities Institute to conduct engagement around the City's 2025 budget. UICNI codesigned all external budget engagement activities.

Engagement for the 2025 budget occurred in three phases. The process was designed to respond to findings in previous years, and to start earlier in the year than ever. Four frameworks—participation, equity, education, and transparency and accountability—guided the design of all three phases of engagement. For more on findings from previous phases, see the City's budget microsite and the interim report by UICNI.

Transparency across the entire engagement process was ensured by the following:

- External, neutral facilitation design assistance and data collection conducted by UICNI (see the Appendix).
- Community engagement results analyzed and categorized by UICNI, available for sharing during post-budget reporting (see the Engagement Results section).
- A publicly available microsite for the 2024 budget engagement process and related documents for participants, including a survey.

PHASE 1: APRIL–MAY 2024

Phase 1 aimed to involve residents and stakeholder groups earlier than in previous years. Community organizations, City advisory groups, and City taskforces provided input through a virtual comment link, attended informational meetings, or completed

an online survey ranking priorities across five budget topics, including affordable housing, community safety, and public health. Feedback was used in Phase 2 to determine which programs and services the public roundtables and materials would focus on.

PHASE 2: MAY–JULY 2024

Sixteen City stakeholders co-designed the Phase 3 engagement roundtables. Activities included virtual and in-person meetings at which stakeholders reviewed and ranked potential budget programs, decided on the roundtable structure, and selected programs and services to focus on for deeper community discussions. Stakeholders also helped ensure that roundtables would reflect community needs and be accessible, ultimately enhancing inclusiveness and relevance of engagement.

PHASE 3: JULY 2024

Phase 3 focused on broad public engagement, with education and deeper discussion about topics funded in the budget.

To encourage participation in engagement activities, the City conducted public outreach across various channels:

- Outreach to delegate agencies, community partners, faith partners, block clubs, and community-based organizations.
- One-on-one meetings with community organizations and individuals to ask for outreach assistance, provide information, and get feedback on the roundtable structure.
- Launch of a budget microsite with dates and locations of each roundtable and youth

roundtable, and registration information.

- Updates to aldermanic offices and requests to promote roundtables to their constituents.
- E-mail blasts to subscribers to the Mayor's Office of Community Engagement's lists.
- Requests for engagement leads from other City departments and sister agencies to share information about all roundtables with stakeholders and committees.
- Press releases to local media outlets.
- Requests of members of various City boards, commissions, advisory panels, and engagement councils to promote the roundtables.
- Citywide e-mail to all City of Chicago employees.
- Promotions on multiple social media channels, including the Mayor's X and Facebook pages
- Promotion of the event through Salesforce.

IN-PERSON PUBLIC ROUNDTABLES

Roundtables were held at three City Colleges (with accessibility and language accommodations offered):

MALCOLM X COLLEGE / WEST SIDE

July 22, 2024

1900 W. Jackson Blvd, 60612

TRUMAN COLLEGE/ NORTH SIDE

July 25, 2024

1145 W. Wilson Ave., 60640

KENNEDY-KING COLLEGE / SOUTH SIDE

July 27, 2024

6301 S. Halsted St., 60621

Roundtable events opened with a resource fair for City departments to offer information on their work,

programs, and services. City officials, including the Mayor, gave an educational presentation on the budget, emphasizing process details and the importance of resident engagement and City transparency. Following the presentation, participants joined specialized roundtables hosted by City officials from relevant departments:

- Affordable housing and homelessness
- Community safety
- Environmental justice and infrastructure
- Community and neighborhood development / Arts and culture
- Public health and mental health.

Roundtable participants were asked to provide input and opinions in a survey and on comment cards (also available online), to ensure that residents had multiple avenues to contribute feedback.

IN-PERSON YOUTH ROUNDTABLE

Participants could attend the in-person youth roundtable, specifically for those aged 13 to 24. The event featured topic-based roundtables with young Chicagoans and City leaders (with accessibility and language accommodations offered).

ONLINE BUDGET PORTAL

An online budget portal was available to access all materials available to in-person participants and submit an online survey.

“

I want to sit in and listen about where my tax money is going.

—Respondent to the online budget survey



Photo top

Participants at Truman College. Credit Terence Crayton for the City of Chicago.



Photo bottom

Discussion at Kennedy-King.

PEOPLE **ENGAGED (DATA COLLECTION)**

*In total, **394** surveys were filled out, and 840 comments were provided (some comment cards contained ideas across multiple categories). Responses to all questions were voluntary; participants chose which questions to respond to. Public comment was open. Participants could fill out cards at in-person events or submit a comment online.*

This section presents data analysis on people who engaged.

UICNI was responsible for the research design of the budget engagement process. Research and analysis was guided by these ideas:

- Documenting the engagement process for the 2025 budget to improve transparency.
- Determining how participants describe the progress they want to see.
- Providing the City with analysis of engagement data to provide useful results for informing the 2025 Budget.

Data collection took place throughout engagement using a qualitative and quantitative mixed-methods approach. During engagement activities, UICNI collected the following data for analysis:

- Demographic surveys
- Tabletop notes from roundtables and discussions
- Comment cards (including online, for providing general comments, ideas, and feedback)
- Online and paper surveys

The online survey was published in English, Spanish, Polish, and Simplified Chinese on the City of Chicago's budget microsite, and links were sent via e-mail and social media. The online survey was available from July 18 through August 14, 2024. Responses to all questions were voluntary.

Individuals at the in-person budget events turned in 152 comment cards and 245 paper surveys; 147 participants completed the online survey and 292 submitted a comment card online. There was an overall in-person response rate of 44% for the paper surveys. All data were then cleaned, coded, and analyzed. Across all data sources, youth submitted 65 comments. As a result, all comments from the general

public and youth were analyzed together. The following sections include UICNI's findings and insights from the engagement process.

LIMITATIONS

It is important to recognize the various limitations of these findings, including time constraints, a small sample size, and a lack of randomized sampling (i.e., the findings are not generalizable to the entire City population). In addition, attendees at public forums have varying degrees of familiarity with the City's budget and budgeting process, as well as existing City programs, services, and initiatives, which may affect the feedback they provide. As always, public forums allow residents to come to the table to be heard. Despite any limitations, UICNI's findings and insights do represent the opinions and perceptions of some Chicago residents and can help inform decision-making for the 2025 budget and beyond.

PEOPLE

Photo top

Youth participants at Harold Washington Library Center.

Photo bottom

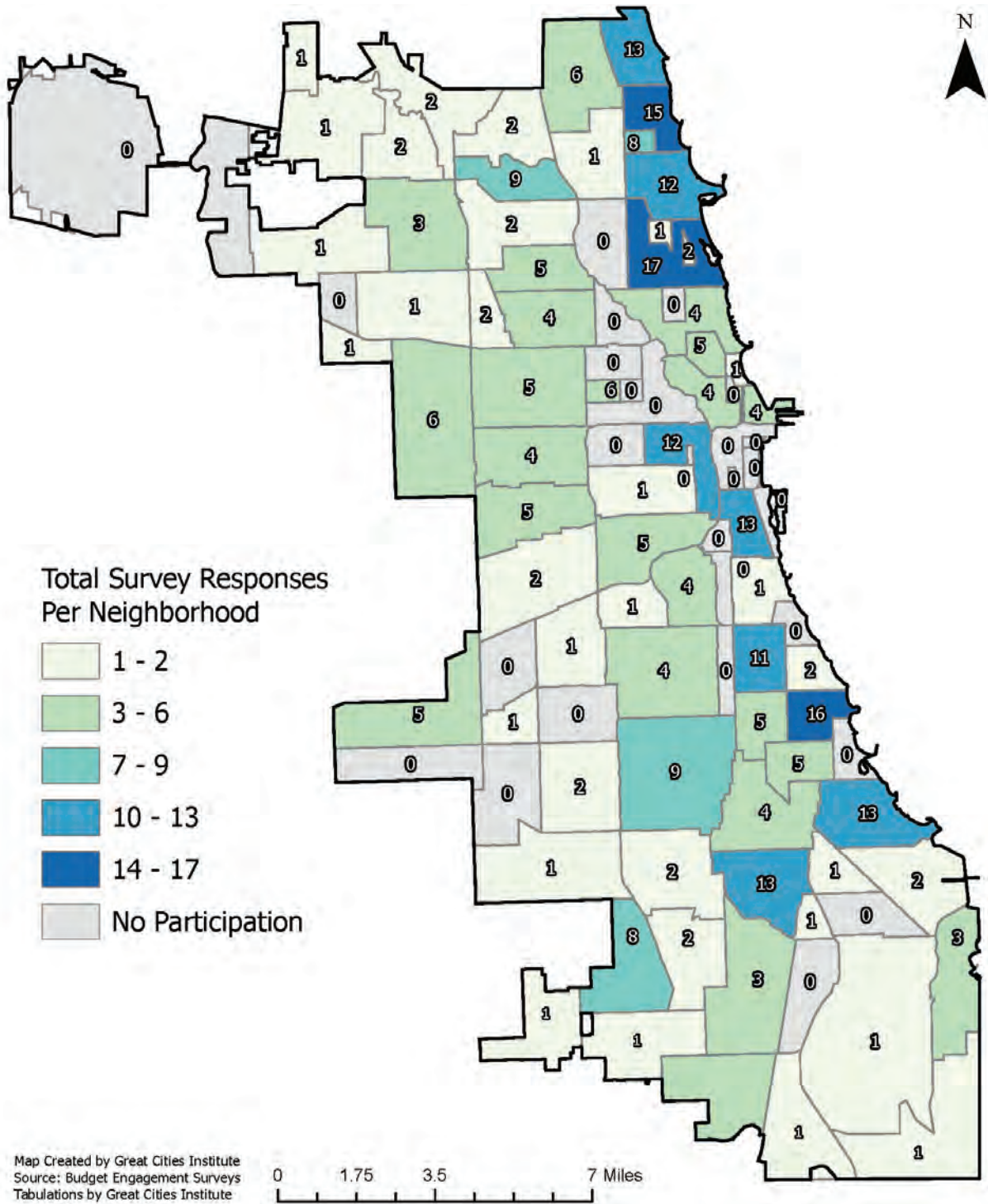
A participant during the resource fair before the Malcolm X roundtable.



PEOPLE

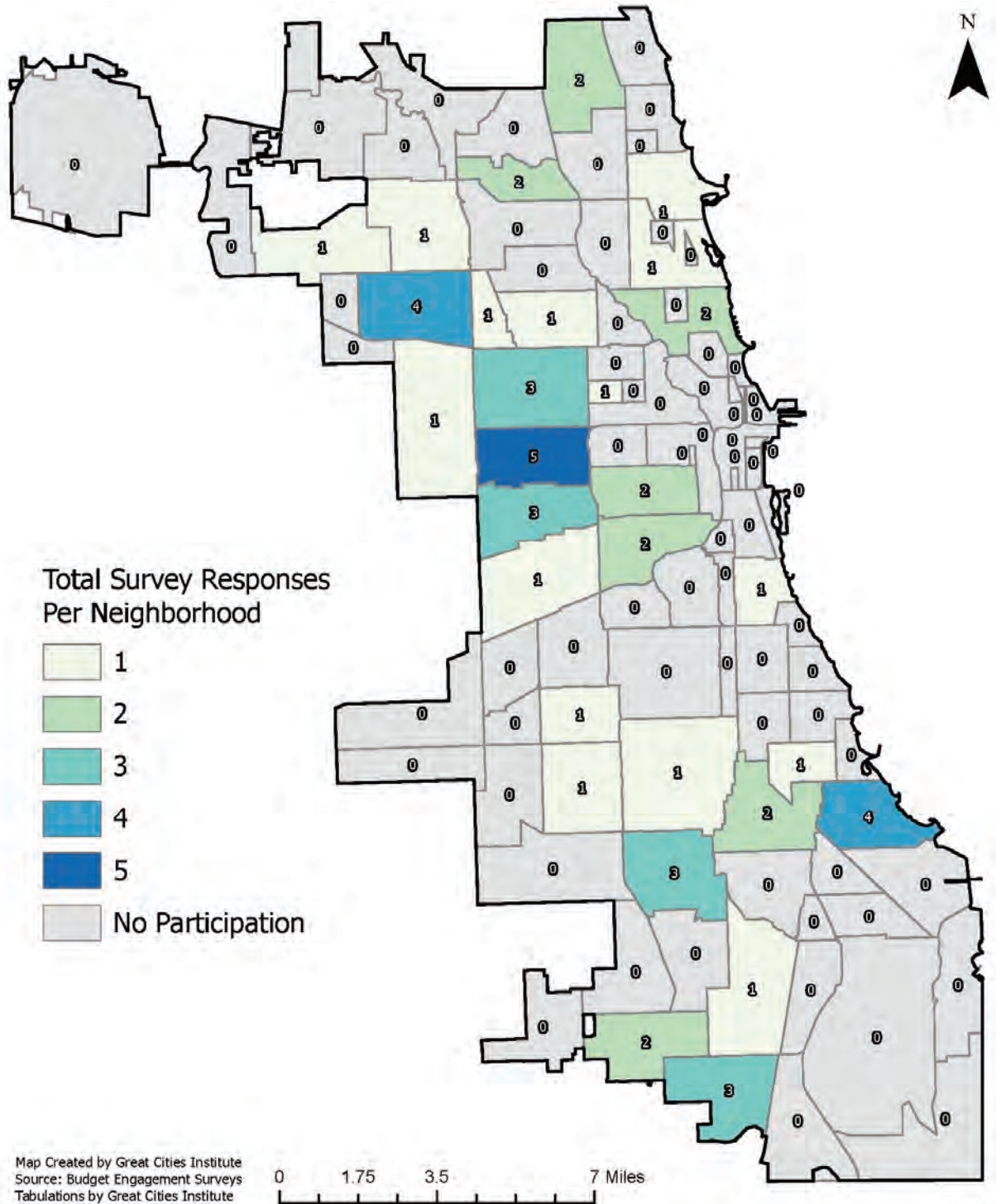
NEIGHBORHOOD

MAP 1. PHASE 3 ADULT PARTICIPATION BY NEIGHBORHOOD



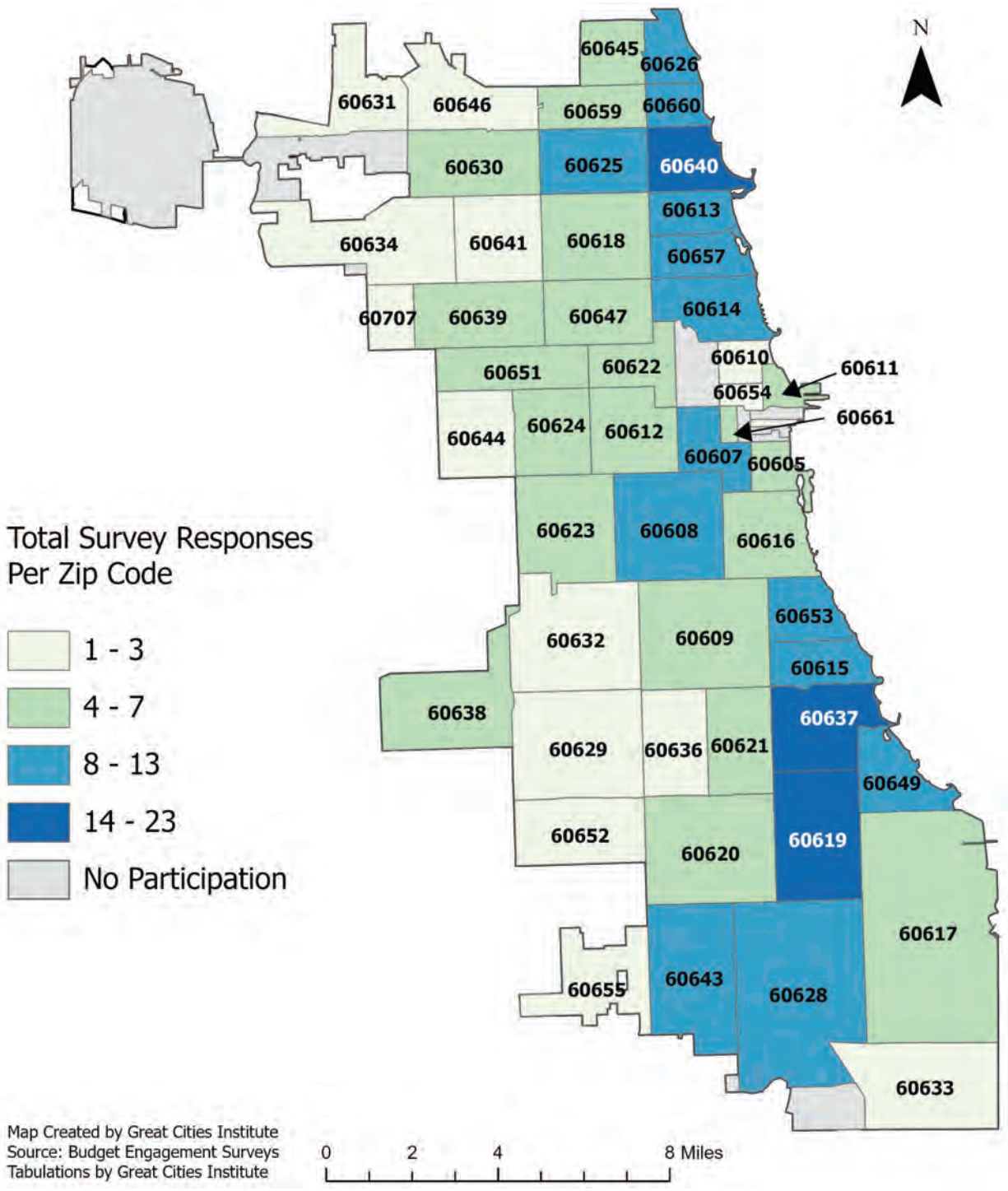
NEIGHBORHOOD

MAP 2. PHASE 3 YOUTH PARTICIPATION BY NEIGHBORHOOD



PEOPLE
ZIP CODE

MAP 3. PHASE 3 ADULT PARTICIPATION BY ZIP CODE

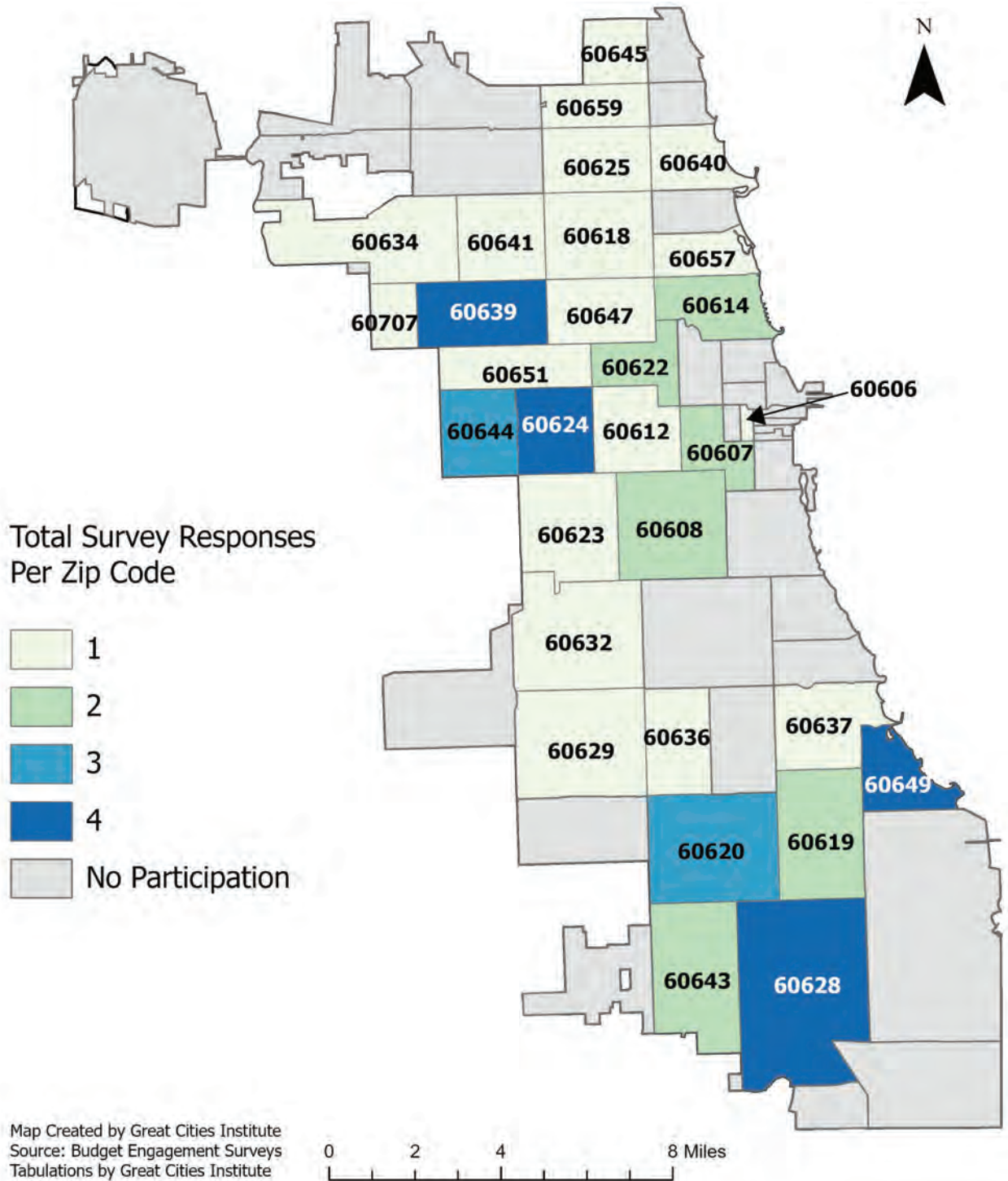


Map Created by Great Cities Institute
Source: Budget Engagement Surveys
Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

0 2 4 8 Miles

ZIP CODE

MAP 4. PHASE 3 YOUTH PARTICIPATION BY ZIP CODE



PEOPLE

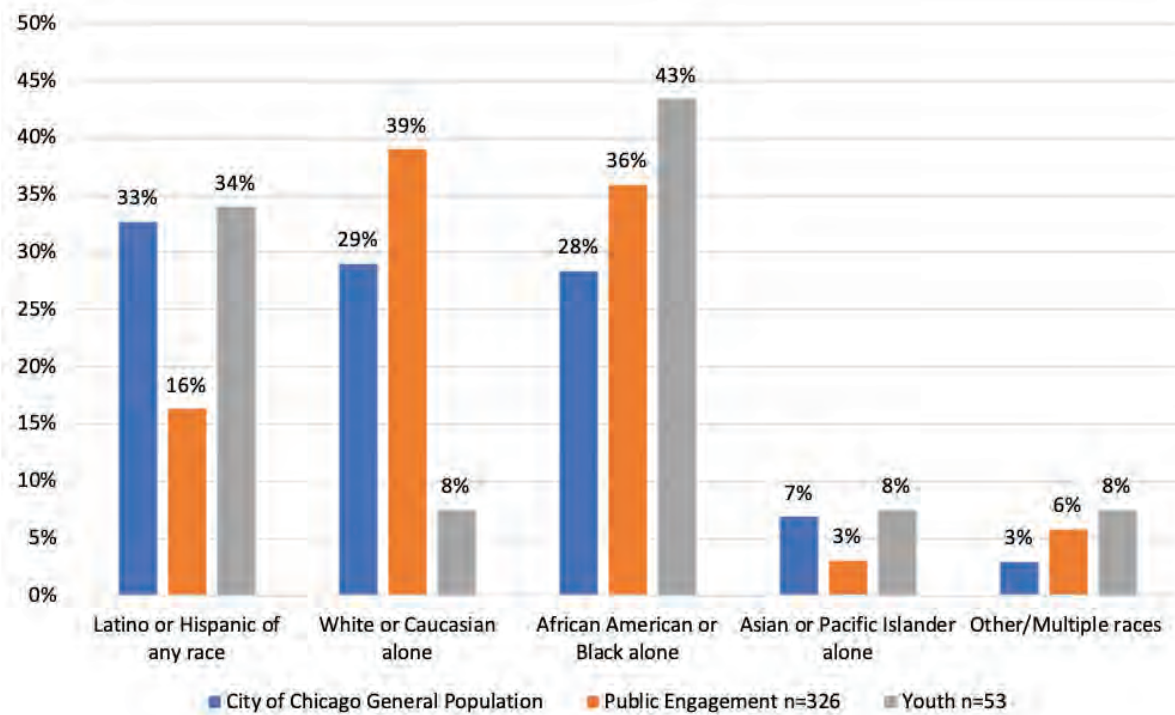
Ninety-seven percent of public engagement participants were City residents, and 100 percent of youth were City residents.

For reported race/ethnicity there are some demographic differences between the City of Chicago's general population and residents who engaged in the public and youth engagement sessions.

Notably, African American or Black residents were overrepresented, particularly in youth engagement (43%), compared to the general population (28%). Latino or Hispanic representation was fairly aligned with the general population among youth (34%) but significantly lower in overall engagement (16%). Conversely, White residents were overrepresented

in the public engagement sessions (39%) compared to the city's population (29%) and underrepresented among youth (8%). While this data may not perfectly reflect the city's overall racial/ethnic composition, the focus on overrepresented groups, especially communities of color, aligns with an equity-based approach that seeks to amplify voices from historically marginalized groups, ensuring their perspectives are integral to shaping policies that impact their communities.

FIG. 1. RACE/ETHNICITY OF RESPONDENTS COMPARED TO CITY OF CHICAGO



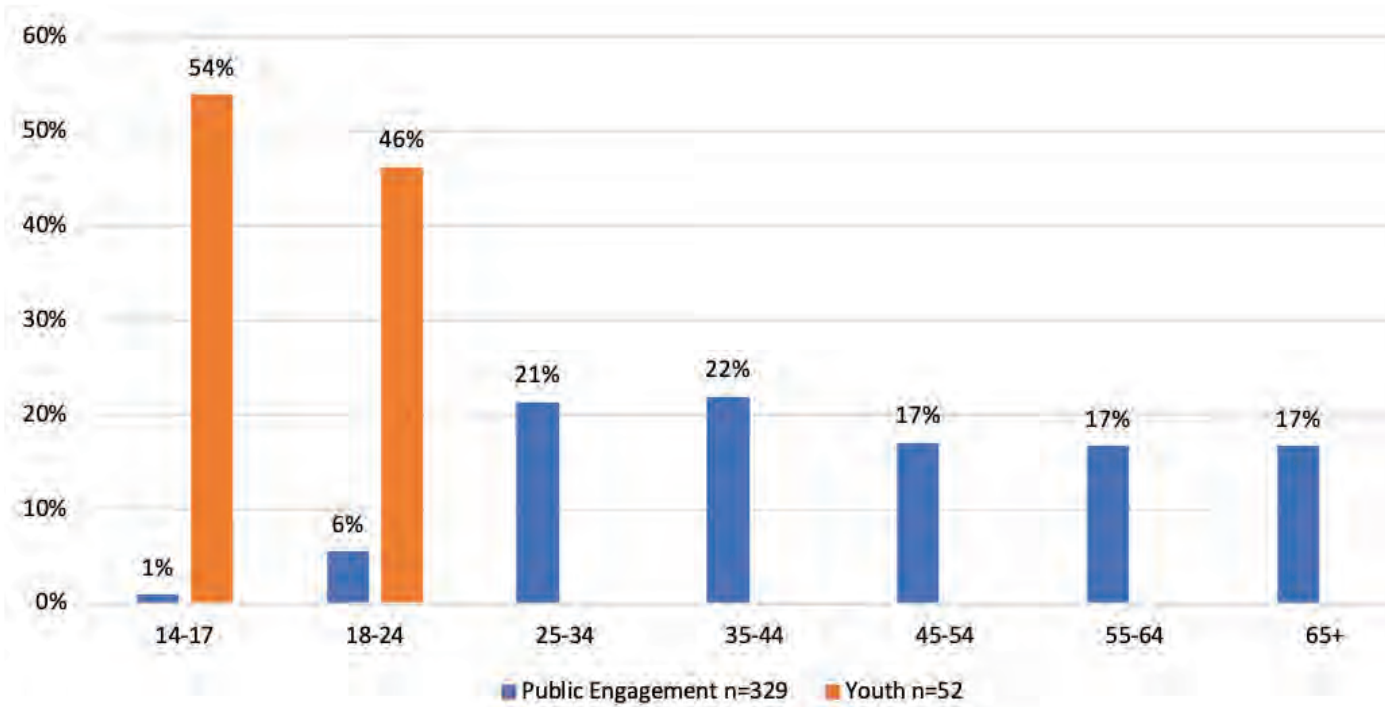
Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. City of Chicago data obtained from the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018–2022 Five-Year Estimates. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

The age data illustrates the breakdown of participants in the 2025 budget engagement process, reflecting separate youth and general public events. In the youth-specific engagement, participants were primarily aged 14–17 (54%) and 18–24 (46%), emphasizing the City's work to capture and include younger voices. The separate youth event allowed for focused discussions with younger residents. However, ensuring that young people also feel welcome in general public engagements is also important, as it can foster intergenerational dialogue and invite younger residents to contribute to broader community conversations.

In contrast, the general public engagement attracted an even distribution across adults from ages 25 to 65+, each age group representing 17% to 22%

of participants. This distribution suggests that perspectives from various life stages were included. This can allow the City to capture a broad spectrum of priorities and concerns as reflected in the needs and experiences of different age cohorts. The even age distribution suggests too that the engagement approach was accessible and appealing to a wide range of age groups.

FIG. 2. AGE OF RESPONDENTS



*Note: The American Community Survey collects data on the 10–14 years and 15–17 years age cohorts. For the City of Chicago, approximately 6% of the population is age 10–14.
Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. City of Chicago age data obtained from the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018–2022 Five-Year Estimates. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.*

PEOPLE

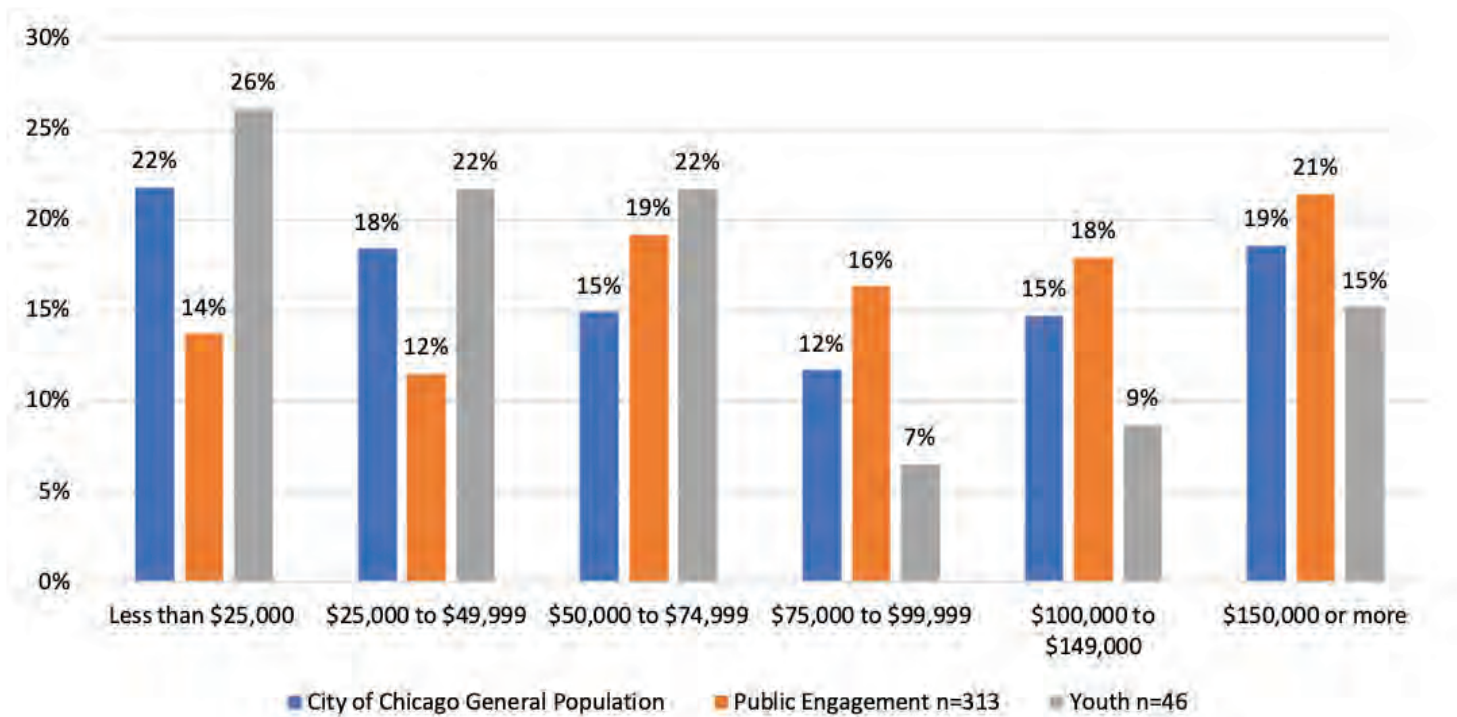
The income distribution among participants in public engagement reveals diverse economic backgrounds, with representation across various income levels. Lower-income residents (earning less than \$50,000 annually) are underrepresented compared to the general population of Chicago, while higher-income groups (earning \$100,000 or more) are somewhat overrepresented. This imbalance might be influenced by the accessibility of engagement opportunities or the challenges lower-income residents face in attending such events.

In contrast, the youth engagement data show a higher representation in the lowest income bracket (26%), reflecting the economic realities of young residents. Income data for youth participants might

not be fully accurate, as young people may not know their households' exact income, leading to potential underreporting or estimates. This uncertainty could skew the income distribution for the youth group, making it appear as though there is a higher concentration in lower income brackets than might actually be the case.

While not fully representative of Chicago's broader income spectrum, it is clear that multiple income perspectives are considered in the budget process. The City may benefit from strategies to better reach lower-income residents, ensuring an equitable approach that fully considers the needs of residents from all economic backgrounds.

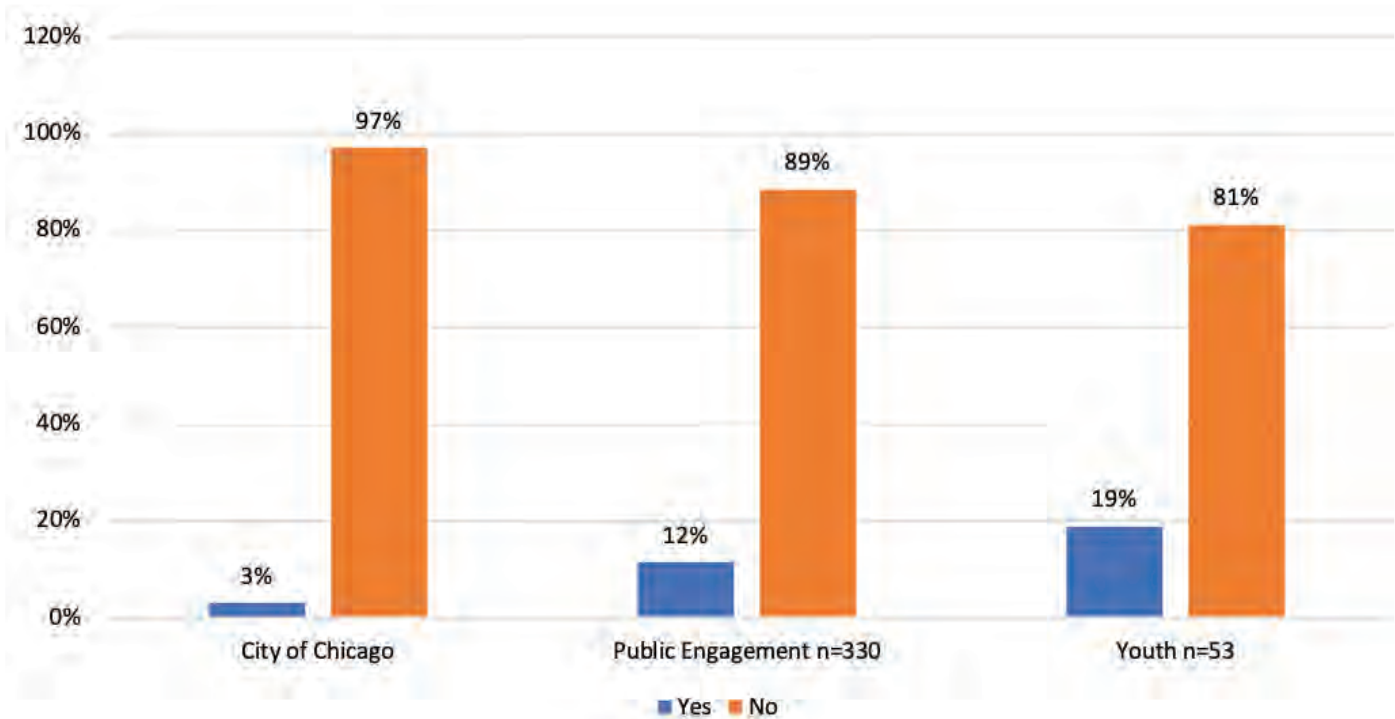
FIG. 3. INCOME OF RESPONDENTS COMPARED TO CITY OF CHICAGO



Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. City of Chicago race/ethnicity data obtained from the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018–2022 Five-Year Estimates. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

While the general population shows a 3% rate of military service or household connection, public engagement participants reported a higher rate at 12%, and youth participants at 19%. The elevated rates of military-connected households among engagement participants could reflect increased civic engagement in these households or it could reflect Census data showing that military service is more prevalent in Black and Hispanic communities. Although this angle of representation doesn't mirror the general population exactly, it still provides valuable insights from a segment of the community that contributes distinct perspectives to the engagement process.

FIG. 4. SERVICE IN ARMED FORCES BY RESPONDENT OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBER



Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. City of Chicago age data obtained from the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2018–2022 Five-Year Estimates. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

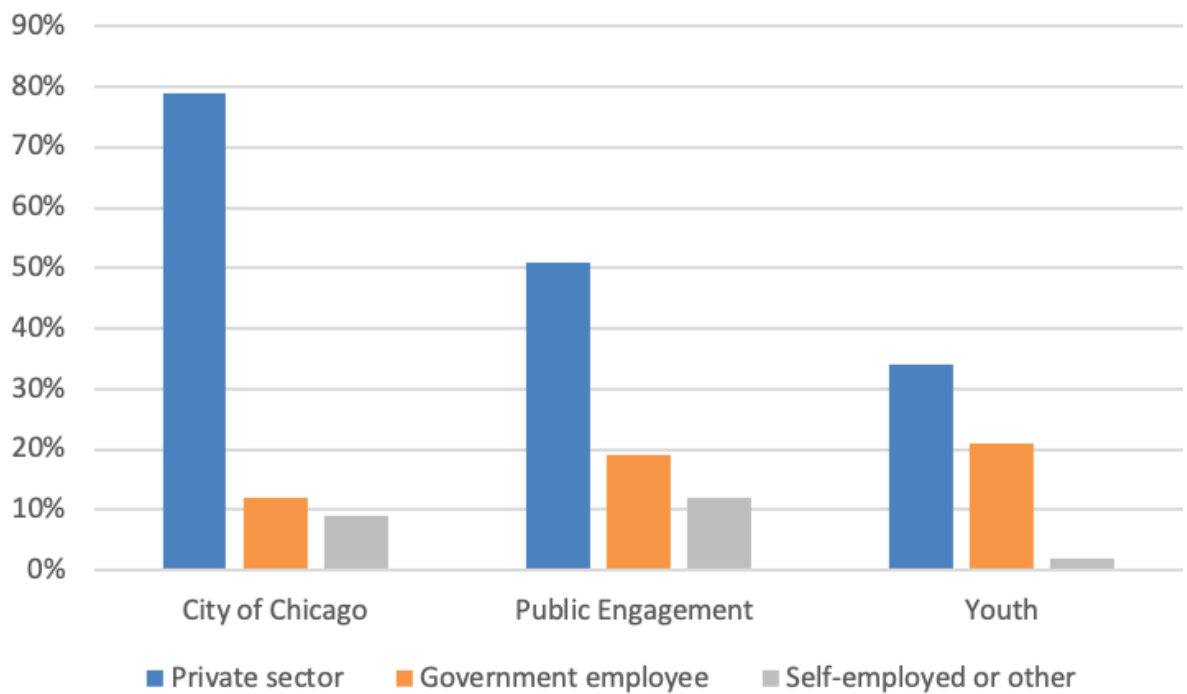
PEOPLE

While about 80% of Chicago's general population is employed in the private sector, public engagement participants have a more diverse employment spread, with lower representation from the private sector and a higher proportion working in government or being self-employed. Youth participants, too, show lower private-sector involvement, with a notable number employed in government roles.

These differences might suggest that individuals working in government or those with more flexible work arrangements are more inclined to participate in civic activities, potentially due to a closer connection to public policy or greater awareness of community issues. Although these figures don't mirror the city's overall employment distribution, they enrich the

engagement process with insights from residents who are likely more attuned to public needs and local governance, adding valuable depth to the community feedback collected.

FIG. 5. EMPLOYMENT OF RESPONDENTS COMPARED TO CITY OF CHICAGO



Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. City of Chicago data obtained from the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018–2022 Five-Year Estimates. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.



ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Photos (clockwise from top)

Participants at Truman College, Harold Washington Library Center, Kennedy-King College, and Malcolm X College.

This section includes analysis from all data sources and presents overarching findings and detailed topic results for all engagement activities: public roundtables, online, and the youth roundtable.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

OVERALL

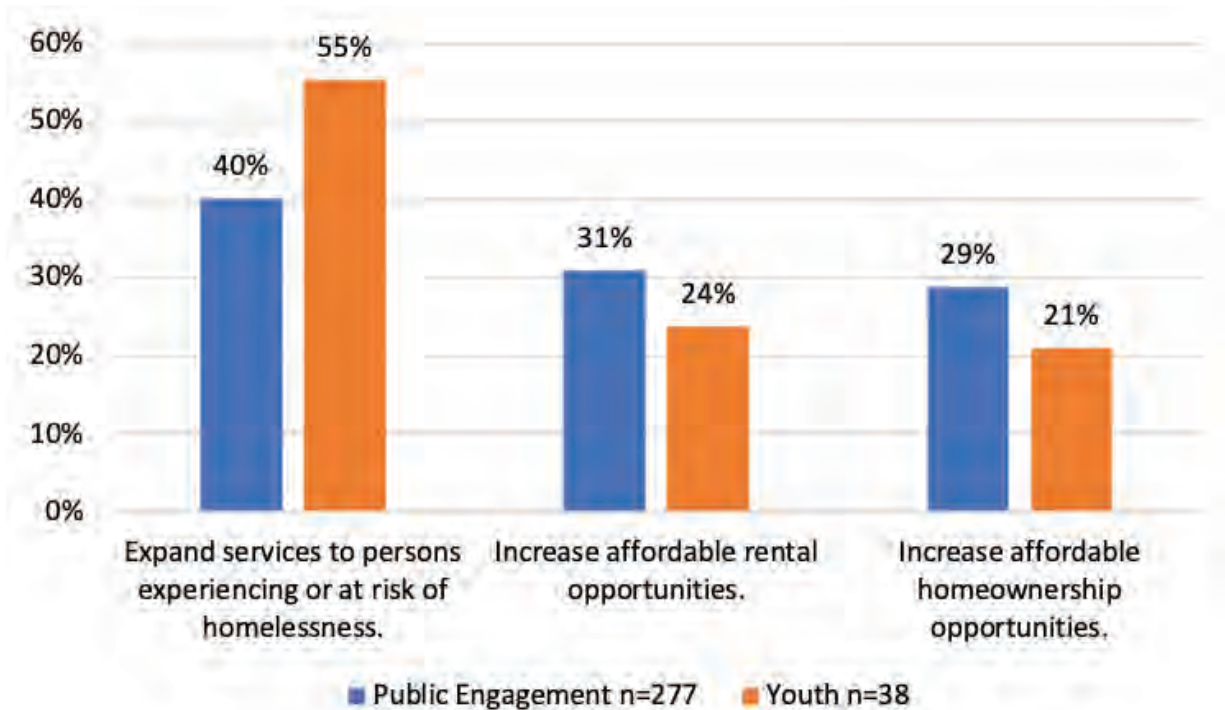
For affordable housing, youth participants placed a higher emphasis on expanding services for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness, with 55% marking this as a top priority compared to 40% of the public group. In contrast, general public participants ranked increasing affordable rental and homeownership opportunities as higher priorities, at 31% and 29%, respectively, than did youth, at 24% and 21%. Youth participants may have a more immediate concern for homelessness services, while the public engagement group prioritizes a balanced approach across homelessness support and creating more affordable housing options.

The higher priority youth place on expanding services for those at risk of homelessness may reflect direct

experiences or heightened awareness of housing instability. Given that youth participants are more likely to come from lower-income households, as shown in previous data, this could indicate familiarity with the challenges of affordable housing access, either through personal or community experiences.

This perspective adds depth to the findings, suggesting that youth may view homelessness as an urgent issue in their immediate environment, whereas the public engagement group, with a wider range of income levels, wants to more evenly prioritize increasing rental and homeownership opportunities. Understanding this can help the City tailor housing policies to address immediate needs for homelessness support and long-term goals for affordable housing access.

FIG. 6. MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY: AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS



Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

RESULTS

BY NEIGHBORHOOD

Because affordable housing is a place-based issue as well as a large-scale one, in analyzing chosen priorities, we identified the top 10 neighborhoods based on the highest counts of residents who prioritized each affordable housing initiative, as reported through self-identified neighborhood. This ranking provides insight into specific areas where residents see the greatest need for services, whether that involves expanding support for those experiencing homelessness, increasing affordable rental options, or enhancing opportunities for affordable homeownership. By examining these rankings, we can better understand localized priorities, helping guide resource allocation

in a way that aligns with the specific needs of these communities.

Lakeview stands out as the only neighborhood with high counts in all three categories, possibly indicating broader demand for diverse housing solutions. South Shore and Bronzeville both prioritize homelessness services and affordable homeownership, hinting at communities with vulnerable populations who see stability through housing as crucial. In South Shore, the demand for affordable rentals may reflect an effort to prevent displacement, while Bronzeville's strong focus on homeownership aligns with a historic emphasis on building economic resilience through

FIG. 7. TOP 10 NEIGHBORHOOD PRIORITIES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVES

Expand services to persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness		Increase affordable homeownership opportunities		Increase affordable rental opportunities	
Neighborhood	Count	Neighborhood	Count	Neighborhood	Count
Lakeview	8	Chatham	9	Lakeview	6
South Shore	7	Bronzeville	4	South Shore	5
Bronzeville	6	Hyde Park	4	Edgewater	4
Uptown	6	Pilsen	4	South Loop	4
Austin	5	Beverly	3	Rogers Park	4
Hyde Park	5	Lincoln Park	3	Uptown	4
Albany Park	4	West Garfield Park	3	Ravenswood	3
Andersonville	4	Lakeview	2	West Ridge	3
Edgewater	4	Austin	2	Woodlawn	3
River North	4	Edgewater	2	West Loop	2

Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

property ownership. Chatham’s unique prioritization of affordable homeownership signals a community that views property ownership as a path to long-term empowerment. Meanwhile, Hyde Park, with its balanced interest in both homelessness services and homeownership, reflects a mixed-income community focused on both immediate support and future stability. Edgewater and Uptown show a strong preference for homelessness services and affordable rentals, likely indicating high rental populations facing immediate housing challenges.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Participants across all events and online provided a total of 121 comments related to affordable housing (see the Appendix for individual comments).

Within affordable housing and homelessness, comments related to “services for people experiencing homelessness” were most frequent, indicating that participants see targeted support for homeless populations as essential. This suggests that the community perceives homelessness as a critical issue requiring not just housing but comprehensive support services to meet immediate needs.

Additionally, various themes within the broad "affordable housing and homelessness" category reflect diverse interests, such as affordable homeownership, rental opportunities, and housing preservation, pointing to a nuanced understanding of housing stability. Collectively, the themes illustrate a community that values both immediate interventions for vulnerable groups and longer-term strategies for maintaining affordable housing options, highlighting the complex nature of housing needs and priorities in the area.

ARTS AND CULTURE

OVERALL

Only 23% of youth participants prioritize increased cultural grants, while 56% prefer developing additional arts and cultural programming. This likely indicates a desire for direct experiences and perhaps a lack of experience with supporting arts infrastructure. The public, on the other hand, places a higher priority on grants (45%), possibly because they recognize the importance of funding to sustain arts communities. Both groups show relatively low interest in expanding the Public Art program, with youth slightly more engaged (21%) than the general public (15%).

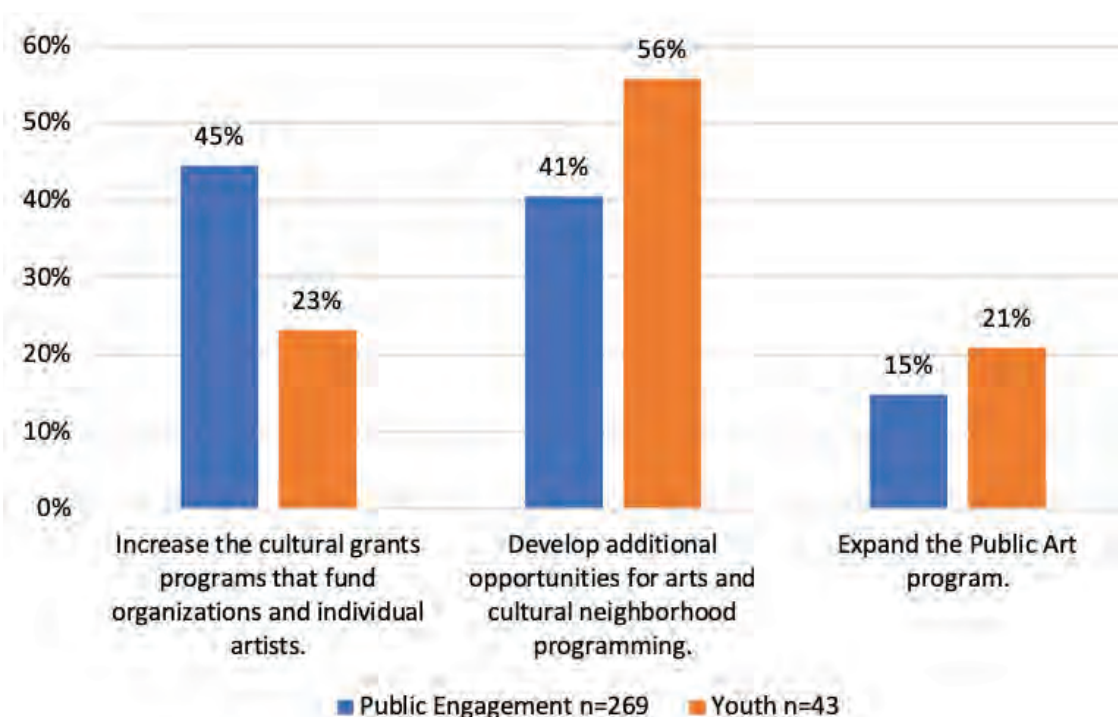
PUBLIC COMMENT

Participants provided 17 comments on arts and culture (see the Appendix). The comments related to arts and culture highlight a variety of themes that emphasize the

importance of funding, accessibility, and community engagement.

Some comments focus on increasing cultural grants to support local theaters, schools, and arts organizations that provide vital cultural experiences. Others mention enhancing neighborhood programming by integrating art with public infrastructure, like interactive art pieces to promote community connection and pedestrian safety. There are also calls for equitable access to arts by using vacant spaces as temporary galleries and expanding support for artist labor, reflecting a desire to make arts and culture an inclusive and accessible part of the community. These themes collectively indicate a community interest in arts as both a cultural asset and a tool for neighborhood improvement.

FIG. 8. MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY: ARTS AND CULTURE



Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.



COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

OVERALL

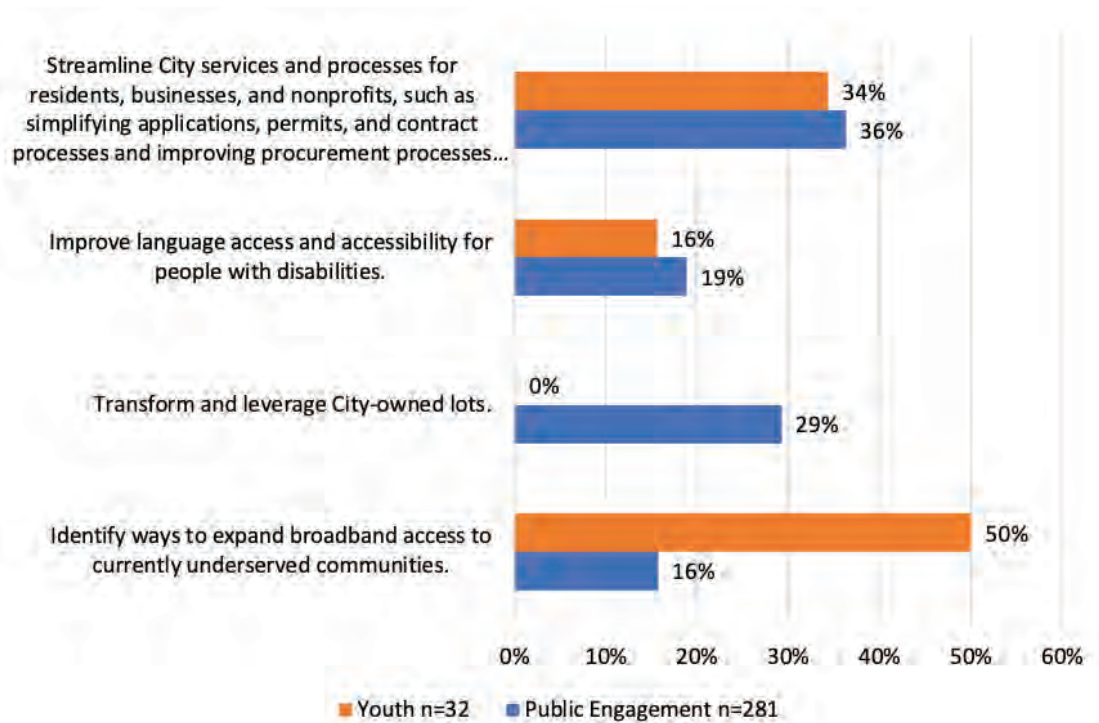
Both public engagement and youth participants show a strong preference for streamlining city services, with 36% of the general public and 34% of youth prioritizing efforts to simplify applications, permits, and contract processes. This shared priority highlights a broad desire to reduce bureaucratic barriers, making it easier for residents, businesses, and nonprofits to navigate city services effectively.

Youth participants place a much greater emphasis on expanding broadband access for underserved communities (50%) compared to the general public (16%). This may indicate that youth rely heavily on internet access for education, work, and social connection so view broadband access as a critical infrastructure need for equitable opportunity.

Conversely, general public participants prioritize the transformation and leveraging of City-owned lots (29%), a focus that did not appear among youth responses. Youth may be unaware of City-owned lots, or adults may have a more place-based perspective, seeking tangible changes in the use of public land to spur development and community revitalization.

These differences reflect complementary priorities, where the general public leans towards physical community improvements and structural access, while youth emphasize digital access and equity, showcasing diverse approaches to enhancing community development.

FIG. 9. MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT



Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

RESULTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Participants offered 115 comments related to community and neighborhood development (see the Appendix).

A recurring theme (likely as a result of the attendance of several animal care advocates) is a call for increased funding and support for Chicago Animal Care and Control, citing the shelter's low budget compared to other major cities and the need for more staff, higher salaries, and better resources for animal care and services.

Comments also show strong interest in equitable, community-focused development practices. Many comments point to neighborhood preservation, advocating for investment in vacant lots, abandoned buildings, and affordable housing. There is also a focus on community revitalization and minimizing displacement.

Other suggestions address economic development, including support for small businesses and training programs, particularly for underserved communities. There are calls for improved transparency in development processes, equitable revenue generation (e.g., vacancy taxes on underused properties), and policies to protect residents from displacement.

In addition, the emphasis on improving infrastructure—such as expanding bike lanes, enhancing public transportation, and creating green spaces—reflects a desire for sustainable development that prioritizes community well-being.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OVERALL

Youth participants (46%) show a strong preference for improving community briefings, suggesting they seek more accessible updates on decisions and initiatives. In contrast, only 30% of the general public prioritizes this approach, potentially indicating they feel informed or value other engagement strategies more.

In contrast, the general public shows greater interest in developing and implementing models of decision-making and co-creation (47%) compared to youth (27%). Adults might see collaborative decision-making as a more sustainable way to shape policies and ensure that community needs are addressed. Both groups show similar interest in evaluating and

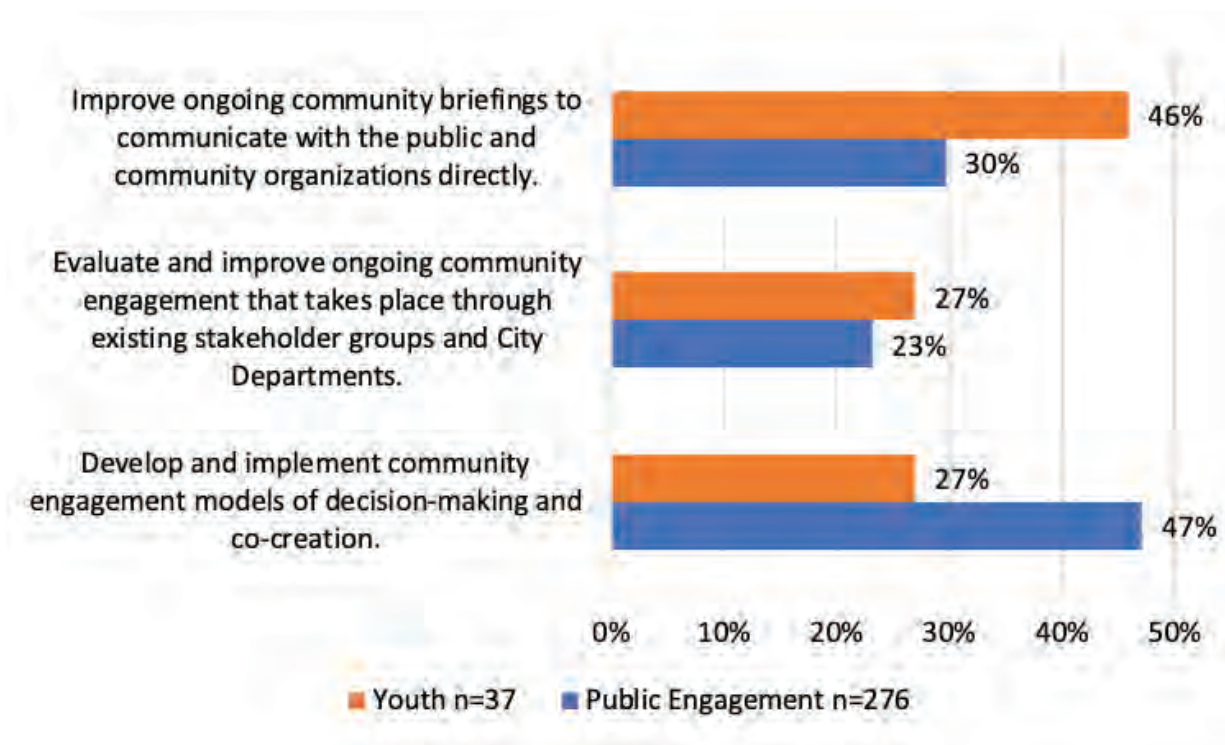
improving engagement through existing stakeholder groups (27% youth, 23% public), indicating a shared recognition of the value in refining current systems for better results.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Participants provided 131 comments related to community engagement (see the Appendix).

Participants emphasized a desire for increased accessibility, with specific requests for American Sign Language interpretation, Spanish-language options, and ADA-compliant online access. Many commented on the need for more frequent, geographically dispersed meetings throughout neighborhoods. Calls for year-long engagement and regular updates

FIG. 10. MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

RESULTS

on budget initiatives were prevalent, alongside requests for transparent communication about budget allocations and project status.

The structure and logistics of the sessions received mixed feedback, with some finding the roundtable format beneficial for dialogue and other struggling with noise and crowded conditions. Suggestions included using more spacious venues and dividing sessions by topic or demographic group.

Outreach and promotion were highlighted as areas for improvement, with calls for broader advertising through media, aldermanic newsletters, and community organizations to ensure more diverse participation, including young people and non-English-speaking residents. Participants also expressed

a desire for resources that make complex budget information more understandable, such as simple breakdowns, handouts, and connections between funds and services.

Photos

Participants at Truman College discuss affordable housing and homelessness at a roundtable.



COMMUNITY SAFETY

OVERALL

Youth participants (41%) show a stronger preference for expanding alternate response programs and revising 311 and 911 protocols, which could reflect a desire for more adaptable and situationally appropriate responses to incidents. The general public, in contrast, gives this option a lower priority (29%), perhaps revealing different perspectives on public safety measures.

Both groups have similar interest in expanding violence prevention programs and services (28% youth, 29% public). There is notable divergence in a preference for increasing civilian hires within the police department: 10% of youth participants prioritize this compared

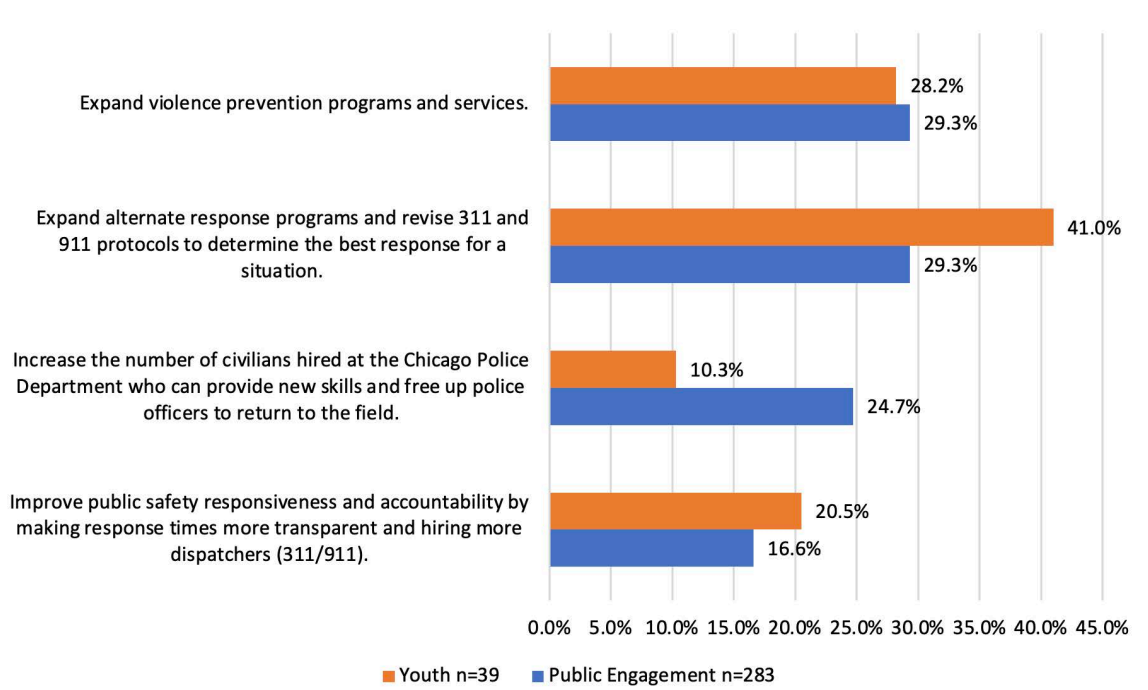
to 25% of the general public, suggesting that adults may see civilian roles as a way to enhance police effectiveness, while youth may be less tuned in to the details of this.

While improving response transparency and hiring more dispatchers is a priority for 21% of youth, only 17% of the general public selected this option.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Participants shared 74 comments related to community safety. Comments reflect a diverse range of opinions and suggestions for improving public safety in the City.

FIG. 11. MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY SAFETY



Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

RESULTS

A frequent theme is reallocating police funding, with many participants advocating for a reduced police budget and redirection of funds to community development, mental health services, housing, youth programs, and other preventive measures.

Another prevalent theme is the strong support for non-police-based violence prevention programs, such as the Peace Book for youth engagement and community peacekeeping. Many participants believe that expanding violence interrupter initiatives and restorative justice practices is crucial for reducing violence and building community trust. Similarly, there are numerous calls for alternative response models that involve non-police crisis intervention, like 24-hour mental health response teams and crisis centers. Participants suggest that collaboration between public health and community safety services could address crises more effectively without relying on police involvement.

Concerns about police accountability and the need for enhanced training are frequent, too. Some community members shared negative experiences with police interactions, emphasizing the need for improved de-escalation practices, bias training, and transparency. Additionally, while some residents desire a stronger police presence in high-crime areas to enhance safety, others believe that community safety should be reinforced through partnerships with local organizations and non-police entities.

Last, there are calls to address public safety through improvements in infrastructure, such as managing vacant buildings, enhancing lighting, ensuring clean water access, and creating safe public spaces—all as steps to creating safer neighborhoods.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OVERALL

Both groups share a strong interest in increasing investment and development to revitalize historically disinvested neighborhoods and commercial corridors, with 56% of the general public and 46% of youth prioritizing this.

Youth participants show slightly greater support (29%) than the general public (26%) for providing more workforce development opportunities. This may reflect the immediate relevance of workforce development to youth as they enter the job market.

Youth participants (24%) also have a slight preference for prioritizing resources and training for small

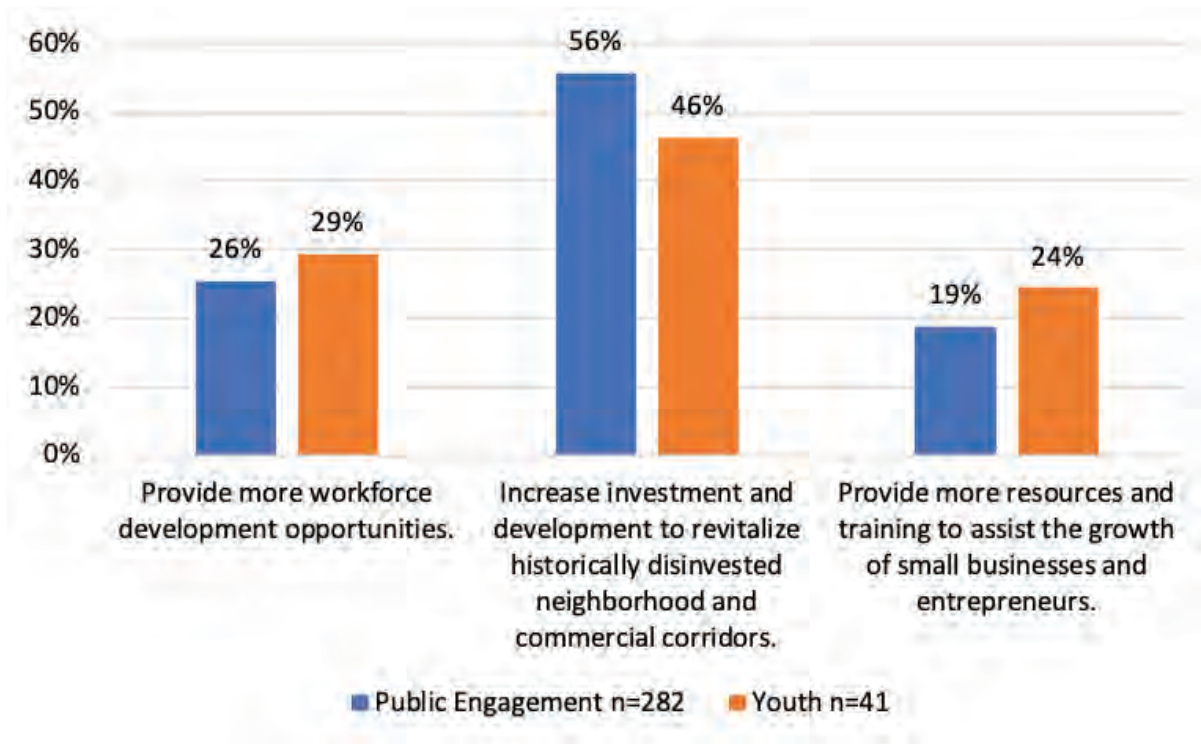
businesses and entrepreneurs over the general public (19%). This could suggest that younger participants are interested in entrepreneurship and small business ownership. Overall, these results reveal an engaged youth perspective that emphasizes both personal economic empowerment and broader community investment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There are 52 comments related specifically to economic development.

Participants expressed a strong desire for more equitable economic development, prioritizing underserved neighborhoods. There was widespread concern over the need for increased resources for

FIG. 12. MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

RESULTS

workforce development, better housing access, and support for small businesses.

Many called for improvements to neighborhood infrastructure, including grocery stores, public transportation, and green spaces, with a focus on sustainable and accessible investments. Respondents advocated for community-driven initiatives, with an emphasis on transparency, local hiring, and equitable distribution of funds.

Community engagement and involvement in decision-making processes were also frequently highlighted, as was the importance of integrating cultural and historical preservation efforts into redevelopment plans. Overall, respondents showed a clear interest in long-term, inclusive development strategies that support both economic growth and social equity.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

OVERALL

Both public engagement and youth participants prioritize environmental initiatives, with nearly equal percentages (47% of the general public and 46% of youth) supporting the implementation of climate-responsive initiatives, such as a Climate Action Plan. This shared priority underscores community-wide recognition of the importance of addressing climate change.

Youth participants (31%) place notably more emphasis on identifying strategies for climate-resilient infrastructure compared to the general public (20%). Youth may be more forward-looking in seeking solutions that not only mitigate immediate climate risks but also build long-term resilience in the face of future challenges.

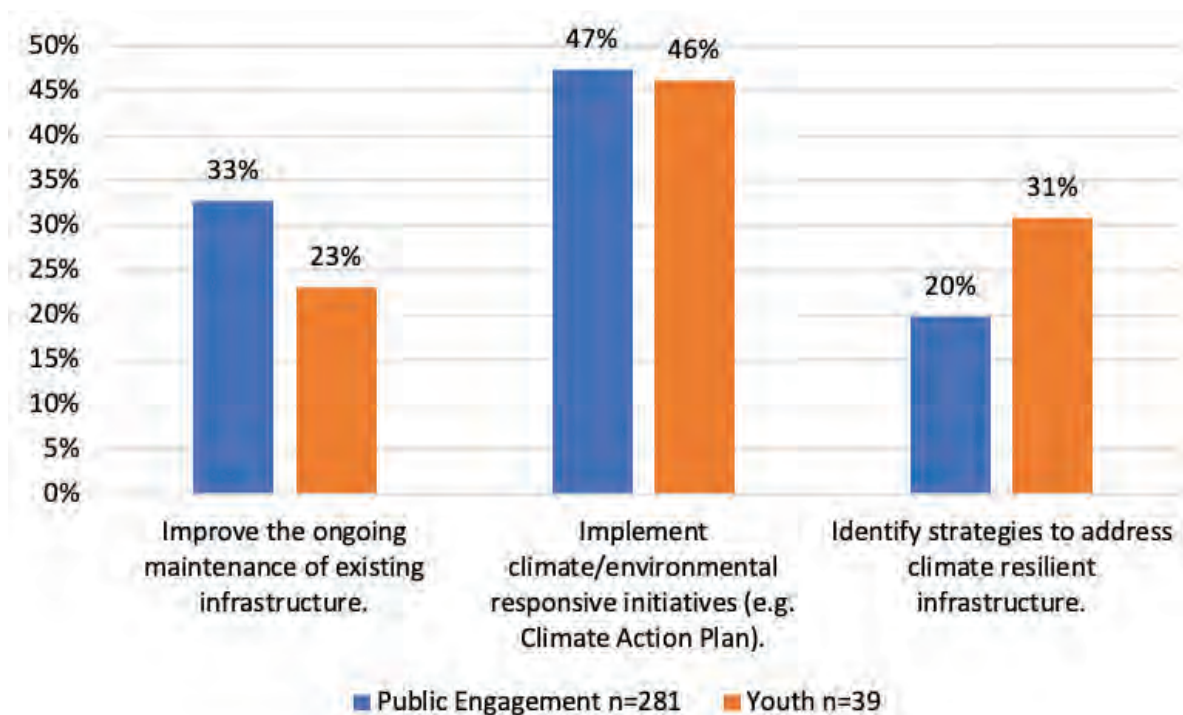
Conversely, general public participants are more concerned with the ongoing maintenance of existing infrastructure (33%) than youth (23%). This difference might reflect a broader focus among adults on the reliability and upkeep of current infrastructure to support everyday life, while youth participants seem more focused on adapting and preparing for a sustainable future. Together, these perspectives indicate a balanced approach, combining immediate infrastructural needs with proactive climate strategies.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were 164 comments related to environmental justice and infrastructure.

The comments emphasize a need for robust support of environmental justice and infrastructure in the city's budget. Many advocate for expanding the Department

FIG. 13. MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

RESULTS

of Environment, with a focus on enforcement powers to handle air quality, pollution, and waste management. Suggestions include reallocating certain responsibilities from the Chicago Department of Public Health to the Department of the Environment, allowing for dedicated oversight of environmental concerns and infrastructure improvements.

Transportation and safety also feature prominently. There is strong demand for a cohesive and protected bike grid, with additional support for bus lanes and pedestrian infrastructure. To create safer streets, residents propose measures like concrete-protected bike lanes, expanded sidewalks, and traffic-calming infrastructure. Enhanced enforcement is recommended to prevent cars from blocking bike lanes, especially in high-traffic areas. Collectively, these themes reflect a vision of city infrastructure that prioritizes sustainability, public health, and accessible, safe transportation for all residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

RANKING PRIORITIES

Survey respondents for public engagement roundtables were asked to rank the top three infrastructure priorities in their zip code and then to identify areas of greatest need for the entire city. For both groups, complete streets (51% for zip code, 50% for Chicago) and street resurfacing (46% for zip code, 43% for Chicago) were top priorities, showing a shared focus on road quality and accessibility.

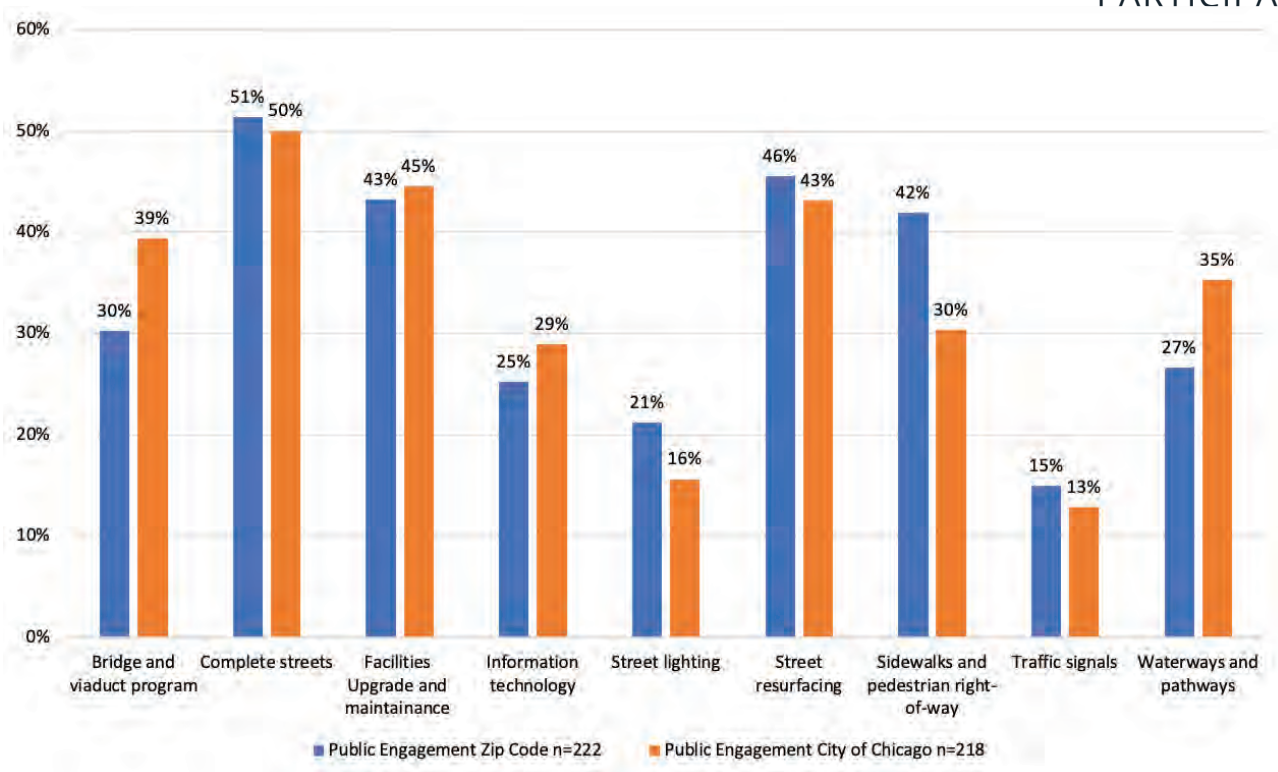
For both zip code and city-wide, complete streets was the highest priority, reflecting a strong desire for safer, more accessible streets that accommodate all modes of transportation. When considering their own zip codes, residents ranked street resurfacing second. Facilities upgrade and maintenance ranked third

within zip codes. In contrast, for the broader needs of Chicago, residents shifted their second priority to facilities upgrade and maintenance, with street resurfacing third.

The consistent emphasis on these top three programs, especially complete streets, demonstrates a shared vision among participants for improving safety, accessibility, and infrastructure quality across both local and city-wide levels.

Youth respondents also identified the top three priorities within their zip codes and for Chicago as a whole. The highest priorities at the zip code level included complete streets (77%) and facilities upgrade and maintenance (65%). When considering City-wide needs, youth still prioritized complete

FIG. 14. TOP 3 INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PARTICIPANTS



Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

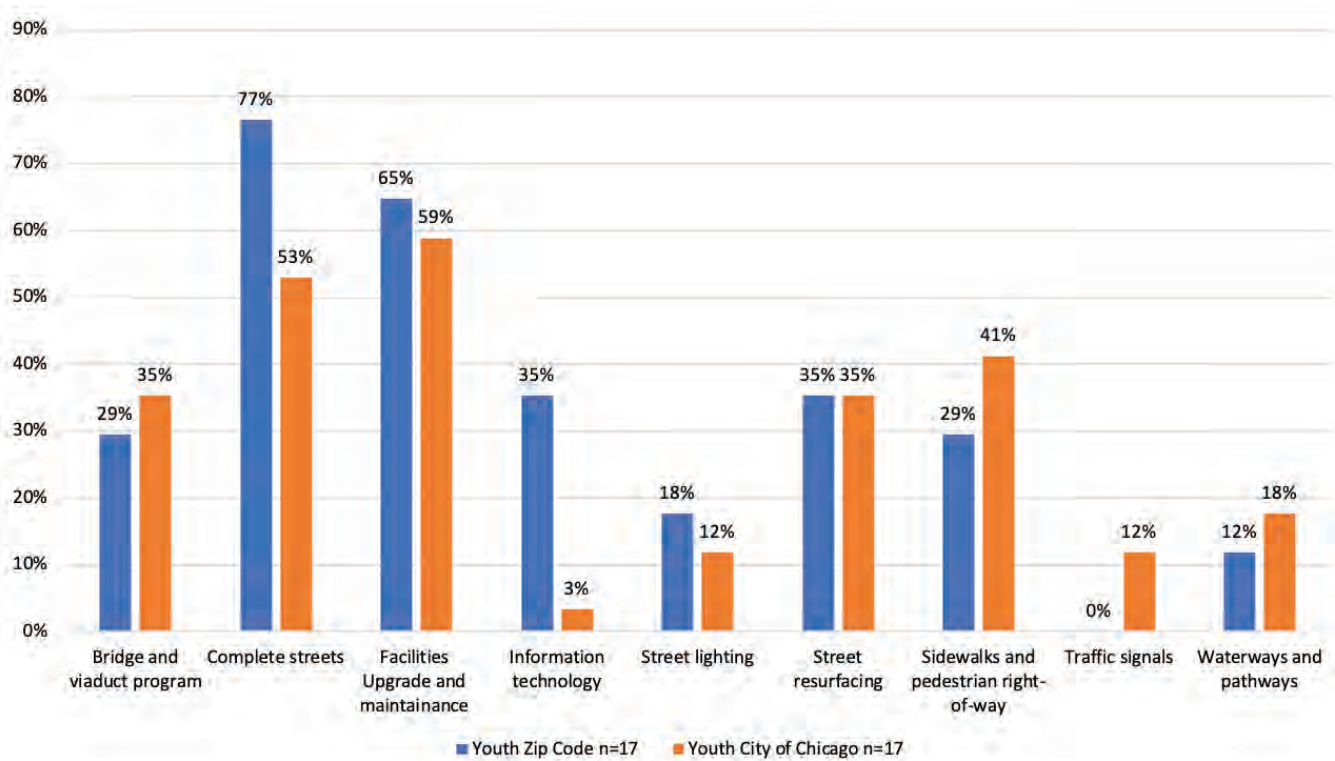
RESULTS

streets and facilities upgrade and maintenance, though at slightly lower levels (53% and 59%, respectively). Lower-priority categories, like traffic signals (0% for zip code, 12% for Chicago) and information technology (3% for zip code), suggest that youth do not see these areas as immediate needs. However, differences such as the higher prioritization of sidewalks and pedestrian right-of-way for City-wide improvements (41%) highlight that young residents likely see pedestrian infrastructure as crucial for the broader city, even if it is less prioritized locally.

Overall, youth focused on street and facility improvements, with a nuanced view of localized versus city-wide infrastructure needs. Conversely, general public participants are more concerned with

the ongoing maintenance of existing infrastructure (33%) than youth (23%). This difference might reflect a broader focus among adults on the reliability and upkeep of current infrastructure to support everyday life, while youth participants seem more focused on adapting and preparing for a sustainable future. Together, these perspectives indicate a balanced approach, combining immediate infrastructural needs with proactive climate strategies.

FIG. 15. TOP 3 INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES FOR YOUTH PARTICIPANTS



Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

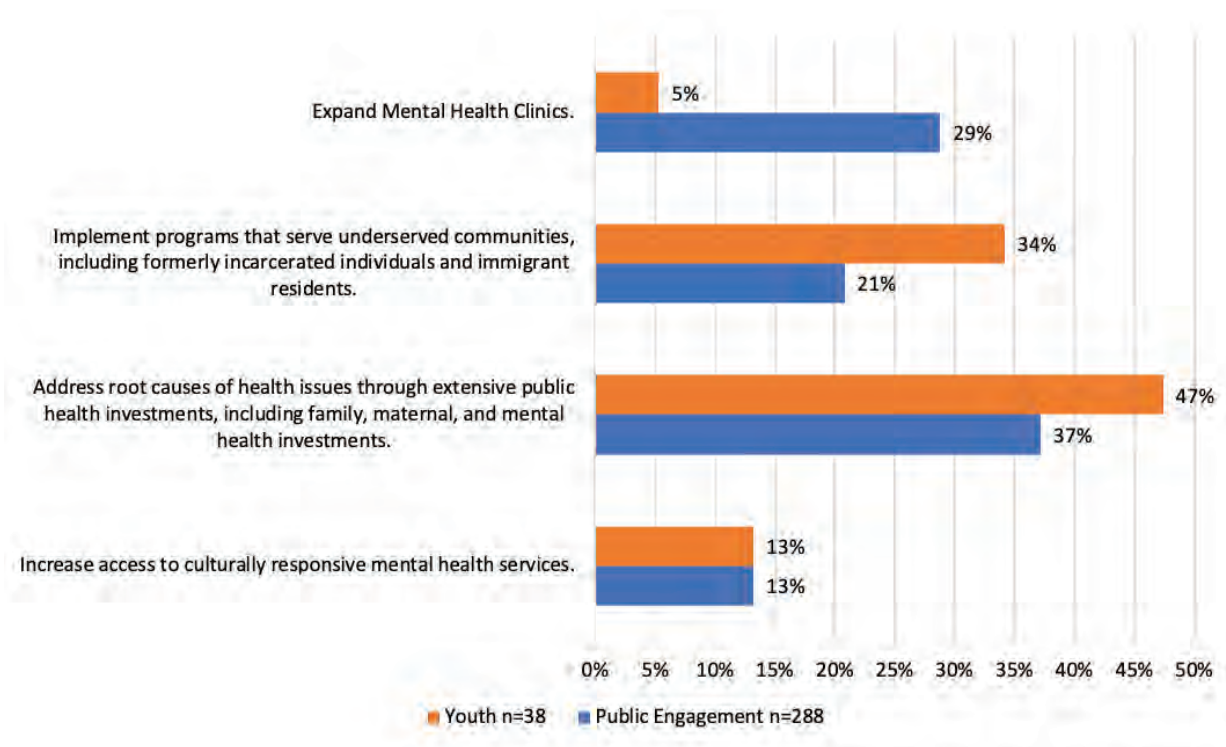
OVERALL

The data reveal varied priorities among the general public for public health initiatives. While 29% of respondents support expanding mental health clinics, there is notable interest (37%) in addressing root causes of health issues through broader public health investments. About 21% of participants prioritize implementing programs for underserved communities, like formerly incarcerated individuals and immigrants. A smaller portion, 13%, favors increasing access to culturally responsive mental health services, highlighting an awareness of the need for tailored approaches. These results suggest a general preference for balanced investments across immediate health services and systemic public health improvements.

Youth participants also chose increased access to culturally responsive mental health services (13%). The same portion of the general public did as well, which might reflect that cultural services, while valued, are not as urgent as other public health and wellness needs.

Youth participants are more interested in addressing the root causes of health issues (47%) than general public participants (37%), which may reflect their interest in broad, systemic change or less experience navigating health care systems. Similarly, 34% of youth prioritize implementing programs for underserved communities, a higher percentage than the general public's 21%.

FIG. 16. MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY: PUBLIC HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH



Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

RESULTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

There are 102 comments on public health and mental health.

The comments highlight critical public health needs, focusing on mental health, equitable health care, and community-based support. Many suggest increased funding and structural changes for the Chicago Department of Public Health, emphasizing that as COVID-related funds dwindle, the city must stay invested in core public health services. There's a call to shift some resources from policing to initiatives like the Treatment Not Trauma program and to expand non-police emergency mental health responses, as well as expanding mental health clinics to operate 24/7. Some comments share that trauma-informed, culturally sensitive services provided through partnerships with non-profits and community organizations could effectively meet local needs and reduce stigma associated with seeking mental health care.

In addition, there's significant advocacy for addressing health-care inequities, particularly for African Americans and marginalized populations. Comments urge more equitable allocation of funds to Black-led health-care organizations for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, as well as better access to health care for immigrants and low-income residents. Public health infrastructure improvements, such as cooling and heating centers for extreme weather and resources for addressing domestic violence and homelessness, are also mentioned.

YOUTH SERVICES

OVERALL

A significant 84% of youth participants selected expanding youth employment opportunities as a top priority, indicating a strong desire for job readiness and economic independence. In contrast, only 32% of the general public selected youth employment as their top priority, possibly reflecting an adult view that places more immediate focus on other support services.

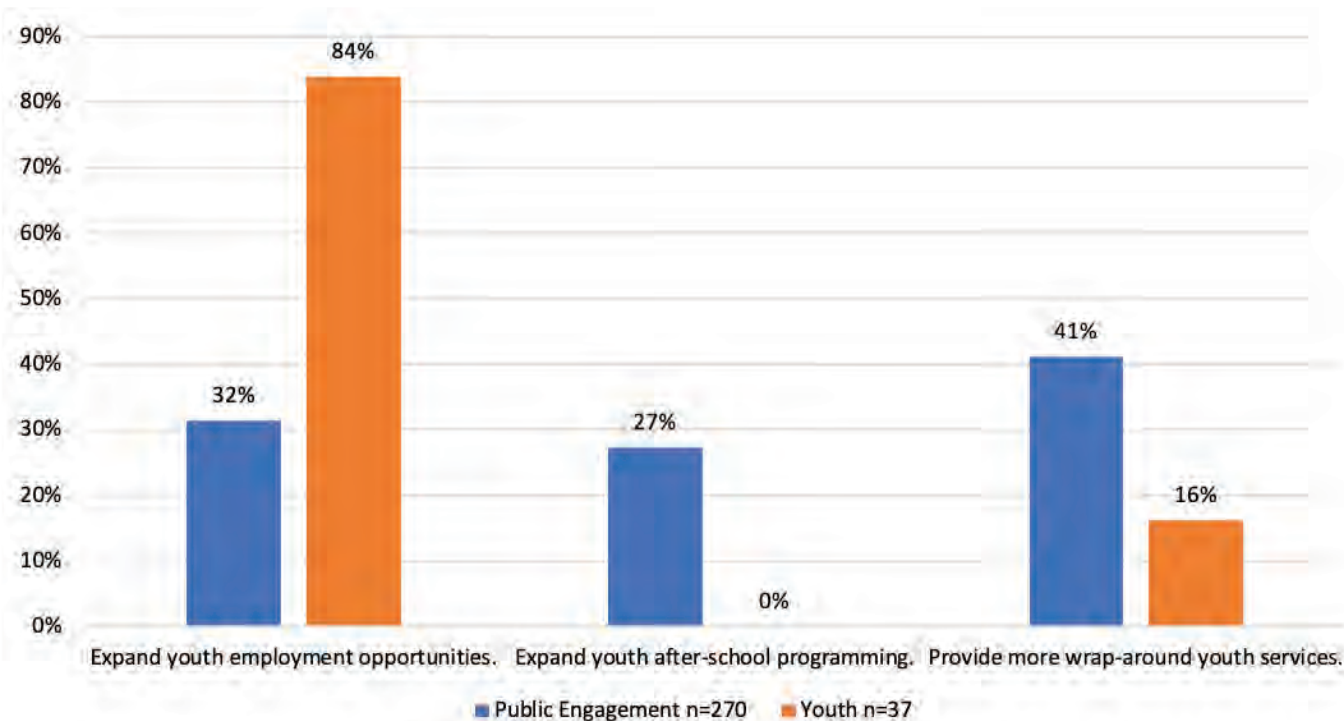
General public participants (41%) placed greater emphasis on wrap-around youth services compared to youth participants (16%). This might indicate that adults recognize the value of comprehensive support systems for youth that youth themselves may not immediately prioritize.

Neither group placed high emphasis on expanding after-school programming: 27% of the general public supported it, but none of the youth participants selected it. This may reflect a youth preference for more direct pathways to employment over structured after-school activities. In the end, youth priorities lean toward tangible job opportunities, whereas adults prioritize comprehensive support.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Participants offered 61 comments on youth services. Commenters emphasize a need for increased investment in affordable childcare, youth programming, and support services for young parents and underserved communities.

FIG. 17. MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY: YOUTH SERVICES



Source: Chicago Budget Engagement Surveys. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

RESULTS

Many responses advocate for higher wages for childcare workers, addressing the current childcare workforce shortage, and establishing new childcare facilities, especially in childcare deserts on Chicago's South and West sides. Additionally, there is a call to create community spaces that provide practical life skills training for young parents and youth.

Mental health support for youth is another prevalent theme. Suggestions include integrating mental health classes in schools, establishing youth mental health centers, and providing mentorship programs that build strong, supportive relationships between youth and trusted adults. Commenters see mental health education as essential for equipping students with emotional tools and reducing stigma, recommending school-based mental health programs, community mentors, and safe spaces for open discussion. Furthermore, there are calls to expand youth programming to engage youth productively, prevent street involvement, and address substance use.

The comments also suggest that partnerships with local organizations and private-public initiatives could enrich youth engagement and provide safer, healthier environments. Investing in community infrastructure—such as safe recreational facilities, food security initiatives, and community development hubs—is seen as a pathway to building stronger neighborhoods and fostering a sense of pride and belonging among youth and families.

BUDGET **APPENDIX A**

This appendix presents the comments and feedback that participants handwrote and submitted on comment cards made available at the public and youth roundtables or submitted as public comments online. UICNI inductively coded all comments. As a result, some comments appear under more than one topic.

APPENDIX A. PUBLIC COMMENT CARDS AND BUDGET IDEAS SUBMITTED, BY TOPIC

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Affordable Housing and Homelessness	More housing opportunities for citizens of Chicago	Harold Washington
	Affordable housing for people with disabilities.	Harold Washington
	More housing opportunities for homeless and single mothers and fathers.	Harold Washington
	More housing opportunities for youth	Harold Washington
	"I think it is highly important to increase services to people experiencing homelessness -Expand homeless prevention programs -Better housing opportunities for youth ages 18-25 -More programs to help women with children get homes -We also need to make housing resources more accessible for citizens born in Chicago as well as more focus on employment opportunities and housing programs for Black communities"	Harold Washington
	Nipping things in the bud! Stop the problems before they start, especially things like mental health and homelessness.	Harold Washington
	More bedding at homeless shelters. More better paying jobs for youth. More mental health places teens can come to.	Harold Washington
	C) Housing	Kennedy-King
	To talk about it to raise funds for Bring Chicago Home.	Kennedy-King
	"Long time homeowners & renters are being forced out! We need CBA ordinance and money to enforce it. Residents are being displaced using a variety of tactics (some illegal) and we need money for enforcement. The city needs to spend money to stop blockbusting massive tax increases are displacing our residents. We need tax freeze for long-term residents. Stop predatory lending & financing, stop high security deposits, non-refundable application fees, and first & last month pre-payment. Stop real estate speculation, investors. And those who do not live in the community. If you force people out, you are destroying your TAX BASE. YOU CAN'T BOND OUT OF THIS! YOU NEED TO CLEAN HOUSE NOW. BEFORE YOU TIF RESIDENTS!"	Kennedy-King
	"Fund right to counsel pilot program, asking for 1.2 million -Increase flexible housing fund, asking 11 million -Preserving SRO's, asking dedicated 5 million"	Kennedy-King
	"-families are getting force to move -Developer that are coming to our neighborhoods are getting rich -a backlash is coming like never before (WARNING) -w/in lawn need a special center to address all the issues in our Neighborhood"	Kennedy-King
	" Priorities: -Preserving SRO's - 5 million increase -Fund right to counsel pilot program -Fund more permanent units & resources for people experiencing homelessness"	Kennedy-King
	-Tenants are leaving because of the rise of rent	Kennedy-King

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Affordable Housing and Homelessness, continued	Housing is a human right!!! We need a CBA in South Shore and the fulfillment of the promised 52 lots in Woodlawn (including the vacant lot on 63 Blackstone)!!!	Kennedy-King
	"Fund more permanent units services for people experiencing homelessness	Kennedy-King
	We need more permanent supportive housing. What can the city do to create these units?"	Kennedy-King
	To take the buildings in empty to bills them up for the parent and children being out here for the longest being homeless to ask for more funds for Chicago coalition for the homeless.	Kennedy-King
	We need homeless support funding for ALL!	Kennedy-King
	When will we have more people speaking on personal issues that people face while being homeless and have issues with housing?	Kennedy-King
	Wrap around services and a dedicated revenue stream for more affordable housing	Kennedy-King
	Homeless in city is a problem. Mental health services. Housing is a human right! Need CBA in all communities (illegible) on ... (remainder of comment card is illegible)	Kennedy-King
	Affordable, accessible inclusive housing - ability to move from homelessness to housing! Owned by formerly unhoused.	Malcolm X
	Break down on landlord with putting money into property. Low property cost so it can be affordable to buy in gun violence neighborhood.	Malcolm X
	Increase funding for SRO preservation, increase \$ to Flexible Housing Pool from \$6M to \$12M, full \$135M Green Social Housing Fund.	Malcolm X
	More funding for the Dept. of Environmental, Dept. of Community Engagement, Dept. of Homelessness	Malcolm X
	Rental assistance programs	Malcolm X
	rent control, designate city owned land for social housing, repurpose vacant buildings into green social housing	Malcolm X
	Taxing landlords with large property portfolios regarding vacant units and pushing affordable housing.	Malcolm X
	Housing, eliminate barriers for families that could take advantage of resources like porch and roof restoration. Not many families reside in their houses for 30+ years. More housing is needed for those that do not "fit" the "affordable" housing criteria. "affordable" needs to be defined more clearly.	Malcolm X
	We need rental assistance programs to support low-income families. Just cause ordinance will help a lot of families to relocate into safe & permanent housing.	Malcolm X
	Too much homelessness,	Malcolm X
"Progressive taxes on large LLC companies who keep vacant lots and buildings to incentivize housing individuals and utilize that funding to create shelter beds that are accessible and address both mental and physical disabilities.	Malcolm X	
Funding to support healthy homes inspections and resources when natural disasters damage units."		

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Affordable Housing and Homelessness, continued	It costs money and wastes resources to evict children and families only to have them re-apply for shelter and (illegible) "have a majority" come back. This is unnecessary.	Malcolm X
	We need more affordable housing at 30% of AMI.	Online
	I'd like more funding to go towards affordable housing projects and towards housing migrants to Chicago	Online
	Please ensure that all areas of the city have affordable housing planned for them. We need more affordable housing in all community areas. It is not acceptable to simply group them in limited areas on the North Side.	Online
	Funding for permanent supportive housing!	Online
	I'd like to see more funding for permanent supportive housing.	Online
	We need more funding for permanent supportive housing	Online
	Open up the abandoned school buildings as affordable housing. Allow people to live in any area they can afford or with help	Online
	I would like to see more funding for permanent supportive housing!	Online
	Re-purpose unused school buildings as interim housing.	Online
	Please fund long term housing solutions, perhaps more funding encouragement for folks to turn spaces into Additional Dwelling Units?	Online
	Provide a Citywide down payment assistance program for those that are looking to obtain multi-families. It would be nice to encourage owners to not only own property but to be able to benefit from rental income, this is how we help uplift owners. 2. For existing owners - Create a citywide program which aims to provide assistance financially to our city's most vulnerable homeowners to help with necessary deferred maintenance.	Online
	We should be aggressively pursuing programs to build much more housing and quickly. Legalize ADUs, SROs, and push for more housing of all kinds to be built	Online
	North center desperately needs to preserve existing housing stock. Please please please consider creating a tax zone for housing units that get reconverted from 2-3 flats to single family homes, and a tax on demolitions to prevent multi-tenant buildings getting turned into more single family mc mansions	Online
	We are excited about the Johnson Administration's Green Social Housing Revolving Fund and ask the city to allocate at least \$135 million in bonds to this project. Funding this project with as much money as possible will help tenants, improve climate resilience, and provide affordable, sustainable housing for everyone. Will you support this?	Online
	Significantly increase funding for the social green housing program that was just launched through the \$1.25 billion bond. It will help housing production across the entire city by lowering the cost of capital for developments that are in the proposal and financing stage. It also aligns the incentives for the city to upzone areas for the developments it helps fund.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Affordable Housing and Homelessness, continued	We are excited about the Johnson Administration's Green Social Housing Revolving Fund and ask the city to allocate at least \$135 million in bonds to this project. Funding this project with as much money as possible will help tenants, improve climate resilience, and provide affordable, sustainable housing for everyone. Will you support this?	Online
	stop building ugly condos, keep rents affordable, don't let landlords spike rents over 10% a year. house people!	Online
	I would like to preserve the architecture of the neighborhood and support tenants and landlord with programs that help them to keep their homes. I suggest a Rental register for all the corporate rental units and charge them a fee to support small landlords and tenants. Pass the Just Cause for Eviction ordinance to protect our tenants and small landlords. We need RENT CONTROL. I suggest a tax relief for small landlord to help them to keep their properties. Taxes are so high that even for people with a job is hard to pay. So place help people to prevent homeless. Create a rental assistance program that is accesible for immigrant families, homeless, domestic violence survivors, older adults, and people with disabilities. Housing is a human right not a business to make millions of dollars while pushing people to live in the streets. It is more easy to become homeless than access to a rental assistance program. Do not criminalize homeless and keep the shelters open with resources and funds to help people to move to a permanent affordable housing and educated them to have a good job that pay enough to pay rent, food, health care, and education.	Online
	1. As the One System Initiative meetings continue, it doesn't seem that much thought has gone into how resources will be added to the homeless service system to accommodate new arrivals as well as to increase contracts to meet the need that already exists. 2. Our city animal shelter, Chicago Animal Care & Control, is an open admission shelter that serves over 13,000 animals per year. In the recent 2 years, live release rates have decreased. The number of animals leaving the shelter alive could increase significantly if the shelter were provided with additional resources. Please consider the humans and animals most in need when crafting the budget.	Online
	Need more affordable units. Existing projects still don't have enough. Converting existing buildings should be explored, if structurally sound.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Affordable Housing and Homelessness, continued	<p>Here We Go Again?": Disrupting the "Chicago Way" in Development (An Open Letter) When Bears CEO Kevin Warren announced the Bears Stadium proposal, he said, "We're going to do this the Chicago Way;...." He's not wrong, but the "Chicago Way" of development is top down, elite-centered and inequitable. It is a structurally racist, greed-driven, predatory system of development that has transformed many of our neighborhoods into isolated sacrifice zones of poisoned land, food deserts and poor public services. Candidate Johnson promised to disrupt this "the tale of two cities". The Citywide Equitable Development Roundtable (CEDR), a network of over 20 organizations and hundreds of organizers and community leaders, want to democratize and transform the Chicago Way of development from a predatory system of profiteering into a community building enterprise. CEDR expects Mayor Johnson to live up to our shared values and to keep his promises. The current system promotes projects that neighbors feel either left out of or run over by. Economically, there are census tracts with higher rates of joblessness, low quality jobs, community violence, crime and housing insecurity. None of this is by accident. The Chicago Way has left targeted neighborhoods filled with vacant lots, pollution, over-policing, warehouses, railroads, a dearth of reliable and safe public transportation, access to healthy food, public parks, and jobs. The people in targeted neighborhoods have been deemed expendable and starved of resources by choice, not chance. The administration promised that the money raised by the \$1.25 billion bond proposal will be channeled into existing programs with existing processes, but those processes were never explained and have never worked to the benefit of our communities. The city still has not produced a list of all the development programs, how effective they are, their cost, or how they choose projects. Even the "Qualified Allocation Plan" is big on buzzwords without detail on how the community will participate in development. The Mayor's Business & Economic Neighborhood Development team is rolling out the "Cut the Tape" initiative. An initiative that is focused on efficiency, but not justice. The last thing our communities need is for inequitable and predatory development to move even faster, with less community input. CEDR believes that development without displacement requires a community-centered effort that is mindful of property tax spikes, features community preservation and civic development of public infrastructure, a focus on affordable housing and mitigation of past land poisoning and the present lack of access to business development resources. Justice-centered development, a new Chicago Way, is difficult, but it is also a choice, and we need the Mayor to work with us to make it happen. Chicago is only the City that Works if it works for all of us. https://bit.ly/whatiscedroundtable</p>	Online
	<p>I just wanted to explain why I voted against the "mansion tax". I do want to help people without homes to be homed. I want a reliable funding mechanism for it. I think more people should have their taxes raised to pay for it. Not just "mansions". Property taxes should go up at the rate of inflation. I truly don't understand why that stopped. As long as I see that my tax dollars are being used wisely and effectively I don't see why I shouldn't have to pay a little more for the services offered.</p>	Online
	<p>Since the Mayor and the city fumbled the Bring Chicago Home question so poorly, we must find another way to solved this problem. Billions for another stadium is a non-starter as long as anyone is still living on the street.</p>	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Affordable Housing and Homelessness, continued	I would like to see increased funding for the Social Housing Revolving Fund included in the 2024 Development Bond allocations. I would also like more investment in promoting new non-market housing (more loans, grants, etc. for housing non-profits and land trusts) and ADUs.	Online
	We still tax homes worth over a million dollars to fund transition homes and such except this time we LEAD with the fact that we're only taxing homes worth over a million dollars	Online
	A loan fund or grant program specifically for housing cooperative developments	Online
	Please rollback classist/racist zoning so that it is once again legal to build apartment buildings in nice neighborhoods. At least on the arterials (ex: Irving) but preferably on quieter streets (ex: Cuyler). We need this to make housing more affordable and support local shops and restaurants by having more people live near them. More cities are doing this and so should we!	Online
	Even though Bring Chicago Home did not pass, we will still need dedicated funding to support housing and wraparound services for those who are unhoused, including many children. We should dedicate funds to these projects!	Online
	Developers should not be able to buy-out of the ARO requirement. This should no longer be a way the City generates revenue to spend on non-housing projects. We have a housing crisis and an increase in those experiencing homelessness. We need to require developers to build more affordable housing in all neighborhoods. Providing more housing for more low-wage earners, creates a ripple effort for a more sustainable economy.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Affordable Housing and Homelessness, continued	<p>The Center for Housing & Health (CHH), along with AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC), are requesting that the City of Chicago fund the Flexible Housing Pool (FHP) at \$11.2 million in the City's Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget. The FHP is a multi-agency program that helps people experiencing homelessness who cycle through public crisis systems find permanent housing. The FHP is different from traditional housing programs in that it focuses on reducing costs to the health care sector while improving individual health outcomes. FHP provides housing and services to over 1,200 people and has reduced costs to crisis systems by \$1.4 million. The City of Chicago is FHP's largest funder, with the City funding at \$6 million in FY24. Unfortunately, due to inflation and rising costs of rent, the current funding doesn't adequately meet the needs of the program. Therefore, the CHH is asking for the City of Chicago to fund the FHP program at \$11.2 million in FY25. This request is simply to maintain support for the current households enrolled in the FHP. Right now in the FHP, it costs \$32,000 annually to support a household—most of this cost goes to rental assistance, but it also includes mobile street outreach, housing navigation, intensive case management services, other miscellaneous costs (like utilities, move-in costs and client transportation), and administrative costs. If funding from the City for the FHP does not increase to \$11.2 million for FY25, families currently in the program are in jeopardy of returning to homelessness. In the shadow of the Bring Chicago Home ballot measure's lack of passage earlier this Spring, and in the spirit of Mayor Johnson's commitment to finding a solution to ensuring that every Chicagoan has a place to call home, we would also like to highlight the vital importance of additional ongoing revenue from the City to address overall housing instability and homelessness. It's critical that any revenue raised should be raised in a fair and equitable way. We're grateful for the work of Mayor Johnson's administration to stay committed to seeking solutions to ending homelessness in our city and ask that he continue to follow-through on this commitment by funding the Flexible Housing Pool at \$11.2 million in FY25, ensuring that all current households within the FHP can maintain their housing and work toward living their healthiest lives. For questions or additional information, please contact Dominique Chew, dchew@aidσχicago.org. Organizational Sign-on AIDS Foundation Chicago Center for Housing & Health Chicago Coalition for the Homeless</p>	Online
	Increased funding for homelessness services along with an increase in affordable housing units in the city.	Online
	We are in need of more affordable housing and homelessness support on the far Northwest side.	Online
	More funding for permanent supportive housing. Lakeview is a great neighborhood, and everybody who is there should be able to have a place to live. Thanks!	Online
	Please invest in affordable housing and homelessness services on the far northwest side of the city. We have very little affordable housing available.	Online
	More funding in order to provide support to service provider organizations to reach and house more people. There are not enough affordable housing or easy access to finding affordable housing not only for the individuals experiencing housing crises, but also for service providers to be able to assist more.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Affordable Housing and Homelessness, continued	Would love to see more funds in the upcoming budget toward permanent, supportive and sustainable housing. This is one of the best investments we can make, because having stable and secure housing allows people to invest themselves back into their neighborhoods, and over time this benefits everyone, and not just economically.	Online
	More resources and funding need to be dedicated to affordable housing to address the homelessness issue. In addition, funding needs to be dedicated to services provided to homeless individuals in permanent supportive housing programs.	Online
	We need more services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness on the Far Northwest Side. There are no shelters in the area for homeless people who want to stay in their neighborhood. There is also a lack of affordable housing, and few new affordable units being built.	Online
	Robust extreme weather response for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness; increase in low-barrier and non-congregate shelter beds in the traditional homeless system; increase of funds towards permanent housing subsidies for people who do not meet HUD's definition of chronic homelessness (doubled up, recently released from prison, etc) rather than funneling high need people through the inadequate and under resourced RRH program	Online
	I would like to allocate more budget to providing shelter to our houseless, including our recent surge of migrants.	Online
	Please provide more funding for housing and homelessness services!	Online
	comprehensive support for unhoused people that do not criminalize them	Online
	I support and would like to see the city spend more money on permanent affordable housing with wraparound services.	Online
	More supports for people who are at risk of homelessness...less disruptive for kids and families to keep them housed....no interest loans for security deposits, perhaps info on city website of how to fight evictions, resources for legal aid, more info on tenants' rights. Also development of housing: development on city owned vacant lots, downtown corridor mixed use buildings, bonds to jumpstart funding	Online
	Asylum seekers and the existing homeless population should be treated the same. Money should not be earmarked exclusively for asylum seekers as they are part of the homeless population.	Online
	we desperately need more funding for mental health/homelessness programs, especially ones run by the city to help people on the streets	Online
	My goal is to reduce homelessness, whether it's to build more shelters, regulate rent, or treat mental illnesses which lead to it in the first place.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Affordable Housing and Homelessness, continued	I am the Director at Catholic Charities St. Leo Residence for Veterans, a permanent supportive housing program for formerly homeless Veterans. In order to address the homelessness crisis in the city, we need to address poverty, lack of appropriate employment and educational opportunities, lack of affordable housing, increased funding for supportive services such as mental health and substance abuse treatment, assistance for food, utilities, clothing, transportation, etc. There need to be other options for housing other than permanent supportive housing particularly an increased need for transitional housing for individuals dealing with substance abuse issues. The Housing First model that is mandated by HUD is not working for this sub-population of the homeless community. Going directly from the streets into permanent housing without dealing with the substance use is setting people up for failure and is the cause of unnecessary deaths. The belief that getting people housed first and then providing services is the proven route to go is a fallacy that is hidden because service providers don't want to lose their funding. For certain individuals, pre-conditions for housing such as dealing with substance use is necessary in order for them to achieve success and be able to maintain housing.	Online
	Funding to provide legal representation to low-income households facing eviction (\$1.2 M).	Truman
	I am not from Chicago, but I think one thing that I notices that needs addressed is the homelessness population. There are many young migrant families that are struggling with homelessness and food insecurity. Chicago cannot call itself a "sanctuary city" but make little to no efforts to support those that come here hoping for a better future.	Truman
	More housing that is deeply affordable.	Truman
	More social housing	Truman
	Ayuda de financiero de vivienda	Truman
	"More permanent supportive housing funding More funding for SRO preservation Increase funding for first-time homebuyer programs & explicitly target Black & Brown folks as they are the most cost burdened"	Truman
	"Chicago needs dedicated funding stream to preserve, improve and build more housing that is affordable - including housing that is deeply affordable. Non-profit developers and organizations need more support in this environment.	Truman
	We need a transparent process for tracking how the bond funds are spent,"	
	Just cause for eviction, progressive taxes, permanent supportive housing, end Chi-Block Builder/DPD land sales office, end TIF expansions, pay city employees the housing wage, full funding for social housing, cooling center expansion, accessibility expansion, healthy homes proactive rental inspections.	Truman
	ncrease funding for the flexible housing tool. -Funding to allow non-profit affordable housing developers to purchase buildings being sold and preserve them as SRO's + rental subsidies to tenants.	Truman
	Funding is needed to allow non-profit affordable housing developers to purchase buildings that are being sold and preserve them as single room occupancy (SRO's). Funding is also needed to provide rental subsidies to tenants living in SRO buildings.	Truman

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Affordable Housing and Homelessness, continued	Affordable housing and restaurants.	Truman
	"For both housing & env. justice: It's crucial that the city allocate the full \$135M proposed in the bond fund for the new Green Social Housing revolving loan fund!"	Truman
	IL Green New Deal coalitions and its partners wants the Green Social Housing revolving fund fully funded with allocation of at least \$135 million in bonds.	Truman
	For less than \$3 mil, adding 5-7 new DOH personnel, the city of Chicago can protect hundreds of millions of federal funding by ensuring its compliance with the FHA. Allocate at least \$135 mil in bonds to the green social housing revolving fund.	Truman
	We need more affordable apartments, rents went from \$1K to \$2K within 5 years. Many families are moving because of this. Also since rent is more expensive, there are more thefts.	Truman
	Affordable access to capital for preserving existing building stock and affordable rental and homeownership. (illegible) affordable housing types	Truman
	"With Bring Chicago Home not being passed, what public sustainable funding stream can be developed to help fund all the initiatives to address (illegible) worsening affordable housing problems?"	
	Why are sheltered schools not being converted into affordable housing units?	Truman
	How can zoning laws be ammended/changed to make (illegible) affordable housing can be done?"	
	"How will city support non-profit developers! What's the process for transparent expenditure & commitment to the bonds for affordable housing (SRO preservation) to prevent loss of more affordable housing! How can we assure that there will be an ongoing reliable funding source for affordable housing?"	Truman
	Families are leaving the city because of affordable housing , what can be done to provide resources to these families or what laws/ordinances can be implemented to help with rent affordability?	Truman
	Put more programs out there to help the homeless and help the embassy bring programs for the immigrants.	Truman
	Long-term permanent housing for doubled-up, street/shelter-based + low-income Chicagoans.	Truman
	Rapid rehousing resources funding needs to be increased & at least maintained - especially w/the funding diff.	Truman
"Invest in new housing models to build wealth outside of purchasing a home. Solution for new arrivals and existing homeless population"	Truman	

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
	Decrease spending to assist in funding these services. Preserve SRO's. Fund legal services (immigration, housing, domestic violence). No shelter evictions for recent arrivals. Treatment not trauma (non-police mental health crisis response). Cover gaps in social service coverage (healthcare, support for violent crime victims, etc.). Expanding definitions of homelessness to include doubled-up individuals, etc. Eliminating security at train stations.	Truman
Arts and Culture	Art in Westside school	Malcolm X
	What are some infrastructures for musicians	Harold Washington
	Culture & Arts: Removal of racist or past traumatic reminders of enslavement of African Americans	Kennedy-King
	Music in the schools!	Malcolm X
	Music on the schools, put money in grant for the school. Baseball, soccer programs	Malcolm X
	Please bring back bond roster grants. Our bond is listed. More probably need to be added to list. We love these grants, help us partner with nonprofits. We need to have part of our money up front of the performances in order to pay our musicians. (https://larrytaylorchicagoblues.com/)	Malcolm X
	Provide opportunities in the arts	Malcolm X
	South city business corridor needs music venues. How do we combine business infrastructure and arts funding to benefit private business (especially small Black owned) with culture? West side has blues and soul music tradition - how can this benefit the neighborhood that originated this music?	Malcolm X
	Grants for local theatres	Online
	Interactive art pieces connecting the English/Spanish/Chinese-Mandarin-speaking community. Combine pedestrian safety tactics (lights, crosswalks, ADA, etc with artsy, interactive ways to learn common, courteous phrases. Be safe & get to know your neighbors.	Online
	Expanded bike lane network (let's be very ambitious and create protected bike lanes within a block of every resident). More money out towards Better Streets for Buses initiatives to speed up buses and create more walkable neighborhoods. More incentives for increasing supply of low income housing and TOD developments More community programming and cultural events at parks and other public spaces	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Arts and Culture, continued	<p>I suggest a Vacancy tax to all the empty buildings to collect money to support rental programs, homeless prevention, and mental health care. We need to have a more competitive salary to afford to live in Chicago. Raise the minimum wage for the city to match the Housing Wage so the working class as a whole can afford to live in our communities with us. So residents can afford housing, health care, and education. Investing more youth programs, I see programs like afterschool matters and one summer Chicago are doing great helping our youth to grow professionally and personally, but this program has a limit that leave a lot of youth without options. Promote more alternative education like technic carrers, short courses to prep for employment. Invest in underserved neighborhood to help every resident to build roots and love their community. Development without displacement. We need more affordable housing that is accessible to the needs of the most needed communities that have been marginalized for decades. We need to reinvent our neighborhood to heal and preserve their culture. Invest in arts and cultural programs. Support local artist with grants and marketing to promote their skills and encourage new artist to pursue a carrer in arts. We need local artists, that is the most rich reflect of a neighborhood. STOP the TIF expansion. We do not need to add more burden to our small landlords and tenants that are struggling to pay already what are they paying. Tax the rich to stop gentrification and protect our bungalows and beautiful neighborhoods. Support the NORTHWEST PRESERVATIVE ORDINANCE to protect Logan Square, Hermosa, and Avondale from developments that are destroying our community. We want that the residents stay here, they are an important part of our community and are the ones that keep our communities stronger. We need clean energy communities, I demand at least \$135 million for the Social Housing Revolving Fund.</p>	Online
	<p>Please continue the type of Gen Ops support to Arts orgs that you provided via CARP. They are a lifeline that we cannot afford to lose. Chicago needs arts orgs to support artists and give vibrancy, creativity back to the city.</p>	Online
	<p>Regular, dedicated funding for capital improvements on a rolling deadline application. Arts companies build infrastructure - both physical and social/cultural - that improves the community. Funding/support for artist benefits (health/medical/dental) with attainable and reasonable requirements. Broader support for arts education and performance, to support in-school programs threatened by municipal cutbacks.</p>	Online
	<p>There are so many empty storefronts in my neighborhood. I suggest turning them into temporary gallery spaces for young artists!</p>	Online
	<p>3. More funding for theatre companies who are still recovering their program since the pandemic shut down</p>	Truman
	<p>ARTS, ARTS, ARTS</p>	Truman
	<p>Increase funding to DCASE & support artist labor & artists in out city. I am very concerned about the appointment of Clinee Heds-peth as DCASE commissioner . Her interview & public appearances raise concern about her level of commitment to the arts.</p>	Truman

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development	Please look at quality of life plan initiatives and help resource those opportunities.	Harold Washington
	Review of where community funds are being used. Why are communities getting funds/grant and yet the community numbers are not seeing these funds/grants in action?	Harold Washington
	Equal opportunity in sports for all neighborhood.	Harold Washington
	Publicly identified and acceptable safe spaces for youth. A place or places they could go to charge their phone, get a snack, wait for their ride, etc.	Harold Washington
	Rebuild community centers	Harold Washington
	Take care of the community	Harold Washington
	The beautification of my community, like removing liter. Adding trees/plants. Rehabilitating buildings.	Harold Washington
	"-Is there/there needs to be some programs or benefits to owners of vacant properties that are stuck w/ ongoing & growing water bills. -Is the city looking into testing soil as the number of ""city"" farms increase -There needs to be more community benefit plans in the city particularly for the southside"	Kennedy-King
	Allocating resources/budget for low-income development in Hyde Park and South Shore. A community benefits agreement between South Shore and Obama center (illegible sentence)	Kennedy-King
	My concern is safety. New arrivals are being placed in communities , (illegible) they are vandalizing the community. What is being done and where is the accountability. Police needs to be in the neighborhoods to address safety in the community.	Kennedy-King
	Converting vacant, dilapidated and distressed properties.	Kennedy-King
	Homeless in city is a problem. Mental health services. Housing is a human right! Need CBA in all communities (illegible) on ... (remainder of comment card is illegible)	Kennedy-King
	Housing is a human right!!! We need a CBA in South Shore and the fulfillment of the promised 52 lots in Woodlawn (including the vacant lot on 63 Blackstone)!!!	Kennedy-King
	Increase security or police w/in the high rate crime neighborhoods	Kennedy-King
	It is very important to maximize the myriads of ways that departments can work together to create solutions that have overlap. It would be good to find ways to develop/rehab vacant homes, buildings, etc.	Kennedy-King
	The quantum campus developmentThe community needs a CBA	Kennedy-King
	Vacant building, home ownership, more businesses (help with process) programs for at risk groups (youth, younger mothers, single mothers, prison population)	Kennedy-King

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	<p>Vacant lots - homeowners should have the opportunity to buy those lots. If not homeowner residents in the ward. In addition, outside investors should be penalized for vacancies. Available information on who are the owners should be pushed or if not known residence can find info. Housing - residents of the ward should be granted opportunity with financing options/assistance to purchase vacant houses.</p>	Kennedy-King
	<p>CACC needs a larger budget! It is the 3rd largest city in the US but its budget is less than comparable cities. CACC's current budget is \$7 million, a mere 0.04% of the city's budget. In comparison to LA's animal services has \$27 million, which is 0.2% of that city's budget. Houston Animal Controls budget is 18.3 million or 0.3% of the city's budget. Why is Chicago so much less??</p> <p>This money could be used for more staffing and to help keep pets and their families together. -Competitive salaries are needed -There are too many strays in the South and West sides of Chicago, these communities need more resources including low cost spay and neuter and microchipping. More pet food pantries, low cost medical care and supplies like collars and leashes. This is a real opportunity for Chicago to improve and shine brighter than other cities. Right now our live release rate is in the 60 percentages which is lower than other comparable cities. Chicago can do better! Let's Keep pets with their families."</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Chicago Animal Care + Control is one of the lowest funded municipal shelters in the country for the number of animals they take in. 3rd largest city with one of the lowest budgets. The shelter is in a dire state. They need staff badly. 10-20 open positions are always open. They need to have competitive salaries for people to actually want to apply. They haven't had a director in 2 years. They need better funding for foster program, outreach programs, education programs, support for the community. The shelter provides zero community support.</p>	Malcolm X

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	<p>Chicago Animal Care and Control needs and increased budget. Chicago is the 3rd largest city. CACC's current budget is \$7 million which is 0.04% of the city's budget. In comparison, cities similar in size to Chicago such as Houston, their animal controls budget is \$18.3 million which is 0.3% of the city's budget. LA's city shelters budget is \$27 million which is .2% of the city's budget. An increased budget would allow more efficient allocation of resources to be provided to the community of Chicago to keep families with their pets together. For example, more staff would ensure that dogs are reunited with their families quickly. Citizens who adopt or redeem their lost pet, will go home with basics necessities such as a leash, collar and harness without having to rely on donations from public. a full medical staff (the position for a full time vet has been vacant for 3 years). So families would not have to wait days or even week to be reunited with their pet. An increased budget would allow for a trained and knowledgeable staff member to assist families struggling to keep their pet - whether due to housing issues, medical care, or even food for their pet. We need more resources such as pet food pantries, low cost medical care, microchip clinics, free or low cost spay/neutered surgeries in the neighborhoods where it's needed to most (south and west side). A paid staff member is needed to assist families looking to adopt. This would reduce wait times - currently adoptions are solely handed by volunteers. In conclusion, an increase budget would i the long term, slow down intake, increase CACC's live release rate and actually saving the city money. Thank you for taking the time to read this. The city of Chicago loves their citizens and their animals!</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>" DCEO Grant for expanding broadband Connect Illinois Rebuild Illinois Illinois K-12 Broadband Initiative"</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Empty buildings in my daughter area (West Lawndale 60624) Kostner and Jackson. Murder, drugs.</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>" I have been a volunteer at the CACC for over 10 years, and intake and live release rates are the worst they have ever been. Our municipal shelter. We are one of the most underfunded municipal shelters in a large city in the US. Only 0.04% of our city budget goes toward this essential city department, LA has 2% and Houston has 2.5% of its budget go toward animal care services. This department needs more funding, protective and stable leadership, vacancies need to be filled, more competitive salaries offered, and more support services to keep animals in their homes. -It also takes a really long time to become a CACC volunteer - it took me 3 months to be screened by HR. Would it be possible to allow current city or county employees to volunteer without background checks? That would streamline the process for some people to volunteer."</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Racial inequities and disparities within property taxes across neighborhoods</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Rent control, designate city owned land for social housing, repurpose vacant buildings into green social housing</p>	Malcolm X

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	<p>"1. We need to budget for an employee to work at the shelter with competitive salaries, due to low wages paid positions continued unfilled therefore leading to adopters leaving the shelter when volunteers are not present for adoption showings</p> <p>2. Programs where we can educate the public in reference to spay/neuter, chip</p> <p>3. Dogs and cats are key members of Chicago families, with more funding we can do so much more to serve the public for them to stay with their animals and save them and not have to make a decision to surrender euthanize.</p> <p>4. We need an appointed executive director to help us move forward and make changes to better the lives of the animals.</p> <p>5. More money injected into the shelter, at the time we rely on donations to purchase collars, harness and leashes too, toys and send these home with the adopter"</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Better fund the Chicago Animal Care and Control, so more animals can stay with their families and cities can find new families. Provide services that support animals staying with their families and sets people who adopt animals up for success. Funding more vaccines and vet visits, providing the care that the animals + people of Chicago deserve.</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>"CACC is in desperate need of increased funding to support improved live release rate (at a multi year low) and improve community experience at CACC. Compared to cities, our budget is alarmingly low (absolute and as a % - 0.04 of Chicago's budget vs. 0.2% and 0.3% of Houston/LA's budget).</p> <p>Volunteers contribute 20k volunteer hours/year i lieu of professional help to help with adoptions and dog socialization to help adoptions. Right now, adopters have to wait hours to see a dog - many leave and the dogs suffer/die (2-4000/year). More veterinary help will help with spay/neuter to help dogs get dopet faster and in the community will prevent stray intake which is a record high. It will also help owners surrender dogs humanely. Often times appointments can't be made weeks in advance and hundreds of dogs have to die when given up.</p> <p>-Other benefits of staff retention via competitive pay/more staffing: *Owners with lost dogs reunite quicker *Investment in better tech --> new web platform is severely limited *not enough vets to help community vaccine clinics (400 people waiting 4 hrs)</p> <p>-We also need a full time director (executive), a deputy director and sleter manager"</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Chicago Animal Care and Control (CACC) is in critical need of funding support. The budget dedicated to CACC is disproportionately lower than sister cities of equal size (~2% vs. 0.04%). We need more funding to fill in 22 open positions, increase salaries to retain talent, allow for better adoption showings, increase spay/neuter services and increase community engagement to decrease stray dogs. And education.</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Chicago Animal Care and Control are in dire need of a bigger budget. They need staff, supplies, etc. Right now they rely on volunteer for all and any need for the animals. They need a bigger budget.</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Chicago Animal Care and Control needs a larger budget.</p>	Malcolm X

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	Current park is near 110,000 residents of the loop. It needs capital improvements. The central area plan needs to acknowledge and make recommendations for future improvements.	Malcolm X
	Expand Chicago Animal Care (CACC) staff, facilities and funding. CACC benefits every community and residents by improving safety , lowering stress, improving mental and physical health and humane treatment of animals.	Malcolm X
	<p>"Fill open positions -Increase funding for competitive salaries -Staff cost effective using volunteers - reward them -volunteers performing cleaning and other functions due to Staff shortage -Potential adopters have long waits due to Staff volunteer shortage -Most supplies are donated, not funded by the city -Lack of space. Rolling cat cages in halls. Very stressful for animals. Challenging to show animals. -Interim director prevents long term strategy/vision. -Shelter location hard to access/find -Streamline volunteer process, Potential volunteers are lost because of length of time and inconsistent communication"</p>	Malcolm X
	Food SecurityDevelop community gardens, more foodbanks and nutritional educational programs. Partner with local farmers and businesses to increase fresh produce. Safe Spacesbuild or renovate more community centers and recreational facilities. Create more programming for youth activities.	Malcolm X
	Increase the budget for reasons before - staffing Increase in pay and salaries to stay competitive with private sector - able to supply food & supplies for the animals and not depend on donations and volunteers - Public education & support for animal care throughout Chicagoland - Publicity about the Shelter - Spay and neuter around Chicago	Malcolm X
	Increased budget & staff would ensure pets are reunited with their families more quickly. 22% of budgeted positions have not been filled in 2024, and some for years. Executive director, vet medical manager, vets, vet techs, animal care attendants, salaries are not competitive and CACC is hard to get to. As a city agency providing city services, more focus needs to be had on preventing homeless animals. Most strays come from the south & west sides. Creating programs to keep pets in homes, offering low cost vet care, food programs, supplies, etc. can keep pets in homes. Ending discrimination of pets with landlords with breed restrictions, size restrictions, and general pet restrictions would keep pets in homes.	Malcolm X
	Make programs that educate the public about family pets, spay/ neuter, chip your pet. Provide more free clinics for vaccinating your pet and food for their pet.	Malcolm X
	Music in the schools!	Malcolm X
	"Progressive taxes on large LLC companies who keep vacant lots and buildings to incentivize housing individuals and utilize that funding to create shelter beds that are accessible and address both mental and physical disabilities.	Malcolm X
	Funding to support healthy homes inspections and resources when natural disasters damage units."	

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	<p>South city business corridor needs music venues. How do we combine business infrastructure and arts funding to benefit private business (especially small Black owned) with culture? West side has blues and soul music tradition - how can this benefit the neighborhood that originated this music?</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>"Here We Go Again"? Disrupting the "Chicago Way" in Development (An Open Letter) When Bears CEO Kevin Warren announced the Bears Stadium proposal, he said, "We're going to do this the Chicago Way;...." He's not wrong, but the "Chicago Way" of development is top down, elite-centered and inequitable. It is a structurally racist, greed-driven, predatory system of development that has transformed many of our neighborhoods into isolated sacrifice zones of poisoned land, food deserts and poor public services. Candidate Johnson promised to disrupt this "the tale of two cities". The Citywide Equitable Development Roundtable (CEDR), a network of over 20 organizations and hundreds of organizers and community leaders, want to democratize and transform the Chicago Way of development from a predatory system of profiteering into a community building enterprise. CEDR expects Mayor Johnson to live up to our shared values and to keep his promises. The current system promotes projects that neighbors feel either left out of or run over by. Economically, there are census tracts with higher rates of joblessness, low quality jobs, community violence, crime and housing insecurity. None of this is by accident. The Chicago Way has left targeted neighborhoods filled with vacant lots, pollution, over-policing, warehouses, railroads, a dearth of reliable and safe public transportation, access to healthy food, public parks, and jobs. The people in targeted neighborhoods have been deemed expendable and starved of resources by choice, not chance. The administration promised that the money raised by the \$1.25 billion bond proposal will be channeled into existing programs with existing processes, but those processes were never explained and have never worked to the benefit of our communities. The city still has not produced a list of all the development programs, how effective they are, their cost, or how they choose projects. Even the "Qualified Allocation Plan" is big on buzzwords without detail on how the community will participate in development. The Mayor's Business & Economic Neighborhood Development team is rolling out the "Cut the Tape" initiative. An initiative that is focused on efficiency, but not justice. The last thing our communities need is for inequitable and predatory development to move even faster, with less community input. CEDR believes that development without displacement requires a community-centered effort that is mindful of property tax spikes, features community preservation and civic development of public infrastructure, a focus on affordable housing and mitigation of past land poisoning and the present lack of access to business development resources. Justice-centered development, a new Chicago Way, is difficult, but it is also a choice, and we need the Mayor to work with us to make it happen. Chicago is only the City that Works if it works for all of us. https://bit.ly/whatiscedroundtable</p>	Online
	<p>Animal control desperately needs a larger budget, more staff support, and more support to assist in getting the dogs out more often.</p>	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	<p>CACC is one of the lowest funded municipal shelters in the country for the amount of animals they take in and relies on donations for everything, from equipment to leashes and collars to diversion supplies. The community constantly demands CACC to do more, but funding is needed to implement programs dedicated to saving lives. The live release rate in the first six months this year is up over 20% from last year, but unfortunately, so is intake. Since the 4th of July, CACC has taken in approx. 45 animals each day. With support from a budget they could do so much more for example Funding for a foster program, Trainers/ behaviorists. With these kinds of people on staff, many animals could be saved. If the city would currently invest in spay/neuter clinics for the community - especially in targeted areas - it would save the city money in the future</p>	Online
	<p>CACC seems to be severely underfunded compared to other major cities of same size. Possible to elicit a pro bono needs assessment to determine best way to use limited resources most effectively? Can each alderman's office "sponsor/promote" a CACC dog until it is adopted? We all have to do our part to help our Chicago animals.</p>	Online
	<p>Create more green spaces and maintain the ones that exist better.</p>	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
<p>Community and Neighborhood Development continued</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Community and the Budget Committee, I am a volunteer at the county animal shelter and I am writing to you today to advocate for increased funding. This facility, which serves as a crucial lifeline for hundreds of dogs every week, is in dire need of support. Despite the valiant efforts of volunteers and the generosity of donors, the shelter is struggling to cope with the overwhelming number of animals it takes in. The challenges faced by the shelter are immense, and immediate action is required to ensure its continued operation and the welfare of the animals it serves. One of the most pressing issues is the lack of resources to properly care for the animals. Due to limited funding, the shelter is unable to provide adequate outdoor time for the dogs, which is essential for their physical and mental well-being. The dogs are only outside of their kennels for less than 1 hour per week, often forced to sit in their feces and urine, with pneumonia spreading rapidly between dogs. The current situation, where dogs are confined indoors for extended periods, is not only detrimental to their health but also exacerbates behavioral problems, making them harder to re-home. Furthermore, the shelter is fully reliant on volunteers, who are stretched thin and struggling to meet the demands of caring for such a large number of animals. While the dedication of these volunteers is commendable, it is simply not sustainable. Without sufficient funding to hire more paid staff, the shelter cannot provide the consistent and professional care that these animals need. Since July 1st the shelter has taken in over 400 dogs, a number that volunteers alone could not possibly provide adequate care for. The most alarming consequence of the shelter's lack of resources is the increasing euthanasia rates. This tragic outcome is a direct result of the shelter being overwhelmed and underfunded. Each day, difficult decisions have to be made about which animals can be saved and which cannot, a situation that is both heartbreaking and unacceptable in a community that values compassion and humane treatment of animals. In addition to managing the current population of animals, increased funding would also enable the shelter to enforce stronger regulations against backyard breeders. These breeders contribute significantly to the overpopulation problem by irresponsibly producing litters of puppies without regard for their welfare. By cracking down on these practices, the shelter can help to reduce the number of unwanted animals and improve the overall situation in our community. I have never seen an animal shelter have to struggle so much with so little. The dedication of the staff and volunteers is unparalleled, but they cannot continue to operate under these conditions without your support. Funding from the city budget would be instrumental in providing the necessary resources to care for these animals, reduce euthanasia rates, and address the root causes of overpopulation. I urge you to consider the immense benefits that increased funding for the animal shelter would bring to our community. Not only would it improve the lives of countless animals, but it would also reflect our city's commitment to humane and responsible animal care. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your commitment to making a positive difference in our community. Sincerely, Fayhaa Doja</p>	<p>Online</p>

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
<p>Community and Neighborhood Development continued</p>	<p>Housing - Invest in reliable Property Managers and Property Manager Potentials who should be tested according to leasing real estate (the test is for current and potentials). How much of the budget will fund SRO's and buildings where there is contracted evictions by previous Alderpeople who's had people evicted, homeless and suffering mental issues because they have no place to reside, then making the places where people once resided commercial? North Lawndale - invest in more housing, build up of historical buildings (resident/commercial/abandoned) already existing and vacant lots. Why is the West Suburbs and Westside being neglected? Are the Committee's and You (Mayor Johnson) going to carry out what people who reside in the suburbs and past Mayors sought, and that is to fund those areas of convenience for people who reside in far west suburbs and extend the downtown into the West Suburbs for their pleasure? Community Safety - Investigate callers and reprimand false accusation callers, have community hearings in all communities pertaining to events Education - The Mayor Lightfoot Program 'Fresh Start' didn't cater to all within the city, there was much prejudice and fee's were charged along with a highly extended process. Can there be a process change, too many years ago events do not need to be applied for 'Fresh Start' Entrepreneur - Programs should assist funding not only for the educational, it should also fund start ups with notable progress for entrepreneurs.</p>	<p>Online</p>
	<p>I have been a volunteer with Chicago Animal Care and Control for over 10 years and I believe that our City needs to properly fund its municipal animal shelter to provide the needed services for city residents, their pets, and the stray animals in the city's care. 1. You need to appoint an Executive Director to provide the leadership needed to direct limited resources appropriately 2. You need to increased CACC's budget and staff positions, which would allow for - lost/stray animals to be reunited with their families more quickly. -people interested in adopting animals would have prompt, knowledgeable assigned staff (and not volunteers) to provide adoption services. - people who adopt or need assistance caring for their animals would be supplied with everything necessary and CACC would not be dependent on donations to provide these items (leashes, harnesses, food) - animals would be spayed/neutered in a timely manner and adopters would not have to wait days or weeks to adopt, or forgo adoption because the animal could not leave without this surgery. - people who need help caring for their animal family members should be able to get the needed support from CACC, who could help them work through any issues, without them having to surrender their animals onto an already burdened system - people that need to surrender their animals would not have to be faced with a choice of euthanizing them or having to wait weeks or even months for an appointment to surrender their animals. Many people end up having to euthanize, or leave their animals tied up outside (where they are at risk of escaping or being injured) - anyone who visits the CACC facility should be exposed to a clean, professionally maintained, organized and welcoming environment with staff that are not overwhelmed and can support these needs - allow room in the budget to hire animal trainers, behaviorist, contract veterinarians (since we cannot pay enough or keep the vets we have) to provide the necessary care these animals need and help them find homes - stop relying on volunteers and outside organization to provide the services that the animals and city residents so desperately need</p>	<p>Online</p>

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	I live right off Lake shore drive and there is a small park area where many people take there dogs to poop&pee. Yet it is the same area where many go to sit on the grass, ride bikes, roller skate, etc. I would suggest that "doggie designated areas" be cordoned off for use to make the area more sanitary.	Online
	Invest in the structure of block clubs. Provide them with city services and financial support. Provide support with grant writing.	Online
	It would be nice for the city to purchase a lot along North Clark Street (7000 N.) to build out a small public square/park. The community needs space to gather.	Online
	More funding for Chicago Animal Care & control. So they can continue the work they do for the homeless animals of Chicago	Online
	Need more affordable units. Existing projects still don't have enough. Converting existing buildings should be explored, if structurally sound.	Online
	Please rollback classist/racist zoning so that it is once again legal to build apartment buildings in nice neighborhoods. At least on the arterials (exIrving) but preferably on quieter streets (exCuyler). We need this to make housing more affordable and support local shops and restaurants by having more people live near them. More cities are doing this and so should we!	Online
	The City should invest in ensuring that public investments in construction and development projects yield jobs that go to all Chicagoans -- including women and Black individuals.	Online

Topic

Comment / Feedback

Event

Community and Neighborhood Development continued

The Citywide Equitable Development Roundtable submits its public comments on the bond proposal to this public comment process as many of our points are equally relevant to the budget. Citywide Equitable Development Roundtable (CEDR) % Chris White, Facilitator 8944 S Commercial Ave Suite 1, Chicago, IL 60617 773-221-8908 (Office) | (847) 868-3509 (Work Cell) chris@asechicago.org Chicago City Council Finance Committee Chicago City Hall 121 N LaSalle Chicago, IL 60602 Corffmitede@finance@cityofchicago.org Dear Finance Committee Greetings from the Citywide Equitable Development Roundtable aka "The Roundtable" or CEDR, Chicago's Citywide Equitable Development Roundtable is a citywide network of organizational leaders from throughout Chicago that was founded in 2019. CEDR's organizing mission is to collectively disrupt and dismantle Chicago's sixty-year-old pattern of racist, elite-centered development and replace it with a new more equitable, pro-neighborhood approach. We have a newsletter that reaches over 500 organizational leaders from throughout the city. Over 150 of these leaders have attended at least one of our monthly events. The Roundtable has authorized me to prepare these written public comments to the Finance Committee in advance of the March 22nd, 2024 subject matter hearing on the Mayor's bond proposal. In addition to our monthly meetings and regular email updates, we do a lot of work mapping out the movement for equitable development across Chicago and connecting "grass top" leaders who are working on similar initiatives. Many of our participants were on the transition team and are serious about turning "The Blueprint" into a reality. We have repeatedly heard from inside and outside city government that the development process is opaque--one of its worst anti-democratic features. CEDR would like to partner with the city in amending that. For starters, we would like to see a flow chart of the parts of the development process. We would like to help educate the public as to... 2. What is required of developers and builders. What the possible paths are of applications to DPD, and what permits are required from which entities. We would like to work with you to improve online access to information such as program availability, program efficacy, waiting lists, applications, development agreements, commission agendas, permit requirements, permit enforcement, and more. In addition, we would like to collaborate with you on improving best practices around community engagement such as... early notice, targeting of notice to immediately affected neighbors, "grass top" list building, other improvements... Two administrative initiatives in particular underscore our desire to improve this dynamic: the Mayor's Executive Order to Streamline the Development Process and the Mayor's Bond Proposal. We have had these two initiatives described to us as two halves of one whole. We have strong agreement among many members that the TIF system as well as the development and procurement processes are unworkable as is, but we want to ensure there is a strong clear path for community oversight of the new approval process and for what comes after TIF. We have a strong agreement among most of our leaders that the current TIF system is inequitable. We must transition to a better system. However, while some inequitable aspects of TIF have always been about skimming tax dollars off the top that can only be spent in certain areas, the other problem with TIF has been the lack of public knowledge and transparency. For many of our leaders, we need a clear plan for robust community leader oversight and participation in order to be supportive of the bond proposal. We believe Mayor Johnson said it best in his response to our non-partisan questionnaire when he said, "For too long, TIFs have been a slush fund for Chicago Mayors that will end with my administration." 3. Some of our members have also been asking for more explanation of the advantage of issuing bonds over the idea of letting TIFs expire so that those dollars can simply be appropriated by the City Council. In the current system left over from previous administrations, there are projects that have strong community support that seem to hit roadblock after roadblock. Some examples that spring to mind are the Galleria 89 project in South Chicago, the grant for a new project promised to Voice of The People in Uptown, the lots and housing promised to the Obama CBA Coalition, and Northside affordable housing. But then also, we too often see projects steamrolled over the objections of community members. Some examples of this dynamic include the Amazon Warehouse at Division & Kostner, the attempted move of General Iron from Lincoln Park to Southeast Chicago, and the use of CHA land for non-housing uses. The Amazon Warehouse is a good example of a developer cherry picking (and funding) community supporters from down the road over the objections of immediate affected neighbors. Some of those neighbors are now suing Amazon for failing to get a "special use" permit required by the site's zoning under the previous administration, a step that the city should have enforced and that would have allowed those neighbors a voice in the process. Rather than the current reality of an unpredictable public input process, we would like to see a clear consistent one in which there are clear known chances for public intervention and in which good faith negotiations with affected communities for a legally binding community benefits agreement are essential. A public sector example of this dynamic might be the previous administration's streetscape projects in commercial corridors. COI, under the previous commissioner, did a poor job of getting public input about these projects and in at least one case completely rode over the objections of community leaders. When community leaders asked for some of the improvements to be built in the ample space near the commercial corridor instead of on the commercial corridors, neighbors' voices were ignored. The result is streetscape projects that were supposed to reduce congestion and increase safety but instead are increasing congestion and reducing safety. When streetscape project construction has hurt small businesses, sales or led to water shut offs, there has been no help or compensation for these businesses and residents, putting many of these businesses in danger of closing. Similarly, we have noticed that too often city contracts and procurements go to an approved list of vendors and contractors who are on the list due to the size of their compliance department rather than the quality of their goods and services. Also, we need local hiring of Chicagoans into quality jobs where rights are respected and pay is adequate to be a part of every city contract and procurement. In addition, we need a clear explanation of the steps of a just transition from TIFs to bonds. We don't want neighbors to lose out on projects they have been promised just because we are changing funding systems. It's already a travesty that the Red Purple Line Modernization on the Northside preceded the Red Line Extension on the South Side, and we need to know that the city and sister agencies will keep promises made to community leaders. In addition, we need mitigations such as help for those suffering property tax spikes, zoning restrictions, historic preservation, affordable housing construction and community input to accompany every major amenity so we can have development without displacement. As for jobs under the TIF regime, CEDR member Anthony Stewart of Black Workers Matter-Chicago West Side says, "Racism used to be free; now we got to pay for it." Meaning that property tax-based TIF funds have enabled and even subsidized anti-Black discrimination by major consumer-brand industrial employers who operate an ubiquitous "segregationist employment model" in Chicago TIF industrial districts. West side and Chicago industrial workers in general have suffered a predatory racist model of employment in which some demographics are unlawfully targeted for exploitation while Black workers are last hired and first fired, if not excluded completely. Under this model, tens of thousands of Chicago workers toiled for years and sometimes decades as perma-temps through staffing agencies that employers contract to do their dirty work of racial discrimination and wage suppression. If reform is to be meaningful for actual workers, the City must do more than relief them to overburdened, understaffed federal and state agencies to enforce rights--we need the city's Office of Labor Standards to have a much more robust budget and a stronger, more proactive enforcement strategy. And we need direct hiring, job quality, and worker rights to be an absolute requirement of all public subsidy and government action. In addition, as Marquette Block Club Leader Joyce Brown spoke about eloquently during a recent meeting with a DPD official, some of our neighborhoods have a lot of housing, much of it abandoned, speculated on or in disrepair, but lack grocery stores and other services. At the same time, many neighborhoods have a plethora of stores and services but the cost of housing puts these areas out of the reach of more and more Chicagoans. We would like to stay updated on the progress of the comprehensive neighborhood plans and racial impact assessments that were promised in the transition team document. We were interested to hear from DPD that this process is beginning with commercial corridors, and we would like to fill in what the timeline of this effort might look like. We also believe that there need to be repercussions suffered by store chains such as Save A Lot and Wal Mart who take public money and run. We would like to know more about the administration's plan to "Close the Gap between the housing we have and the housing we need. And we would like to see an exhaustive list of the various housing programs run both by the city directly and by sister agencies, as well as real time data about each program's efficacy. We also would like to see the city invest in new owner-occupied housing affordable to working class families. But we are aware that only significant subsidies and the disposition of city owned lots would make the right level of affordability possible. Many of us were very involved in last year's Cumulative Impact Assessment and Environmental Justice Action Plan. We would like to be able to share regular updates on the progress of each department's compliance with the EJ plan. We would also like to see the administration hold the line on making public health impacts a part of every development application review and decision. Our leaders are available to answer any questions you may have. On Behalf Of The Roundtable, Chris White, Facilitator Citywide Equitable Development Roundtable Citywide Equitable Development Roundtable/Organizational Members Access Living Disability Rights Action Coalition for Housing (DRACH) ASE Chicago Black Workers Matter Chicago Westside Brighton Park Neighborhood Council Chicago Housing Initiative Chicago Mahogany Tours, Sherman "Dillan" Thomas, Founder Light Up Lawndale, Princess Shaw, Founder People's Council of Southeast Chicago Real Men Charities, Inc., Yvette Moyo, Executive Director Working Family Solidarity Save Jackson Park / CCAM Research

Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	Interactive art pieces connecting the English/Spanish/Chinese-Mandarin-speaking community. Combine pedestrian safety tactics (lights, crosswalks, ADA, etc with artsy, interactive ways to learn common, courteous phrases. Be safe & get to know your neighbors.	Online
	transform city and county owned vacant lots into community gathering spaces/respite from the pressures/trauma of city living. (ANY needed remediation would be done by City of Chicago or large philanthropics who wish to help our Chicago communities thrive - they could get naming rights or plaque at the site? These would be community driven designs (3-5 meetings) and then start something with multi-phases for continual improvements & additions. (i.e. after remediation and design phase call out to the community gardens/ neighborspace and those community members with gardening skills to add plants/mulch etc. following year call out to landscapers to donate labor for hardscapes and community raise funds for the materials with \$\$ matching from the city of Chicago/Cook county) EACH year the non-profit organizations/area councils/block clubs of the community could present programming to the community here centered around the arts and beautification of our spaces, intercultural, intergenerational experiences and could also include mental health and physical wellness activities (dancing, yoga/meditation, field games etc.)	Online
	1. As the One System Initiative meetings continue, it doesn't seem that much thought has gone into how resources will be added to the homeless service system to accommodate new arrivals as well as to increase contracts to meet the need that already exists. 2. Our city animal shelter, Chicago Animal Care & Control, is an open admission shelter that serves over 13,000 animals per year. In the recent 2 years, live release rates have decreased. The number of animals leaving the shelter alive could increase significantly if the shelter were provided with additional resources. Please consider the humans and animals most in need when crafting the budget.	Online
	CACC needs more funding to more humanely care for the large amount of animals. Dogs only get outside 2-3 times A WEEK! Also with funding for training, these dogs would be more adoptable.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
<p>Community and Neighborhood Development continued</p>	<p>Chicago Animal Care and Control (CACC) is important to Chicago residents who love their pets and who rely on the city for assistance with animal-related matters. Yet, CACC has one of the lowest budgets of any similar sized shelter operation in the country. In particular, the relentless underfunding of CACC includes salaries that are too low to attract qualified candidates to fill key staff positions. Currently, an astounding 22 percent of CACC's budgeted positions are unfilled. One vacancy, that of Veterinary Medical Manager—open for more than 2 years—leaves the shelter unable to research and implement the most up-to-date medical treatments and sheltering practices. Consequently, as upper respiratory infections (URIs) spread like wildfire among the animals, veterinary staff are constrained by conventional treatment protocols that may be ineffective against new or resistant URI organisms. Animals on antibiotics cannot be adopted until they complete their treatment course. Dogs who become severely compromised as a result of shelter-acquired URIs are euthanized unless rescue groups take them and assume the cost of high-quality veterinary care. The nationwide shortage of veterinarians therefore necessitates offering an annual salary far above the \$150,000 offered by the city of Chicago to fill the crucial leadership role of Veterinary Medical Manager. The city has been negligent in not acting sooner on this matter. Additionally, 2 Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT) positions are unfilled. Together with the shortage of veterinarians, those vacancies contribute to delays in performing spay/neuter surgeries to such an extent that adopters often wait more than 2 weeks to take home an animal they have adopted. As of July 25, 2024, more than 50 animals who had been adopted were still being held at CACC awaiting spay/neuter surgeries due to the chronic shortage of veterinary staff to perform those procedures. This is a tremendous inconvenience to adopters who must adjust their schedule/routine in expectation of introducing a new pet into their homes. At the May 23, 2024 meeting of the Chicago Commission on Animal Care and Control, Commissioner Sandra Alfred-Jordan noted that the salary offered by the city for the CVT position is not competitive with private sector salaries, adding that the requirement to reside in Chicago is an additional deterrent. Clearly, the salary and benefits currently offered by the city are not sufficient to attract qualified veterinary professionals willing to work under the highly stressful and often depressing conditions at CACC. Moreover, Chicago should be proactively budgeting for additional veterinary staff and facilities to provide free or low-cost spay/neuter services to low-income residents to mitigate the flow of stray and owner surrender animals into CACC. The investment would save the city money in the long run. Also, at the aforementioned Commission meeting, Animal Control Officer (ACO) was cited as one of the lowest paid city jobs. There are currently 4 unfilled ACO positions at CACC, making it nearly impossible for CACC to respond within 24 hours to the approximately 110 calls for service they receive from the community on a typical day. A final comment to further illustrate the callous frugality the city of Chicago has consistently shown toward visitors to CACC Chicago DOES NOT PAY for one single collar, leash or harness for any adopter taking home a new pet. One hundred percent of that equipment is donated—either by CACC volunteers or the public. Consequently, adopters welcoming a new dog into their family leave CACC with a wonderful animal attached to (often hideously) mismatched equipment from pet store clearance bins—products rejected by consumers who could afford to be more selective.</p>	<p>Online</p>

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
<p>Community and Neighborhood Development continued</p>	<p>Chicago Animal Care and Control is in dire need of a bigger budget. They are not currently able to help the community with their animal needs except for euthanating their animals. Besides that, there is almost zero support. Here's some facts Increased budget and staff would ensure that dogs are reunited with their families more quickly. Currently 22% of budgeted positions are open (16 FTE) Salaries not competitive and zero qualified applicants for many roles. PAWS had to raise salaries of all veterinary staff by 25-30 percent in order to keep their staff. Open positions are vital to the health and adoptability of animals, including. Executive Director (2 years) Deputy Director Veterinary Medical Manager (veterinary leadership- open 3 years and creates the inability for the shelter to implement or research modern medical decisions and protocols in sheltering) Vets (we have 1 for over 400 animals) Animal Care Attendants (consistently short basic CARE for animals - clean kennels, clean water, feeding. Short staff = unsanitary conditions leading to spread of disease) Citizens coming in for adoptions would have more prompt, knowledgeable 'service' to meet dogs that may be a fit for them, Current technology is lacking to find matches. Current 24hourpet.com site does not separate adoptable from lost (on chip hold/stray hold). In addition, no way to filter for friendliness - kid, dog, cat, or weight like other modern shelter systems. Matching/filtering can help ensure faster/solid matches for the public Outreach programs needed in underserved areas to educate on proper pet care (how to interact with animals, what to do if you find a stray, how to find resources if you need help, OFFERING or PROVIDING those resources close to communities in need) Offer programing for kids under 18 to teach that interaction - in kennel enrichment for dogs, making cat toys, learning about homeless pets and why they should spay/neuter, etc- in a kid friendly way 200 volunteers that are active. Year to date they have volunteered 13,289 hours which roughly breaks down to 1900 hours per month and 63 hours per day. Citizens that adopt need to always go home with all the basics they need (leash, harness, etc.) without having to rely on donations from vols and outside organizations, These are not accounted for in the budget. RTO, adopters, etc, do NOT show up with basics. PAWS, Rescue Chicago, Rescuber, and volunteers purchase every one. Collar, leash, harness are a must have, not a nice to have for animals leaving the shelter Adopters shouldn't have to wait days/weeks for spay/neuter RTO take priority, but it's not mandatory. Many are returned unaltered due to staff shortages with continues the cycle of overpopulation Adopters wait weeks lately due to increased medical concerns and short staffed medical department. New medications can't be researched/budgeted/aproved because of lack of leadership in medical (ex, antibiotics to fight new URI's which spread through the shelter like wildfire due to lack of cleaning protocols and outdated medications) Due to lack of staffing, CACC is increasingly relying on private orgs like PAWS to spay/neuter adoptable dogs Citizens struggling with their pets - who, like us, view them as family should be able to get support from CACC to work through those issues rather than having to make the heartbreaking decision to surrender their dog, Most citizens enter the building at one of the lowest point in their lives. Turning in a sad stray animal, giving up their animal, requesting to euthanize their animal This takes a toll on staff who are trying to manage emotions of others and themselves on their worst days dogs and cats are key members of Chicago families. An interaction with CACC - whether someone is adopting or surrendering a pet- is a very significant and memorable moment in their life. With more funding we</p>	<p>Online</p>

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	<p>Chicago animal care and control is one of the lowest funded city shelters in the country, especially considering how many animals are taken in. It is understaffed and staff is underpaid. They rely on donations for much of what they do, from equipment to sometimes even food. CACC is often asked to do more than it can. Response time to 311 calls can be lengthy, as well as waits at cacc itself. The live release rate is much better than what people are led to believe, but intake has been up this year. An increased budget may help pay for more staff or raise the salaries of the staff there and allow for overtime if staff wants it. Working there can be mentally draining and higher pay may help draw more people in. An increased budget can also help set up a foster program to get more animals out. It can help pay for a behaviorist to work with long term animal residents. Also, Cacc does offer free vaccine and microchip programs to a limited degree. It would be wonderful to expand this and to include free spay and neuter and even TNR. Many Chicago residents live in veterinary deserts or can't afford vet care. However, studies have proven that pets are beneficial to mental health and residents shouldn't be denied this benefit just because of income.</p>	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	<p>Chicago Animal Care and Control is one of the lowest funded municipal shelters in the country for the number of animals they take in and relies on donations and volunteers for everything, from basic animal care, adoptions, equipment to leashes and collars to diversion supplies. Basically, everything the shelter needs. We are the 3rd largest city in the nation and have one of the lowest funded municipal city shelters in nation. I've been a volunteer at Chicago Animal Care and Control for the last 1.5 years and this shelter is failing Chicago residents and the community we live in. The shelter is struggling to operate due to how low their funds are and how much they get to operate each year. At any given point there are 10-20 open positions at the shelter. Due to staff at the shelter always being incredibly low they rely heavily on volunteers. Truly without the help of volunteers this building would no longer be a shelter and actually just a palace for dogs to come and die. That is the reality of where this shelter is at. A place where citizens and the community would get zero support from a government run facility due to the lack of employees and funds. This shelter is in dire need for a bigger budget. The community constantly demands CACC to do more, but funding is needed to implement programs dedicated to saving lives, helping families, educate the community and more. The live release rate in the first six months this year is up over 20% from last year, but unfortunately, so is intake. Since the 4th of July, CACC has taken in approx. 45 animals each day. Net net, CACC is taking in huge amount of animals every single day. They are in a crisis. CACC could do so much more if they had an appropriate budget for how big they are, how many animals come in and how much support is needed for our community. With support from a budget, they could do so much more for example Hiring the right number of staff and the ability to bring in the right staff (CACC is in dire needs of veterinarians and an actual Director) CACC has gone without a Director for the last 2 years. Funding for a foster program Trainers/ behaviorists. With these kinds of people on staff, many animals could be saved. Spay/neuter clinics for the community - especially in targeted areas - it would save the city money in the future. Citizens that adopt need to always go home with all the basics they need (leash, harness, etc.). right now the shelter does not supply anything. All supplies are from donations from vols and outside organizations. ALL SUPPLIES. Adopters shouldn't have to wait days/weeks for spay/neuter. Since CACC doesn't have staff or vets, people end of waiting days sometimes week to get their animal spayed or neutered to due lack of funding. Citizens struggling with their pets - who, like us, view them as family should be able to get support and education from CACC to work through those issues rather than having to make the heartbreaking decision to surrender their dog. Citizens should be able to promptly and compassionately surrender their dogs without being faced with the choice of requesting euthanasia or waiting weeks/months for an appointment. Citizens coming to the facility should be exposed to a clean, professionally maintained, organized and welcoming environment, etc. All of these things help save the city money in the future. It's truly a win win. With a bigger budget this shelter could be a huge impact for this beautiful city. We could do so much more in these communities and for our animals. This is needed so badly, please raise CACC budget for 2025.</p>	Online
	<p>Chicago animal care and control is woefully under funded. We need more funding to provide better services to our community. We need more funding to for Spay and neuter clinics to cut down on the homeless animal population. Please help our stray animals!</p>	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
<p>Community and Neighborhood Development continued</p>	<p>Chicago is the 3rd largest metropolitan city in the country however our animal shelter lacks funding and support from the city to operate effectively for the number of people it is supposed to support. As a volunteer, I see first hand how the animals in the shelter's care languish in dirty kennels, often don't have adequate food and water, and rarely have enough blankets/treats/toys to make their stay comfortable. The lack of funding and low salaries is one of the main reasons that there are currently 16 vacant positions that can't be filled because no one wants to work for such a low income. As a result of the staffing issues, the animals suffer. Also, it makes the program frustrating and ineffective to the people who need it as a resource. They often face long wait times, aren't given accurate information, or are unable to get in contact with anyone at the shelter because there aren't enough staff to take calls and answer email. CACC should be a vital program for members of the community who need affordable vet care but there are currently no veterinarians on staff. Animals occupy cages longer than necessary because they can't be adopted until after their spay/neuter procedure and these end up not happening until weeks, even months, after their intake date. Potential families interested in adopting are waiting months to bring home their new pet due to lack of veterinary care at the shelter. This results in high euthanasia rates since there are never available kennels for the never ending influx of strays and owner surrenders. Please help CACC be a better asset to the community, and better able to care for the living sentient beings held in its care, by increasing their funding in the budget.</p>	<p>Online</p>
	<p>Chicago is the third largest city in the US, behind LA and ahead of Houston. CACC's \$7 million budget is a mere 0.04% of the city budget. In contrast, LA Animal Services has a \$27 million budget (approximately 2% of the city budget) and Houston's Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care has a budget of \$18.3 million (approximately 2.5% of the city budget). The minuscule allocation of funds to CACC is an outlier amongst Chicago's peer cities. The lack of resources requires CACC to rely heavily on volunteers and donations for basic needs like leashes, treats, toys, walking and socializing animals, and adoption services. Houston's budget includes 110 FTE employees, whereas CACC has budget for only 72 FTE employees, and 22% of the positions remain unfulfilled (possibly because the budgeted salaries are not competitive), exacerbating the staffing issue. Due to this understaffing, CACC relies almost 100% on volunteers to handle direct pet adoptions, despite "pet placement" being part of the CACC mission statement. Volunteers are also responsible for dog walking and socialization; dogs would otherwise spend all their time in cages, the stress of which leads to behaviors which are not conducive to adoption. Volunteers provide over 20,000 hours of service per year, hours that could be better and more efficiently utilized in conjunction with improved staffing. With increased funding, CACC could increase staffing to provide enhanced community engagement and an improved customer service experience. Citizens looking to adopt a pet would have a more streamlined experience at CACC, and people would not have to wait hours in order to meet with volunteer adoption counselors. Animals could be vetted and spayed/neutered more quickly so that more animals are available at adoption events, and potential adopters are not left waiting days or weeks to bring a pet home. It's time for Chicago to catch up with its peers, and long past time for increased funding for CACC.</p>	<p>Online</p>

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	Community safety is created by investing in housing, third spaces, health care, walkable neighborhoods and social support, not by funding police.	Online
	Currently 22% of budgeted CACC positions are open (16 FTE) Salaries not competitive and zero qualified applicants for many roles. PAWS had to raise salaries of all veterinary staff by 25-30 percent in order to keep their staff. Open positions are vital to the health and adoptability of animals	Online
	Expanded bike lane network (let's be very ambitious and create protected bike lanes within a block of every resident). More money out towards Better Streets for Buses initiatives to speed up buses and create more walkable neighborhoods. More incentives for increasing supply of low income housing and TOD developments More community programming and cultural events at parks and other public spaces	Online
	Getting City budget dollars from corporate, grant or other funds for on going staff support for the Food Equity Council and its priorities such as continuing the Community Growers Program and the Good Food Fund after the ARPA funds are spent.	Online
	Given the worsening climate crisis, I believe that it is imperative that Chicago invest more money into mitigating its carbon output and adapting to changing weather patterns. To do so, I propose prioritizing the following areas - Doubling the climate infrastructure fund every year for the next 5 years, - Fund a comprehensive study of the benefits and possibilities of widely implementing bus rapid transit across the city. - Allocate funds to purchase vacant or unused lots and transform them into urban mini-forests, to be managed by the Chicago Park District. - Install shade shelters at every CTA stop with green roofs or solar panels. - Include a subsidized divvy membership to every ventra Upass recipient. - Increase the budget of the office of the environment and sustainability by 25% for the next five years.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
<p>Community and Neighborhood Development continued</p>	<p>Hello, I believe CACC is a vital resource to our communities and is in dire need of funding to improve its functioning. -Increased budget and staff- 22% of budgeted positions are open, many with zero applicants due to uncompetitive salaries. Other shelters, such as PAWS have had to raise salaries by 25-30% for this reason. Open positions consist of boots on the ground positions such as animal care attendants (the lack of which compromise basic care and cleanliness for the animals and reduce their adoptability/help spread disease) as well as critical leadership positions (ex. Executive director, deputy director, vet medical manager, vets) needed to help improve strategic vision and large scale issues -Adoption process improvement- the current technology is not conducive to informed public on the dogs. Because of no staffed adoption counselors, volunteers have to do adoption showings and there are never enough volunteers leading to more euthanizations. Also volunteers working on adoptions means they can't walk dogs--their only source of enrichment (without this they stay in cages 24/7). We also need more proactive, community based engagement for kids and adults to teach them about proper pet care and help them understand more about CACC as a resource. -Veterinary gaps - Dogs only get spayed/neutered when they've been adopted. The lack of vets and medical care means dogs wait weeks to be spayed/neutered during which adopters may lose interest or the dogs spend longer than they need to in a very stressful environment (CACC) -Financial help for dog and cat owners- The intake level has increased rapidly from the community. Those that surrender dogs and cats do so because of archaic rental laws or lack of financial means to support their animals (who they view as family). We can budget to meet this need with financial support programs or changing rental laws. -Animal surrender- current administrative gaps mean that if someone wants to surrender their dogs without waiting weeks for an appointment (most people don't even think to look for this), the dogs have to get euthanized. It's cruel and unnecessary and heartbreaking for dog owners. Often times people surrendering dogs are given a short timeline to do so (evictions, moving to places with breed restrictions, etc). The city service law mandating this should be amended and additional funding for administrative help would help.</p>	<p>Online</p>

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	<p>Here We Go Again"? Disrupting the "Chicago Way" in Development (An Open Letter) When Bears CEO Kevin Warren announced the Bears Stadium proposal, he said, "We're going to do this the Chicago Way;...." He's not wrong, but the "Chicago Way" of development is top down, elite-centered and inequitable. It is a structurally racist, greed-driven, predatory system of development that has transformed many of our neighborhoods into isolated sacrifice zones of poisoned land, food deserts and poor public services. Candidate Johnson promised to disrupt this "the tale of two cities". The Citywide Equitable Development Roundtable (CEDR), a network of over 20 organizations and hundreds of organizers and community leaders, want to democratize and transform the Chicago Way of development from a predatory system of profiteering into a community building enterprise. CEDR expects Mayor Johnson to live up to our shared values and to keep his promises. The current system promotes projects that neighbors feel either left out of or run over by. Economically, there are census tracts with higher rates of joblessness, low quality jobs, community violence, crime and housing insecurity. None of this is by accident. The Chicago Way has left targeted neighborhoods filled with vacant lots, pollution, over-policing, warehouses, railroads, a dearth of reliable and safe public transportation, access to healthy food, public parks, and jobs. The people in targeted neighborhoods have been deemed expendable and starved of resources by choice, not chance. The administration promised that the money raised by the \$1.25 billion bond proposal will be channeled into existing programs with existing processes, but those processes were never explained and have never worked to the benefit of our communities. The city still has not produced a list of all the development programs, how effective they are, their cost, or how they choose projects. Even the "Qualified Allocation Plan" is big on buzzwords without detail on how the community will participate in development. The Mayor's Business & Economic Neighborhood Development team is rolling out the "Cut the Tape" initiative. An initiative that is focused on efficiency, but not justice. The last thing our communities need is for inequitable and predatory development to move even faster, with less community input. CEDR believes that development without displacement requires a community-centered effort that is mindful of property tax spikes, features community preservation and civic development of public infrastructure, a focus on affordable housing and mitigation of past land poisoning and the present lack of access to business development resources. Justice-centered development, a new Chicago Way, is difficult, but it is also a choice, and we need the Mayor to work with us to make it happen. Chicago is only the City that Works if it works for all of us. https://bit.ly/whatiscedroundtable</p>	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	<p>I am the volunteer coordinator at Chicago Animal Care and Control. I know that you have met some of our very dedicated volunteers during the roundtable meetings and I would like to reiterate that we would like to see budget increases for CACC so that we can better serve the public. The community depends on us for many things but often have complaints because of our inability to serve them well. They care about our services but we can only provide the minimum with current budgetary constraints. I would like to see competitive salaries for current unfilled positions (specifically for the veterinary staff) so that we can take care of our animals get them homes. When people want to adopt an animal (and save a life!) they should not have to wait for a long time while the animals get neutered at a private partner's facility (PAWS.) The shelter has over a dozen open positions and could function much better if these positions were competitive and stayed filled, which in turn would allow us to better serve the community. I also would like to see an executive director be named. The acting director is doing the best that she can but she does not have a deputy director underneath her and can't make permanent decisions as an acting head. This has been going on for over a year and we are not sure why the mayor is holding off on this, especially because the funds are already allocated. Thank you.</p>	Online
	<p>I suggest a Vacancy tax to all the empty buildings to collect money to support rental programs, homeless prevention, and mental health care. We need to have a more competitive salary to afford to live in Chicago. Raise the minimum wage for the city to match the Housing Wage so the working class as a whole can afford to live in our communities with us. So residents can afford housing, health care, and education. Investing more youth programs, I see programs like afterschool matters and one summer Chicago are doing great helping our youth to grow professionally and personally, but this program has a limit that leave a lot of youth without options. Promote more alternative education like technic carrers, short courses to prep for employment. Invest in underserved neighborhood to help every resident to build roots and love their community. Development without displacement. We need more affordable housing that is accessible to the needs of the most needed communities that have been marginalized for decades. We need to reinvent our neighborhood to heal and preserve their culture. Invest in arts and cultural programs. Support local artist with grants and marketing to promote their skills and encourage new artist to pursue a carrer in arts. We need local artists, that is the most rich reflect of a neighborhood. STOP the TIF expansion. We do not need to add more burden to our small landlords and tenants that are struggling to pay already what are they paying. Tax the rich to stop gentrification and protect our bungalows and beautiful neighborhoods. Support the NORTHWEST PRESERVATIVE ORDINANCE to protect Logan Square, Hermosa, and Avondale from developments that are destroying our community. We want that the residents stay here, they are an important part of our community and are the ones that keep our communities stronger. We need clean energy communities, I demand at least \$135 million for the Social Housing Revolving Fund.</p>	Online
	<p>I would like the police officers to come into my neighborhood more often to see what's going on</p>	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	I would like to make it easier for people living in apartments to adopt the "city side" of the sidewalk for vegetable gardens and/or prairie restoration. Community gardens are lovely, but there aren't enough and/or they can be located far from the apartment dwellers home. This could be a great solution for food security and also biodiversification. It would cost the city essentially nothing either - as the cost for seeds or plants would be the responsibility of the volunteer gardener. This could be done at each Ward level, and the city could beta test the idea with 10-15 wards. I believe the 40th ward would be very on board with this. I really hope you consider this idea. It's fun, affordable, and could have a huge impact on the community and individual's mental and physical well-being	Online
	More Bike Lanes, Red Light Cameras, and investment in Lakefront	Online
	More supports for people who are at risk of homelessness...less disruptive for kids and families to keep them housed....no interest loans for security deposits, perhaps info on city website of how to fight evictions, resources for legal aid, more info on tenants' rights. Also development of housingdevelopment on city owned vacant lots, downtown corridor mixed use buildings, bonds to jumpstart funding	Online
	My name is Nayla Hale and I have a community bikeshop called South Shore Bicycle Works LWCA. We offer community/youth programming on bike safety, bike tours connecting communities, and marshaling services to keep people safe on already existing rides. This business is a cooperative so there are 4 owners who are all equal owners based on the Southeast side of Chicago. We'd like to be in partnership with the city of giving free bikes away for our community members amongst the 19,000+ who deserve the liberation and community biking may bring them. We'd also like financial support to hire and train our community members to expand our youth and community programming safety initiatives throughout all marginalized communities of Chicago. We'd like some support from the city to become a community development hub using biking as our vehicle for connection, growth, and liberation's first steps. This looks like a \$50,000 - \$1,000,000 investment from the city in which the funds would used to acquire city owned land in South Shore, development of land to community development space (similar to west side community development spaces with green spaces like BUILD inc, Equiticity, and Building Brighter FuturesCenter for the Arts), payment of employees salaries only for first year, and materials needed to begin programming like quality bikes, helmets, locks, and lights for all schools, nonprofits, and organizations we'd do programming with. Thank you for reading this idea and for your time and consideration!	Online
	Need to fund things that actually reduce crime. Police do not prevent crime, they barely solve it after it happens. Things like LIBRARIES are a community safety resource! Less money to cops.	Online
	Please continue to develop green spaces in underdeveloped and underserved areas! Restore the tree canopy, and reclaim empty blighted spaces for education, recreation and community gardening.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	Police need to be in the neighborhoods, you can't tie their hands and not let them do their job, spend more money in the neighborhoods and do t assume that just because where I grew up and bought a house before it became the place to live that my taxes should be what they are. Also you need to increase the elderly income to freeze their taxes, my 90 year old mother runs out of money every month since the taxes increased. If it wasn't for us she would have to chose between life saving medication and having a house to live in. Make the taxes more equitable and put it back into the neighborhoods	Online
	Preserving buildings and less demolitions, utilizing the available green spaces to include multi- generational activities to address food insecurities, safe spaces, youth usage, senior citizens, for mental health, environmental friendly usage and much more.	Online
	Regular, dedicated funding for capital improvements on a rolling deadline application. Arts companies build infrastructure - both physical and social/cultural - that improves the community. Funding/support for artist benefits (health/medical/dental) with attainable and reasonable requirements. Broader support for arts education and performance, to support in-school programs threatened by municipal cutbacks.	Online
	There are so many empty storefronts in my neighborhood. I suggest turning them into temporary gallery spaces for young artists!	Online
	We need more investment in the west side. That means infrastructure- SAFE DRINKING WATER, roads, safe crossing street intersections, alleys, adequate lighting, green spaces; local businesses- more grocery stores, pet stores, coffee shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues; reliable and safe public transportation. Please invest in boarded up, empty buildings or overgrown lots; this breeds neighborhood discontent, people see that their government is not interested in them and they loose hope. We need more activities for the kids, ALL YEAR LONG AND LARGER SCALE. We cant be fighting over a few slots. INVEST IN OUR KIDS and in return you will see the benefits. It will take time but we have to start somewhere and sooner than later. This isn't anything new. We just need MORE RESOURCES. We have individuals with long history of violent crime still on the streets. My block has had two shootings in the last year, with casualties. That's just one block, we hear gun shots all night long. When we call police no one shows up, why would they? Their efforts are futile, the same people will be out the next day. We have are constantly threated or offered drugs. We don't have enough police presence or support for the victims and the perpetrators. I'm sure no one wants to put themselves in danger every day selling drugs on the corner, but they have nothing else to look forward to.	Online
	As a constituent the percentage of chicago's budget that goes to Chicago Animal Care & Control is pathetic. CACC needs to be a leader in our nation for kindness. The human animal bond is vital to mental health. Please immediately fund more programs at CACC to care for animal and their humans.	Truman
	Free spay/neuter services for pets. Low costs or free vet services. Increased funding for CACC to better support constituents and their pets.	Truman

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	Funding to CACC for free services (spay/neuter, vaccinations, behavioral issues/trainings) for animals. Many people are forced to give up animals because they can not afford to take care of them. The city shelters is over capacity and has no way to handle the hundreds of dogs/cats.	Truman
	Increase free clinics to address the pet population + keeping it healthy + under control. Spay/neuter, vaccinations. Assistance for those wanting to keep their pets despite/through hardship - financial, housing, health. Increase visibility of CACC & its sources including adoptions and more.	Truman
	-The vacant lots --> specifically private developers should be charged more for their ticket as they're probably held by affluent beings.	Truman
	(A) Incentives or penalties on landlords who leave storefronts empty (for years & years!) and/or who DO NOT maintain or improve their buildings. Mr. U's building at the corner of Brynmaur & Broadway. (B) Find ways to rid panhandlers in traffic & on sidewalks. (C) Urgent! CHange the property tax "laws" so that people can stay in their homes they currently reside in. There are cities in California & Florida where residents pay the property tax they did when they bought. There are MANY ways to fund government.	Truman
	3. More funding for theatre companies who are still recovering their program since the pandemic shut down	Truman
	Animals are very important to kid, seniors and eliminate stress. Chicago Animal Care and Control needs more funds to take better care of animals in the facility AND help the community with food, vet care, training.	Truman
	"Chicago Animal Care & Control does more than deal w/animals. It helps the community & needs resources to do so. We can put programs in place to keep people w/their beloved pets when in need & don't have resources.	
	The org is very underfunded vs. other ACCs & it shows. More animals are dying vs prior years. Houston has much more funding.	Truman
	Indianapolis is building a brand new facility. Chicago.04% (CACCs as portion of budget) - LA.2% -Houston.3%"	
	Chicago Animal Care & Control needs more funding for critical programs to offer medical services. More rapid spay-neuter, behavioral assistance, education and fostering of animals.	Truman
	"Create a foundation tied to the CACC to expand fundraising capacities, Create more creative opportunities, and gather donations from the community	
	-expand staffing for CACC and Increase salaries/benefit packages to improve recruitment and retention	Truman
	-Create budget line item for crucial supplies including leashes, harnesses, collars, etc. all of which are currently donation-based."	
	Create animal control spay & neuter clinics. Increase CACC budget so that community members can keep pets.	Truman
	Fund more CACC staff & leverage funds with a NFP foundation	Truman

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community and Neighborhood Development continued	Have a thought of inclusion as to where ALL communities are included in opportunity and growth, including upgrades of historical neighborhoods, houses, communities, etc. making/educating our youth w/ field trips in neighborhoods/communities providing knowledge of our great City Chicago.	Truman
	Increase budget for Chicago Animal Care & Control to make it comparable "percentage-wise" to animal care & control budgets of other major cities in US - specifically Los Angeles & Houston. (ie percentage of total city budget is shamefully lower than in those other large cities)	Truman
	Increase mixed-use development and making communities more walkable. Moving towards a land-value tax to remove the tax incentive for keeping lots vacant and underdeveloped.	Truman
	Integrating existing programs from other neighborhoods to neighborhoods in need is one of the reasons I come here. The North side has been going down and having less resources than the South and West sides. While it's amazing there's more resources in those needed areas, other needed areas, like the North side are missing these needed opportunities.	Truman
	Just cause for eviction, progressive taxes, permanent supportive housing, end Chi-Block Builder/DPD land sales office, end TIF expansions, pay city employees the housing wage, full funding for social housing, cooling center expansion, accessibility expansion, healthy homes proactive rental inspections.	Truman
	Longer DPD staffing and funding	Truman
	Neuter/spay feral homeless cats to reduce suffering, injuries, sickness, hunger, thirst of the cats that live in the streets.	Truman
	Chicago Animal Care & Control needs more funding - it serves ALL neighborhoods. We need to care for the animals that come into CACC in a timely manner & help reunite pets with owners and facilitate adoptions for citizens that want to adopt.	Truman
	"Spay/neuter all feral/homeless cats in order to reduce the population of the ferals in the city. This will reduce suffering, hunger, t shirts, injuries of those homeless cats.	Truman
	This is a cost that needs to be incurred by the City of Chicago."	
	"The lack of a comprehensive plan is problematic - we're constantly responding/reacting to developers and not preparing for a community/city-wide vision.	Truman
	Hire more planners and city staffing."	
	We need more programs to encourage preservation of historical buildings and staff at DPD - historic preservation division. Which also addresses affordable housing as well as "green" buildings not going to landfill	Truman
Community Engagement	Increase session #'s, increase participation from many demographics.	Harold Washington
	More promotions/advertising/marketing on social media to reach young people. Announce prizes!	Harold Washington
	Talk about immigration please!!	Harold Washington

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community Engagement, continued	The format is confusing. They only list these limited programs. Mikva isn't widely known Playstreets isn't city wide the programs are extremely narrow. Should have better prompting questions and a resource guide for folks to follow-up.	Harold Washington
	Year-long engagement	Harold Washington
	Year-long engagement	Harold Washington
	A good way to incorporate community voice would be to inform communities from all over the city about opportunities that allow them to express concern & needs. Year-long engagement especially for youth can help keep us in contact with these types of opportunities.	Harold Washington
	Access is what we need. End gentrification and Don't antagonize me and my people w/these events. Do some work for REAL!!	Harold Washington
	Better observation of budget options.	Harold Washington
	Create regional check-ins on a quarterly basis.	Harold Washington
	Host sessions in target areas -@More info updates	Harold Washington
	Housing budget engagement event in more places in the city, rather than having them all centralized in downtown. Also year-long engagement would be beneficial for continued feedback.	Harold Washington
	Increase the amount of time given for discussions.	Harold Washington
	Less talking at community & more talking with communities.	Harold Washington
	Make these opportunities accessible all over Chicago.	Harold Washington
	More and longer sessions that prioritize youth voices	Harold Washington
	More information, year long engagement	Harold Washington
	More seminars	Harold Washington
	More sessions!	Harold Washington
	More things involving music or platforms to share music	Harold Washington
	More violence prevention programs.	Harold Washington
	Q&A section w/department leaders and then student feedback	Harold Washington
	Share a ballpark of how many much money will go to each of the topic. Also, possibly sub topics in the main topics like education on paying for college.	Harold Washington
	Year-long engagement that allows for residents to fully understand city budget. What is possible and what is not.	Harold Washington
	Increase media & promote + encourage community input.	Kennedy-King
	Its is extraordinarily loud in the rooms. Better spread and maybe using multiple rooms. I attended last year and the conversation were more focused on budget. Today, each table seemed more focused on giving people much needed answers specific to personal issues. I attended community safety and infrastructure tables today.	Kennedy-King
	More advertisement!! I only heard about this because of Triibe.	Kennedy-King
	Please increase the discussion and move the conversation to separate rooms for better hearing discussion.	Kennedy-King
	Results or accountability	Kennedy-King
	Results!	Kennedy-King

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community Engagement, continued	Some staff at roundtables this year deflecting questions by referring comm. members to alders, state legislators, the feds or by blaming private industry around issues where the city can share in finding solutions. I found this off-putting and it discourages participation. This was at one of the community development roundtables.	Kennedy-King
	Year long engagement	Kennedy-King
	Include tours of city buildings/@esp before or after engagement sessions -@topic specific engagement	Kennedy-King
	"1) Open dialogue is good 2)Open discussion about the issues that needs attention or addressing"	Kennedy-King
	Information ahead of time like an agenda. Invite the public on/or public organizations a chance to present, train and discuss. Give a grant to F.A.C.T. it will cut down on violence greatly! Shine light on corrupt parts of the city systems or parts that are vulnerable to criminals/drug dealers.	Kennedy-King
	Avoid lumping communities together. There should have been a budget meeting on the southeast side. Due to a travel barrier, in impoverished and marginalized communities, we must make sure we are intentional seeking the voices of those most unheard.	Kennedy-King
	Conduct the same budget engagement sessions each year over the city.	Kennedy-King
	Coordinating and communicating of city services available to residents - many people don't know where to go to solve their problems or resources available to them.	Kennedy-King
	Engage community groups, young people	Kennedy-King
	Increase transparency of input	Kennedy-King
	Keep doing what you are doing/keep letting people like me bring a voice to the table and actually listen.	Kennedy-King
	More sessions -Sessions in downtown, loop, river north area -Start sessions on time -Provide more info before sessions (there was no clear source for current budget or budget	Kennedy-King
	Need a bigger place with similar tables, sessions should be 45mins not 30mins. Emailed should be sent out, Alderman should put in their newsletter (the areas this would be in).	Kennedy-King
	Ongoing education for ALL community members. (Police, older people, ppl who serve youth).	Kennedy-King
	Opportunities for accessing/engaging in the communities, boots on the ground outreach - meet people where they are.	Kennedy-King
	Participate in public service announcements in Spanish television and other channels that reach communities that tend to be disengaged from public/gov. activities.	Kennedy-King
	This was very good! I think better advertisement so more people know it's happening.	Kennedy-King
	Virtual roundtables	Kennedy-King
	Year long engagement & PA campaigns	Kennedy-King
	Year long engagement to give updates of the actual initiatives as compares to the budget (quarterly meetings).	Kennedy-King
	Year-long engagement	Kennedy-King

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community Engagement,	Defund the police, end the shot spotter contract and invest in resources for housing and community engagement.	Malcolm X
	I thank you all for opening the floor to the people. Keep up the great work! This was a great experience.	Malcolm X
	More sessions in More communities -@Year long engagement -@ partnership with community organizations to increase participation	Malcolm X
	More sessions in more neighborhoods!	Malcolm X
	Co-governanceSupport community health workers employed by non-profit organizations. To sustain health service navigation. This is both a covid recovery strategy and	Malcolm X
	More sessions, regular year around contacts for resident interaction. Quarterly forums compiling current year actual to budget with opportunities for resident interaction. Sessions for non English speaking residents.	Malcolm X
	Bring the roundtables to disinvested communities, local neighborhoods, park districts and church. Do a couple in Spanish, please. Be creative, go back to schools to look for more feedback/ideas about the budget.	Malcolm X
	digital QR code survey -@simplify survey	Malcolm X
	Go into all areas, talk to people living there. Really listen to what people have to say and send them to something like this after you have spoken with people, it effects.	Malcolm X
	Having reports on city maintenance that are shared with the community and for the community to be heard for what they may see that may help to better assess concerns and problems with the community.	Malcolm X
	I believe this can be achieved through several strategies -enhanced transparency -inclusive outreach/expand outreach efforts -community forums & workshops (regular & structured) -participatory budgetingimplement participatory practices allowing community members to directly influence how a portion of the budget is spent. -advisory committees -youth engagement -feedback mechanism -capacity building -regular updates -equity assessments	Malcolm X
	Is language interpretation provided? If not, it should be. Thank you!	Malcolm X
	Meetings by demographics -homeowners vs renters -parents of youth -business owners and entrepreneur -heads of non-profits	Malcolm X
	More broad inclusion or an "other" category. More sessions would help.	Malcolm X
	More funding for the Dept. of Environmental, Dept. of Community Engagement, Dept. of Homelessness	Malcolm X
	More sessions throughout the South/West sides.	Malcolm X
	Nice to have a conversation, its nice!	Malcolm X
	Push out promo on local tv/radio stations. Push through all alder people.	Malcolm X
	Quarterly progress updates. Check-in sessions.	Malcolm X

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community Engagement, continued	Regular conversations with leaders and staff from non-profit organizations that do the work for the city and see every day the needs of children, youth and families. Create forums within organizations. Informally visit organizations and speak directly to program participants.	Malcolm X
	Tell us in advance and send out plenty of notice.	Malcolm X
	The budget presentation was great. I liked the roundtables. I learned a lot.	Malcolm X
	There definitely needs to be more sessions, more engagement and information regarding the status and progress of these/presented initiatives. Keep all participants, stakeholders, community members etc. informed of all information that is upcoming.	Malcolm X
	There needs to be options for these engagements to be on-line and accessible to people with physical disabilities.	Malcolm X
	What is police currently doing on the south and west sides to build rapport with the communities? How is the community engaged with law enforcement when it comes to building trust?	Malcolm X
	Year long engagement	Malcolm X
	Year long engagement.	Malcolm X
	I think the city should have more in person engagement opportunities throughout August to engage in person with the mayor's office on issues.	Online
	I want to sit in and listen about where my tax money is going.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community Safety	Increase police force	Harold Washington
	I think the biggest thing is support and opportunities when kids are invested in through the right channels change can happen. People are fearful of doing things within the community and that needs change. There needs to be a shift in culture in coordination w/ young leaders.	Kennedy-King
	Private/public partnerships that provide opportunities for youth programs & engagement. Interdepartmental programs such as public safety creating prevention programs that support youth engagement in productive activities.	Kennedy-King
	"Please promote with media to share the city's homicide actual solve rate (65%) 2Please consider having venues on Michigan Ave to periodically patrol 1-2 blocks East towards lakeThis will help prevent purse grabbing etc BTW ohop 200-400 East 3Consider tweaking homicide work into specialized subterms based on victims, based on offender, based on homicide profile, etc& provide subcontracts specialized resources like equipment, software, math models, etc."	Kennedy-King
) Public Safety	Kennedy-King
	My concern is safety. New arrivals are being placed in communities , (illegible) they are vandalizing the community. What is being done and where is the accountability. Police needs to be in the neighborhoods to address safety in the community.	Kennedy-King
	Can the city hire some licensed safety organizations to help with crime in high violent areas - given authority to arrest	Kennedy-King
	CPS needs to actively recruit new officers to fill 1200 open positions - CPD has civilians who can assist with this issue of recruitment.	Kennedy-King
	Increase security or police w/in the high rate crime neighborhoods	Kennedy-King
	Make CARE alternate response 24 hrs. + city wide. Living room model for mental health centers (open at least 23 hrs.)	Kennedy-King
	Reparations and having a civilian taskforce	Kennedy-King
	Defund the police, end the shot spotter contract and invest in resources for housing and community engagement.	Malcolm X
	Empty buildings in my daughter area (West Lawndale 60624) Kostner and Jackson. Murder, drugs.	Malcolm X
	more youth programs, more police in my area	Malcolm X
	Surveillance doesn't keep us safe. Re-allocate \$9M shotspotters money. \$2M to fund Peace Book and \$7M for non-police violence prevention programs.	Malcolm X
	Think of public mental health strategies as trauma and the violence prevention strategies. Reopening the city's mental health clinics is an important strategy. Reinvest in these clinics and also expand mental health services through non-profit organizations. Be creative - expand clinical services to	Malcolm X
	We need to integrate efforts between departments to ensure "whole person" ie public health/mental health + community safety to prevent/intervene together.	Malcolm X
	We need violence interrupter interface	Malcolm X

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community Safety, continued	What is police currently doing on the south and west sides to build rapport with the communities? How is the community engaged with law enforcement when it comes to building trust?	Malcolm X
	Who does the community turn for crowd control in their neighborhoods? CPD says there is nothing they can do to prevent these individuals from gathering on and blocking our streets.	Malcolm X
	Housing - Invest in reliable Property Managers and Property Manager Potentials who should be tested according to leasing real estate (the test is for current and potentials). How much of the budget will fund SRO's and buildings where there is contracted evictions by previous Alderpeople who's had people evicted, homeless and suffering mental issues because they have no place to reside, then making the places where people once resided commercial? North Lawndale - invest in more housing, build up of historical buildings (resident/commercial/abandoned) already existing and vacant lots. Why is the West Suburbs and Westside being neglected? Are the Committee's and You (Mayor Johnson) going to carry out what people who reside in the suburbs and past Mayors sought, and that is to fund those areas of convenience for people who reside in far west suburbs and extend the downtown into the West Suburbs for their pleasure? Community Safety - Investigate callers and reprimand false accusation callers, have community hearings in all communities pertaining to events Education - The Mayor Lightfoot Program 'Fresh Start' didn't cater to all within the city, there was much prejudice and fees were charged along with a highly extended process. Can there be a process change, too many years ago events do not need to be applied for 'Fresh Start' Entrepreneur - Programs should assist funding not only for the educational, it should also fund start ups with notable progress for entrepreneurs.	Online
	I absolutely believe in the treatment not trauma ideas, but as an organizer, the mayor should know that there is the world the way it is and the world the way we want it to be. I work in a school, and we have had more kids die or be shot this year than I have ever experienced in 20 years of education. We should absolutely support treatment, but I am afraid that more kids will die if we do not do something.	Online
	ShotSpotter is one of the few tools that provides concrete data on shootings as they occur. The technology permits first responders to get on scene immediately upon detection, thus potentially saving lives, securing crime sites, and taking offenders into custody. Why is this invaluable tool being removed from the budget?	Online
	Take money from cpd and give it to cta. we don't need more cops, we need a robust and working transit system	Online
	The data reported by CPD on homicide clearance rates are misleading. It's clear the department is not effective in it's fundamental duty- enforcing the law. Pouring more money into a broken system is not working. When I have needed the police after being assaulted, I was blamed for not calling 911 in the moment, had to track down evidence myself and then go in person to the precinct AND to a warrant officer (twice) just to be told in a pathetic letter my case wouldn't be pursued because of "lack of evidence" even though I identified the perp, was in a room of 100+ witnesses at my place of employment. Absolutely unacceptable. Even when presented with information on a platter, CPD does nothing to prosecute criminals. Instead, they engage in dangerous high-speed chases and injure/kill civilians.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community Safety, continued	I would like to see the budget include funds for the camera rebate program to help the police identify and apprehend perpetrators of crime in our neighborhoods	Online
	The elderly in the community do not feel safe and are in need is reassurance daily that they are safe and can sit on their porches or walk to areas in their community.	Online
	Community safety is created by investing in housing, third spaces, health care, walkable neighborhoods and social support, not by funding police.	Online
	Create a summer strategy plan of action items for public safety e.g., operation stop the chop, gun buy back programs, youth education on gun violence prevention in schools. Economic Development Where is our Green Neighborhood Healthy Initiative promised for year 10 (2022-23) has not materialized. What is the plan to redevelop area like grand crossing and Chatham. We have lost 71st street, 79th street and fighting hard to keep historic 75th Street. We need pop up vendors or in the least business opportunity grants to assist with targeted area development NOW! We waited our turn its is time for the City of Chicago Mayor Office to make their plan of action a reality!	Online
	Give the fire fighters a contract 3 years without a contract! Deplorable	Online
	I don't feel safe I am woman leaves alone.	Online
	I suggest a "show and tell office" be connected with local police stations whereby citizens would be rewarded for taking phone photos/videos of crimes inconspicuously observed and forwarding them to the stations. The rewards can be targeted to living needs such as vouchers that reduce a "city/county bill" if their actions result in criminal deterrence.	Online
	I would like the police officers to come into my neighborhood more often to see what's going on	Online
	Less \$ for cops, more \$ for schools	Online
	More funding for the police with a focus on violent crime and car-jacking prevention and arrests	Online
	Increase policing and hold offenders accountable.	Online
	Need to fund things that actually reduce crime. Police do not prevent crime, they barely solve it after it happens. Things like LIBRARIES are a community safety resource! Less money to cops.	Online
	Peace Book Ordinance	Online
	Please stop investing money into the Chicago Police Department and please fund community violence interruption programming like the Peace Book. The Peace Book is a public safety resource that informs communities about the Peace Book Commission. The Commission includes approved peacekeepers, violence interrupters, mediators, circle-keepers, and restorative justice practitioners. The Peace Book also provides a directory of services and programs for youth and families. http://erasethe database.com/peace-book/	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community Safety, continued	<p>Police need to be in the neighborhoods, you can't tie their hands and not let them do their job, spend more money in the neighborhoods and do t assume that just because where I grew up and bought a house before it became the place to live that my taxes should be what they are. Also you need to increase the elderly income to freeze their taxes, my 90 year old mother runs out of money every month since the taxes increased. If it wasn't for us she would have to chose between life saving medication and having a house to live in. Make the taxes more equitable and put it back into the neighborhoods</p>	Online
	<p>Police Reform to include bias training, training around racial profiling, de-escalation vs escalation (yelling and aggression), engaging with people who could be dealing with unknown and unknown mental health conditions such as racial trauma, PTSD, Domestic Violence; civility; building trust and rapport vs distrust and fear. This includes predominantly white areas that may be traveled by people of color as well as diverse / urban communities; I would like to see budget and funding be allocated to protect civilians from police brutality such as civilian dashcams and the right to record traffic stops and any encounters with policy. I would like to see campaigns to spread awareness to civilians as well as policy implemented that officers must abide by. I am passionate about this topic as a young educated (masters) professional with no record yet I dealt with aggressive and excessive use of force and gross misconduct by police officers in Munster IN after a July 3 fireworks event when I stopped and asked for directions and the officers assumed that I did not want to make a right turn rather than was needing their help. I was told by an officer that it did not matter what I had to say because he was telling me go. He yelled at me and wrongfully accused me of "disturbing the peace" at which point two additional officers came over (neither of which asked what happened) but assumed by his use of those words that I had done something wrong and so now I had three officers yelling at me and approaching my vehicle. I was scared and confused. Instead of the original officer admitting that he had a rough day and encountered difficult people and projected this onto me and cut me off, he allowed this to continue. This could have gone terribly for me had it not been public and at intersection point. I wondered how far they'd go had I been in a private or remote location. I wondered what would have happened if I reached for my phone to press record. Would I be shot? This should not be normal when driving while black</p>	Online
	<p>Public safety with working with multiple agencies. Making businesses feel like they are part of the solution and also clients.</p>	Online
	<p>Sociology research shows that neighborhoods are safer and people feel safer when people are more connected. A city department -- maybe the Deputy Mayor for External Relations -- should be tasked with helping various department adjust programs with this idea of connectedness in mind. Departments such as BACP, DCASE and CACC could find ways to bring residents together. Even Streets & San could play a role by holding "Touch a Truck" Days where residents could get a close up look at a street cleaner or snow plow. Some of this sounds "touchy feely" but there is data to back it up. To research this concept, start with the book "Bowling Alone" by Robert Putnam and build from there. I can be reached at 773-849-8353 Ed Bannon</p>	Online
	<p>Take \$ from CPD and put it in TNT services (treatment not trauma)</p>	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community Safety, continued	The city and ward need to do something to control the alarming up-tick of robberies and thefts in the community. It's no longer feeling safe to be out in the neighborhood in the evening hours for fear of being robbed or assaulted. It seems there are no consequences to those committing the crimes so the frequency of these crimes is increasing. It's very concerning for the safety and future of our city.	Online
	The city needs to hire specialized and licensed private security organizations to help patrol Chicago's high crime/violence areas on a permanent basis. giving them the authority to detain and arrest those who commit crimes against citizens and their property. Officials need to stop saying we don't have enough police officers, to come when called. The city needs better instructors for the officers, for communication with the public, and for knowing the cities ordinances and laws.	Online
	We need more investment in the west side. That means infrastructure- SAFE DRINKING WATER, roads, safe crossing street intersections, alleys, adequate lighting, green spaces; local businesses- more grocery stores, pet stores, coffee shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues; reliable and safe public transportation. Please invest in boarded up, empty buildings or overgrown lots; this breeds neighborhood discontent, people see that their government is not interested in them and they loose hope. We need more activities for the kids, ALL YEAR LONG AND LARGER SCALE. We cant be fighting over a few slots. INVEST IN OUR KIDS and in return you will see the benefits. It will take time but we have to start somewhere and sooner than later. This isn't anything new. We just need MORE RESOURCES. We have individuals with long history of violent crime still on the streets. My block has had two shootings in the last year, with casualties. That's just one block, we hear gun shots all night long. When we call police no one shows up, why would they? Their efforts are futile, the same people will be out the next day. We have are constantly threated or offered drugs. We don't have enough police presence or support for the victims and the perpetrators. I'm sure no one wants to put themselves in danger every day selling drugs on the corner, but they have nothing else to look forward to.	Online
	We need to hold CPD accountable for enforcing traffic laws, such as stopping at stop signs and running red lights that are currently ignored	Online
	We need to maintain the path started by the city of deprioritizing policing expenditures like ShotSpotter and investing in community safety strategies like expanding youth employment and providing non-police response to mental health crises.	Online
	We need to reduce our spending on police & invest it in communities. No one should be without housing that doesn't want to be. To say we can't afford it is a lie. We're just spending money on the wrong things. More police doesn't equal a safer, happier, and healthier public. Investment in communities and providing equitable services for all does.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Community Safety, continued	Why are people with gun charges being let back out on the street just to shoot somebody else. There have been two or three cases where the person got out of jail after he had a gun charge and went back out on the street and got another gun and shot and killed someone. This has happened two or three times. There are more guns on the street than people. Since 2017, guns are the leading cause of death of children and teens (aged 0-19). In 2023, 3076 were shot that averages out to 256 people every month. Daily that almost 9 people a day getting shot or killed. I'm just googling all this information. It's all online.	Online
	A note of appreciation to Mayor Brandon Johnson for his firm stance on cancelling the shotspotter contract that is set to end this fall. I would like to see mayor's office support preventative violence and violence interruption programs like Peace Book which incorporates the city's youth.	Truman
	Invest in local ads/youth engagements & defund CPD	Truman
	Community policing/training -->increase public input	Truman
	(A) Incentives or penalties on landlords who leave storefronts empty (for years & years!) and/or who DO NOT maintain or improve their buildings. Mr. U's building at the corner of Brynmaur & Broadway. (B) Find ways to rid panhandlers in traffic & on sidewalks. (C) Urgent! CHange the property tax "laws" so that people can stay in their homes they currently reside in. There are cities in California & Florida where residents pay the property tax they did when they bought. There are MANY ways to fund government.	Truman
	2. More support in the budget for CPD officers equipment including vests/body armor	Truman
	4. Transparency w/line items for CPD budget -->limits to line items	Truman
	Addressing critical needs means meeting people where they're at. We should have street outreach workers, CARE teams, mental health clinics.	Truman
	Civilian" positions devoted to community safety should be "housed" in departments other than the police department. Also, can't we stop funding vacancies in the police department?	Truman
	Decrease spending to assist in funding these services. Preserve SRO's. Fund legal services (immigration, housing, domestic violence). No shelter evictions for recent arrivals. Treatment not trauma (non-police mental health crisis response). Cover gaps in social service coverage (healthcare, support for violent crime victims, etc.). Expanding definitions of homelessness to include doubled-up individuals, etc. Eliminating security at train stations.	Truman
	DEFUND CPD	Truman
	Defund the police	Truman
	Defund the police, use that \$ to increase + properly fund DFSS, CTA, DOH. The root cause, or part of it, is a lack of accountability of CPD and the overcriminalization of our marginalized communities. Defund the police NOW!!	Truman
	Defund the police's inflated budget to make all of these other investments possible.	Truman
	Expanding ticketing parking in bike lanes and pedestrian areas!	Truman

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event	
Community Safety, continued	How will you "invest in people" by investing in "non-police" jobs/or civilian jobs outside of the police dept?	Truman	
	My name is Mr. Cesar Mendez. I'm deaf ADA. We want help deaf and hearing community. I'm deaf tried gang member too many area. Stop shoot victim ALL deaf, ADA black kids. Enough is enough finally. Thank you.	Truman	
	Put down the guns and drugs!	Truman	
	Reallocate shot spotter money to fund peace book and non-police violence prevention efforts.	Truman	
	Shift funding fro CPD to CDPH to have a sobering center owned/ operated by the city. 24/7 care response team. Late night/weekend hours for mental health centers.	Truman	
	Spend/allocate funds so all CPD officers have NEW vests/body armor!	Truman	
	There should be a bridge between the CARE and City operated mental health centers to help the person in crisis have access to long-term care at a MHC. CARE teams should be able to hub at the MHC's in the districts they're able to dispatch to. Having a 24/7 center for people to walk into but also have CARE handoff post-crisis - a 24/7 sobering center would help this as well.	Truman	
	We must decrease the budget for police to increase the budget for communities that need investment, support and care.	Truman	
	Economic Development	Review of where community funds are being used. Why are communities getting funds/grant and yet the community numbers are not seeing these funds/grants in action?	Harold Washington
	"I think it is highly important to increase services to people experiencing homelessness -Expand homeless prevention programs -Better housing opportunities for youth ages 18-25 -More programs to help women with children get homes -We also need to make housing resources more accessible for citizens born in Chicago as well as more focus on employment opportunities and housing programs for Black communities"	Harold Washington	
"Concern old bridges deteriorating around the city (underpasses, transit) -Unfinished construction on streets, e.g. start construction/repair work but then left Unfinished -old schools, houses, etc. that are not up to code -more grocery stores in the South and West side that Provide clean, good and New food. -Should be community gardens in food deserts. -Concern about flooding (Austin) even with a little rain -a lot of portholes for biking"	Harold Washington		
More resources in Spanish for Lincoln Park business community	Harold Washington		
Hire additional people or contract with reliable non-profit & grass-root agencies to assist with programming.	Kennedy-King		
*Not enough union workers in Chicago.	Kennedy-King		

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Economic Development, continued	<p>"Community tourism to increase city tour jump off-jump on city pass eligible</p> <p>Scavenger hunt Chicago (Illegible)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -economic benefit -cultural benefit -social """" -community """" 	Kennedy-King
	Grants need to be provided by the city.	Kennedy-King
	Hybrid individuals & companies or business grants with a community responsibility	Kennedy-King
	Increase opportunities for graduates in regards to their pot-grad process.	Kennedy-King
	Provide job opportunity for deaf and hard of hearing within City of Chicago government as well as other disabled citizens.	Kennedy-King
	Vacant building, home ownership, more businesses (help with process) programs for at risk groups (youth, younger mothers, single mothers, prison population)	Kennedy-King
	New return to Maxwell Street of the market: Want to make sure vending and prices are open to everyday people just like the traditional Maxwell Street. (I'm on the advisory board of Maxwell St. fn	Malcolm X
	Additional \$5M for childcare. Raise wages for childcare workers.	Malcolm X
	Affordable grocery stores.	Malcolm X
	Give boots on the ground organizations an opportunity to serve people with lived experience to lead and assist youth girls and women.	Malcolm X
	Grocery in South Shore - A Marianos decided not to build at (illegible), need a grocery store!	Malcolm X
	I am a community psychologist and policy analyst. The city needs to have me analyzed policies, practices and procedures before it starts putting grant money on the streets. The funds always seem to end up in the same communities or organizations, yet there is no progress in many of the South and West Side communities.	Malcolm X
	People are losing their jobs because we don't have enough workers due to low wages!	Malcolm X
	Please help with food taxes, paying people more so we can afford a place to live. I do not make enough money and I am a single first-time mother. I work 6 days a week and I cannot afford childcare. It takes a village and we need people to feel like they have dignity and that their voices and lives matter.	Malcolm X
	South city business corridor needs music venues. How do we combine business infrastructure and arts funding to benefit private business (especially small Black owned) with culture? West side has blues and soul music tradition - how can this benefit the neighborhood that originated this music?	Malcolm X
	The state of Illinois needs to move many of those jobs sitting in Springfield to Chicago - where the population warrants and needs those jobs!	Malcolm X
	There needs to be a cap on the amount of money grocery stores are allowed to price for food. Food is getting too expensive and ridiculous to buy.	Malcolm X

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
<p>Economic Development, continued</p>	<p>“Here We Go Again”?: Disrupting the “Chicago Way” in Development (An Open Letter) When Bears CEO Kevin Warren announced the Bears Stadium proposal, he said, “We’re going to do this the Chicago Way;....” He’s not wrong, but the “Chicago Way” of development is top down, elite-centered and inequitable. It is a structurally racist, greed-driven, predatory system of development that has transformed many of our neighborhoods into isolated sacrifice zones of poisoned land, food deserts and poor public services. Candidate Johnson promised to disrupt this “the tale of two cities”. The Citywide Equitable Development Roundtable (CEDR), a network of over 20 organizations and hundreds of organizers and community leaders, want to democratize and transform the Chicago Way of development from a predatory system of profiteering into a community building enterprise. CEDR expects Mayor Johnson to live up to our shared values and to keep his promises. The current system promotes projects that neighbors feel either left out of or run over by. Economically, there are census tracts with higher rates of joblessness, low quality jobs, community violence, crime and housing insecurity. None of this is by accident. The Chicago Way has left targeted neighborhoods filled with vacant lots, pollution, over-policing, warehouses, railroads, a dearth of reliable and safe public transportation, access to healthy food, public parks, and jobs. The people in targeted neighborhoods have been deemed expendable and starved of resources by choice, not chance. The administration promised that the money raised by the \$1.25 billion bond proposal will be channeled into existing programs with existing processes, but those processes were never explained and have never worked to the benefit of our communities. The city still has not produced a list of all the development programs, how effective they are, their cost, or how they choose projects. Even the “Qualified Allocation Plan” is big on buzzwords without detail on how the community will participate in development. The Mayor’s Business & Economic Neighborhood Development team is rolling out the “Cut the Tape” initiative. An initiative that is focused on efficiency, but not justice. The last thing our communities need is for inequitable and predatory development to move even faster, with less community input. CEDR believes that development without displacement requires a community-centered effort that is mindful of property tax spikes, features community preservation and civic development of public infrastructure, a focus on affordable housing and mitigation of past land poisoning and the present lack of access to business development resources. Justice-centered development, a new Chicago Way, is difficult, but it is also a choice, and we need the Mayor to work with us to make it happen. Chicago is only the City that Works if it works for all of us. https://bit.ly/whatiscedroundtable</p>	<p>Online</p>
	<p>Cancel all TIFs and return funds in TIF accounts to units of government who should've gotten those \$ in the first place.</p>	<p>Online</p>

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Economic Development, continued	<p>Housing - Invest in reliable Property Managers and Property Manager Potentials who should be tested according to leasing real estate (the test is for current and potentials). How much of the budget will fund SRO's and buildings where there is contracted evictions by previous Alderpeople who's had people evicted, homeless and suffering mental issues because they have no place to reside, then making the places where people once resided commercial? North Lawndale - invest in more housing, build up of historical buildings (resident/commercial/abandoned) already existing and vacant lots. Why is the West Suburbs and Westside being neglected? Are the Committee's and You (Mayor Johnson) going to carry out what people who reside in the suburbs and past Mayors sought, and that is to fund those areas of convenience for people who reside in far west suburbs and extend the downtown into the West Suburbs for their pleasure? Community Safety - Investigate callers and reprimand false accusation callers, have community hearings in all communities pertaining to events Education - The Mayor Lightfoot Program 'Fresh Start' didn't cater to all within the city, there was much prejudice and fee's were charged along with a highly extended process. Can there be a process change, too many years ago events do not need to be applied for 'Fresh Start' Entrepreneur - Programs should assist funding not only for the educational, it should also fund start ups with notable progress for entrepreneurs.</p>	Online
	<p>Invest more resources and human and monetary capital into adding workforce development, training, certification programs, business, entrepreneurship, and economic education within the underpopulated and underutilized public schools.</p>	Online
	<p>Our recently arrived immigrant/refugee clients need help finding Transitional Housing/Financial support, Childcare Resources, Healthcare access, and assistance finding jobs for non English speakers.</p>	Online
	<p>The City should invest in ensuring that public investments in construction and development projects yield jobs that go to all Chicago-ans -- including women and Black individuals.</p>	Online
		Online
	<p>There should be a separate line item for this division in DPS, under the control of that Managing Deputy. So there is more opportunity to host various workshops, events in black community and hire more staff to handle the overwhelming volume of applicants/ applications to process and provide more training on how to bid and win more contracts. Provide partnerships with Primes & Subs. Develop means to discount bonding costs for the W/MBE's. Have all procurement contracts for all departments report into DPS - with the Managing Deputy staff, so they can be monitored fairly. Stop the monopoly of same contractors being used...give others that are qualified a chance. There is a MBE contractor who has an on-the-job training program that will put more young people to work in Aviation. You should bring him in an discuss the subject that he has used in other airports nationally — PSA Constructors Inc. Can we get an appointment with Mayor, Managing Deputy of Contract & Compliance, and ACEE representative. This is something that would bring jobs for the youth at little to no cost to the city.</p>	Online
	<p>Tourism/Entertainment Food Rescue Hub to support feeding communities in need</p>	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Economic Development, continued	At CMB, We are keenly aware of the transformative impact that financial literacy, wealth management, and entrepreneurship can have on both individuals and communities. With this in mind, we are reaching out to propose an exciting partnership with The City of Chicago, to collaboratively offer our skills and resources to all communities in the Chicagoland area. We have over 5 unique programs that are specifically designed for our youth and younger generations. Not to mention, we also have programs for adults and parents, servicing everyone in the community and meeting them where they are.	Online
	Create a summer strategy plan of action items for public safety e.g., operation stop the chop, gun buy back programs, youth education on gun violence prevention in schools. Economic Development Where is our Green Neighborhood Healthy Initiative promised for year 10 (2022-23) has not materialized. What is the plan to redevelop area like grand crossing and Chatham. We have lost 71st street, 79th street and fighting hard to keep historic 75th Street. We need pop up vendors or in the least business opportunity grants to assist with targeted area development NOW! We waited our turn its is time for the City of Chicago Mayor Office to make their plan of action a reality!	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
<p>Economic Development, continued</p>	<p>Here We Go Again?": Disrupting the "Chicago Way" in Development (An Open Letter) When Bears CEO Kevin Warren announced the Bears Stadium proposal, he said, "We're going to do this the Chicago Way;...." He's not wrong, but the "Chicago Way" of development is top down, elite-centered and inequitable. It is a structurally racist, greed-driven, predatory system of development that has transformed many of our neighborhoods into isolated sacrifice zones of poisoned land, food deserts and poor public services. Candidate Johnson promised to disrupt this "the tale of two cities". The Citywide Equitable Development Roundtable (CEDR), a network of over 20 organizations and hundreds of organizers and community leaders, want to democratize and transform the Chicago Way of development from a predatory system of profiteering into a community building enterprise. CEDR expects Mayor Johnson to live up to our shared values and to keep his promises. The current system promotes projects that neighbors feel either left out of or run over by. Economically, there are census tracts with higher rates of joblessness, low quality jobs, community violence, crime and housing insecurity. None of this is by accident. The Chicago Way has left targeted neighborhoods filled with vacant lots, pollution, over-policing, warehouses, railroads, a dearth of reliable and safe public transportation, access to healthy food, public parks, and jobs. The people in targeted neighborhoods have been deemed expendable and starved of resources by choice, not chance. The administration promised that the money raised by the \$1.25 billion bond proposal will be channeled into existing programs with existing processes, but those processes were never explained and have never worked to the benefit of our communities. The city still has not produced a list of all the development programs, how effective they are, their cost, or how they choose projects. Even the "Qualified Allocation Plan" is big on buzzwords without detail on how the community will participate in development. The Mayor's Business & Economic Neighborhood Development team is rolling out the "Cut the Tape" initiative. An initiative that is focused on efficiency, but not justice. The last thing our communities need is for inequitable and predatory development to move even faster, with less community input. CEDR believes that development without displacement requires a community-centered effort that is mindful of property tax spikes, features community preservation and civic development of public infrastructure, a focus on affordable housing and mitigation of past land poisoning and the present lack of access to business development resources. Justice-centered development, a new Chicago Way, is difficult, but it is also a choice, and we need the Mayor to work with us to make it happen. Chicago is only the City that Works if it works for all of us. https://bit.ly/whatiscedroundtable</p>	<p>Online</p>
	<p>I am very opposed to using public funds to pay for the proposed new Bears stadium. The team's owner is wealthy enough to afford to use their own money to build this. There are so many other priorities for funding, including public safety, doing something to improve the CTA, housing for homeless people and many other priorities that I believe need public funds. The Bears do NOT need our money.</p>	<p>Online</p>

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
<p>Economic Development, continued</p>	<p>I suggest a Vacancy tax to all the empty buildings to collect money to support rental programs, homeless prevention, and mental health care. We need to have a more competitive salary to afford to live in Chicago. Raise the minimum wage for the city to match the Housing Wage so the working class as a whole can afford to live in our communities with us. So residents can afford housing, health care, and education. Investing more youth programs, I see programs like afterschool matters and one summer Chicago are doing great helping our youth to grow professionally and personally, but this program has a limit that leave a lot of youth without options. Promote more alternative education like technic carrers, short courses to prep for employment. Invest in underserved neighborhood to help every resident to build roots and love their community. Development without displacement. We need more affordable housing that is accessible to the needs of the most needed communities that have been marginalized for decades. We need to reinvent our neighborhood to heal and preserve their culture. Invest in arts and cultural programs. Support local artist with grants and marketing to promote their skills and encourage new artist to pursue a carrer in arts. We need local artists, that is the most rich reflect of a neighborhood. STOP the TIF expansion. We do not need to add more burden to our small landlords and tenants that are struggling to pay already what are they paying. Tax the rich to stop gentrification and protect our bungalows and beautiful neighborhoods. Support the NORTHWEST PRESERVATIVE ORDINANCE to protect Logan Square, Hermosa, and Avondale from developments that are destroying our community. We want that the residents stay here, they are an important part of our community and are the ones that keep our communities stronger. We need clean energy communities, I demand at least \$135 million for the Social Housing Revolving Fund.</p>	<p>Online</p>
	<p>Implementing a Payment in Lieu of Taxes program targeting (at minimum) universities in Chicago. This feels appropriate - and overdue - not only given the role that universities play in aiding and driving gentrification but specifically their consumption of city resources this year by calling CPD in to monitor and disrupt peaceful student protests. Whatever payment these tax-exempt universities might offer / accept - whether the full amount equivalent to their property tax burden or a lesser amount - would be substantially more than they are currently paying to the city and feels worth pursuing. These funds can go directly toward investments in the communities impacted by these universities and/or to cover the cost of the resources they use (such as paying for CPD's overtime bill, paying for infrastructure investments around the university communities, etc.)</p>	<p>Online</p>
	<p>Police need to be in the neighborhoods, you can't tie their hands and not let them do their job, spend more money in the neighborhoods and do t assume that just because where I grew up and bought a house before it became the place to live that my taxes should be what they are. Also you need to increase the elderly income to freeze their taxes, my 90 year old mother runs out of money every month since the taxes increased. If it wasn't for us she would have to chose between life saving medication and having a house to live in. Make the taxes more equitable and put it back into the neighborhoods</p>	<p>Online</p>
	<p>REVIVE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITIES ON EAST 71ST, 75TH ,79TH STREETS Lake to Jeffery and/or Stony Island . "Invest/Southwest had big plans that NEVER came to fruition.</p>	<p>Online</p>

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Economic Development, continued	<p>We need more investment in the west side. That means infrastructure- SAFE DRINKING WATER, roads, safe crossing street intersections, alleys, adequate lighting, green spaces; local businesses- more grocery stores, pet stores, coffee shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues; reliable and safe public transportation. Please invest in boarded up, empty buildings or overgrown lots; this breeds neighborhood discontent, people see that their government is not interested in them and they loose hope. We need more activities for the kids, ALL YEAR LONG AND LARGER SCALE. We cant be fighting over a few slots. INVEST IN OUR KIDS and in return you will see the benefits. It will take time but we have to start somewhere and sooner than later. This isn't anything new. We just need MORE RESOURCES. We have individuals with long history of violent crime still on the streets. My block has had two shootings in the last year, with casualties. That's just one block, we hear gun shots all night long. When we call police no one shows up, why would they? Their efforts are futile, the same people will be out the next day. We have are constantly threated or offered drugs. We don't have enough police presence or support for the victims and the perpetrators. I'm sure no one wants to put themselves in danger every day selling drugs on the corner, but they have nothing else to look forward to.</p>	Online
	-Continued/grow the guaranteed income program	Truman
	Repair food deserts. Reopen/rebuild grocery stores reopen-stop closing schools.	Truman
	1. Need more affordable childcare options 2. Address food deserts	Truman
	Affordable housing and restaurants.	Truman
	Ability of non-profit agencies to continue providing high-quality services while costs are rising and reimbursement rates from gov. contracts remain the same. Lack of transparency with block grants from IL state board of education for pre-school. Chicago gets 39% of grant but not RFP since 2019.	Truman
	Better jobs	Truman
	Dedicate substance funding to Family Connects Chicago (CDPH budget). Increase city investment in the Chicago Early learning workforce scholarship to close funding gap. Establish dedicated revenue to support the early care and education workforce. See: childrensfundingproject.org .	Truman
	Have a thought of inclusion as to where ALL communities are included in opportunity and growth, including upgrades of historical neighborhoods, houses, communities, etc. making/educating our youth w/ field trips in neighborhoods/communities providing knowledge of our great City Chicago.	Truman
	Increase awareness in neighborhoods that needs more resources & stability for lower class families.	Truman
	Integrating existing programs from other neighborhoods to neighborhoods in need is one of the reasons I come here. The North side has been going down and having less resources than the South and West sides. While it's amazing there's more resources in those needed areas, other needed areas, like the North side are missing these needed opportunities.	Truman
	Longer SBIF funds	Truman

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure	<p>"Concern old bridges deteriorating around the city (underpasses, transit) -Unfinished construction on streets, e.g. start construction/repair work but then left Unfinished -old schools, houses, etc. that are not up to code -more grocery stores in the South and West side that Provide clean, good and New food. -Should be community gardens in food deserts. -Concern about flooding (Austin) even with a little rain -a lot of potholes for biking"</p>	Harold Washington
	<p>"Environment is a top priority, affects everyone all the time feels overlooked; concern for heat related adverse effects, unclean water -Focus on more availability of transportation, alternate sources of fuel for personal vehicles -Program called ZAP, increase amounts of plants in the city - more of Our Roots program."</p>	Harold Washington
	Flooding potholes	Harold Washington
	The beautification of my community, like removing liter. Adding trees/plants. Rehabilitating buildings.	Harold Washington
	Increase more lead testing and all the communities and change water pipes more often so they don't back up and people sinks, tubs, because this causes mold and mildew that affect people who have health issues. Especially with asthma (environmental justice/ infrastructure)	Kennedy-King
	"Preservative construction zone testing lead pipe replacement funds to cover homeowners/property owners that did repairs prior to the program 1-2 years	Kennedy-King
	City (illegible) programs = water dept for Blacks/African Americans"	
	The department of Environment should enforce environmental violations. The city should also address uneven cumulative impacts.	Kennedy-King
	"-Environmental concerns surrounding the new technology center near the south side 87th -Tree trimming - dead tree"	Kennedy-King
	"-In the South Shore get East and West is difficult -Trolley system on the boulevard network (locally connection for schools and parks) -Using coddle stone for roadway"	Kennedy-King
	I'm a CPS teacher on the Southside and I'm concerned about making sure our students have safe, lead-free drinking water and enough fountains in the schools. Let's make sure we expand automatic water flushing and filtration for ALL schools. Thank you!	Kennedy-King
	2. United working families would like support for HB3713 clean air for healthy equitable schools. It's stuck in the IL Senate, it represented the (illegible).	Kennedy-King
	Chicago needs water affordability program. Water rates have been increasing every year. There are people who were billed \$100 for a whole year and then got hit with a bill of \$10,000 for month. This is absurd and Chicagoans deserve access to affordable water. Water for all is the only avenue to address this issue. This will provide 3 tier structure so our lowest income households have immediate reduced rates. It will also ban liens & foreclosure. Everyday water for all isn't passed is a day Chicagoans can't afford water.	Kennedy-King

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	Educational resources for safe water usage while we wait for clean water.	Kennedy-King
	"Filters and cartridges --> original filters and cartridges are free; replacement ones should be free as well (especially for those that can't afford them)	
	Budget suggestion set aside funds to educate people near construction sites on potential health concerns, to monitor health levels near the site & to care for any health-related situations that do arise.	Kennedy-King
	Budget suggestion CBA! How can affordable housing be as environmentally as possible - green roofs, trees, and composting	
	Budget Increase composting! Education (esp at CPS)"	
	How badly are both children and adults being affected at schools and in parks due to industrial pollution, railroad pollution, vehicle pollution, whether cars or trucks. Pollution from construction, (illegible) buildings.	Kennedy-King
	Lawn care - electric incentives (credits or grants) Converting gas older models to newer electric/rechargeable.	Kennedy-King
	Maintenance - Clean streets and manicured lawn care	Kennedy-King
	More ground water testing , city wide.	Kennedy-King
	There needs to be greater outreach to city residents to share how they can access water tests & filtration kits. More funds need to be set aside to support city-wide composting as well as recycling electronic waste in particular.	Kennedy-King
	"Various environmental projects needed (illegible) the city many neighborhoods need air quality monitors.	
	All railyards need to be regulated, new legislation for railroads at municipal, state and federal MUST be proposed. Norfolk Southern, Metra, CTA rapid transit, CTA buses, Union Pacific? Canadian National-(illegible), port at Illinois, etc. all of these transportation agency companies are polluting Chicago in some way!"	Kennedy-King
	What made the original Dept of Environment effective was its enforcement power (inspections, fines, etc.). Chicagoans were promised that the Dept. of Environment would resume enforcement, including enforcement of critical issues like cumulative impacts. Studies by Neighbors for Environmental Justice and the Better Government Association found that environmental inspections and enforcement dropped by more than 50% when it was moved to the Dept. of Public Health. The Dept. of Environment should do it! Thank you!	Kennedy-King
	"Changing legislation for the trees that state that trees should not be cut down if the tree shows itself to be clear and present threat/danger/or concern for the community it's in.	Malcolm X
	Interference to structural damages/infrastructure concerns/etc."	
	Chicago needs more and new resources of revenue. I also hear about pedestrians and bicyclist getting killed by cars at least weekly. Can we do what NYC can't and implement congestion pricing? Let's use that money to protect people and businesses with trees, bollards and other street improvements!	Malcolm X

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	<p>"Dep. of Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Would love to see an official rule around migratory bird protection -More support for composting -Better call service for our roots (I called 5xs and never heard back)" 	Malcolm X
	<p>Having reports on city maintenance that are shared with the community and for the community to be heard for what they may see that may help to better assess concerns and problems with the community.</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>"Hazard mitigation plans that are recognized all across all levels of government from city to county to state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Running drills for these plans so that there is real time feel for what to do when someone from another organization may need assistance." 	Malcolm X
	<p>Increase intersection signage for ADA persons and pedestrians. Increase investment in bike lane network.</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>More funding for the Dept. of Environmental, Dept. of Community Engagement, Dept. of Homelessness</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Properly fund environmental related departments</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Slow down cars. Protect people and businesses with things like narrow/fewer lanes, street trees, separate/concrete bike lanes, lower speed limits, BOLLARDS</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>The Dept of Environment, given the current issues with climate, needs to be enacted on a permanent status and funded adequately to ensure up and ready. The goals of addressing environmental justice and to support updates to outdated municipal codes that are no longer reflection of current times and needs. Particularly referring to not having rules around industries that have multiple violations of polluting and putting communities health at risk. Permitting for industry should be enforced equitably as it is with its residents parking tickets, driving privileges, etc.</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Tree Planting - what resources are being taken to replace the trees that are being removed? It was shared today that the responsibility is that of the homeowners & residents but the effort is usually cumbersome and exhaustive and residents don't always follow through. There needs to be a system in place to automatically replant these trees in addition to the 5 year commitment of 75000. Residents also need to be informed of the new urban tree efforts to support any damage to property.</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>"What are you doing to connect with residents to plant/move trees in communities? What is the outreach? How are you combating misinformation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Why aren't removed trees automatically replaced? -What are you doing to plant more native plants? Or encourage residents to plant natives? -What are you doing to ensure migrating birds aren't killed by our buildings?" 	Malcolm X
	<p>Better and safer bike lanes, preventing cars from driving and/or parking in the lane by enforcing ticketing and fines, using that money to resurface our streets and bike lanes.</p>	Online
	<p>Bike Grid Now, please!</p>	Online
	<p>bike grid now!</p>	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	Bike grid now! Please! I feel like I am going to get killed every time I ride my bike.	Online
	Bikeways and bus lanes. I live in McKinley park, which is connected to the rest of the city by only a handful of high traffic stroads. Getting around or out if this neighborhood on foot or bike is unpleasant and potentially dangerous due to traffic on Ashland, Archer, Damen, Western, Pershing, and 35th. But I do it, and so do many others. The city should encourage green and active transportation by building the appropriate infrastructure. Buses should not be subject to private motor vehicle traffic, they should be a viable alternative to driving. Pedestrian and cyclist safety should be PRIORITIZED, not an afterthought. The goal of transportation infrastructure should be moving PEOPLE, not cars.	Online
	Concrete protect bike lanes, bus rapid transit, and comfortable bus shelters all over the city!! The future is walking, biking, taking transit and creating more space for people. Not cars.	Online
	connected, actually protected bike grid for chicago now! funding for plow the sidewalks beyond the pilot bus rapid transit infrastructure safe streets for all traffic calming infrastructure	Online
	hear that the landfill has less than 5 years capacity. Single-use food waste from food operations is a major contributor. It is time we take single-use waste and plastic waste seriously. Chicago needs to invest in infrastructure that allows for reusable food service ware at restaurants but mainly large venues like stadiums, convention centers, all theaters, etc. to scale. This largely means dishwashing hubs in the city. This may sound crazy, but they are many organizations working on this issue, but to scale and make a huge impact on waste around the city and landfill space, it needs municipal investment. thank you.	Online
	I would like the DOE to have sufficient funding so that they can enforce solid waste regulations. I'd like source separated waste so that we can achieve a recycling rate better than 9%. We can save money by allowing people to separate their waste into appropriate categories so that the majority of it gets recycled.	Online
	I would like to see more work go towards diverting waste from landfills. A larger city-wide mandatory composting could be great for that purpose.	Online
	I would love to see sufficient funding for the DOE to enforce solid waste regulations.	Online
	I'd love for the city to seriously consider pedestrian and cyclist safety. Add additional, quick to deploy (e.g. jersey barriers, concrete planters -- like those used outside Cubs stadium, barrels), safe streets infrastructure to 10% of the city streets. We did this so fast during Covid, we can do it again! Chicagoans deserve safe streets! We must act now to save hundreds of lives a year due to traffic related fatalities!	Online
	In order to be viable and effective, the Department of the Environment must have the funding to provide staff to levy penalties and fines for compliance and enforcement.	Online
	In would like to see the city offer green energy rebates / incentives to renters that would like to improve the insulation or energy efficiency of their apartments.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	Investing responsibly in the environment and infrastructure, including enforcement, helps everyone health, ecology, economy, and so more more. The actions taken now pay dividends to our future and future generations. Please invest heavily here.	Online
	More protected bike lanes	Online
	No taxpayer handout for billionaires Fewer cars and no more car highway expansions More metra, CTA lines and frequency (one train or bus every 10 minutes) and protected bike lanes. Tax car payers more if you want. Ban right on red. Make our streets safe for pedestrians not for cars. Chicago strong!	Online
	Pedestrian crossings and stop signs should have speed bumps to combat dangerous driving. The crossing on State St between Wacker and Kinzie is an example of a pedestrian crossing in rent need of a speed bump. It's a highly pedestrian area where drivers frequently don't stop. High traffic stop signs could also benefit from speed bumps. This will force drivers to slow down instead of allowing them to run the signs and nearly hit pedestrians and cyclists, as happens frequently.	Online
	Rapid-build pop-up redesigns for intersections and streets that experience a pedestrian or cyclist fatality or serious injury.	Online
	Repair walkways at the beach between Pratt & Toughy (many broken sidewalks or impassable walkways for strollers, handicap, children on scooters/bikes due to deep sand	Online
	Sufficient funding for DOE / fix the broken recycling system	Online
	The alley of the 1400 W block of Hutchinson and Cuyler has a trench down the middle that is dangerous and will injure someone. The alley must be repaved.	Online
	The city has finally reinstated the Department of Environment. Now it is time to fully establish and fund it. Chicago is famous for working in silos which leads to misaligned decision making. The time is NOW to stop this practice and allow the Department of Environment to have oversight on enforcement of environmental actions and ordinances and to encourage sustainable practices. Case in point when the Riverwalk was developed it was developed without dishwashing facilities. If the DOE had been in effect this would have never happened. The CDPH rightfully has code in place that mandates single use on the Riverwalk but doesn't encourage environmental friendly options or work to solve the problem and stop single use. A fully funded and empowered DOE could be working with restaurants, businesses and stakeholders to encourage new ideas to solve this problem. Second case Since 2015 the city has been taxing those who can least afford it for takeout single use bags. This tax is simply going into the city general fund and ZERO effort is being extended to use these funds to educate the public away from single use and encourage the practice of bringing your reusable bag. Every year millions of plastic bags, paid for by consumers are simply going to landfills or worse, ending up in our rivers, lake front, trees, gutters or in our recycling tangling up the machines. There is no second life for a plastic bag except may for dog excrement disposal. Please fully fund the Department of Environment! Jane Ruby President, League of Women Voters Chicago	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	The city should assign budget for the development of a safe street grid that provides prioritized protection for pedestrian and Chicagoans on bicycles and other rolling mobility devices. The vast majority of transportation infrastructure in the city is devoted to the most inefficient mode of moving people through our city, cars. We can make better and smarter choices that will improve safety outcomes, improve traffic for anyone that still has to drive, and save the city money.	Online
	The Department of Environment should be given all the staff, money and resources to enforce the cities ordinances regarding public health. These departments c-benefit each other tremendously but the hosting enforcement in the Dept of the Environment can address an issue before it impacts public health.	Online
	ToOffice of Budget Management ReCity of Chicago’s Budget Engagement Process To whom it may concern, As both a resident of Chicago and senior leader at The Nature Conservancy (TNC), I am appreciative of the opportunity to provide public comment on the city’s budget development for FY2025. TNC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to protect the land and waters on which all life depends. Our Illinois chapter works to advance policies and practices that secure lasting climate and conservation outcomes for people and nature. In Chicago, we partner with community organizations to address pressing environmental challenges, focusing on critical areas such urban tree equity, implementing stormwater management solutions, and fostering community engagement in nature. Last year, we supported the reestablishment of the City’s Department of Environment to address worsening climate impacts, biodiversity loss, and environmental justice concerns. With its recent reestablishment, the Department of Environment has reinvigorated efforts to reduce climate emissions, protect and expand our green spaces, and make good on the City’s commitments to overburdened communities. To continue this positive momentum, we strongly recommend that the Department of Environment regain enforcement powers regarding environmental ordinances. We believe an effective Department of Environment requires full jurisdiction, such as the filing of inspection reports, writing tickets for violations, and negotiating disputes, to enact positive environmental change. After the Department of Environment was suspended in 2012, a report by Neighbors for Environmental Justice assessed that issued environmental violations dropped by over 7,000 notices, or above 50%, through 2022; consequently, air pollution citations dropped approximately 90%. ¹ While these issues impact all Chicagoans, environmental justice communities experience the worst harms. For example, Little Village residents experience air pollution above the 95th percentile when referring to the federal EPA’s environmental justice index. ² The DOE’s ability to hold accountability for violations is key to addressing these disproportionate impacts. For Chicago to achieve its climate goals, protect green space for its residents, and address the longstanding harms experienced by environmental justice communities, we hope the City transfers enforcement powers back to the Department of Environment. Thank you for your consideration of our comment and recommendation.	Online
	We need a connected grid of safe streets for people walking and rolling through our city. Traffic violence is out of control. People are crashing into buildings, killing cyclists and pedestrians at an alarming rate. A connected bike grid would keep people safe while trying to get around their neighborhoods and the city.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	We need to prioritize significant financial investments in physically protected biking infrastructure. Let's build the bike grid now!	Online
	<p>As both a resident of Chicago and representative of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Illinois, I am appreciative of the opportunity to provide public comment on the city's budget development for FY2025. The Nature Conservancy is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to protect the land and waters on which all life depends. Our Illinois chapter works to advance policies and practices that secure lasting climate and conservation outcomes for people and nature. In Chicago, we partner with community organizations to address pressing environmental challenges, focusing on critical areas such urban tree equity, implementing stormwater management solutions, and fostering community engagement in nature. Last year, we supported the reestablishment of the City's Department of Environment to address worsening climate impacts, biodiversity loss, and environmental justice concerns. With its recent reestablishment, the Department of Environment has reinvigorated efforts to reduce climate emissions, protect and expand our green spaces, and make good on the City's commitments to overburdened communities. To continue this positive momentum, we strongly recommend that the Department of Environment regain enforcement powers regarding environmental ordinances. We believe an effective Department of Environment requires full jurisdiction, such as the filing of inspection reports, writing tickets for violations, and negotiating disputes, to enact positive environmental change. After the Department of Environment was suspended in 2012, a report by Neighbors for Environmental Justice assessed that issued environmental violations dropped by over 7,000 notices, or above 50%, through 2022; consequently, air pollution citations dropped approximately 90%.¹ While these issues impact all Chicagoans, environmental justice communities experience the worst harms. For example, Little Village residents experience air pollution above the 95th percentile when referring to the federal EPA's environmental justice index.² The DOE's ability to hold accountability for violations is key to addressing these disproportionate impacts. For Chicago to achieve its climate goals, protect green space for its residents, and address the longstanding harms experienced by environmental justice communities, we hope the City transfers enforcement powers back to the Department of Environment. Thank you for your consideration of our comment and recommendation.</p>	Online
	Chicago needs a powerful Department of Environment to translate our climate investments into tangible and equitable improvements to the health and quality of life for Chicago communities. Bring enforcement back into the hands of the DOE. Enforcement is key for the DOE to achieve its climate justice goals through measures like inspections and fines. To have an effective DOE, we need it to oversee enforcement just as the original department did.	Online
	I strongly recommend that the Department of Environment regain enforcement powers regarding environmental ordinances.	Online
	I would like to see the City invest in programs to help renters / landlords make energy saving improvements to their properties. There are programs for homeowners but that does nothing for the large number of renters. We cannot leave it to the landlords to "do the right thing" and spend money to add insulation, replace windows, install heat pump water heaters, etc.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	Implement a pilot program for resurfacing residential streets with concrete (jointed Portland cement concrete rigid pavement, aka PCC). Concrete slab streets are more permeable, reducing risk of flooding, and have lower long term maintenance costs.	Online
	Increase budget for enforcement of solid waste violations	Online
	Interactive art pieces connecting the English/Spanish/Chinese-Mandarin-speaking community. Combine pedestrian safety tactics (lights, crosswalks, ADA, etc with artsy, interactive ways to learn common, courteous phrases. Be safe & get to know your neighbors.	Online
	More dedicated funds (or actions) towards bike lane infrastructure within the city. Connect some of these major streets, specifically ones that feel like highways, with bike lanes!	Online
	Please create a world class bike grid in Chicago to attract young residents who will drive the city forward, provide an alternate mode of transportation for those who can't afford a car or who do not want to use a car, and to reduce the amount of pollution (noise and air) that our city has to deal with. This is a no-brainer and should have been done years ago. Please take a look at how fast Paris went from its car infested hellscape to its bike forward green infrastructure. If anything bike infrastructure is the ultimate form of environmental justice since low-income communities suffer the most from air and noise pollution and they are more likely to not have a car, thus it is a cruel joke to force these people live in a city where cars are seen as gods.	Online
	Please implement a cohesive, protected bike grid across the city. This would reduce traffic, free up capital from being spent on gasoline, insurance, and car payments, and build a more sustainable Chicago.	Online
	Please provide funding for environmental policy enforcement	Online
	Though it applies to all categories - more and safer infrastructure for people outside of cars. More space for walkers, bikers, scooters, strollers. Make it safer to cross the street for neighbors to connect, to contribute to safer more connected communities, more active and healthier residents.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	<p>ToOffice of Budget Management ReCity of Chicago's Budget Engagement Process To whom it may concern, As both a resident of Chicago and representative of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Illinois, I am appreciative of the opportunity to provide public comment on the city's budget development for FY2025. The Nature Conservancy is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to protect the land and waters on which all life depends. Our Illinois chapter works to advance policies and practices that secure lasting climate and conservation outcomes for people and nature. In Chicago, we partner with community organizations to address pressing environmental challenges, focusing on critical areas such urban tree equity, implementing stormwater management solutions, and fostering community engagement in nature. Last year, we supported the reestablishment of the City's Department of Environment to address worsening climate impacts, biodiversity loss, and environmental justice concerns. With its recent reestablishment, the Department of Environment has reinvigorated efforts to reduce climate emissions, protect and expand our green spaces, and make good on the City's commitments to overburdened communities. To continue this positive momentum, we strongly recommend that the Department of Environment regain enforcement powers regarding environmental ordinances. We believe an effective Department of Environment requires full jurisdiction, such as the filing of inspection reports, writing tickets for violations, and negotiating disputes, to enact positive environmental change. After the Department of Environment was suspended in 2012, a report by Neighbors for Environmental Justice assessed that issued environmental violations dropped by over 7,000 notices, or above 50%, through 2022; consequently, air pollution citations dropped approximately 90%.¹ While these issues impact all Chicagoans, environmental justice communities experience the worst harms. For example, Little Village residents experience air pollution above the 95th percentile when referring to the federal EPA's environmental justice index.² The DOE's ability to hold accountability for violations is key to addressing these disproportionate impacts. For Chicago to achieve its climate goals, protect green space for its residents, and address the longstanding harms experienced by environmental justice communities, we hope the City transfers enforcement powers back to the Department of Environment. Thank you for your consideration of our comment and recommendation.</p>	Online
	<p>We should budget for a city owned air quality program that utilizes sensing technology to measure air quality for the city. Many cities are including air quality programs within their budgets, often paying 2-3 staff. This can create green jobs within the environmental justice and infrastructure budget. The data collected can inform the city's decisions on industrial permits, construction, and developments. It was also create better relationships with environmental justice organizations.</p>	Online
	<p>A car sank into a giant sinkhole on 5/2/24. This embarrassing. Please invest in maintaining our road infrastructure. There are potholes everywhere</p>	Online
	<p>A local nonprofit called EcoShip, is helping divert packaging materials from landfills. They are in need of funding to expand their diversion program.</p>	Online
	<p>A protected and connected bike grid throughout Chicago along with dedicated Bus Lanes. This would improve safety of cyclists, transit riders, and pedestrians while also improving public transit reliability</p>	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	<p>Argument for Funding the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and Implementing Dedicated Bus Lanes with Camera Enforcement</p> <p>1. Enhancing Public Transit Efficiency and Reliability Dedicated bus lanes and enforcement through bus cameras can significantly enhance the efficiency and reliability of the CTA services</p> <p>Reduced Travel Time Dedicated bus lanes prevent buses from being stuck in general traffic, ensuring faster travel times. This improvement is crucial in high-traffic areas and during peak hours, making bus transit a more appealing option. Increased Service Reliability When buses have their own lanes and can avoid delays caused by mixed traffic, schedules become more predictable. This reliability can encourage more people to choose public transit over driving, contributing to a reduction in overall traffic congestion. Enforcement via Camera- Using bus cameras to monitor and fine violations such as bus lane encroachment, double parking, and stopping in bus zones deters these behaviors. This enforcement can be a source of revenue and enhances compliance, ensuring that dedicated lanes remain unobstructed. Example from Washington D.C. The District of Columbia has effectively implemented dedicated bus lanes on several key routes, such as the 16th Street NW and H Street NW. These lanes are complemented by camera enforcement, which has reduced illegal lane use and improved bus travel times by up to 20% during peak hours . This initiative, supported by city funding and managed in coordination with local transit authorities, provides a model for similar efforts in Chicago.</p> <p>2. Economic and Environmental Benefits Investing in dedicated bus lanes and enforcement mechanisms has both economic and environmental advantages</p> <p>Cost-Effective Transportation Public transit is more cost-efficient per passenger mile compared to private vehicles. Faster and more reliable bus services reduce operational costs and enhance the return on investment in public transit infrastructure. Economic Development Efficient public transit supports local economies by improving access to jobs and services. It also attracts businesses seeking to locate in areas with reliable transportation options for their employees. Reduced Emissions Public transit emits less pollution per capita than private vehicles. By improving the efficiency of buses and increasing ridership through more reliable service, emissions from the transportation sector can be significantly reduced, contributing to cleaner air and a healthier urban environment. Example from Washington D.C. The city's dedicated bus lanes have been part of broader sustainability goals, including a push for reduced emissions and better urban air quality. Investments in bus lanes and enforcement have aligned with the District's Climate Action Plan, supporting a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging public transit use over driving .</p> <p>3. Addressing Equity and Accessibility Improving bus transit through dedicated lanes and strict enforcement addresses equity concerns by providing better service to underserved communities</p> <p>Equitable Access Reliable bus service is crucial for many low-income residents who rely on public transportation. Dedicated lanes ensure that these buses provide timely and efficient service, enhancing access to employment, education, and essential services. Reducing Transit Deserts By improving bus service in areas lacking rapid transit options, dedicated lanes can help mitigate the effects of transit deserts, areas where public transportation is limited or non-existent. Example from Washington D.C. Initiatives like the dedicated bus lanes on H Street NE have been particularly beneficial for underserved neighborhoods. These lanes provide faster and more reliable bus service to residents who depend on it most, contributing to greater accessibility and transit equity .</p> <p>4. Coordina-</p>	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	<p>As both a resident of Chicago and representative of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Illinois, I am appreciative of the opportunity to provide public comment on the city's budget development for FY2025. The Nature Conservancy in Illinois is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to advance policies and practices that secure lasting climate and conservation outcomes for people and nature. In Chicago, we partner with community organizations to address pressing environmental challenges, focusing on critical areas such as urban tree equity, implementing stormwater management solutions, and fostering community engagement in nature. Last year, we supported the reestablishment of the City's Department of Environment to address worsening climate impacts, biodiversity loss, and environmental justice concerns. With its recent reestablishment, the Department of Environment has reinvigorated efforts to reduce climate emissions, protect and expand our green spaces, and make good on the City's commitments to overburdened communities. To continue this positive momentum, we strongly recommend that the Department of Environment regain enforcement powers regarding environmental ordinances. We believe an effective Department of Environment requires full jurisdiction, such as the filing of inspection reports, writing tickets for violations, and negotiating disputes, to enact positive environmental change. After the Department of Environment was suspended in 2012, a report by Neighbors for Environmental Justice assessed that issued environmental violations dropped by over 7,000 notices, or above 50%, through 2022; consequently, air pollution citations dropped approximately 90%. While these issues impact all Chicagoans, environmental justice communities experience the worst harm. For example, Little Village residents experience air pollution above the 95th percentile when referring to the federal EPA's environmental justice index. The DOE's ability to hold accountability for violations is key to addressing these disproportionate impacts. For Chicago to achieve its climate goals, protect green space for its residents, and address the longstanding harms experienced by environmental justice communities, we hope the City transfers enforcement powers back to the Department of Environment. Thank you for your consideration of our comment and recommendation.</p>	Online
	Better bike lanes. Also switch it so that bike lanes are closer to the curb than parked cars on Broadway the entire stretch of the street	Online
	Bike grid	Online
	Budget for enforcement of solid waste management again.	Online
	Build more concrete protected bike lanes so there is a connected, continuous network of them in the city for people to safely get to work, errands and socializing. And say NO to any \$\$\$ going to new stadiums.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	CDOT is making a total disaster of city streets, sidewalks, traffic, parking, signs, bricks and poles down some streets, and destroying the beauty of neighborhoods and the city. Making bike lanes larger than car lanes. Making it difficult to turn on to certain streets. A medical professional needs to be hired to replace Arwardy, who was fired for doing her job. The people of Chicago need to be informed of the dangers in our city of Covid, and all of its new strains. We need more public health facilities with licensed medical professionals for the non medicated mental population on our streets, and in our neighborhoods, and those on 'now' legal drugs, causing the rise in everyday crimes against the citizens of Chicago. City government needs improvement in its funding for the betterment of Chicago's citizens, and it's neighborhoods.	Online
	Chicago needs a Bike Grid Now! Chicago needs a new CTA president. Our transit and road infrastructure systems are failing all our community members. Traffic violence is high, drivers are stuck in gridlock traffic constantly because everyone drives due to the CTA being so unreliable. Many people are scared of biking or walking because of speeding and reckless drivers and unclear, crumbling, or missing infrastructure to make it clear where to expect pedestrians, scooters, and cyclists. We are no longer a world-class city because we cannot get our citizens around safely and reliably.	Online
	Chicago needs a powerful Department of Environment to translate our climate investments into tangible and equitable improvements to the health and quality of life for Chicago communities. Bring enforcement back into the hands of the DOE. Enforcement is key for the DOE to achieve its climate justice goals through measures like inspections and fines. To have an effective DOE, we need it to oversee enforcement just as the original department did.	Online
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	Chicago needs to fund more safe streets projects across the city. Pedestrian deaths are way up, speeding drivers make it unsafe for everyone including drivers, and it's really unsafe for bikes and scooters. But CDOT always says they don't have the budget or staff to plan, design, coordinate, and build all the safety projects that we need! We need a better-funded and higher-staffed CDOT, with more Complete Streets engineers & project managers (and Bikeways staff) to design and build more projects. And safer streets mean less money spent on EMS response to crashes, injuries, and deaths, as well as less traffic which is also good for the city's economy. Please fund more safe streets people & staff at CDOT!	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	Chicago needs to step up its environmental efforts - more money and resources need to be allocated to the Dept of Environment so they can hire the people and make the things happen	Online
	Close the entire length of Clark Street to cars. Also, you have an Other option, but no radio button so it can't be selected.	Online
	Community Safety includes a traffic study. It's not just about physical personal safety. There should be a proportionate amount of funding to track the incredible amount of growth in the West Loop.	Online
	congestion pricing for downtown to fund public transit and active transportation	Online
	Create a cohesive network of streets that prioritize bicycles, scooters, and other micromobility vehicles. This bike grid should connect 10% of city streets together as a safety corridor for bicycle users. It can be built affordably using quick build techniques like chicanes, traffic diverters, bump outs, and other traffic calming measures. Bicycle transportation is the most equitable and sustainable form of transportation in city because bikes are zero emissions, they are very cheap, and the infrastructure to prioritize them is significantly cheaper than car infrastructure.	Online
	Create a pollution campaign and laws to eliminate environmental harm to our city and water systems. Acknowledge that we live near a large body of water and that the health of the water matters to our city. The city needs to establish laws that enforce no more balloon releases in the city, no more plastic straws allowed in the city bars and restaurants, etc.	Online
	Expand protected bike lanes on the south side and design for stormwater / flooding mitigation at the same time.	Online
	Expanded bike lane network (let's be very ambitious and create protected bike lanes within a block of every resident). More money out towards Better Streets for Buses initiatives to speed up buses and create more walkable neighborhoods. More incentives for increasing supply of low income housing and TOD developments More community programming and cultural events at parks and other public spaces	Online
	Fully fund and staff the revived DOE.	Online
	Given the worsening climate crisis, I believe that it is imperative that Chicago invest more money into mitigating its carbon output and adapting to changing weather patterns. To do so, I propose prioritizing the following areas- Doubling the climate infrastructure fund every year for the next 5 years, - Fund a comprehensive study of the benefits and possibilities of widely implementing bus rapid transit across the city. - Allocate funds to purchase vacant or unused lots and transform them into urban mini-forests, to be managed by the Chicago Park District. - Install shade shelters at every CTA stop with green roofs or solar panels. - Include a subsidized divvy membership to every ventra Upass recipient. - Increase the budget of the office of the environment and sustainability by 25% for the next five years.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
<p>Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued</p>	<p>he city has finally reinstated the Department of Environment. Now it is time to fully establish and fund it. Chicago is famous for working in silos which leads to misaligned decision making. The time is NOW to stop this practice and allow the Department of Environment to have oversight on enforcement of environmental actions and ordinances and to encourage sustainable practices. Case in point when the Riverwalk was developed it was developed without dishwashing facilities. If the DOE had been in effect this would have never happened. The CDPH rightfully has code in place that mandates single use on the Riverwalk but doesn't encourage environmental friendly options or work to solve the problem and stop single use. A fully funded and empowered DOE could be working with restaurants, businesses and stakeholders to encourage new ideas to solve this problem. Second case Since 2015 the city has been taxing those who can least afford it for takeout single use bags. This tax is simply going into the city general fund and ZERO effort is being extended to use these funds to educate the public away from single use and encourage the practice of bringing your reusable bag. Every year millions of plastic bags, paid for by consumers are simply going to landfills or worse, ending up in our rivers, lake front, trees, gutters or in our recycling tangling up the machines. There is no second life for a plastic bag except may for dog excrement disposal. Please fully fund the Department of Environment! Claudia Jackson Environmental Action Committee/LWV Chicago Member of the Coalition for Plastic Reduction</p>	<p>Online</p>
	<p>Hello I supported and was thrilled by the reestablishment of the City's Department of Environment - so the city can address worsening climate impacts and environmental justice concerns. With its recent reestablishment, the Department of Environment has reinvigorated efforts to reduce climate emissions, protect and expand our green spaces, and make good on the City's commitments to overburdened communities. To continue this positive momentum, I strongly recommend that the Department of Environment regain enforcement powers regarding environmental ordinances.</p>	<p>Online</p>

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	<p>I suggest a Vacancy tax to all the empty buildings to collect money to support rental programs, homeless prevention, and mental health care. We need to have a more competitive salary to afford to live in Chicago. Raise the minimum wage for the city to match the Housing Wage so the working class as a whole can afford to live in our communities with us. So residents can afford housing, health care, and education. Investing more youth programs, I see programs like afterschool matters and one summer Chicago are doing great helping our youth to grow professionally and personally, but this program has a limit that leave a lot of youth without options. Promote more alternative education like technic carrers, short courses to prep for employment. Invest in underserved neighborhood to help every resident to build roots and love their community. Development without displacement. We need more affordable housing that is accessible to the needs of the most needed communities that have been marginalized for decades. We need to reinvent our neighborhood to heal and preserve their culture. Invest in arts and cultural programs. Support local artist with grants and marketing to promote their skills and encourage new artist to pursue a carrer in arts. We need local artists, that is the most rich reflect of a neighborhood. STOP the TIF expansion. We do not need to add more burden to our small landlords and tenants that are struggling to pay already what are they paying. Tax the rich to stop gentrification and protect our bungalows and beautiful neighborhoods. Support the NORTHWEST PRESERVATIVE ORDINANCE to protect Logan Square, Hermosa, and Avondale from developments that are destroying our community. We want that the residents stay here, they are an important part of our community and are the ones that keep our communities stronger. We need clean energy communities, I demand at least \$135 million for the Social Housing Revolving Fund.</p>	Online
	<p>I'm so pleased that Mayor Johnson has reinstated the Department of Environment. Please provide adequate funding so that the DOE will be able to make significant impacts toward keeping Chicago a healthy, resilient, and livable environment for humans and our kinship of native flora and fauna. Changes to the climate are accelerating quickly and is an existential crisis. Please do not delay in making environmental concerns a top priority. Thank you.</p>	Online
	<p>Improve public transit reliability and frequency. More bike lanes and greenways</p>	Online
	<p>Increase funding for the Department of Environment to be able to enforce solid waste regulations</p>	Online
	<p>It is imperative that the Chicago Department of Environment has the ability to oversee environmental inspection and enforcement. This is crucial not only from an environmental justice perspective but also for accountability. The City of Chicago has a unique opportunity with the DOE and it would be remiss to not grant this enforcement capability to the department.</p>	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	<p>Leaving a comment here to advocate for more funding for green infrastructure projects at scale that support Chicago's climate resiliency and storm water management. There is also little to no visibility into the larger government bodies working together in a coordinated effort to do big things to address our green infrastructure needs. Metro Water vs the City Water System vs The Dept of Enviro... They all doing work but from the citizens point of view there's no clear cohesive strategy at scale. Home owners are told to plant a rain garden and disconnect their gutters. That's one part of the solution, but where's the big picture thinking? I believe visibility and funding towards big green infrastructure projects that address Chicago's systemic issues would have a significant impact in building confidence in Chicago citizens that the smart people who study big problems like this are on the job. The answer can't be "just plant a rain garden in your lawn." That will not produce the culture shift we need on this. Additionally, as a Portage Park resident, I acknowledge we need to start this work in the areas of greatest need - recent flooding in the West and Southwest Sides of the city has been awful. Thank you for your time in your reading this comment. Please show us the bigger, long-term picture on this issue with the funding and strategy needed to keep Chicago resilient to our changing climate.</p>	Online
	<p>Linking the Levitt bike lane across Montrose - since Levitt stops at Lincoln you have to get on the sidewalk to connect the two</p>	Online
	<p>Many children and young kids ride their bikes on Southport, including families, and it's incredibly dangerous and there is concern a child could be killed by a car if action doesn't happen. There should be a Protected bike lane on Southport.</p>	Online
	<p>Many other countries and areas of the world have implemented a "pay for what you toss" model when it comes to solid waste disposal. Simply put if people had to pay for the weight of their garbage instead of a flat fee for weekly cleanup, it would create radical restructuring of the ways we treat the items in our lives and dispose of them</p>	Online
	<p>More bike lanes, more electric buses, more L lines, less highways, MORE TREES!</p>	Online
	<p>More Bike Lanes, Red Light Cameras, and investment in Lakefront</p>	Online
	<p>More budget to maintain and install green infrastructure for storm-water and protect against the changes that climate change brings. More investment in monitoring and enforcing for pollutants</p>	Online
	<p>More concerted effort to reduce trash/litter--on the sidewalks as well as the lakefront. Including more public trash cans and recycling bins, more frequent pick up of public trash cans, and more signage encouraging people not to litter. Especially signage on the lakefront about the harmful impact of littering and throwing trash into the lake.</p>	Online
	<p>More enforcement of no bikes or electric scooters on the sidewalks of Grant Park.</p>	Online
	<p>More frequent bus schedule needed in Hyde Park especially on the weekends when the 6 is the only option for downtown. Need more protected bike lanes as well.</p>	Online
	<p>More money allocated for filling potholes or for better quality roads to begin with so fewer potholes develop</p>	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
<p>Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued</p>	<p>ToOffice of Budget Management ReCity of Chicago's Budget Engagement Process To whom it may concern, As both a resident of Chicago and representative of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Illinois, I am appreciative of the opportunity to provide public comment on the city's budget development for FY2025. The Nature Conservancy is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to protect the land and waters on which all life depends. Our Illinois chapter works to advance policies and practices that secure lasting climate and conservation outcomes for people and nature. In Chicago, we partner with community organizations to address pressing environmental challenges, focusing on critical areas such urban tree equity, implementing stormwater management solutions, and fostering community engagement in nature. Last year, we supported the reestablishment of the City's Department of Environment to address worsening climate impacts, biodiversity loss, and environmental justice concerns. With its recent reestablishment, the Department of Environment has reinvigorated efforts to reduce climate emissions, protect and expand our green spaces, and make good on the City's commitments to overburdened communities. To continue this positive momentum, we strongly recommend that the Department of Environment regain enforcement powers regarding environmental ordinances. We believe an effective Department of Environment requires full jurisdiction, such as the filing of inspection reports, writing tickets for violations, and negotiating disputes, to enact positive environmental change. After the Department of Environment was suspended in 2012, a report by Neighbors for Environmental Justice assessed that issued environmental violations dropped by over 7,000 notices, or above 50%, through 2022; consequently, air pollution citations dropped approximately 90%.¹ While these issues impact all Chicagoans, environmental justice communities experience the worst harms. For example, Little Village residents experience air pollution above the 95th percentile when referring to the federal EPA's environmental justice index.² The DOE's ability to hold accountability for violations is key to addressing these disproportionate impacts. For Chicago to achieve its climate goals, protect green space for its residents, and address the longstanding harms experienced by environmental justice communities, we hope the City transfers enforcement powers back to the Department of Environment. Thank you for your consideration of our comment and recommendation.</p>	<p>Online</p>

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
<p>Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued</p>	<p>Office of Budget Management ReCity of Chicago's Budget Engagement Process To whom it may concern, As both a resident of Chicago and representative of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Illinois, I am appreciative of the opportunity to provide public comment on the city's budget development for FY2025. The Nature Conservancy is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to protect the land and waters on which all life depends. Our Illinois chapter works to advance policies and practices that secure lasting climate and conservation outcomes for people and nature. In Chicago, we partner with community organizations to address pressing environmental challenges, focusing on critical areas such urban tree equity, implementing stormwater management solutions, and fostering community engagement in nature. Last year, we supported the reestablishment of the City's Department of Environment to address worsening climate impacts, biodiversity loss, and environmental justice concerns. With its recent reestablishment, the Department of Environment has reinvigorated efforts to reduce climate emissions, protect and expand our green spaces, and make good on the City's commitments to overburdened communities. To continue this positive momentum, we strongly recommend that the Department of Environment regain enforcement powers regarding environmental ordinances. We believe an effective Department of Environment requires full jurisdiction, such as the filing of inspection reports, writing tickets for violations, and negotiating disputes, to enact positive environmental change. After the Department of Environment was suspended in 2012, a report by Neighbors for Environmental Justice assessed that issued environmental violations dropped by over 7,000 notices, or above 50%, through 2022; consequently, air pollution citations dropped approximately 90%.¹ While these issues impact all Chicagoans, environmental justice communities experience the worst harms. For example, Little Village residents experience air pollution above the 95th percentile when referring to the federal EPA's environmental justice index.² The DOE's ability to hold accountability for violations is key to addressing these disproportionate impacts. For Chicago to achieve its climate goals, protect green space for its residents, and address the longstanding harms experienced by environmental justice communities, we hope the City transfers enforcement powers back to the Department of Environment. Thank you for your consideration of our comment and recommendation. ¹https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JIHQgGrC1Lh2AmlhzKNnhb8hEfw_IDU/view ²https://insideclimatenews.org/news/17042023/chicagos-little-village-residents-fight-for-better-city-oversight-of-industrial-corridors/</p>	<p>Online</p>

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	<p>Office of Budget Management ReCity of Chicago's Budget Engagement Process To whom it may concern, As both a resident of Chicago and representative of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Illinois, I am appreciative of the opportunity to provide public comment on the city's budget development for FY2025. The Nature Conservancy is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to protect the land and waters on which all life depends. Our Illinois chapter works to advance policies and practices that secure lasting climate and conservation outcomes for people and nature. In Chicago, we partner with community organizations to address pressing environmental challenges, focusing on critical areas such urban tree equity, implementing stormwater management solutions, and fostering community engagement in nature. Last year, we supported the reestablishment of the City's Department of Environment to address worsening climate impacts, biodiversity loss, and environmental justice concerns. With its recent reestablishment, the Department of Environment has reinvigorated efforts to reduce climate emissions, protect and expand our green spaces, and make good on the City's commitments to overburdened communities. To continue this positive momentum, we strongly recommend that the Department of Environment regain enforcement powers regarding environmental ordinances. We believe an effective Department of Environment requires full jurisdiction, such as the filing of inspection reports, writing tickets for violations, and negotiating disputes, to enact positive environmental change. After the Department of Environment was suspended in 2012, a report by Neighbors for Environmental Justice assessed that issued environmental violations dropped by over 7,000 notices, or above 50%, through 2022; consequently, air pollution citations dropped approximately 90%.¹ While these issues impact all Chicagoans, environmental justice communities experience the worst harms. For example, Little Village residents experience air pollution above the 95th percentile when referring to the federal EPA's environmental justice index.² The DOE's ability to hold accountability for violations is key to addressing these disproportionate impacts. For Chicago to achieve its climate goals, protect green space for its residents, and address the longstanding harms experienced by environmental justice communities, we hope the City transfers enforcement powers back to the Department of Environment. Thank you for your consideration of our comment and recommendation. ¹https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JlHQgGr-C1Lh2AmlhzKNnhb8hEfw_IDU/view ²https://insideclimatenews.org/news/17042023/chicagos-little-village-residents-fight-for-better-city-oversight-of-industrial-corridors/</p>	Online
	More funding for DOE	Online
	Please continue to develop green spaces in underdeveloped and underserved areas! Restore the tree canopy, and reclaim empty blighted spaces for education, recreation and community gardening.	Online
	Please fully fund DOE	Online
	Please fund the reinstated DOE and dedicate resources to preventing waste going to landfills	Online
	Please provide budget for communities to do quick-build traffic calming projects- we need to implement safe street designs asap and implement low cost solutions everywhere.	Online
	Protected (by concrete, with bollards at entrances and exits) bike lanes in a connected grid throughout the city.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	Protected Bike Lines! Especially on larger streets like Kedzie and Montrose.	Online
	Protecting the city from the effects of global warming is a critical, long-term necessity. We have good policies but they are NOT ENFORCED. More enforcement is essential	Online
	r(Actually separated) Protected bike lanes! Green swales/storm water run off. Heck, city gives the money I'll plant and tend it. Ward wide home compost pick up.	Online
	rI would like to see more resources allocated to building out protected bike lanes in Lakeview. Lakeview has almost no protected cycling infrastructure despite a high number of cyclists. Especially along Belmont and East/West streets headed to and from the lake side. Unfortunately car traffic regularly abuse the painted lanes for cyclists creating dangerous road conditions that can only be improved with grade separation.	Online
	rMore REAL bike lanes, and converting the fake deathtrap lanes that're Parking Bike Traffic into ones that aren't literally more dangerous than riding in traffic, please.	Online
	Regular, dedicated funding for capital improvements on a rolling deadline application. Arts companies build infrastructure - both physical and social/cultural - that improves the community. Funding/support for artist benefits (health/medical/dental) with attainable and reasonable requirements. Broader support for arts education and performance, to support in-school programs threatened by municipal cutbacks.	Online
	Replace the main sewer that was seriously damaged by the DWM, and inadequate, in the 4400 block of N Artesian Av	Online
	Replacing lead service lines	Online
	Safe streets for cyclists and pedestrians.	Online
	Safety measures around schools/neighborhood walkways/alleys should be reviewed and prioritized! The alley next to St. Andrews grade school on Addison is incredible dangerous. Cars and trucks fly through the alleyway on the north side of Addison, some at over 30mph, at all hours of the day to avoid traffic on Addison and to cut through the North/South one-way streets between Ashland and Ravenswood. This is a school and residential area!! There are no speed bumps in the alley along the school (literally a school entrance door), no caution for children signs or speed limit signs, not even mirrors at the alley T-junctions. Most cars blare their horns at any hour of the day/night from Hermitage through Ravenswood without ever slowing done (as if that will stop children/pedestrians in their crossing). Its a noise nuisance to residents and very dangerous for children/pedestrians. Its so stressful to live in this area and fear that a child will be hit by one of these reckless drivers one day. Please adjust the budget to include maintenance and improvements to pedestrian safety in the neighborhood. thank you.	Online
	Stop using taxpayers funds for bike lanes.	Online
	Study the impact of all the biking/"safety" improvements and if they are making positive change. Just being a passenger, I find all the new colors and lines and obstructions extremely visually overwhelming, adding stress and anxiety and confusion.	Online
	Sufficient funding for DOE to enforce solid waste regulations.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	Sustained and new investments in preserving current and creating new native green space to support our local ecosystems, ability to withstand climate change (i.e., flooding), and the overall health and wellness of Chicagoans. Studies show communities with public green space are safer (i.e., less crime) and healthier. An investment in our green environment is an investment in our people and their sustained well-being, likely to drive the need for spending on things like police down over time.	Online
	The City needs to improve enforcement of air pollution permits. More resources need to be put towards enforcing city pollution rules companies must follow. The current enforcement level isn't protecting people like it should.	Online
	The current state of our roads, bike lanes (where available) and side walks is shameful. Sections of Courtland in Logan Square are so filled with potholes the entire car quakes, even going 5 miles per hour. These streets are wrecking cars and prevent dangers for cyclists. It's costing private citizens money paying for this excessive wear and tear on vehicles. In addition, bike lanes are so frequently blocked by vehicles or covered in trash to make them hazardous. All of this creates totally unnecessary chaos. It's not enough to have the ability to report a pothole- we need our streets reconfigured and repaved! We need to have better access and protection for bicycles while providing reasonably decent roads for cars.	Online
	The Department of Environment's ability to oversee environmental inspection and enforcement is critical. Chicago saw a 50% enforcement and inspection decrease when the DOE was dismantled and it was moved to CDPH. In order to have an effective DOE we need it to oversee enforcement (inspections, fines, etc.), just as the original Department did.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
<p>Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued</p>	<p>To whom it may concern, As both a resident of Chicago and representative of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Illinois, I am appreciative of the opportunity to provide public comment on the city's budget development for FY2025. The Nature Conservancy is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to protect the land and waters on which all life depends. Our Illinois chapter works to advance policies and practices that secure lasting climate and conservation outcomes for people and nature. In Chicago, we partner with community organizations to address pressing environmental challenges, focusing on critical areas such urban tree equity, implementing stormwater management solutions, and fostering community engagement in nature. Last year, we supported the re-establishment of the City's Department of Environment to address worsening climate impacts, biodiversity loss, and environmental justice concerns. With its recent reestablishment, the Department of Environment has reinvigorated efforts to reduce climate emissions, protect and expand our green spaces, and make good on the City's commitments to overburdened communities. To continue this positive momentum, we strongly recommend that the Department of Environment regain enforcement powers regarding environmental ordinances. We believe an effective Department of Environment requires full jurisdiction, such as the filing of inspection reports, writing tickets for violations, and negotiating disputes, to enact positive environmental change. After the Department of Environment was suspended in 2012, a report by Neighbors for Environmental Justice assessed that issued environmental violations dropped by over 7,000 notices, or above 50%, through 2022; consequently, air pollution citations dropped approximately 90%.[1] While these issues impact all Chicagoans, environmental justice communities experience the worst harms. For example, Little Village residents experience air pollution above the 95th percentile when referring to the federal EPA's environmental justice index.[2] The DOE's ability to hold accountability for violations is key to addressing these disproportionate impacts. For Chicago to achieve its climate goals, protect green space for its residents, and address the longstanding harms experienced by environmental justice communities, we hope the City transfers enforcement powers back to the Department of Environment. Thank you for your consideration of our comment and recommendation. [1] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JlHQgGr-C1Lh2AmlhzKNnhb8hEfw_IDU/view [2] https://insideclimatenews.org/news/17042023/chicagos-little-village-residents-fight-for-better-city-oversight-of-industrial-corridors/</p>	<p>Online</p>
	<p>Trash clean up--there is so much trash on the sidewalks throughout Uptown (and many Chicago neighborhoods). This is an infrastructure and public health issue. There are so many mounds of trash in uptown that it attracts rats and vermin. Have encountered dog poop in the middle of the sidewalk multiple times. The amount of trash on the lakefront and thrown into the lake is extremely damaging. More public trash cans, signage about not littering, potentially enforcing littering fines, education about not littering. This is an infrastructure and public health issue. There are so many mounds of trash in uptown that it attracts rats and vermin.</p>	<p>Online</p>
	<p>We need a bike grid! More bike infrastructure, more protected bike lanes, and more infrastructure that focuses on people, not cars</p>	<p>Online</p>

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	We need a connected and safe bike grid in our city. We need trains and buses that show up frequently and move quickly. This means more budget for the CTA and infrastructure investments into bus rapid transit, bike lanes and greenways, and more train lines instead of more Jane Byrne Interchanges.	Online
	We need better walking and biking access to help our businesses, small shops, and to create better community cohesion. Studies show that people walking and cycling stop to shop more, and spend more money. More people on the street improves safety and community. More money should be dedicated to making our streets safer to walk and roll on. We need curb bump outs, raised crosswalks, and protected bike lanes. We need greenways, trees, and a connected bike/walking grid to get people safely where they need to go without taking a car.	Online
	We need more equitable access for all of Chicago to use active transportation. In too many areas, walking, biking, and taking public transportation is difficult and dangerous. We need better pedestrian facilities like curb bumpouts and raised crosswalks. We need more protected bike lanes and a bike grid that safely gets people from neighborhood to neighborhood. We need better public transportation like dedicated bus lanes that are not constantly clogged with vehicles. Lastly, we need to encourage more people to use their personal vehicles less by instituting a congestion fee for driving downtown. The cut through traffic ruins neighborhoods with loud, dirty, dangerous vehicles.	Online
	We need more investment in the west side. That means infrastructure- SAFE DRINKING WATER, roads, safe crossing street intersections, alleys, adequate lighting, green spaces; local businesses- more grocery stores, pet stores, coffee shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues; reliable and safe public transportation. Please invest in boarded up, empty buildings or overgrown lots; this breeds neighborhood discontent, people see that their government is not interested in them and they loose hope. We need more activities for the kids, ALL YEAR LONG AND LARGER SCALE. We cant be fighting over a few slots. INVEST IN OUR KIDS and in return you will see the benefits. It will take time but we have to start somewhere and sooner than later. This isn't anything new. We just need MORE RESOURCES. We have individuals with long history of violent crime still on the streets. My block has had two shootings in the last year, with casualties. That's just one block, we hear gun shots all night long. When we call police no one shows up, why would they? Their efforts are futile, the same people will be out the next day. We have are constantly threated or offered drugs. We don't have enough police presence or support for the victims and the perpetrators. I'm sure no one wants to put themselves in danger every day selling drugs on the corner, but they have nothing else to look forward to.	Online
	We should invest in pedestrianizing streets and expanding transit dedicated lanes citywide. Routes like Michigan Avenue should have bus lanes and more pedestrian space. There is no reason that Chicago cannot mirror the successful strategies in places like New York, Barcelona, Paris, London, and many other global cities - we can and should be better on this.	Online
	Would like to see sufficient funding for the DOE to be able to enforce solid waste regulations	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, continued	<p>"A lot of infrastructure improvements shouldn't be coming from our menu program (green alleys, bioswales, flood mitigation infrastructure)</p> <p>DOE should be huge - they should have an oversight Dept. Infrastructure</p> <p>Divert enforcement from CDPH to DOE and properly fund that capacity."</p>	Truman
	<p>CDPH has a lot on its plate from the migrant crisis to Covid-19. While they've done a good job of balancing these issues our environmental concerns w/in its portfolio, environmental enforcement should move back to the Dept. of Environment. Specifically CDPH should transition enforcement related to air quality</p>	Truman
	<p>Cost of living crisis!! Lead service line replacement. Plow/shovel sidewalks. Bike grid across the city, featuring protected bike lanes. Expand tree coverage across neighborhood of city. Permeable pavement in alleys, around parks.</p>	Truman
	<p>"Snow removal:</p> <p>There are ways to be more creative about the way that we are cleaning snow and finding spaces where snow can be plowed that leave it in areas where it won't runoff into the waterways! I think despite the fact that Chicago snow clean up is very specific (all the way to the curb), there are still ways to be creative to limit the environmental impact and community disruption of snow. We can amend the snow cleanup process to use be more resilient by adding parking lots - with permeable pavement - to the snow removal routes. These spaces could also be vacant lots that can be parks for farmers markets, etc."</p>	Truman
	<p>"1. Recycling - educate & mandate 2. Residential small building & houses energy retrofiting, air sealing, insulation, solar 3. Education and implementation of composting, and reducing plastic use - actually banning plastic bags! (accountability of retailers)"</p>	Truman
	<p>I support the compost drop-off program and would like to see an expansion of that program (more locations, pick-up options).</p>	Truman
	<p>Implementing congestion pricing to reduce traffic and fund green infrastructure.</p>	Truman
	<p>Replace lead water lines/suc pipes. Fix the terrible sidewalks.</p>	Truman
	<p>Resources to help clear sidewalks during winter (we clear streets, why not sidewalks). Pilot city composting program.</p>	Truman
	<p>"Sporting venues including Wrigley, White Sox, Soldier Field, United Center have to sort their ""trash"" in order to recycle the different materials that are thrown out.</p> <p>A venue has to sort the materials on a mandatory basis. Sporting venues throw out thousands of pounds of garbage at each game/event."</p>	Truman
	<p>Water and air filters. Invest in local healthcare facilities.</p>	Truman

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Public Health and Mental Health	I understand that there is motion within local government about public safety and gentrification and that there are shelters for the homeless. So I ask for help with mental health services.	Harold Washington
	Immigration & disability sometimes hasn't been as discerned!	Harold Washington
	Nipping things in the bud! Stop the problems before they start, especially things like mental health and homelessness.	Harold Washington
	Stigma around mental health needs to be severely difused.	Harold Washington
	More bedding at homeless shelters. More better paying jobs for youth. More mental health places teens can come to.	Harold Washington
	More funding for Narcan in youth-focused spaces.	Harold Washington
	Youth and drug use. We need to find solutions on why our youth are using drugs and drug overdoses for younger and younger youth.	Harold Washington
	1. People's Response Network (PRN) would like decisions on extreme heat and cold to fall under CDPH instead of OEMC. Cooling & heating centers should be open 24/7 and weekends and holidays. The threshold should be 80° F. OSHA recommendation should be implemented for all workers including water breaks for outside workers. Please contact us at PRNcoalition@gmail.com or (773)245-3389.	Kennedy-King
	Hire additional people or contract with reliable non-profit & grass-root agencies to assist with programming.	Kennedy-King
	Provide services needed to those in need w/mental health to keep our neighborhoods/communities safe. Focus on services to provide per neighborhood as needed for homeless, migrants, etc.	Kennedy-King
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "-Build relationships, offer mental health programs as they feel comfortable. -Mental health youth and adult center but 2 separate buildings. -Mental health program -After school matters/one summer Chicago paid to be taught about mental health and how to help others -Daily check ins, teachers, security guards -Teachers/parents that they feel have a kid going through some should have a mentor that does things with them outside of school that is both fun and educational. Mentor should also be able to get kids ed's in & out of school -Diff rooms for situations (physical, emotional, mental)" 	Kennedy-King
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "-Mental health class at school for students -Teachers check-in with students (ex: How are you feeling today) -Youth programs -Get young Black boys off the streets (persuade them with jobs) -Teach students about mental health at school -Every student should have a person they can console in, in the school -Different mental health clinics -Connect with social media platforms" 	Kennedy-King
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "-mental health classes for students -more youth programs -It should be different age groups kids-teen-adults-elders -Teach kids about how important mental health is -More easy work programs for kids to work and get them out the streets. -Find them a trusted adult!!!" 	Kennedy-King

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Public Health and Mental Health, continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Schools and youth groups can allow them to write down what they are feeling if they don't feel comfortable talking -Schools can gather students for a assembly to talk to them or have a speaker that has experienced things such as depression -Rage rooms may work also -Talk to a close friend -Teachers should build bonds with students and talk to them and be very understanding." 	Kennedy-King
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Start a mental health program in school for those in need -Get permission from parents to have a 1 on 1 outside of school to get things off your chest -Get mental health clinic opened for everyone with different rooms for different situations. -Random every day check in -Rage rooms -Making mental health clinics a safe space and be able to have over-night stays if problems are happening at home physically, mentally, and emotionally." 	Kennedy-King
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Youth healthcare center -Mental health practiced in school very often -canvas at peoples doors talking to them about mental health and sharing mental health stories. -Getting mental health victims to share their stories at school, social media, and the mental health clinics Convince them that it is seniors and touch their heart!!! -Different gender groups in the mental health care clinics **Interview people about what mental health is to them and they can experience it. -Different activities in the mental health clinic." 	Kennedy-King
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We need this to be brought to schools because that's where kids are 8 hours a day 2. We need a youth center for kids because that can really help these kids. 3. Kids should also have someone in school that they can talk to and be with 4. This needs to be talked about more and spoken to everyone so they know how to handle and go about mental health because how people really don't know much about it so the go about it the wrong way!" 	Kennedy-King
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Father's programs will help the children's mothers and fathers, and the whole family. That's a F.A.C.T. 	Kennedy-King
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeless in city is a problem. Mental health services. Housing is a human right! Need CBA in all communities (illegible) on ... (remainder of comment card is illegible) 	Kennedy-King
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How badly are both children and adults being affected at schools and in parks due to industrial pollution, railroad pollution, vehicle pollution, whether cars or trucks. Pollution from construction, (illegible) buildings. 	Kennedy-King
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make CARE alternate response 24 hrs. + city wide. Living room model for mental health centers (open at least 23 hrs.) 	Kennedy-King
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make intentional separation of the southeast side and the southwest side. There are cultural and geographical issues that are unique to each side of south side Chicago. Create a fund, similar to AAHRA (African American HIV Response Act) that will provide equitable funding to Black led non-profit org's working to eliminate HIV. 	Kennedy-King

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Public Health and Mental Health, continued	Mental health classes at school for students to engage and open up to people and become more comfortable in school, youth centers for people ages 8-18 with professional therapist to talk to youth and have teachers with mental health activities for youth public events that gaze people and youth attention so we can bring youth to centers. Professional people to help students in school that goes thru things or having a hard time with things. Public peace circles around the city for free to ask and check up and see if people that need additional help	Kennedy-King
	"More funding to Black-led nonprofit orgs for HIV Separate fun for Black-led orgs who are doing work to eliminate HIV Direct funding for a city version of the African American Response Act. Money set aside for culturally competent led orgs for general operating support."	Kennedy-King
	PRN would also like to increase CDPH budget from corporate for Covid and other/future pandemics - free tests, vaccines, masks, air ventilation and (illegible).	Kennedy-King
	Provide job opportunity for deaf and hard of hearing within City of Chicago government as well as other disabled citizens.	Kennedy-King
	Senior services and rights	Kennedy-King
	Spend more \$ in advertising wrap around services.	Kennedy-King
	"Support for mental health, support opportunities, e.g. clinics. People need peace and quiet safe spaces -Mental health support can be a link for people struggling with stress, addiction -Support for alternative outlets like community gyms, physical therapy, other outlets, animal therapy or opportunities to walk with animals -Support for more therapists in schools, different types therapist - different specialization -Not able to see therapists in schools because lack of availability -One therapist is not enough b/c does not provide options so this shuts down opportunity -Role on educating peers on health and public health --> youth can play that role as well. Have group mental health services."	Kennedy-King
	Vacant building, home ownership, more businesses (help with process) programs for at risk groups (youth, younger mothers, single mothers, prison population)	Kennedy-King
	When are communities going to receive funding for mental health resources?	Kennedy-King
	I think it's important to have a mix of city-provided mental health services and services provided by non-profits with city support and \$. For mental health, CDPH should focus on things that are difficult for non-profits, like physical services.	Malcolm X
	African Americans have highest incidence of disease - yet funding to African American led healthcare organizations is 75-80% lower than funding that goes to White-led healthcare organizations. Create Equitable Funding for Black healthcare orgs.	Malcolm X
	Co-governanceSupport community health workers employed by non-profit organizations. To sustain health service navigation. This is both a covid recovery strategy and	Malcolm X

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Public Health and Mental Health, continued	<p>"I strongly believe that community-based organizations have more ability to reach people where they are with resources they need. Trauma informed centers of care vs city clinics give increased access to the most marginalized populations, and provide non-traditional access points that help reduce stigma attached to receiving mental health.</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Mental health contributes to overall public health, public safety, child welfare, etc.</p>	
	<p>KEEP TRAUMA INFORMED CENTERS OF CARE OPEN!!!"</p>	
	<p>Revise our current health care funding so that more funding goes to the population with highest numbers of diseases - African Americans</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Better public health research and data modernization and dissemination.</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>David Keral continuously does not show cultural humility as it relates to HIV funding for Black led organizations. We need new leadership at CDPH who will be more responsible and respectful towards Blacks. A Black women led organization.</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Expand public mental health services city wide 24-hr non-police emergency mental health response. Fully fund city (illegible) treatment not trauma working group recommendations.</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>"Healthcare needs to be addressed more by CDPH - involved forums - disease prevention care were not addressed! HIV/Aids funding by CDPH is inevitably allocated! With more than 50% of HIV/Aids diagnosed being amongst Black people - 90% + of HIV/Aids funding should not be allocated to White-led groups. Black-led/non-Hispanic HIV/Aids healthcare must be equitably funded."</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>How can the city provide more education about mental health to all families?</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>"Increase Garfield Park programs in languages other than English *dealing with communities (illegible) - violence, drugs, domestic violence (illegible) *Church program - music investment (illegible) *Cultural programs - department of family support (illegible) *arts program - funding for (illegible)"</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Mental health clinics should be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>More women and girls wrap around services for women/girls only not merged. That is not a rehab house for addiction or abuse the underserved (sistaigotyou.org)</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>My name is Noel Norris and I am the associate director of early childhood and XXX programs. I am seeing an increased in mothers who are dealing with mental health issues and postpartum depression. With the expansion of clinics how many/how much will focus on mothers/parents experiencing mental health issues.</p>	Malcolm X
	<p>Support community health worker employed by nonprofits organizations to sustain health service navigation and continue investing in under and uninsured struggling with the endemic COVID-19</p>	Malcolm X

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Public Health and Mental Health, continued	Think of public mental health strategies as trauma and the violence prevention strategies. Reopening the city's mental health clinics is an important strategy. Reinvest in these clinics and also expand mental health services through non-profit organizations. Be creative - expand clinical services to	Malcolm X
	We need to integrate efforts between departments to ensure "whole person" ie public health/mental health + community safety to prevent/intervene together.	Malcolm X
	Black people, non-Hispanic African Americans, comprise more than 50% of HIV-AIDS diagnoses yet Chicago allocates less than 8% of its HIV-AIDS CDPH budget of \$40M+ to Black-led HIV-AIDS related community based orgs that provide prevention and treatment services in Black communities. Recommend that Chicago City Budget include allocation for African American-led CBOS providing HIV-AIDS Services just like State of Illinois does thru its African American HIV AIDS Response Act (AAHARA) , signed into law in 2006. IN Chicago, there are 18x's more non-Hispanic Black women who are HIV positive than White women. There are 6.6 times more Black men who are HIV POSITIVE than White men.	Online
	I absolutely believe in the treatment not trauma ideas, but as an organizer, the mayor should know that there is the world the way it is and the world the way we want it to be. I work in a school, and we have had more kids die or be shot this year than I have ever experienced in 20 years of education. We should absolutely support treatment, but I am afraid that more kids will die if we do not do something.	Online
	I want to make sure domestic violence specifically is addressed as both public health from a community health perspective as a root cause of community violence but also from an affordable and emergency housing perspective.	Online
	Invest in our health system to cover the need of the most needed communities. Health care is important to keep our residents healthy. We need dental and mental health at every clinic.	Online
	More spaces for young parents to learn how to parent. Young mother's need mid-wives to teach them how to care for newborn. You men need angry management classes and parenting classes. Too many young parents and no education to become a parent. Public schools are not teaching the basics. Home economics, auto repair, welding or anything that would prepare them for life. That's why we need community based spaces and professionals who would take time for their community. Each community should offer services to help young parents. They are the work force we need. They need the help to achieve some kind of goal. Child care would be a start.	Online
	Our recently arrived immigrant/refugee clients need help finding Transitional Housing/Financial support, Childcare Resources, Healthcare access, and assistance finding jobs for non English speakers.	Online
	Please reopen the Rogers Park, City mental health facility. It is unconscionable that it was closed.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Public Health and Mental Health, continued	transform city and county owned vacant lots into community gathering spaces/respites from the pressures/trauma of city living. (any needed remediation would be done by City of Chicago or large philanthropics who wish to help our Chicago communities thrive - they could get naming rights or plaque at the site? These would be community driven designs (3-5 meetings) and then start something with multi-phases for continual improvements & additions. (i.e. after remediation and design phase call out to the community gardens/ neighborspace and those community members with gardening skills to add plants/mulch etc. following year call out to landscapers to donate labor for hardscapes and community raise funds for the materials with \$\$ matching from the city of Chicago/Cook county) EACH year the non-profit organizations/area councils/block clubs of the community here centered around the arts and beautification of our spaces, intercultural, intergenerational experiences and could also include mental health and physical wellness activities (dancing, yoga/meditation, field games)	Online
	CDOT is making a total disaster of city streets, sidewalks, traffic, parking, signs, bricks and poles down some streets, and destroying the beauty of neighborhoods and the city. Making bike lanes larger than car lanes. Making it difficult to turn on to certain streets. A medical professional needs to be hired to replace Arwardy, who was fired for doing her job. The people of Chicago need to be informed of the dangers in our city of Covid, and all of its new strains. We need more public health facilities with licensed medical professionals for the non medicated mental population on our streets, and in our neighborhoods, and those on 'now' legal drugs, causing the rise in everyday crimes against the citizens of Chicago. City government needs improvement in its funding for the betterment of Chicago's citizens, and it's neighborhoods.	Online
	Community safety is created by investing in housing, third spaces, health care, walkable neighborhoods and social support, not by funding police.	Online
	for AIHSC, our program has grown, it is great to see families spending quality time together, working with each other. We need more instructors, community healing is essential and cultural programming is crucial for us.	Online
	Grants to therapy practices (like the one I own Third Eye Counseling) to provide free and low cost therapy to residents in need.	Online
	Having a Social Worker in each of the public library branches would be a godsend, making the community safer	Online
	Haymarket Center appreciates the City's investment in SUD services through grant programs like the Recovery Support Services and Linkage to Care and Treatment. We hope, however, that funding for substance use prevention among youth may be restored in the next year's budget. Alcohol use frequently plays a major role in gun deaths among minors and early initiation of drugs and alcohol, including cannabis, often leads to permanent developmental impairments among youth. Evidence-based prevention curricula can be effective in mitigating these costs.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Public Health and Mental Health, continued	I am the Director at Catholic Charities St. Leo Residence for Veterans, a permanent supportive housing program for formerly homeless Veterans. In order to address the homelessness crisis in the city, we need to address poverty, lack of appropriate employment and educational opportunities, lack of affordable housing, increased funding for supportive services such as mental health and substance abuse treatment, assistance for food, utilities, clothing, transportation, etc. There need to be other options for housing other than permanent supportive housing particularly an increased need for transitional housing for individuals dealing with substance abuse issues. The Housing First model that is mandated by HUD is not working for this sub-population of the homeless community. Going directly from the streets into permanent housing without dealing with the substance use is setting people up for failure and is the cause of unnecessary deaths. The belief that getting people housed first and then providing services is the proven route to go is a fallacy that is hidden because service providers don't want to lose their funding. For certain individuals, pre-conditions for housing such as dealing with substance use is necessary in order for them to achieve success and be able to maintain housing.	Online
	More resources for Older Adults and People with Disabilities.	Online
	More supports for people who are at risk of homelessness...less disruptive for kids and families to keep them housed....no interest loans for security deposits, perhaps info on city website of how to fight evictions, resources for legal aid, more info on tenants' rights. Also development of housing development on city owned vacant lots, downtown corridor mixed use buildings, bonds to jumpstart funding	Online
	My goal is to reduce homelessness, whether it's to build more shelters, regulate rent, or treat mental illnesses which lead to it in the first place.	Online
	Please consider resources to address the mentally unwell on the CTA trains and buses. They need care and affect tourists and visitors.	Online
	Preserving buildings and less demolitions, utilizing the available green spaces to include multi- generational activities to address food insecurities, safe spaces, youth usage, senior citizens, for mental health, environmental friendly usage and much more.	Online
	Public health is important So we need to work more and more	Online
	Que aya más ayudas para los padres de bajos recursos en los copagos que los tienen muy altos	Online
	We desperately need more funding for mental health/homelessness programs, especially ones run by the city to help people on the streets	Online
	Reopen community mental health centers	Online
	Services such as SEL programs and youth workforce development programs have youth mental health prevention potential. Continued investment in youth enrichment should be prioritized.	Online
	Take \$ from CPD and put it in TNT services (treatment not trauma)	Online
	We have a need for mental health clinicians, especially working in non profit organizations. There is a shortage of mental health clinicians. Pay for master's of social work and psychology master's degrees. Pay recent graduates at least \$60,000 starting salary. Provide more incentives overall for bilingual employees.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Public Health and Mental Health, continued	We need more funding to nonprofit services providers who help victims of domestic and sexual violence. We've been hit hard by VOCA cuts, we were underfunded to start with, and when one in 3 women and one in 6 men experience this kind of violence, it is not a niche issue.	Online
	We should partner with local schools/universities in the area, like North Park or Northeastern to deliver healthcare access/screening to our neighbors.	Online
	Improved domestic violence resources and connections for those who have interactions with police due to domestic violence.	Truman
	-Year-long engagement including follow up of implementation and exploration of new issues arising from public input. -Better outreach. -How do we engage in sister agencies? -More senior services!	Truman
	Invest more into public health and use the unused funds in the other depts. to depts. that need expansion. e.g CPD --> CDPH	Truman
	24-hr cooling/heating centers. Cooling/warming bus. Official processes to obtain disability. Accommodation for city services.	Truman
	5. Keep funding mental wellness efforts!	Truman
	A large, sustained increase in funding for the Chicago Department of Public health is needed. We recommend \$25M increase in corporate fund dollars to CDPH to begin funding & staffing the department. As Covid dollars expire, CDPH will see a major reduction in funding. We have massive health inequities and significant known and unknown potential public health threats. Basic preparedness requires major investment in public health . New funding to CDPH should have some reasonable flexibility to both rebuild basic public health services & infrastructure while enabling responsiveness to new public health needs & threats.	Truman
	Addressing critical needs means meeting people where they're at. We should have street outreach workers, CARE teams, mental health clinics.	Truman
	Decrease spending to assist in funding these services. Preserve SRO's. Fund legal services (immigration, housing, domestic violence). No shelter evictions for recent arrivals. Treatment not trauma (non-police mental health crisis response). Cover gaps in social service coverage (healthcare, support for violent crime victims, etc.). Expanding definitions of homelessness to include doubled-up individuals, etc. Eliminating security at train stations.	Truman
	Dedicate substance funding to Family Connects Chicago (CDPH budget). Increase city investment in the Chicago Early learning workforce scholarship to close funding gap. Establish dedicated revenue to support the early care and education workforce. See: childrensfundingproject.org .	Truman
	Fully fund the recommendations of the mental health systems expansion working group!	Truman
	Investing in trauma focused mental health centers for emergency IOP, partial hospitalization that is accessible for low to no income. CBT & DBT standardization has been proven ineffective.	Truman
	Just cause for eviction, progressive taxes, permanent supportive housing, end Chi-Block Builder/DPD land sales office, end TIF expansions, pay city employees the housing wage, full funding for social housing, cooling center expansion, accessibility expansion, healthy homes proactive rental inspections.	Truman

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Public Health and Mental Health, continued	Look at New York's overdose prevention site and wellness hub - OnPoint. We need places for PWUD (people who use drugs) to go during the day and night so that they get the services they need.	Truman
	Mental health services need to be accessible. The center should be open and welcoming to the community.	Truman
	Need more family support on mental health, need childcare for all family so that working parents can provide for their families. We need more affordable housing also more police officers.	Truman
	Parents classes for parents for all ages. Kids are raising the parents not the other way around.	Truman
	Programs for mental peoples family help the family to understand not to set a mental person off.	Truman
	Put more programs out there to help the homeless and help the embassy bring programs for the immigrants.	Truman
	Shift funding fro CPD to CDPH to have a sobering center owned/ operated by the city. 24/7 care response team. Late night/weekend hours for mental health centers.	Truman
	Support (please!) of CAN Hope initiative to house a one stop shot for aduylt survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Chi- cago needs this model already implemented in other major cities. "Family Justice Center"	Truman
	The Chicago Department of Public Health needs a much larger appropriation of corporate fund dollars in order to fulfill its mission. My organization recommends an increase of \$25M additional corporate fund dollars for FY 2025 for CDPH to begin increasing funds, staffing and services to protect + improve public health.	Truman
	The city's investment in substance use services is significant and appreciated. However, the city should reinvest in substance use prevention, which saw reduced funding in 2024. Many gun-related deaths among youth are alcohol-related and drug use in teenage years, including marijuana, impairs cognitive development.	Truman
	"The Mayor said ""We want to get it right"". I'm glad to hear that goal. I'm very concerned about how CDPH will provide equitable mental health services without duplicating services in certain communities that already have community based BH (illegible). EX. MCRT and living room, already being provided on North side of City. How will this be coordinated so that residents know about the resources and yet they don't duplicate? I fully support these being placed in areas where there are gaps in care.	Truman
	Have the CDPH harm reduction vending machines"	
	There should be a bridge between the CARE and City operated mental health centers to help the person in crisis have access to long-term care at a MHC. CARE teams should be able to hub at the MHC's in the districts they're able to dispatch to. Having a 24/7 center for people to walk into but also have CARE handoff post-crisis - a 24/7 sobering center would help this as well.	Truman
	Water and air filters. Invest in local healthcare facilities.	Truman

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Youth Services	Invest in Childcare for All - to expand and open affordable child-care centers in childcare deserts on the South and West sides of Chicago.	Harold Washington
	Youth opportunities and programs (specifically underserved communities). Creating opportunities to build community within neighborhoods.	Harold Washington
	A good way to incorporate community voice would be to inform communities from all over the city about opportunities that allow them to express concern & needs. Year-long engagement especially for youth can help keep us in contact with these types of opportunities.	Harold Washington
	Equal opportunity in sports for all neighborhood.	Harold Washington
	More and longer sessions that prioritize youth voices	Harold Washington
	More ASM jobs that contribute to the community	Harold Washington
	More bedding at homeless shelters. More better paying jobs for youth. More mental health places teens can come to.	Harold Washington
	More funding for schools and boys/girls clubs	Harold Washington
	No more car tickets. Help kids find jobs	Harold Washington
	Provide more support for foster care. Take more time hiring and see if their heart is in the job or not. I feel as a kid in DCFS there is limited resources when it comes to kids getting out. Maybe we could come up with a way for the kids & staff to feel more supported.	Harold Washington
	Affordable childcare- more salary for daycare workers.	Kennedy-King
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "-Build relationships, offer mental health programs as they feel comfortable. -Mental health youth and adult center but 2 separate buildings. -Mental health program -After school matters/one summer Chicago paid to be taught about mental health and how to help others -Daily check ins, teachers, security guards -Teachers/parents that they feel have a kid going through some should have a mentor that does things with them outside of school that is both fun and educational. Mentor should also be able to get kids ed's in & out of school -Diff rooms for situations (physical, emotional, mental)" 	Kennedy-King
	-Daycare is very expensive and working families having a hard time	Kennedy-King
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "-Mental health class at school for students -Teachers check-in with students (ex: How are you feeling today) -Youth programs -Get young Black boys off the streets (persuade them with jobs) -Teach students about mental health at school -Every student should have a person they can console in, in the school -Different mental health clinics -Connect with social media platforms" 	Kennedy-King
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -mental health classes for students -more youth programs -It should be different age groups kids-teen-adults-elders -Teach kids about how important mental health is -More easy work programs for kids to work and get them out the streets. -Find them a trusted adult!!!" 	Kennedy-King
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "-Schools and youth groups can allow them to write down what they are feeling if they don't feel comfortable talking -Schools can gather students for a assembly to talk to them or have a speaker that has experienced things such as depression -Rage rooms may work also -Talk to a close friend -Teachers should build bonds with students and talk to them and be very understanding." 	Kennedy-King

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Youth Services, continued	"-Youth healthcare center -Mental health practiced in school very often -canvas at peoples doors talking to them about mental health and sharing mental health stories. -Getting mental health victims to share their stories at school, social media, and the mental health clinics Convince them that it is seniors and touch their heart!!! -Different gender groups in the mental health care clinics **In-terview people about what mental health is to them and they can experience it. -Dlfferent activities in the mental health clinic."	Kennedy-King
	I think the biggest thing is support and opportunities when kids are invested in through the right channels change can happen. People are fearful of doing things within the community and that needs change. There needs to be a shift in culture in coordination w/ young leaders.	Kennedy-King
	Private/public partnerships that provide opportunities for youth programs & engagement. Interdepartmental programs such as public safety creating prevention programs that support youth engagement in productive activities.	Kennedy-King
	". We need this to be brought to schools because that's where kids are 8 hours a day 2. We need a youth center for kids because that can really help these kids. 3. Kids should also have someone in school that they can talk to and be with 4. This needs to be talked about more and spoken to everyone so they know how to handle and go about mental health because how people really don't know much about it so the go about it the wrong way!"	Kennedy-King
) Childcare	Kennedy-King
	D) Opportunity for our youth, jobs, activities, programs redirecting from street activities	Kennedy-King
	Increase opportunities for graduates in regards to their pot-grad process.	Kennedy-King
	Mental health classes at school for students to engage and open up to people and become more comfortable in school, youth centers for people ages 8-18 with professional therapist to talk to youth and have teachers with mental health activities for youth public events that gaze people and youth attention so we can bring youth to centers. Professional people to help students in school that goes thru things or having a hard time with things. Public peace circles around the city for free to ask and check up and see if people that need additional help	Kennedy-King
	More funding for childcare.	Kennedy-King
	Now can we educate parents and people who work with youth on how to build relationships with them that are mutually respectful.	Kennedy-King
	Please invest more \$ in childcare. The city of Chicago has the opportunity to make this city a better place to be a parent, a kid, and a teacher! Childcare workers are very underpaid and overworked, they are leaving the field in droves. This leaves families and children with less access to care. Put more \$ into childcare so teachers can earn living wages for the important work they do.	Kennedy-King
	Vacant building, home ownership, more businesses (help with process) programs for at risk groups (youth, younger mothers, single mothers, prison population)	Kennedy-King

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Youth Services, continued	Parents are struggling to find affordable childcare in their communities, especially families with children with disabilities.	Malcolm X
	Bring music into after school programs baseball, soccer. Pay attention to childcare!	Malcolm X
	Additional \$5M for childcare. Raise wages for childcare workers.	Malcolm X
	"Childcare for all family and member. Thank you."	Malcolm X
	"Encourage youth to get involved in health building programs -Neighborhood and community programs -Piloting programs for financial literacy -Increase Garfield Park programs in languages other than English *dealing with communities (illegible) - violence, drugs, domestic violence (illegible) *Church program - music investment (illegible) *Cultural programs - department of family support (illegible) *arts program - funding for (illegible)"	Malcolm X
	Food Security: Develop community gardens, more foodbanks and nutritional educational programs. Partner with local farmers and businesses to increase fresh produce. Safe Spaces: build or renovate more community centers and recreational facilities. Create more programming for youth activities.	Malcolm X
	"How can we be effective in childcare? A. Relying on family members. B. Not enough childcare workers. C. Counseling."	Malcolm X
	I believe this can be achieved through several strategies: -enhanced transparency -inclusive outreach/expand outreach efforts -community forums & workshops (regular & structured) -participatory budgeting: implement participatory practices allowing community members to directly influence how a portion of the budget is spent. -advisory committees -youth engagement -feedback mechanism -capacity building -regular updates -equity assessments	Malcolm X
	More information on all opportunities/resources available, so that it is accessible to the communities. Example, I was unaware of the organizations involved with One Summer Chicago and only learned through word of mouth. Otherwise this information was not known which questions who is accessing resources.	Malcolm X
	more youth programs, more police in my area	Malcolm X
	Music on the schools, put money in grant for the school. Baseball, soccer programs	Malcolm X
	Please help with food taxes, paying people more so we can afford a place to live. I do not make enough money and I am a single first-time mother. I work 6 days a week and I cannot afford childcare. It takes a village and we need people to feel like they have dignity and that their voices and lives matter.	Malcolm X
	To make sure childcare provider and family get more funds to care for their family and kids.	Malcolm X
	More spaces for young parents to learn how to parent. Young mother's need mid-wives to teach them how to care for newborn. You men need angry management classes and parenting classes. Too many young parents and no education to become a parent. Public schools are not teaching the basics. Home economics, auto repair, welding or anything that would prepare them for life. That's why we need community based spaces and professionals who would take time for their community. Each community should offer services to help young parents. They are the work force we need. They need the help to achieve some kind of goal. Child care would be a start.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Youth Services, continued	Our recently arrived immigrant/refugee clients need help finding Transitional Housing/Financial support, Childcare Resources, Healthcare access, assistance finding jobs for non English speakers.	Online
	There should be a separate line item for this division in DPS, under the control of that Managing Deputy. So there is more opportunity to host various workshops, events in black community and hire more staff to handle the overwhelming volume of applicants/ applications to process and provide more training on how to bid and win more contracts. Provide partnerships with Primes & Subs. Develop means to discount bonding costs for the W/MBE's. Have all procurement contracts for all departments report into DPS - with the Managing Deputy staff, so they can be monitored fairly. Stop the monopoly of same contractors being used...give others that are qualified a chance. There is a MBE contractor who has an on-the-job training program that will put more young people to work in Aviation. You should bring him in an discuss the subject that he has used in other airports nationally — PSA Constructors Inc. Can we get an appointment with Mayor, Managing Deputy of Contract & Compliance, and ACEE representative. This is something that would bring jobs for the youth at little to no cost to the city.	Online
	Childcare centers need to have equitable funding, communities are in need of this services ans they should reallocate the necessary funding so staff and teachers can have liveable wages	Online
	Haymarket Center appreciates the City's investment in SUD services through grant programs like the Recovery Support Services and Linkage to Care and Treatment. We hope, however, that funding for substance use prevention among youth may be restored in the next year's budget. Alcohol use frequently plays a major role in gun deaths among minors and early initiation of drugs and alcohol, including cannabis, often leads to permanent developmental impairments among youth. Evidence-based prevention curricula can be effective in mitigating these costs.	Online
	I suggest a vacancy tax to all the empty buildings to collect money to support rental programs, homeless prevention, and mental heath care. We need to have a more competitive salary to afford to live in Chicago. Raise the minimum wage for the city to match the Housing Wage so the working class as a whole can afford to live in our communities with us. So residents can afford housing, health care, and education. Investing more youth programs, I see programs like afterschool matters and one summer Chicago are doing great helping our youth to grow professionally and personally, but this program has a limit that leave a lot of youth without options. Promote more alternative education like technic carrers, short courses to prep for employment. Invest in underserved neighborhood to help every resident to build roots and love their community. Development without displacement. We need more affordable housing that is accessible to the needs of the most needed communities that have been marginalized for decades. We need to reinvent our neighborhood to heal and preserve their culture. Invest in arts and cultural programs. Support local artist with grants and marketing to promote their skills and encourage new artist to pursue a carrer in arts. We need local artists, that is the most rich reflect of a neighborhood. STOP the TIF expansion. We do not need to add more burden to our small landlords and tenants that are struggling to pay already what are they paying. Tax the rich to stop gentrification and protect our bungalows and beautiful neighborhoods. Support Northwest Preservative Ordinance to protect Logan Square, Hermosa, and Avondale from developments that are destroying our community. We want that the residents stay here, they are an important part of our community and are the ones that keep our communities stronger. We need clean energy communities, I demand at least \$135 million for the Social Housing Revolving Fund.	Online

Topic	Comment / Feedback	Event
Youth Services, continued	My name is Nayla Hale and I have a community bikeshop called South Shore Bicycle Works LWCA. We offer community/youth programming on bike safety, bike tours connecting communities, and marshaling services to keep people safe on already existing rides. This business is a cooperative so there are 4 owners who are all equal owners based on the Southeast side of Chicago. We'd like to be in partnership with the city of giving free bikes away for our community members amongst the 19,000+ who deserve the liberation and community biking may bring them. We'd also like financial support to hire and train our community members to expand our youth and community programming safety initiatives throughout all marginalized communities of Chicago. We'd like some support from the city to become a community development hub using biking as our vehicle for connection, growth, and liberation's first steps. This looks like a \$50,000 - \$1,000,000 investment from the city in which the funds would used to acquire city owned land in South Shore, development of land to community development space (similar to west side community development spaces with green spaces like BUILD inc, Equiticity, and Building Brighter Futures: Center for the Arts), payment of employees salaries only for first year, and materials needed to begin programming like quality bikes, helmets, locks, and lights for all schools, nonprofits, and organizations we'd do programming with. Thank you for reading this idea and for your time and consideration!	Online
	Regular, dedicated funding for capital improvements on a rolling deadline application. Arts companies build infrastructure - both physical and social/cultural-that improves the community. Funding/support for artist benefits (health/medical/dental) with attainable and reasonable requirements. Broader support for arts education and performance, to support in-school programs threatened by municipal cutbacks.	Online
	Services such as SEL programs and youth workforce development programs have youth mental health prevention potential. Continued investment in youth enrichment should be prioritized.	Online
	The budget for childcare should be increased, it is a vital necessity for working families.	Online
	We need more investment in the west side. That means infrastructure- SAFE DRINKING WATER, roads, safe crossing street intersections, alleys, adequate lighting, green spaces; local businesses- more grocery stores, pet stores, coffee shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues; reliable and safe public transportation. Please invest in boarded up, empty buildings or overgrown lots; this breeds neighborhood discontent, people see that their government is not interested in them and they loose hope. We need more activities for the kids, ALL YEAR LONG AND LARGER SCALE. We cant be fighting over a few slots. INVEST IN OUR KIDS and in return you will see the benefits. It will take time but we have to start somewhere and sooner than later. This isn't anything new. We just need MORE RESOURCES. We have individuals with long history of violent crime still on the streets. My block has had two shootings in the last year, with casualties. That's just one block, we hear gun shots all night long. When we call police no one shows up, why would they? Their efforts are futile, the same people will be out the next day. We have are constantly threatened or offered drugs. We don't have enough police presence or support for the victims and the perpetrators. I'm sure no one wants to put themselves in danger every day selling drugs on the corner, but they have nothing else to look forward to.	Online

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2025

UIC Great Cities Institute

