



# Neighborhood Revitalization

## Ask and Ye Shall Receive: Predicting the Successful Appeal of Property Tax Assessments in Cook County

How does the relative lack of comparable sales in a neighborhood influence the frequency of property assessment appeal applications and their likelihood of success? Using a data set of appeals applications submitted and decided in Chicago between 1998 and 2003, we estimate the probability of successful appeals for residentially zoned property (e.g., vacant land, single-family homes) as a function of market activity and relevant independent variables. We are interested in testing the hypothesis that appeals are both more common and more successful in thicker markets where information about comparable sales is readily available. Even though the appeals process is intended to improve valuation practices and enhance the perceived fairness of the system, it can exacerbate a lack of assessment uniformity if appeals activity and success are correlated with other neighborhood and site-specific attributes (such as the frequency of area sales or underlying land values).

We are working with the Cook County Assessor to improve property tax administration systems as well as the revenue projections of overlapping jurisdictions dependent on a property tax base whose value is increasingly hard to pin down due to refunds from appealed tax bills.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Policy Program  
UIC Department of Economics  
Cook County Office of the Assessor  
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

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### Dates Active:

2002–2003

## Burnham Comprehensive Retail Plan

The City Design Center's Urban Business Districts Program combines the Center's multi-disciplinary expertise in urban design and community economic development to provide innovative strategies for communities to enhance their disinvested retail districts. The Burnham project was the third project in this program. The Center worked in conjunction with a graduate-level urban planning studio course on plans for three commercial areas in the Village of Burnham, Illinois. The Comprehensive Retail Plan described innovative strategies to enhance the form and function of Burnham's commercial districts to create a sense of "place" in the community.

### Partners:

UIC Architecture and the Arts  
Village of Burnham, Illinois

### Contacts:

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### Dates Active:

2005–2006

## Business Development Assistance Database

Creation of a database containing business, real estate, and demographic information for use in identifying new market opportunities in the Englewood neighborhood.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

New Englewood Village Corporation  
(NEVCorp)

United States Department of Commerce

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*(see also Business and  
Entrepreneurial Development)*

## The Chicago Greystone in Historic North Lawndale

Greystone residential buildings are one of North Lawndale's most significant historical and architectural assets. Most Greystones in North Lawndale are more than eighty years old and in need of rehabilitation. As part of the Chicago Historic Greystone Initiative®, a program launched by the Neighborhood Housing Services to preserve Greystones in North Lawndale, the City Design Center is publishing a guidebook for the preservation and renovation of Greystone residential buildings in North Lawndale. With the aid of this guidebook, Greystone owners will be able to restore and maintain the architectural integrity of their homes, and thus help preserve the historical character of their neighborhoods. According to Charles Leeks, Executive Director of the North Lawndale branch of Neighborhood Housing Services, the guidebook will help "enhance a sense of 'pride of place' for North Lawndale residents."

The guidebook is being published in two volumes: Part 1 in the summer of 2006, Part 2 in the summer of 2007. The first volume, *The Chicago Greystone in Historic North Lawndale*, includes articles on Greystones and their historical contexts, profiles of Greystone owners, and a guide to researching the history of individual homes. The second volume, *Renovating the Historic North Lawndale Greystone*, will focus on the technical aspects of inspecting, maintaining and restoring Greystones. It will include guidelines for exterior and interior renovations to preserve historic character and support energy conservation, while meeting the needs of today's families.

### Partners:

Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago

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### Dates Active:

November 2005–August 2007

*(see also Urban Infrastructure  
Improvement)*

## Chicago Historic Greystone Pilot Initiative Planning Phase

Former City Design Center Co-Director and Assistant Professor Brent D. Ryan along with Professor Robert Bruegmann carried out research necessary for the planning phase of the Chicago Historic Greystone Initiative. The program, funded by the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, included significant research into the history and typology of North Lawndale's remaining century-old greystone homes. The research helped the Initiative's advisory board to determine the scope and parameters of this historic preservation effort that would also promote greystones as a means to further cultivate Lawndale's unique historic and cultural legacy.

### Partners:

UIC Architecture and the Arts

Civic Committee of the Commercial  
Club of Chicago

Neighborhood Housing Services

of Chicago, North Lawndale Branch

Richard H. Driehaus Foundation

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### Dates Active:

2004–2005

## Chicago Project for Violence Prevention/CeaseFire

CeaseFire is a strategic community-based effort to stop shootings and killings through street-level outreach, public education, and community mobilization. This includes youth violence, gang violence, family and partner violence, elder abuse, sexual assault and rape, and child abuse. The project concentrates on rooting out crime's underlying causes and on methods of intervention, helping communities to strengthen themselves by providing outreach workers, guiding materials, and training materials. The project collaborates with law enforcement, clergy outreach, youth outreach, public education, and community mobilization to create CeaseFire Zones.

The project is supported by private foundation grants and with local, state, and federal funds. The project is housed at the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

### Partners:

UIC Public Health

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Alliance of Logan Square Organizations

AT&T Inc.

Baxter International, Inc.

Bethel New Life, Inc.

BP Foundation

Chicago Community Trust

Chicago Police Department

Chicago Public Schools

Chicago Transit Authority

Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce

Community Renewal Society

Deloitte Consulting LLP

DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary

Dominick's Finer Foods, LLC

Draft, Inc.

Edelman

Equis Corporation

Executives Club of Chicago Inc.

Field Trip Factory

Greater North Michigan Avenue Association

Humboldt Park Ministerial Association

Illinois Arts Council (IAC)

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

Illinois Department of Corrections

Illinois Violence Prevention Authority

John Buck Company

K. Andre Consulting

Kraft Foods Inc.

Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital

MidSouth Planning and Development

Commission

Nia Enterprises, LLC

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### Dates Active:

1995—present

(see also *Violence Prevention*)

Northeastern Illinois University,

Center for Inner City Studies

Northern Trust Corporation

Office of the Governor (Illinois),

Bureau of Technology and  
Industrial Competitiveness

Peoples Energy Corporation

Prairie Consulting Group, LLC

Prologue, Inc.

Southwest Organizing Project

TARGET Area Development Corporation

West Humboldt Park Development Council

WGCI

WGN-TV

Wilhelm and Conlin, Public Strategies

WLS-TV

Working in the Schools

## Chicago Rehab Network Partnership to Study Rental Housing Market

Voorhees Center partnered with Chicago Rehab Network to assess Chicago rental housing market using 2000 data.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Chicago Rehabilitation Network, Inc.

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(see also *Urban Infrastructure  
Improvement*)

# City Design Center

The City Design Center is a multi-disciplinary design, research, education and service program in the College of Architecture and the Arts. Its mission is to advocate for and apply the principle of 'quality design for all.' The Center was founded on the conviction that high quality design and planning at all scales of the built environment are meaningful and necessary components of an equitable and sustainable society. Simply put, good design should be a part of every citizen's daily life. The Center's work, in all its forms, therefore seeks to advance the availability of design knowledge, especially in communities where such expertise has traditionally been inaccessible.

As a public university-based program, the Center is in a unique position to support democratic design. Universities are critical resources for evidence-based design information—ideas that are grounded in research and evaluated practices. Universities also are in a position to be 'fair brokers' of design ideas in the hotly contested debate about metropolitan spatial change.

To achieve its objectives, the Center engages in a diverse range of activities, especially focused on affordable housing, community design and planning, and business district revitalization.

## Partners:

UIC Architecture and the Arts  
UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs  
Agency Metropolitan Program Services (AMPS)  
Argonne National Laboratory  
Association House of Chicago  
Bethel New Life, Inc.  
Beverly Area Planning Association (BAPA)  
Cabrini Green Homes Local Advisory Council  
Casa Central Corporation  
Center for Neighborhood Technology  
Chicago Community Development Corporation  
Chicago Department of Housing  
Chicago Department of Planning and Development  
Chicago Housing Authority  
Chicago Public Schools  
Chicago Rehabilitation Network Inc.  
Chinese American Development Corporation  
Chinese American Service League (CASL)  
City of Chicago  
City of Shenyang (China) Bureau of Urban Planning and Land Management  
City of Whiting, Indiana  
DevCorp North  
Edbrooke Block Club  
Eighteenth Street Development Corporation (ESDC)

Erie Neighborhood House  
Fannie Mae Foundation  
Field Museum of Natural History  
Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts  
Greater North Pulaski Development Corporation  
HICA Corporation of North Lawndale  
Humboldt Park Economic Development Corporation  
Humboldt Park Empowerment Partnership  
Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity  
Lake/Kinzie Industrial Leadership Council  
Landon Bone Baker Architects  
Lawndale Business and Local Development Corporation (LBLDC)  
Lawndale Christian Development Corporation (LCDC)  
Lawndale Heritage Lincoln Institute of Land Policy  
M. Arthur Gensler Jr. & Associates, Inc.  
Malcolm X College, Marcy Newberry Association Metropolitan Planning Council  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Near Northwest Neighborhoods Network  
Near Westside Community Development Corporation (NWSCDC)  
Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago, Inc.  
Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission

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## Dates active:

1995—present

(see also *Arts and Culture, Urban Infrastructure Improvement*)

Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago Teachers' Center  
Openlands Project  
Pulaski Eisenhower Arthington Commercial Enterprise (PEACE)  
Resurrection Project  
Richard H. Driehaus Foundation  
Shenyang Urban Construction Committee  
Skidmore Owings and Merrill, LLP  
Steans Family Foundation  
Telpochcalli Community Education Project  
US Department of Agriculture, Forest Services, North Central Research Station  
Urban Planning Society of China  
Urban Resources Partnership  
Village of Burnham, Illinois  
Village of Wilmette, Illinois  
Village of Worth, Illinois  
Washington University in St. Louis  
West Side 2000 Development Corporation  
West Side Consortium  
West Town Leadership United  
Wilmette Historic Preservation Commission  
Windows of Opportunity  
Woods Fund of Chicago  
Youth Services Project, Inc.

## Community Futures Networking System

Facilitate community involvement in planning through the implementation of digital technologies, including mobile collaborative planning tools, interactive multimedia kiosks and information repository.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

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(see also *Urban Infrastructure Improvement*)

## Community Technology Centers

Focusing on the ABLA Homes neighborhood, tech centers focus on four program areas: increasing Internet access for community residents; new equipment to improve education, employment and community development at the partner organizations; professional development for organization staff; and new organization Web sites.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Gads Hill Center

Westside Employment Education Center

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## East Garfield Park Comprehensive Retail and Urban Design Plan

Forty years of disinvestment and deterioration have left the shopping areas of the East Garfield Park neighborhood of Chicago without the stores and structures that would serve the community with goods, services and jobs. In 2005, this West Side community completed a quality of life plan as a part of LISC Chicago's New Communities Program. One of the chief strategies of this plan was to "re-establish Madison Street as the community's 'Main Street.'"

In January of 2006, the two chambers of commerce that serve East Garfield Park partnered together to commission the City Design Center to prepare a Comprehensive Retail and Urban Design Plan to revitalize Madison Street and the other shopping areas of the community. This planning initiative seeks to identify specific redevelopment strategies and incorporate community participation into the process.

To guide the process and ensure that the needs and perspectives of the community were represented, the chambers of commerce convened a steering committee of neighborhood ministers, block club captains, business owners, city and elected officials and other stakeholders. This committee, called ROADMAP (Retail Opportunities And Design, the Madison Advisory Partnership) worked to organize and facilitate three public meetings, and design and carry out several early action projects. This steering committee's work served to ground the City Design Center's research and recommendations in local community experience. The ultimate result of this collaboration will be a plan that provides strategies to achieve a community-based vision for future retail opportunity.

### Partners:

The New Communities Program of the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance

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### Dates Active:

January 2006 – July 2007

(see also *Urban Infrastructure Improvement*)

## Embedded Philanthropy in North Lawndale

This project studies the involvement of foundations that are engaged in specific communities at very deep levels of engagement. The Steans Family Foundation has been supporting a broad range of activities in the North Lawndale neighborhood for the past twenty years. The project examines the nature and extent of that 'embeddedness' in an effort to better understand the long term impacts of this model of philanthropic involvement in communities.

### Partners:

Steans Family Foundation  
Richard J. Cline Foundation

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Institute

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### Dates Active:

Fall 2006—present

## Evaluation of Intensive Technical Assistance in Support of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Outreach

Formative evaluation of technical assistance provided to community organizations and coalitions in four cities in Florida, Missouri, and Delaware.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs  
Center for Economic Progress  
Gateway EITC Community Coalition  
Human Services Coalition of Dade County, Inc.  
National Community Tax Coalition  
Nehemiah (DE) Gateway Community  
Development Corporation  
Opa-Locka (FL) Community Development  
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(see also *Urban Infrastructure  
Improvement*)

## First-Year Writing Program

Writing classes at UIC ask students to participate in ongoing conversations about vitally important academic and public issues. A student's ability to conceptualize, articulate, and craft a response or an argument is key to a successful undergraduate education at UIC. Conducted as seminars, each of the two required first-year classes focuses its reading, writing and discussion on a specific topic such as immigration, literacy, urban planning, public art, public housing, personal identity, or globalization. Writing about critical social issues helps us see that writing has consequences; it is a way of getting things done in the world. Writing classes at UIC emphasize both the importance of writing in making a contribution to the larger society and the need to be able to write clearly and correctly.

### Partners:

UIC Liberal Arts and Sciences

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(see also *Undergraduate Support*)

## Full Circle Project

In this three year project, community-based organizations and local residents will participate in creating detailed maps of their neighborhoods, and in planning future development. Web technologies enable both the data-gathering and visioning phases. This neighborhood planning effort will feed directly into future neighborhood development processes. The Full Circle Project has three key objectives: to represent local concerns within the planning process, to use technology tools for asset mapping and community visioning, and building ongoing relationships between communities and regional planners. The Voorhees Center will manage the evaluation of the project.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs  
Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission

### Contacts:

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## Great Cities Urban Data Visualization Lab

The goal of the Great Cities Urban Data Visualization Program is to establish a high-tech urban/regional data retrieval and computer visualization capacity that will serve UIC faculty, students, and external public and community agencies.

The program will 1) assemble, maintain, and arrange for access to a large number of databases relating to community and economic development and housing; 2) provide a range of pro-active and demand-responsive information services, focusing on disaggregated community and regional data; and 3) support and conduct research and teaching advancing the state of the art in the field of urban and regional data visualization and data access. The project will benefit public and not-for-profit agencies in the Chicago region and the state by enhancing their ability to access and use data related to economic and community development.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

### Contacts:

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Urban Data Visualization Lab  
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### Dates Active:

1998—present  
*(see also Urban Infrastructure  
Improvement)*

## A Great City Online: A Study of the Internet's Impact on Chicago's Neighborhoods

Steve Jones, currently head of the Communications Department in LAS, spent 2002-2003 as a fellow in the Great Cities Institute. The GCI project was based on previous work for the Pew Internet and American Life Project. The goal of the research was to better understand the conditions "on the ground" that have an impact on both the ability of Internet technology to connect citizens to their local communities, and on the ability of CTCs to enhance community development.

### Partners:

UIC Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Pew Internet & American Life Project

### Contacts:

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### Dates Active:

2002—2003  
*(see also Urban Infrastructure  
Improvement)*

## Greater Lawndale/Little Village High School for Social Justice

Serves Latino and African American students in a new small school. UIC faculty members were on the design team and currently teach courses there.

### Partners:

UIC Education  
Chicago Public Schools  
Crib Collective  
Lawndale Christian Development Corporation (LCDC)  
Little Village Community Development Corporation  
YMCA

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### Dates active:

2003—present  
(see also *Education Innovation*)

## Green Neighborhood Design Studio

The City of Chicago Department of Environment approached the UIC City Design Center in the Spring of 2006 about developing studio-based investigations of sustainable neighborhood design for the Garfield Park neighborhood. The goal of the overall Green Neighborhood Design Studio is to produce innovative design and planning proposals that explore, question, and respond to the notion of “green urbanism” in the Chicago, Garfield Park, and site context. Various City of Chicago Departments, the UIUC Department of Landscape Architecture, the UIC Department of Architecture and Urban Planning and Policy Program are all participants in the Studio.

### Partners:

UIC School of Architecture  
Department of Landscape Architecture (UIUC)

### Contacts:

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Email: rmf@uic.edu

### Dates active:

September 2006—May 2007  
(see also *Environmental Protection*)

## Greystone Renovation in North Lawndale

The City Design Center, in partnership with Landon Bone Baker Architects, provided research and architectural services to the Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago for their renovation a model Greystone in North Lawndale. The model Greystone is a two-flat located to be deconverted into a single family home.

The Center researched appropriate renovation and preservation techniques and materials, and prepared presentation and construction documents for the project. The project demonstrated the value added by involving architects in Greystone renovations. The project also provided two architecture graduate students with a unique service educational experience: they had the opportunity to work on an affordable housing renovation from “start to finish,” and thoroughly document the entire process.

### Partners:

Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago

### Contacts:

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### Dates Active:

May 2006—May 2007  
(see also *Urban Infrastructure Improvement*)

## Hope VI Near North Redevelopment Plan for Cabrini-Green

Major redevelopment activities have begun in the Cabrini-Green public housing development as part of a HOPE VI Revitalization Plan. As stipulated in the Consent Decree in *Cabrini-Green Local Advisory Council v. Chicago Housing Authority*, et al., the Cabrini-Green Local Advisory Council is participating as an active partner.

The Cabrini-Green LAC selected the UIC City Design Center and the UIC Nathalie P. Voorhees Center to work as their development advisor/consultant in the implementation of the Near North Redevelopment Initiative. The City Design Center is providing its expertise in affordable housing design and community participation, while the Voorhees Center is assisting with organizational and real estate development skills. The UIC team is helping to ensure that the Cabrini-Green LAC plays a meaningful role as both co-developer and as a member of the Working Group overseeing redevelopment in the entire Near North Redevelopment Area. In addition, the UIC team is assisting residents to understand the land use and real estate development process, and site architectural design processes.

### Partners:

UIC Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for  
Community and Neighborhood Improvement  
Cabrini-Green Local Advisory Council  
Development Corporation

### Contacts:

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**Dates Active:**  
April 2002–August 2006

## Housing and Land Inventory in Humboldt Park

Demographic and housing survey of Humboldt Park.

### Partners:

Chicago Community Trust  
Latin United Community Housing Association

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(see also *Urban Infrastructure  
Improvement*)

## Illinois Assisted Housing Action Research Project (IHARP)

IHARP is the first comprehensive database of assisted and public housing units in the city of Chicago and the entire state of Illinois, including housing owned and managed by private and non-profit developers. The database contains information about number of units, income levels of residents, location, rent levels, sponsoring agency, developer, management companies, and funding sources. Originally a development partner, UIC now provides database maintenance.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs  
Latinos United, Polk Bros. Foundation  
Statewide Housing Action Coalition

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(see also *Urban Infrastructure  
Improvement*)

# Improving Economic Opportunities for Latino Workers on Chicago's South Side

Neighborhood strategic planning process to identify economic development and workforce development priorities for the Latino Organization of the Southwest.

## Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs  
Chicago Community Trust  
Latino Organization of the Southwest  
United States Department of Commerce

## Contacts:

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*(see also Workforce Development)*

# Learning from North Lawndale

The Learning from North Lawndale exhibition opened at the Chicago Architecture Foundation on September 20th and closed November 15th. Structured around eight themes that are characteristic of any neighborhood—institutions, entertainment, parks and gardens, transportation and commerce, religion, industry, housing, and people—and two themes unique to North Lawndale—lost Lawndale and movements, the exhibit conveyed the general character of the neighborhood, while highlighting aspects of the neighborhood's history that make it nationally significant.

One of the densest communities in Chicago for much of its early history, North Lawndale is an archive of early 20th century American architecture. The exhibition interweaves the community's many stories and chronicles its transition from a predominately Jewish community to a vibrant African American community. Over 100 images illustrate the community's stately greystone homes, elegant parks and gardens, synagogues and churches, and impressive civic structures. These buildings have hosted significant historic events and individuals. Benny Goodman, Golda Meir, Otis Rush, Dinah Washington, and Dr. King all called Lawndale home at one point. Other exhibit highlights include: Sears, Roebuck and Company, whose world headquarters were once in North Lawndale; Route 66, one of North Lawndale's and the nation's most celebrated roads; one of the nation's first luxury movie palaces; and the blues music known as the "West Side Sound," which originated there. In celebrating North Lawndale's rich historic and architectural legacy, this exhibition illustrates the importance of memory, community reflection, and pride of place among today's North Lawndale residents who want to preserve their heritage, while exploring new possibilities for growth.

## Partners:

Chicago Architecture Foundation  
Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago,  
North Lawndale Office  
Lawndale Heritage  
Chicago Architectural Club

## Contacts:

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## Dates active:

January 2006—August 2006  
*(see also Arts and Culture)*

## Liberty City Business District Survey

Survey of existing business in Miami's oldest African American neighborhood with the goal of assisting in development of anti-gentrification strategies.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs  
Florida International University  
Miami Workers Center

### Contacts:

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## Massive Change Charrette

Recognizing the need for vibrant and sustainable urban neighborhoods, the UIC City Design Center and Toronto Design Exchange co-hosted a charrette addressing the importance of design and integrative thinking in transforming urban communities. Six teams of graduate design students from Toronto and the University of Illinois will propose youth-oriented solutions for the west side Garfield Park neighborhood using philosophies learned from designer Bruce Mau's Massive Change theory and exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary Art. An international jury of sustainable design experts reviewed the charrette entries.

The Massive Change Charrette builds from Bruce Mau's exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary Art and the sister city arrangement with the City of Toronto. This Charrette, facilitated by Bruce Mau and Brent Ryan, focused on sustainability and social responsibility to address a site in the Garfield Park neighborhood of Chicago. Student teams composed of members from Toronto and Chicago were asked to apply guidelines learned from Massive Change theory and the messages derived from the City Global Visionaries symposium.

### Partners:

UIC UIC School of Architecture	Chicago Architecture Foundation
Toronto Design Exchange	Chicago Sister Cities Program
UIUC	Canadian Architect Magazine

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### Dates Active:

November 2006

## Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement

The mission of the Voorhees Center is to improve the quality of life for all residents of the metropolitan area. The Center assists community, civic, and government agencies to revitalize the many and varied neighborhoods in the Chicago area. The Center specializes in affordable housing and community development. Projects include public housing policy, housing development financing, commercial development, needs assessments, market feasibility, and impact analysis.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

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### Dates Active:

1978–present

## Near North Redevelopment Plan

Major redevelopment activities have begun in the Cabrini-Green public housing development as part of the HOPE VI Revitalization Plan for the Cabrini-Green Extension. The Cabrini-Green Local Advisory Council selected the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center and the City Design Center to work as their development advisor/consultant in the implementation of the Near North Redevelopment Initiative. The UIC team's role is to ensure that the Cabrini-LAC plays a meaningful role as both co-developer and as a member of the Working Group overseeing redevelopment in the entire Near North Redevelopment Area.

### Partners:

UIC Architecture and the Arts  
UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

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**Dates Active:**  
2002–2006

## New Directions

The New Directions grant addresses two urgent needs currently facing residents from the North Lawndale community, which is part of the West Empowerment Zone/Enterprising Communities Cluster: the need for leaner, stronger, more savvy community organizations to serve the many low-income residents; and 2) need for affordable and accessible housing in North Lawndale.

### Partners:

UIC Applied Health Sciences	UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
UIC Center for Urban Economic Development	Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago
UIC Great Cities Institute	Chicago Rehabilitation Network, Inc.
UIC Liberal Arts and Sciences	North Lawndale Community News
UIC Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement	North Lawndale Employment Network
UIC Public Administration	Steans Family Foundation
	United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

### Contacts:

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**Dates Active:**  
Fall 2004–Spring 2007

## North Avenue Street Beautification Plan

The City Design Center provided technical and design assistance to the Humboldt Park Economic Development Corporation in developing a strategic plan and design recommendations to revitalize the North Avenue commercial corridor. Through participatory community workshops, the CDC worked with area residents to develop design strategies that included enhancing pedestrian safety, developing green spaces and attractive streetscape features, and creating a neighborhood identity to support revitalization and future growth.

### Partners:

UIC Architecture and the Arts  
Humboldt Park Economic  
Development Corporation  
West Town Leadership United

### Contacts:

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**Dates active:**  
2002

*(see also Business and  
Entrepreneurial Development)*

## Northwest Highway Business Corridor Study

In the Fall of 2006, the UIC City Design Center provided technical assistance to help a task force of the Norwood Park Chamber of Commerce and Industry complete a revitalization plan for the Northwest Highway shopping corridor in the Norwood Park neighborhood of Chicago. This technical assistance included a parking assessment, a neighborhood inventory and the development of maps and visuals for the plan document.

In the Spring of 2007, the City Design Center hosted a UPP studio course around the topic of implementing revitalization plans for retail districts. This course was conducted in concert with on-going technical assistance to the Norwood Park Chamber around implementing the district plan. The course included graduate planning students and members of the Norwood Park Chamber of Commerce and examined theories, methods and tools for plan implementation as they apply to communities like Norwood Park.

### Partners:

Norwood Park Chamber of Commerce  
and Industry

### Contacts:

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**Dates active:**  
November 2006—May 2007

*(see also Business and  
Entrepreneurial Development)*

## Pilsen Evaluation Project

Evaluation of the Plaza design project in Pilsen.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs  
Resurrection Project

### Contacts:

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## Program Evaluation for Historic Chicago Greystone Initiative

The City Design Center is conducting a multi-year evaluation of the Historic Chicago Greystone Initiative. The evaluation will provide quantitative and qualitative evidence of the program's impact in its first five years of operation. It will measure the effectiveness of the Greystone Initiative.

The evaluation will measure the Greystone Initiative's impact and effectiveness using several different methods that track the program's evolution from start-up to full implementation. Main components of the evaluation will include: a) assessment of the community's image, both internally and externally; b) documentation of program communication strategies, marketing tools, and public education programs; c) assessment of program design and implementation outcomes; and d) analysis of economic impact and community revitalization.

Findings from this evaluation could provide data that would both inform and influence policy makers and researchers working in the field of neighborhood economic revitalization. The evaluation would be a valuable source of information about the Greystone Initiative as a replicable model, as well as historic heritage as a strategy for rebuilding other economically disadvantaged areas. The evaluation will also help program administrators understand what modifications may be needed to improve the program's impact.

### Partners:

Neighborhood Housing Services  
of Chicago

### Contacts:

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### Dates Active:

June 2006—June 2011

## Puerto Rican Chicago

Multi-disciplinary, ethnographic study of the Puerto Rican neighborhoods in Chicago. The study frames Puerto Ricans within a backdrop of other Latinos and groups in the city.

### Partners:

UIC Liberal Arts and Sciences

DePaul University

Illinois State University

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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### Dates active:

2004—present

(see also *Arts and Culture*)

## Pulaski Streetscape Research and Design Assistance

The HICA Corporation of North Lawndale requested the assistance of the City Design Center to develop urban design strategies for revitalizing a four-block section of Pulaski Avenue between Fifth Avenue and Taylor Street. After consulting with local community leaders and business owners, the CDC team proposed an alternative approach: instead of developing strategies for the entire four-block corridor, a node along the north end of the corridor should be developed to create a magnet for future development.

### Partners:

UIC Architecture and the Arts  
Chicago Department of Planning and Development  
Neighborhood Division  
HICA Corporation of North Lawndale  
Pulaski Eisenhower Arthington Commercial Enterprise (PEACE)

### Contacts:

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**Dates Active:**  
2002

## REACH 2010/Lawndale Health Promotion Project

Sponsored by the Chicago Department of Public Health and funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the REACH 2010/Lawndale Health Promotion Project (LHPP) is a coalition of North and South Lawndale organizations, businesses, health service providers and residents that work together to promote healthy lifestyles in their communities. LHPP's mission is to eliminate health disparities by reducing and preventing illnesses linked to type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular related diseases among African Americans and Hispanics. The Division of Community Health partners with the Chicago Department of Public Health, University of Chicago and Loyola University to oversee evaluation activities for the REACH 2010 project. Activities include: Community Peer Educator Training, Health Care Provider Education, Community Coalition Development and Assessment, Community assessment, Community resident risk and knowledge assessment, University/Community Evaluation Committee.

### Partners:

UIC College of Nursing	Chicago Department of Public Health
UIC Department of Sociology	University of Chicago
UIC Department of Anthropology	Loyola University
Lawndale Health Promotion Community Council	

### Contacts:

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**Dates Active:**  
2003—present

*(see also Health and Wellness,  
Healthcare for At-Risk Populations)*

## Rogers Park Comprehensive Retail Plan— Urban Business Districts Program

This participatory planning project identified feasible strategies to revitalize two commercial corridors in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago. Over the course of a year the City Design Center held community meetings, conducted surveys and gathered data about the retail districts. The City Design Center's final plan outlined priority areas for intervention and a practical approach to improving the appearance of the district and attracting new stores.

### Partners:

UIC Architecture and the Arts  
DevCorp North

### Contacts:

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### Dates Active:

2004–2005  
*(see also Business and  
Entrepreneurial Development)*

## South Side Market Study

Project assessing retail and commercial opportunities on Chicago's south side (Empowerment Zone Funding).

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

### Contacts:

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*(see also Business and  
Entrepreneurial Development)*

## State of Affordable Housing in the Chicago Region in the Next Decade

Research project assessing the state of affordable housing in the Chicago region in the next decade.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs  
Chicago Rehabilitation Network, Inc.  
Latinos United  
Statewide Housing Action Coalition  
Woods Fund of Chicago

### Contacts:

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*(see also Workforce Development)*

## Sustained Involvement/Technical Support for Previously Established Community Technology Centers

Through UIC graduate students, UICNI sustains involvement and technical support for community technology centers in partnership with the Gads Hill Center, Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, Renacer Westside Community Network, Westside Education and Employment Center, North Lawndale Community News, and the North Lawndale Employment Network.

Sustained involvement for established Community Technology Centers is provided by the UIC Neighborhoods Initiative, which operates through the Great Cities Institute in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs  
Gads Hill Center  
Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum  
North Lawndale Community News  
North Lawndale Employment Network  
Renacer Westside Community Network, Inc.  
West Side Education and  
Employment Center

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### Dates active:

2001–present

(see also *Arts and Culture*)

## UIC Neighborhoods Initiative (UICNI)

The UIC Neighborhoods Initiative exists to create, nurture and sustain long-term community/university relationships. For the University, the UICNI maintains a consistent presence in the community. For the community, the NI facilitates direct community access to information and resources. UICNI encourages and sustains a supportive environment for productive dialogue and through active intervention addresses communication barriers inherent in diverse community, racio-ethnic and institutional cultures.

The UIC Neighborhoods Initiative is a program of the Great Cities Institute in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs  
Chicago Public Schools  
City of Chicago  
Eighteenth Street Development Corporation  
(ESDC)  
Marcy-Newberry Association  
Near Westside Community Development  
Corporation (NWSCDC)  
Resurrection Project  
US Department of Housing and  
Urban Development

### Contacts:

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## United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Urban Developers Program

Professional education program offered in partnership with the Chicago Rehab Network, a twenty year-old trade association for non-profit housing development corporations. UDP trains community development organization staff to undertake housing development.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs  
Chicago Rehabilitation Network, Inc.

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## Urban Gang Research

GCI fellow and criminal justice associate professor John Hagedorn researches urban violence, gangs, and the redivision of space in Chicago. Hagedorn also looks at institutionalized gangs in Chicago and how they are similar to gangs in Third World cities, like Rio de Janeiro and Cape Town. A major focus of his work is how gentrification influences violence and why rates of violence vary so widely between cities.

### Partners:

UIC Liberal Arts and Sciences  
UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

### Contacts:

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(see also Violence Prevention)

## US-China Housing Exchange

The City Design Center, together with partner organizations in China organized the Design Matters: US-China Affordable Housing Exchange conference in Shenyang, China in September 2004. The conference addressed cross-cultural comparisons of housing design, planning and policy in China and the United States. An exhibit and catalog of exemplary housing development from cities throughout China accompanied the conference. Following the conference, the U. S. speakers were invited by the Mayor of Shenyang to review and comment on the city's five-year master plan.

As a follow up to the conference, an eight-member delegation of architects and planners, led by Wang Jian, Commissioner of the Shenyang Planning and Land Resource Bureau visited Chicago in December 2004. The delegation participated in a seminar hosted by the City Design Center.

### Partners:

UIC Architecture and the Arts  
City of Shenyang (China), Bureau of Urban  
Planning and Land Management  
Shenyang Urban Construction Committee  
Urban Planning Society of China

### Contacts:

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### Dates Active:

2003–2004  
(see also Urban Infrastructure  
Improvement)

## Wentworth Gardens' Buildings and Grounds Improvements

Wentworth Gardens is a low-rise, family public housing development on the South Side. Its buildings and grounds have suffered marked deterioration due to underfunding and poor management. Wentworth Gardens residents have been working since the 1960s to improve their living conditions, despite the economic and political challenges to their grassroots efforts.

The City Design Center, since its founding, has supported the Wentworth Gardens residents in their tireless work to identify, prioritize and address the pressing problems of their dilapidated physical environment. Over the past five years, the Center has assisted the Wentworth Resident Management Corporation in conducting a resident survey of needed buildings and grounds improvements, guidance on apartment renovation requirements, and an inspection checklist for use prior to occupancy of the rehabilitated apartments.

Roberta Feldman has participated in garnering recognition of the Wentworth residents' four decades of activism through a successful nomination for an American Planning Association National Award for Social Advocacy, and the publication of a book with co-author Susan Stall about their organizing efforts to resist increasing government disinvestment in public housing and the threat of demolition (*The Dignity of Resistance: Women Residents' Activism in Chicago Public Housing*, Cambridge University Press, 2004). Chicago playwrights David Barr's and Glenn Jeffers' forthcoming adaptation of the book to the stage will bring further recognition to their efforts to sustain the viability of their homes.

### Partners:

Wentworth Gardens Resident Management Corporation Board

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### Dates Active:

Fall 2001–2006

(see also *Urban Infrastructure Improvement*)

## West Town Gentrification Study

Spanning four decades, the study traces how patterns in real estate investment, population change and public policy converged to change West Town's profile.

### Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

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## Writing the Past/Writing the Future

This project will provide writing workshops and literacy skills training for formerly incarcerated individuals who are participants in NLEN's U-turn Permitted employment training program. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in personal narrative writing based on their experiences and knowledge, publish selections of their stories in the magazine real conditions and receive individualized literacy skills training. Through participation in "Writing the Past/Writing the Future," participants will read, write and reflect upon their past and present experiences and hopes for the future, work to improve their personal and collective circumstances, and become recognized as thinkers, writers and leaders in their communities.

### Partners:

UIC Community Writing  
Project (CWP)

Carole Robertson Center for  
Learning (CRCL)

North Lawndale Employment  
Network (NLEN)

### Contacts:

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#### Dates active:

Spring 2006–Fall 2006

*(see also Arts and Culture)*