

# WORKING CAPITAL

FEBRUARY 2012



The Newsletter of the Chicago Program  
of Local Initiatives Support Corporation

## BUILDING THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CITY

18<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards February 28<sup>th</sup> at  
Chicago Hilton & Towers

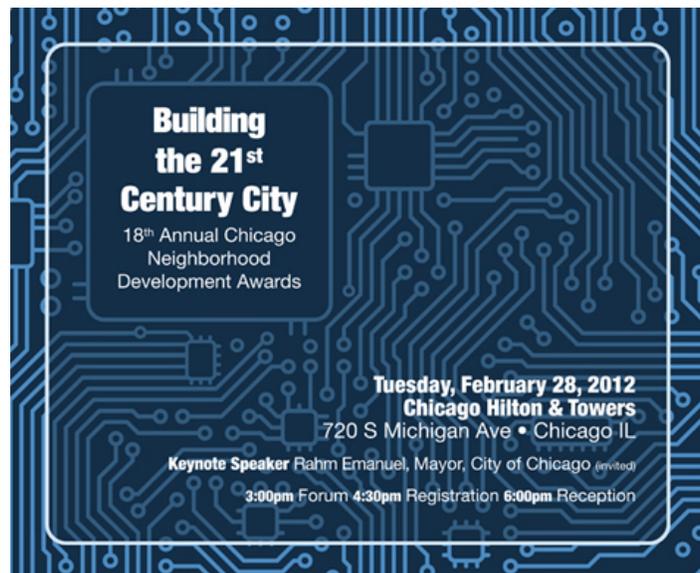
In an era of seemingly constant changes and innovations, Chicago's neighborhoods and community development organizations are looking towards the future. For the 18th year, the best of Chicago's thinkers and doers will be honored at the annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards (CNDA), the city's preeminent community development awards.

The theme for this year's event, "Building the 21<sup>st</sup> Century City," recognizes the challenge—and opportunity—to build a new kind of future that expands opportunity to every neighborhood and every family.

The celebration, to be held at Chicago Hilton & Towers, will feature remarks from Mayor Rahm Emanuel and be attended by more than 1,500 leaders in the community development field.

In the spirit of ingenuity and forward thinking, this year's pre-event forum will be distinct in terms of style and substance. Using a fast-paced and innovative presentation style, four of Chicago's thought leaders will rapidly present their own big ideas for the 21<sup>st</sup> century city, displaying 15 images for 15 seconds each. The forum will feature big ideas from Theaster Gates, University of Chicago; Alicia Gonzalez, Chicago Runs; Melissa Harris, Chicago Tribune; and Daniel O'Neil, Smart Chicago Collaborative. This exciting new format is not to be missed; audience members will be asked to share their best ideas as well.

Wim Elfrink, Chief Globalization Officer and Executive Vice President of Cisco Systems will chair this year's event. Elfrink, who has introduced technological systems around the world for Cisco, has seen



first-hand how the expansion of global technology networks and social services can equalize economies and opportunities worldwide.

“Cisco is focused on helping Chicago and its many community organizations use technology to drive social, economic and environmental sustainability,” said Elfrink. “Even in tough economic times, cities can use technological networks to accelerate and multiply their infrastructure investments in order to not only survive challenges, but thrive and lead.”

This year’s CNDA also marks the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Awards for Architectural Excellence in Community Design which recognize architecture that contributes to the social and cultural life of a neighborhood.

The forum will begin at 3:00 p.m. and the ceremony at 4:30 p.m. A reception will be held at 6:00 p.m., to give award winners, attendees and participants the chance to discuss and celebrate the ideas that will make Chicago a truly 21<sup>st</sup> century city. Doors open at 2:30.

For more info and to register online, visit [www.lisc-cnda.org](http://www.lisc-cnda.org).