

## Tourism, Neighborhood Style

It *seemed* like a good idea, that neighborhood groups should get involved in the Burnham Centennial's "Bold Plans Big Dreams" program and put on tours of their often-unseen communities.



And it was. On Saturday, May 16, as part of the Great Chicago Spaces and Places festival, six neighborhoods led sold-out bus and walking tours in South Chicago, Bronzeville, Pilsen, Albany Park, Auburn Gresham and West Ridge.

Planned with support from the Boeing Company and LISC/Chicago and leadership from Chicago Metropolis2020, all tours showcase both the neighborhoods' cultural attractions and local shops and restaurants unique to each area.



Visitors on the Albany Park tour saw a true melting pot of cultures on the "Chicago's Gateway to the World" tour led by the North River Commission. In Auburn Gresham, the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation staged the "Rebuilding a Classic Community" tour. The Resurrection Project emphasized Pilsen's Mexican Heritage in the "Discover Pilsen" tour. In the Quad Communities, the Quad Communities Development Corporation (QCDC) took visitors through the heart of Bronzeville on a tour called "From Civil War to Civil Rights and Beyond." In West Ridge, the Indo-American Heritage Museum offered a "Gateway to India in Chicago" tour on and around Devon Avenue. And Claretian Associates in South Chicago stressed "green" development on the "From Pollution to Solution" tour.



Carlos Nelson of the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation leads the "Rebuilding a Classic Community" neighborhood tour.

Feedback from tour guides and tour participants alike has been overwhelmingly positive. According to Bernita Johnson Gabriel of QCDC, the visitors "all were amazed by the amount and quality of development" in the area. Even better, "all said they would recommend the tour to others."

Even those who were skeptical about the benefits of the tours found them to be a good experience. The first tour guide training session, in fact, was on a day when three youth were gunned down in broad daylight in South Chicago. "I left the meeting so happy and then this senseless act of violence just hit our hearts so deeply," Jackie Samuel of Claretian Associates recounts. "I questioned if we were doing the right thing by showcasing the community. But I realized that so much hard work has been put in place over the past 10 years that I could not let a group of thugs steal our communities' thunder. When we started doing the research it clearly pointed out that we have a story to tell, with all of our lumps and bumps."

The success of the tours speaks to the intensive planning and training process, which included half-day trainings led by experienced tour design consultants from the School of the Art Institute and support from LISC's team of scribes. According to LISC/Chicago Director of Programs Joel Bookman, the result was a unique kind of neighborhood tour.

"The tours communicate not only all the exciting features that these neighborhoods have to offer, but the collective neighborhood action that brought these changes to the neighborhoods."

More than a dozen additional tours are scheduled in the six neighborhoods throughout 2009.

## LISC/Chicago Welcomes Three New Members to its Board of Advisors:



Francia Harrington  
Senior Vice President,  
JPMorgan Chase



Terry Peterson  
Vice President, Government Affairs,  
Rush University Medical Center



Howard Pizer  
Executive Vice President, United Center  
Joint Venture/Chicago White Sox



Local Initiatives  
Support Corporation/Chicago

ONE NORTH LASALLE ST. 12TH FLOOR  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
(312) 360-0800  
FAX (312) 360-0183

Presorted  
First Class  
US Postage  
PAID  
Chicago, IL  
Permit No. 3193

### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards

#### It's CNDA Time Again!

Applications for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards are due September 9. Applications for the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Awards for Architectural Excellence in Community Design are due September 17. The awards ceremony will take place on February 9, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

To apply online or for more details about the awards, visit [www.lisc-cnda.org](http://www.lisc-cnda.org).

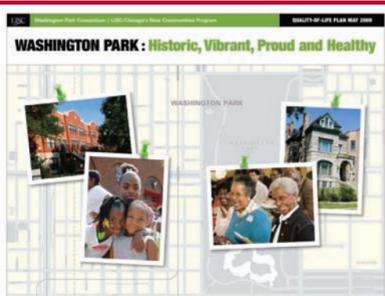


#### LISC Celebrates Jonathan Fanton

LISC/Chicago thanked Jonathan Fanton, former President of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, for ten years of service to Chicago families and neighborhoods at a reception in June.

### LISC Announces Green Loan Fund

LISC's Green Development Center has created a Green Loan Fund to support strategies that implement green building features for local development projects. Funds are available for predevelopment and construction. Organizations that wish to apply for this financing should contact Chris Brown at (312) 385-4803.



#### Washington Park Launches Quality-of-Life Plan

At a celebration in May, Alderman Willie B. Cochran, along with a wide range of community members and stakeholders, launched the community's new Quality-of-Life plan, emphasizing existing strengths while preparing for future opportunities, including the possibility of the 2016 Olympics.



### LISC/CHICAGO Board of Advisors

**CHAIR**  
**Perry Pero**  
Northern Trust (Retired)

**David Anderson**  
New Pacific Consulting, LLC

**Kevin Brookins**  
ComEd, An Exelon Company

**James Capraro**  
Greater Southwest Development Corp.

**Franklin Cole** (Emeritus)  
Croesus Corporation

**DeShana Forney**  
Illinois Housing Development Authority

**Laurence Freed**  
Joseph Freed and Associates

**Frances Grossman**  
ShoreBank Corporation

**Francia Harrington**  
JPMorgan Chase

**Lori Healey**  
Chicago 2016

**Michael Lewis**  
Harris

**John G. Markowski**  
Community Investment Corporation

**John Newman**  
The Private Bank

**Terry Peterson**  
Rush University Medical Center

**Howard Pizer**  
United Center Joint Venture/Chicago White Sox

**Christine Raguso**  
Chicago Department of Community Dev.

**Hipolito Roldan**  
Hispanic Housing Development Corp.

**Ellen Sahli**  
Chicago Department of Community Dev.

**Scott Swanson**  
Charter One Bank - Illinois

**David Vitale**  
**Thomas Weeks**  
WeeksWeldon Development Company

**Andrew J. Mooney**  
Executive Director  
LISC/Chicago

[www.lisc-chicago.org](http://www.lisc-chicago.org)



# WORKING CAPITAL

The Newsletter of the Chicago Program of Local Initiatives Support Corporation

## School's Out, but the Doctor's In

As students at LISC's network of Elev8 schools expand their experiences through gardening, museum trips and other summer programs, they're also taking care of more basic needs – getting physicals, check-ups and other medical and dental care.



School-based health centers are open and seeing patients at Perspectives Calumet Charter Middle School, Reavis Elementary and Marquette Elementary; those at Orozco Academy and Ames Middle School will begin seeing students, their families and community residents when school starts in September.



The Illinois Masonic mobile dental van provides dental services to students at the five Elev8 schools.

The health centers, built by Hispanic Housing Development Corporation's Tropic Construction, are operated by community-based health partners: ACCESS Community Health at Perspectives and Marquette; Near North Health Services at Reavis; PrimeCare at Ames; and Alivio Medical Center at Orozco. Support for the health centers comes from the Polk Bros. Foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies, CVS Caremark Charitable Foundation, the Chicago Community Trust, Chicago Public Schools, and the City of Chicago.

"The health center has been booming," said Tamara Davis, the principal at Perspectives. "Every day they're full of appointments. Both students and parents are elated to have a full-service health center." Davis stressed that the center, which hit the ground running with a full-time nurse practitioner and social worker, is a critical part of Elev8's holistic approach to education. "It's a tangible place that offers full services for living a healthy lifestyle," she said.

But the permanent health centers aren't the only place where kids are getting care. At all five schools, thanks to a grant from the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation, students have access to dental services via the Illinois Masonic mobile dental van, complete with two dental chairs, an X-ray machine, a waiting room, an office and the myriad lights, machinery and utensils required to provide professional dental services.

See "DENTAL VAN," Page 3

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Chicago Youth to Benefit Directly from ARRA Funds  
**PG 2**

"Co-Motion" in Neighborhoods  
**PG 2**

Column by Michael Johnson, Reavis Elementary School  
**PG 3**

Interview with Wendy DuBoe, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago  
**PG 4**

Second Quarter LISC Grant & Loan Activity  
**PG 4**

Tourism, Neighborhood Style  
**PG 5**

## LISC Communities Bridging the Digital Divide

As part of a broad effort to ensure that all neighborhoods have affordable access to technology and are able to use it meaningfully, Mayor Daley announced the City's Digital Excellence Demonstration Communities (DEDC) pilot program at a press conference in July. The pilot program, managed by LISC/Chicago, is an integral part of the citywide Digital Excellence Initiative. DEDC pilot neighborhoods are Auburn Gresham, Chicago Lawn, Englewood and Pilsen, each led by the New Communities Program lead agency: Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation in Auburn Gresham; Southwest Organizing Project and Greater Southwest Development Corporation in Chicago Lawn; Teamwork Englewood in Englewood; and The Resurrection Project in Pilsen.

Each neighborhood has completed a planning process that engaged more than 300 residents, public agency officials, business owners and nonprofit leaders from more than 60 institutions. Neighborhoods are now beginning to implement programs like distributing low-cost, refurbished computers, training community members in using digital resources and creating community web portals with local content.



LISC/Chicago Executive Director Andrew J. Mooney (left), along with Alderman Danny Solis and Julia Stasch of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, join Mayor Daley at a press conference announcing the Digital Excellence Demonstration Communities.

## Chicago Youth to Benefit Directly from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds

As a result of a partnership between the City of Chicago Department of Family Support Services, LISC/Chicago and the New Communities Program, more than 800 youth have jobs this summer in neighborhoods from South Chicago to Humboldt Park.

With LISC as a hub of the Youth Ready Chicago program, nine community partners in New Communities Program neighborhoods are matching eligible youth with employment opportunities. The participating organizations are Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) in Auburn Gresham; Inner-City Muslim Action Network in Chicago Lawn; Association House of Chicago in Humboldt Park; Metropolitan Area Group to Ignite Civilization (MAGIC) in Woodlawn; Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance in East Garfield Park; Near West Side Community Development Corporation in the Near West Side; Enlace Chicago in Little Village; Beloved Family Services in Englewood; and Claretian Associates in South Chicago.

Youth have been placed in paying jobs at organizations like Allstate Insurance, the Cook County Bar Association and City and State government offices. They work four days a week with the employer and spend Fridays in job readiness and life skills training.

Carlos Nelson, Executive Director of GADC, is glad of the opportunity to build relationships and work closely with businesses and other employers in his community to place youth in summer jobs. But more importantly, he sees youth growing and benefiting from the program. "The kids are excited, and the jobs are rewarding," Nelson says. "The interns learn that you really have to bring your best effort."

Justin Irving is a participant who was placed at GADC working on the Litter Free Zone Initiative. He likes his job. "I get to meet a lot of people who are devoted to their community," he says.

## "Co-Motion" in Neighborhoods

Summer wouldn't be summer without neighborhood basketball and soccer in the park. And this year, LISC's Neighborhood Sports Chicago (NSC) is supporting sports and recreational programs across the city – from Project Play in Little Village, where parents are encouraged to play traditional and non-traditional games with their kids, to the 3rd Annual Hoops in the Hood Cross-City Finals basketball tournament engaging 11 neighborhoods.

However, NSC is doing much more than supporting sports. By focusing on organizational capacity-building, peer learning and professional development, NSC is ensuring that its neighborhood partners have the in-house resources and expertise to implement innovative programs and grow their capacity. NSC's ongoing communications efforts help neighborhoods lift up their successes and raise their profile. And with international eyes on Chicago and its 2016 Olympic bid, it's never been more important to show the world how youth athletics are an important part of all Chicago neighborhoods.

NSC is also giving organizations the opportunity to reach beyond their neighborhoods for cross-community collaboration and play. According to Rob Castaneda, director of Beyond the Ball, which is organizing Project Play in Little Village, building relationships with other neighborhoods is good for organizations, the youth being served and the city as a whole. "We're exchanging best practices, exchanging new ideas and feeding off of each other's energy," Castaneda says. "It makes everyone want to have a better product at the end of the day."



As kids participating in NSC programs enjoy a range of sports, like swimming (top), coaches participate in a training session (bottom) as a part of Co-Motion's focus on peer learning and cross-community collaboration.

LISC invites commentaries from neighborhood partners for publication in this newsletter. This issue's column is by Michael Johnson, Principal of Reavis Elementary School, one of five schools in the Elev8 program.

## It Takes a Community

In my five years at Reavis Elementary, I've learned not to talk about our school – I talk about our school community. The changes that have been happening at Reavis and beyond are only possible because of the relationships between our faculty, the Local School Council, parents and community partners.

My vision for Reavis has always been to bring students as many resources as possible – and LISC's Elev8 program greatly expanded the resources available. The planning process – the best I have seen – empowered all of the stakeholders to bring their skills and ideas to the table in the interest of supporting students from every angle.

With Elev8 as a catalyst and support from a spectrum of partner organizations, we've been able to bring students new opportunities in the classroom, in the schoolyard and beyond. Academically, we've partnered with Expeditionary Learning Schools Outward Bound, a national organization that helps schools integrate their curriculum and focus on compelling topics to engage students. Learning expeditions, like one on the Olympic Games that culminated with students hosting a public debate, capture students' interest, but they also teach them to take what they've learned out into the community.

Outside of the academic curriculum, partners are also playing an important role. Gingarte Capoeira is teaching students capoeira, the Brazilian mix of martial arts and dance; State Farm Insurance is supporting a school garden where kids learn about both agriculture and nutrition; the South Side Community Art Center is bringing projects and programs to students of all ages; the list goes on.

The results of these partnerships in and out of the classroom are already beginning to show: test scores and attendance are going up while behavioral problems are going down. And students are becoming active learners, engaged in their classes and activities and able to articulate what they're learning to their teachers, parents and the broader community.

But students aren't the only ones becoming engaged. Parents are a child's first teachers, and it is essential that they be part of the school community. Word has gotten out about our monthly family nights, and in May more than 300 parents came to see their children present their expeditionary learning projects. These family events are about more than show and tell – they encourage parents to be actively involved. And they often supply a light meal so parents don't have to make hard choices to attend.

It takes a multiplicity of ideas, programs and people to give students the support they need. I'm proud to say that the hard work of our faculty and Local School Council, along with support from Elev8 and our many invaluable partners, is not just benefitting the students at Reavis – it's having a ripple effect throughout the community and helping to create an environment where all children and their families can meet their full potential.



Michael Johnson, Principal, Reavis Elementary School

## "DENTAL VAN"

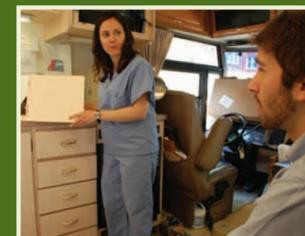
(Continued from cover)

"We do full-service dentistry," said Dr. Amy Martin, who works with two fellow dentists and two assistants. "A typical first-time visit will include an exam, X-rays and a cleaning, if needed." Based on the exam results, follow-up care could involve filling decayed teeth, extractions and even root canals. For many students, noted Dr. Martin, the van represents their only exposure to professional dental care.

In addition to the health centers and dental care, Elev8 provides extended-day learning programs, mentoring programs and assistance in accessing income supports. Launched by LISC/Chicago in early 2008 with support from the Atlantic Philanthropies, Elev8 takes a comprehensive approach to middle school students and their families by supporting every aspect of their lives.

"A major goal of the Elev8 program is to ensure that students thrive later in life," said Chris Brown, LISC/Chicago's director of education programs, who oversees the Elev8 program in Chicago.

"That applies to academic success, of course, but also to matters of health and physical fitness," he said. "The health centers and dental services help them build a healthy base for the rest of their lives."



Dr. Amy Martin, leader of the dental van team, and AmeriCorps volunteer Sam Perryman discuss the day's schedule of events.

## United Way of Metropolitan Chicago Takes an Integrated Approach to Supporting Families and Communities

An interview with Wendy DuBoe, Chief Community Investment Officer of United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, part of the national United Way network, is the largest private funder of human services in the Chicago region. Chief Community Investment Officer Wendy DuBoe spoke with LISC about the organization's approach to improving lives.

### What does United Way of Metropolitan Chicago see as its funding focus?

We focus on supporting individuals in the areas of financial stability, health and education. Our focus on financial stability is broken down into four pillars: employment, including training, placement and advancement; accessing public benefits and income supports; financial literacy; and asset generation. We see these pillars, as well as the three focus areas, as closely related.

### United Way of Metropolitan Chicago recently awarded LISC/Chicago's Centers for Working Families a multi-year grant. How do the Centers for Working Families fit in with your mission?

We take an integrated approach to funding to support individ-

uals on all sides. The Centers for Working Families is a fabulous model of integrated services designed to move people forward across a spectrum of financial stability measures. They're really at the forefront of what's going on across the country.

### How would you characterize your relationship with LISC/Chicago?

We're thrilled to support the good work of LISC and the Centers for Working Families. United Way believes that we can strengthen communities by bringing together groups to work in a more coordinated effort across the region. LISC/Chicago's approach – providing integrated support through strong local partners and community networks – is exactly the model we want to see flourish. It's a critical time for communities in need and resources are scarce. Working in concert will address the issues more impactfully so that we can really move people beyond crisis to independence. We look forward to continuing to work with LISC/Chicago and the Centers for Working Families to serve communities as best we can.



Wendy DuBoe, Chief Community Investment Officer, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

## Second Quarter LISC Grant & Loan Activity

LISC disbursed a total of \$5,476,824 in grants and loans to projects across the city from March 2009 to May 2009, including the following:

Through **Centers for Working Families**, the Metro Chicago Information Center received a grant of \$8,706 to study recipients of CWF assistance.

As part of the **Elev8** program, The Cara Program received a grant of \$10,000 for financial outreach and education to parents at Reavis Elementary School, one of five Elev8 schools.

**The Civic Life Fund** made a grant of \$15,000 to the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance in support of Open Streets, formerly known as Sunday Parkways. It also made a grant of \$11,340 to Enlace Chicago to support its role in Spring Into Sports in the Little Village neighborhood.

Through **The Homestead Fund**, Mercy Portfolio Services received a loan of \$3,000,000 to acquire foreclosed properties for redevelopment in advance of receiving National Stabilization Program (NSP) funds.

**The Leadership Fund** made a grant of \$16,000 to the Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) to support its fundraising capacity.