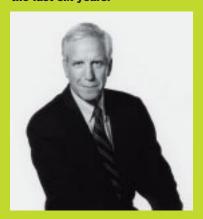
BREAKING NEW GROUND

Metropolitan Planning Council Annual Report



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At its August 2006 Annual Meeting, the MPC Board of Governors "re-elected" Lee Mitchell as chair ... 15 years after his first term. Mitchell, a partner with *Thoma Cressey Bravo*, has been a member of MPC's board since 1984, and served as chairman from 1989 to 1991. Most recently, he cochaired the Bold Plans, Bright Future campaign and has served as vice chair of development for the last six years.



"When I joined MPC, the organizafor tangible city improvements such as a revamped Navy Pier and redesigned Lake Shore Drive. Over the last 15 years, since I was chair the first time, both the organization and region have changed a great deal," Mitchell said. "We are now taking on issues of regional and statewide significance, such as school funding and tax policy reform, which are bigger, more long-term, more complicated to solve. So, my role as chair is very different too, but just as meaningful."

On the following pages, we highlight our groundbreaking accomplishments in 2005 and 2006, as well as introduce you to people who remind us why we do what we do: strive to make the Chicago region a great place to live, work and play.



he 1937 groundbreakings for Chicago's first public housing developments — Jane Addams Houses, Julia C. Lathrop Homes, Trumball Park Homes, and Ida B. Wells — represented the first significant victories for the nascent Metropolitan Housing Council, which was established just three years earlier to eradicate the city's slum housing conditions. These new communities, all with low-rise buildings, provided safe, decent housing for the working poor for the first time in years.

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-06

Some 70 years later, the Metropolitan Planning Council continues to celebrate significant achievements. On the following pages, we highlight our groundbreaking accomplishments in 2005 and 2006, as well as introduce you to people who remind us why we do what we do: strive to make the Chicago region a great place to live, work and play.

Over the last two years, we successfully established our first endowment and special initiatives fund through our \$14.2 million Bold Plans, Bright Future campaign, which will maintain our independence and give us the capacity to intensify our work. In the fall of 2005, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley spoke at MPC's Annual Meeting Luncheon for the first time during his tenure as mayor. In 2006, we continued our tradition of featuring the major-party gubernatorial candidates at an Annual Meeting forum, but with the candidates appearing at separate events.

MPC had some remarkable milestones as well. We bid farewell to long-time development director Ann Armstrong, who retired in June 2006, after more than 20 years of service to the organization. Our longest serving member of the Board of Governors, John W. Baird, celebrated 53 years with us in 2006. Over the last two years, five of our board members marked a decade with MPC.

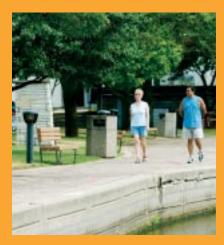
We are extremely proud of all the Council achieved the last two years. We are also enthusiastic — and optimistic — that 2007 represents a new day in Illinois, in terms of how we fund our schools, invest in our communities, and plan our futures. We cannot do this without your involvement and support. Thank you for the contributions you continue to make to MPC and the Chicagoland region.

John A. Buck Chair, 2004-2006 MarySue Barrett President, 1996-present Lifelong Blue Island resident Donald Peloquin (right) has been mayor of the southwest suburban community for more than 20 years. During that time, he has witnessed a lot of change, and not all of it for the best.

"Like so many older suburbs, we've struggled with downtown disinvestment for many years," Peloquin said. "But, today, as developers are rediscovering

Through a spectrum of services, ranging from shortterm trainings to long-term community partnerships, MPC's Community Building Initiative provides local communities with technical expertise and market-

based strategies.



One of MPC's first communty building partnerships was in St. Charles, Ill., where local leaders wanted to provide more affordable housing options. Since 2005, MPC's Community Building Initiative has assisted 10 communities across the region.

the region's core, Blue Island is on the brink of rebirth."

Home to about 25,000 people, Blue Island has over 200 acres of available industrial land and unparalleled transportation access. The city is conveniently located along the Cal Sag Channel, boasts three commuter rail lines, and has 150 freight trains running daily through the town. With five Metra stations, a Main Street, and neighborhood schools, Blue Island is extremely walkable.

In July 2006, MPC's Community Building Initiative **Blue Island Task Force, chaired by Thomas Kirschbraun** of Jones Lang LaSalle, presented the city with realistic strategies for making the most of the 10-year, \$225 million redevelopment plan developed by the **Center for Neighborhood Technology the previous** year. The volunteer team encouraged the city to update its zoning code to create more predictability for developers and greater local design control, recommended the most suitable sites for retail and industrial development, and outlined ways to enhance Blue Island's image to attract new businesses and services. The Task Force also recommended a number of ways to engage the community better and ensure the city's redevelopment reflects and includes its sizeable Latino and African-American populations.



... by building communities

roviding local communities with guidance, expertise and support to address their most pressing growth and development challenges has become an increasing part of the Metropolitan Planning Council's work in recent years. The Community Building Initiative, which the Council launched in 2005, brings all of that work together into one program.

Mayor Don Peloquin, City of Blue Island

Through a spectrum of services, ranging from short-term trainings to long-term community partnerships, MPC's Community Building Initiative provides local communities with technical expertise and market-based strategies for a very nominal fee. And because the Council also wants to demonstrate the impact of innovative policies to revitalize struggling communities, develop affordable housing in job-rich areas, and conserve natural resources in growing areas, MPC has developed a set of criteria it uses to carefully select its clients.

So far, the results are impressive. In 2005 alone, 21 communities around the region received trainings on sensible growth strategies, and five received longer-term technical assistance on critical development issues. In 2006, another 88 communities benefited from MPC's services, including Highwood, Chicago Heights and Joliet.

Eventually, MPC wants to "work itself out of a job" by building the capacity of state and regional agencies — particularly the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, or CMAP — to provide financial incentives and technical resources to communities that practice sensible growth and development policies.



The new Whole Foods supermarket in Chicago's South Loop neighborhood is set to open in August 2007.



For a community to sustain itself and thrive, it must attract retail and commercial opportunities, which is why the Council has been actively promoting redevelopment and economic revival in the city of Chicago and older suburbs.

In August 2006, Minnie (right) and Joe Smith celebrated a dream come true, the grand opening of Garfield Park's first and only coffee shop, Westside Coffee Express, located at Lake and Pulaski in the Bethel Center. The shop, which the couple co-owns with their daughter Brenda, one of their six children, serves specialty drinks and homemade treats to local business owners, transit commuters, and college students, who are fast becoming regulars.

"There used to be a restaurant on this corner, years ago, but it's long gone," said Minnie. "We didn't have any coffee places in our area, and everybody wanted a place where we could have meetings and get a cup of coffee. This is it."

Bethel Center, a "green-designed," multi-use development connected to the Green Line El station at Lake Street and Pulaski Road, with a variety of businesses and services, was developed by the nonprofit Bethel New Life, Inc. MPC honored Bethel with its 2006 Burnham Award for Excellence in Planning for Bethel Center and its companion development, Parkside Estates, Bethel's affordable housing development two blocks away.

Representing community planning at its best, the two projects collectively provide places to live, work, shop, and learn, all within blocks of the El and neighborhood amenities — for the thousands of people living in Garfield Park and surrounding neighborhoods.



... by creating opportunities

ith so many choices for where to buy food popping up around the Chicago area these days, many people will travel miles off their beaten paths to find the best deals or specialty products to suit their tastes.

What if you had no choice? Worse yet, what if you did not even have a grocery store on your beaten path?

That is the reality for residents in dozens of Chicago neighborhoods that have fallen prey to restrictive covenants imposed by grocery and drug stores to prevent competitors from taking over spaces they have vacated. Thanks to MPC, this common practice throughout the United States and Canada is now illegal in Chicago. In September 2005, the Chicago City Council unanimously passed a landmark ordinance banning stores from placing future-use restrictions on properties they are selling, a move with international implications. Inspired by Chicago's action, the Office of Fair Trade in the United Kingdom has begun investigating grocery store siting practices.

For a community to sustain itself and thrive, it must attract retail and commercial opportunities, which is why the Council has been actively promoting redevelopment and economic revival in the city of Chicago and older suburbs. For example, MPC has been working with community leaders in North Lawndale to redesign Ogden Avenue, to make it the area's main commercial destination — rather than a speedway — which will have positive ripple effects on the rest of the community.

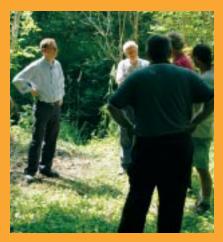
Minnie Smith, proprietor of Westside Coffee Express in Garfield Park



During the summer of 2005, Illinois experienced its worst drought on record, making it a fitting time for MPC, the Campaign for Sensible Growth, and Openlands to be in the midst of hands-on planning in the Greater Marengo-Union and Trim Creek watersheds.

"The essence of this initiative is to preserve the watershed in the face of development, with minimal

We have no choice about our water; we must have a clean, plentiful supply. What we *can* decide is how we plan new development so that it protects our water and other natural resources.



MPC's on-the-ground planning work in the Trim Creek and Kishwaukee River watersheds is a model for other communities in the path of development.

impact," explained Marengo Township Supervisor
Steven Weskerna (right). "If the watershed is protected, we will have ample, fresh, clean water to
provide for future growth for generations to come."

This two-year watershed planning project was designed to help communities and counties play a more active role in making decisions that effect the quality and quantity of their water supplies.

MPC and its partners helped create local citizen committees, and provided technical assistance on area-scale watershed planning.

Trim Creek, a tributary of the Kankakee River in Will and Kankakee counties, and the Greater Marengo-Union area, which drains into the Kishwaukee River in McHenry County, are both feeling the tension of being on the edge of urban development in the midst of new suburbanization. The planning work MPC and its partners wrapped up in November 2006 serves as an important model for other communities, and complements new planning resources at the state level.



...by preserving precious resources

ccording to *Troubled Waters: Meeting Future Water Needs in Illinois*, a study released by MPC, the Campaign for Sensible Growth, and Openlands in January 2006, the Chicago region could outgrow its water supply by 2025.

On the shores of the massive Lake Michigan, it is hard to imagine an impending water shortage, but as the report illustrates, the region's top water challenges — projected to intensify with increased growth pressures outside the areas served by the lake — include supply shortages, as demand for water in some parts of the region is increasing faster than underground aquifers can recharge or refill, and pollutants, another result of development, as stormwater that runs off pavement into sewers cannot filter out contaminants.

MPC has focused much of its work on promoting choices — for a wider range of housing, more transportation options, and better schools — as essential ingredients in a thriving metropolis. But we have no choice about our water; we must have a clean, plentiful supply. What we *can* decide is how we plan new development so that it protects our water and other natural resources.

This was the impetus behind the MPC collaboration that developed the recommendations in *Troubled Waters* (a follow up to *Changing Course: Recommendations for Balancing Regional Growth and Water Resources in Northeastern Illinois,* released at the end of 2004), and successfully advocated for the state to create and fund a comprehensive water supply planning and management strategy now being staffed by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

Steven Weskerna, supervisor of Marengo Township, located in western McHenry County



Mary Ellen Guest (2nd from left), manages A+ Illinois, with staff support from Clare Fauke (left), communications coordinator; Ryan Canney (2nd from right), deputy campaign manager; Chris Butler (right), field organizer; and a team of organizers around the state.



If property taxes are too high, communities — urban, rural and suburban alike — will not be able to attract the economic activity they need to sustain themselves and support their schools.

On the eve of the new legislative session, A+ Illinois ended 2006 with growing momentum. The campaign hired a new manager, Mary Ellen Guest, and committed to doubling its field staff around the state. In November 2006, A+ Illinois' received a two-year grant of more than \$600,000 — its largest from a single donor, and a ringing endorsement of the campaign's potential for success.

"I have always believed passionately that every child in our state deserves a first-rate education," said Guest. "As a part of the A+ Illinois campaign, I'm looking forward to making high-quality schools and property tax reform a reality in Illinois."

In addition to directing a growing statewide staff,
Guest manages a multi-million dollar budget, and
taps the energy and resources of the more than
150 member organizations. She has been passionate about education funding reform in Illinois for 25
years, and brings to A+ Illinois a combination of
education, business, management, and political
campaign experience.

Meanwhile, Chris Butler, who was hired as A+
Illinois' very first field organizer in 2006, is expanding his focus to include college campuses around the state. A product of Chicago Public Schools and the Midwest Academy, Chris got his organizing start in junior high school when he led a student call for representation on the Local School Council. For A+
Illinois, he has been working in the AfricanAmerican communities in Chicago and near suburbs, including organizing high school students to present Gov. Rod Blagojevich with a failing report card on school funding (right) — one of A+ Illinois' most effective media events to date.

"I believe deeply in A+ Illinois' mission, and I'm out talking to people who have very personal knowledge of what's wrong with the current system in Illinois," Butler said. "We are building on the momentum we created during the election, and hope to emerge from the next legislative session with a victory."



... by investing in our children and our future

tax reform have been top MPC priorities; that is even more true today. Relying on an antiquated system of funding schools with local property taxes creates huge financial and student achievement gaps between school districts, depending on where they are located. And, if property taxes are too high, communities — urban, rural and suburban alike — will not be able to attract the economic activity they need to sustain themselves and support their schools.

Chris Butler, A+ Illinois field organizer, with Chicago-area high school students

The statewide elections in 2006 provided A+ Illinois with a prime opportunity to elevate education funding, quality and property tax reform as a top campaign issue and galvanize its base of grassroots supporters, which numbered 35,000 statewide by the November elections. A+ Illinois employed tried-and-true campaign tactics, from petitions to direct mail advertising to candidate forums, not only to get candidates talking about the issue, but to successfully set the stage for long-overdue action by the Illinois General Assembly in 2007.

Education funding has been outdated and insufficient for decades. So, why the optimism?

More and more schools all over the state are feeling the pinch, at the expense of class-room learning. A new bipartisan Education Caucus, comprised of legislators from both houses and all corners of the state, has come together in Springfield. Influential business leaders and media are finally acknowledging the state's fiscal house is in dire straits. Even powerful state leaders are joining the chorus and calling for change.



f you asked MPC Board member Thomas Morsch, senior vice president of Marsh, Inc., and former executive director of the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, to talk about affordable housing, he'd probably say, "I'm a transportation guy; I don't know anything about housing."

Don't believe him.

Over the last few years, Morsch has come to know quite a lot about housing. As an alderman in Lake Forest, III., Morsch has been instrumental in the development of the village's inclusionary housing ordinance and affordable housing trust fund.

According to Morsch, what started as a discussion about providing housing for seniors — people who had raised their families in the community — blossomed into a broader conversation about affordable housing.

Despite averaging the fourth highest family income in Illinois, about a third of all Lake Forest households, regardless of income, overpay for housing.



At the same time, less than 5 percent of the housing in Lake Forest is affordable to low and moderate-income families.

To demonstrate that even an affluent community with a tight housing market has a responsibility to be inclusive, Lake Forest has moved quickly to put policy into practice. The village adopted an affordable housing plan in March 2005, passed its inclusionary housing ordinance that December, and enacted a demolition tax in February 2006, which helps to

fund the Housing Trust Fund established in September.

"There's a fair amount of momentum and a wonderful opportunity here," said Morsch. Ordinances are on the books, development is happening, and we've become an excuse-breaker for communities."

"Our progress demonstrates to many communities that this is possible," Morsch continued. "Home values should not be an impediment."



Scott Goldstein, MPC's VP of policy & planning, leads municipal officials through an interactive exercise in comprehensive planning for the fictional town of Growing Plaines. III.

n September 2006, more than 100 people from 46 different communities applied their visioning skills to the fictional Growing Plaines, Ill., as part of a series of simulated planning exercises to mark the release of *Planning 1-2-3*, a first-of-its-kind, step-by-step guide to comprehensive planning in Illinois, produced by MPC, the Campaign for Sensible Growth, and Metropolitan Mayors Caucus.

According to Jerry Swanson, community development director for the City of Batavia, which hosted one of the workshops, "I've worked in planning for a long time, in many places and capacities, and I've never seen a resource as good as Planning 1-2-3."

Planning 1-2-3 is the second in a series of workbooks to walk municipalities through their toughest responsibilities.

...by seeing the region through their eyes

annetta Smith, a single mother of two, was a lifelong renter until she purchased her first home in Park Forest, III., in 2006. As an employee of St. James Hospital and Health Centers, Smith was able to participate in a new employer-assisted housing program that provided her with \$5,000 in down payment assistance from St. James and homeownership counseling from the nonprofit Regional Redevelopment Corp. She also leveraged another \$8,000 toward her purchase from other public and private homeownership programs.

"[Becoming a homeowner] was a struggle, but I wanted to leave something for my children," said Smith, whose daughters are 21 and 15. "Now I know I can do all things if I stay focused."

MPC introduced this employerassisted housing model in Illinois, and has helped 65 employers design programs since 2000, creating 1,000 new homeowners.

In 2005, the Council took its program national, and is providing technical assistance to others around the country that want to replicate MPC's model.



ormer Army officer Donald Cole wakes before dawn to begin his nearly two-and-a-halfhour daily commute from his apartment in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood, to his job at Federal Signal Corporation in south suburban University Park. Along the way, he rides a Chicago Transit Authority bus, the CTA Blue Line El, and a Metra train.



Then, at the end of line, he drives his own car, which he keeps parked at the Metra station.

"There's no other way for me to get from the station to work," explained Cole. "No Pace busses offer service. My company used to have a shuttle, but apparently they stopped it two years ago because only a few people were riding it."

In 2006, MPC signed on as a partner in the Regional Transportation Authority's "Moving Beyond Congestion" campaign, which has designated 2007 as the "Year of Decision" for critical transit investments in all three regional transit providers — CTA, Metra and Pace — which are each faced with shrinking budgets, as they struggle to

maintain and expand service to meet the region's growing transportation needs.

Because careful planning is necessary to make the most of new infrastructure investments, MPC also has been a staunch advocate for CMAP, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, since it was created through the 2005 merger of the region's land use and transportation planning functions — to become the first comprehensive planning agency in the region's history. MPC's recommendations were influential in shaping the agency's blueprint for changing the region's growth patterns.



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MPC PUBLICATIONS

CHA Plan for Transformation Update, December 2006

HomeGrown: Housing Strategies in Action, October 2006 (with Chicago Metropolis 2020 and Metropolitan Mayors Caucus)

Planning 1-2-3: A Step-by-Step Workbook for Writing a Comprehensive Plan in Illinois, September 2006 (with Campaign for Sensible Growth and Metropolitan Mayors Caucus)

CHA Plan for Transformation Update, August 2006

History of Progress: 1934–present, April 2006

Rolling Meadows: Preserving Local Housing Options in the Path of Redevelopment, March 2006

Making the Case of Public-Private Partnerships in Illinois, February 2006

2006 Policy Agenda: Priorities for Legislative or Administrative Action, February 2006

2006 Election Guide, December 2005

CHA Plan for Transformation Update, November 2005 Welcome Home: Housing our Communities, September 2005 (with Metropolitan Mayors Caucus)

CHA Plan for Transformation Update, July 2005

New Designs for New Times, Transportation Issue Brief, March 2005

2005 Policy Agenda: Priorities for Legislative or Administrative Action, February 2005

CHA Plan for Transformation Update, January 2005

Technical Assistance Panel reports (with ULI-Chicago):

Retaining and Attracting Businesses and Jobs: Peterson-Pulaski Industrial Corridor, Chicago, May 2006

Preserving, Supporting and Extending Local Retail: Andersonville and North Clark Street, Chicago, April 2006

Building a Strong Village Center: Midlothian, Illinois, January 2006

10 Ways Communities Can Be More Competitive, November 2005

Thinking Inside and Outside the Box: Elburn, Illinois, April 2005 Water Resources and Sustainable Growth publications (with the Campaign for Sensible Growth and Openlands):

Trim Creek Watershed Action Plan, February 2006

Greater Marengo-Union Watershed Action Plan, February 2006

Troubled Waters: Meeting Future Water Needs in Illinois, January 2006

ideas@work vol. 4 no. 1: Sensible Water Strategies, January 2005

ideas@work vol. 4.
no. 2: Watershed
Planning for
Sustainable
Communities,
January 2005

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MPC is particularly grateful to Paula Wolff, who co-chaired the Regional Development Committee from its inception until 2006.

MPC LEADERSHIP



Passed state
stormwater management legislation permitting
counties and their
municipalities in the
fast growing edge
counties of our
region and the Metro
East St. Louis area
to have uniform
planning and regulation to prevent
flooding and improve
water quality.

Released Troubled Waters, resulting in a \$5 million, three-year state commitment to set up a water supply planning process that will be administered by CMAP for an 11-county region of northeastern Illinois — one of two pilot initiatives to develop a statewide water supply plan.

Completed four
Technical Assistance
Panels with Urban
Land InstituteChicago to revitalize
communities and
plan for new growth
more sensibly in
Elburn and
Midlothian, as well
as Chicago's
Andersonville/
North Clark Street
and Bridgeport
neighborhoods.

Built state awareness of the need for education funding and quality reform, including attracting over 35,000 individuals from across the state to join A+ Illinois.

Successfully urged state officials to invest \$464 million in new funding into schools with low property wealth or high poverty rates, and expanded early childhood education statewide.

Helped A+ Illinois raise resources from Gates **Foundation, Woods Fund, Chicago Community Trust,** and its members to deploy a team of organizers throughout the state, blanket targeted areas with direct mail and phone banks, and persuade elected officials to move from promises to action.

Created a new cross-disciplinary program to coordinate all of MPC's direct assistance under the leadership of a new Community Building Advisory Board led by Todd Brown of Shorebank and Karen Butler of General Growth Properties.

Helped the Village of Riverdale raise \$30 million for the first 130 units of new housing as part of the transformation of Pacesetter into Whistler's Crossing.

Worked with communities from **Lake Forest to Rolling Meadows to** St. Charles to take action, including setting up local housing committees, setting thresholds for inclusionary housing, and developing new funding sources - all to bring affordable housing to high job growth areas, and pave the way for other communities throughout the region.

Passed the Chicago ordinance to ban restrictive covenants on grocery and drugstore properties.

Called for creation of the Central Area Action Plan Task
Force, to monitor progress on various initiatives within the plan, which MPC has advocated.

Built Chicago City
Council support
for Transportation
Enhancement
Districts, broadening the pilot area
from one community
to four.

Advanced
Public-Private
Partnerships as a
vehicle for financing new state infrastructure needs.

Fostered development of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, with recommendations that were influential in shaping the agency's blueprint for the region.



Front row (I to r): Peter Skosey, Laura Broussard, Nikol Miller, Kirsten Powers, Mandy Burrell, Robin Snyderman. Second row: Katherine Bucar, Kristen Hoffman, Anne Cole, Jackie Diaz, Jaela Neal, Scott Goldstein, Lillie Jernigan. Third row: Michael Davidson, Clare Fauke, Pam Lee, Chris Butler, Rebecca Macey, Kim Grimshaw Bolton. Back row: Roberto Requejo, Josh Ellis, Ryan Canney, Michael McLaughlin.

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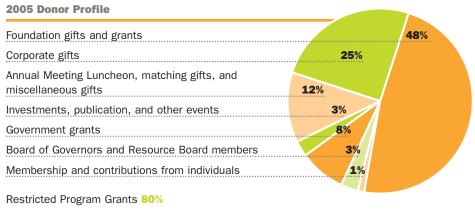
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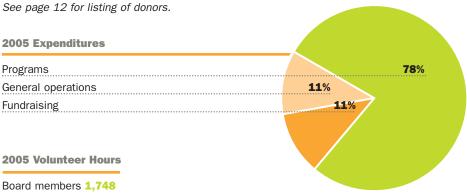
	2005 RESULTS ¹	2006 RESULTS ²
Opening net assets	\$9,707,567	\$10,474,123
Income	#4.000.007	#4 000 770
Membership/contributions/events	\$1,203,007 \$376.602	\$1,282,772 \$0
Bold Plans/Bright Future Restricted grants	\$2,172,665	\$1.784.100
Other income	\$60,608	\$235,000
Total net assets available	\$13,520,449	\$13,775,995
Expenses		
Salaries	\$1,339,173	\$1,632,354
Benefits and taxes	\$244,011	\$371,423
Occupancy expenses	\$183,626	\$220,000
Policy program support	\$411,471	\$366,857
Bold Plans/Bold Future	\$14,171	\$42,600
Special projects support	\$853,874	\$777,162
Total	\$3,046,326	\$3,410,396
Net ending assets	\$10,474,123	\$10,365,599
Unrestricted net assets:	ΦΕ 000 0E2	¢C 000 0E0
Board designated reserve fund	\$5,808,053 \$4,206,637	\$6,208,053 \$1,100,315
Undesignated Temporarily restricted net assets	\$1,206,637 \$1,442,068	\$1,100,315 \$1,039,866
Endowment fund	\$2,017,365	
Endowment fund	ΦΖ,∪11,303	\$2,017,365

¹ Audited numbers

² Unaudited numbers



Unrestricted gifts 20%



Non-board members 3,709

Total 5,457

BREAKING NEW GROUND...

Metropolitan Planning Council Annual Report 2005-06

Staff

Kim Grimshaw Boltor Communications Director Katherine Bucar Production Assistant Mandy Burrell

Mandy Burrell
Communications

Design Kate Friedman

Photography

pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 23
Michael Prischman: pages 7, 8

page 6

by leading the way

andra Young has been a resident and dedicated leader of the Chicago Housing Authority's Ida B. Wells development for the



past 25 years, including the last eight as president of the Wells Local Advisory Council. Wells is being redeveloped as Oakwood Shores, a mixed-income community just blocks from

Lake Michigan on Chicago's South Side, and Young continues to be a dynamic and inspiring community advocate.

In the late 1980s, Young participated in MPC's Wells Community Initiative, a resident skills development and leadership training program, so we are especially proud of her many achievements: from negotiating the hiring of more than 25 public housing residents by the Oakwood Shores property managers, to attracting commerce and retail to the area as a board member of the Quad Communities Development Corporation.

The young people pictured on the cover (from I to r: Ira Young, Kirby Stanton, and Felicia Golden) are participants in some of the youth activities Young has organized as an active partner of the Chicago Park District, which include summer camps and, more recently, supporting a book written by neighborhood teenagers, entitled "The Other Side of the Fence."

On a personal level, Sandra is getting ready to purchase her first home in the new community ... a groundbreaking moment in anyone's life. Founded in 1934, the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan group of business and civic leaders committed to serving the public interest through the promotion and implementation of sensible planning and development policies necessary for an economically competitive Chicago region. MPC researches and develops policy recommendations and conducts outreach and advocacy in partnership with public officials and community leaders to enhance equity of opportunity and quality of life throughout metropolitan Chicago.

Metropolitan Planning Council 25 East Washington Street Suite 1600 Chicago, Illinois 60602 312.922.5616 ph 312.922.5619 fx info@metroplanning.org

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