

Learning from London

“Plans for leaving a lasting [Olympics] legacy rest on transforming the poor transport and environmental features of the area, as well as improving the job prospects, skills and health of the local population.”

This could very well be a statement about Chicago, and the potential it now has as the U.S. candidate to host the 2016 Olympics Games. However, this remark was made by David Higgins, chief executive of London’s Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), the quasi-government agency responsible for the delivery of venues, infrastructure, and a lasting legacy for the 2012 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in London.

London’s selection was announced in July 2005. Well before that — and to strengthen their bid — city leaders were already deep into planning the long-term benefits of hosting the Games. They established a Legacy Board, secured “planning consent” for Olympic Park, won approval of an extension of London Underground’s East London line, one of three major transit projects, and commenced construction on a new world-class Aquatics Centre.



PHOTO: LONDON 2012

For its Games, London will use a mixture of newly built, existing and temporary

MPC is already exploring how it can help Chicago 2016 address some of the city’s biggest transit and housing challenges.

facilities. Afterwards, some of the new venues will be reused in their Olympic form, others will be reduced in size, and several will be relocated elsewhere in the United Kingdom. Olympic Park, located in

East London, will leave 9,000 new homes, community facilities, retail space, and new offices.

London 2012 Chairman Sebastian Coe said “We have known from the outset of our bid that creating long-term benefits requires early planning, consultation and commitment.”

So, while Chicago takes a well-deserved moment to savor its victory over Los Angeles, MPC is already exploring how it can help Chicago 2016 address some of the city’s biggest transit and housing challenges, while also transforming large swaths of the city and region.

THIS COMPUTER-GENERATED PHOTO SHOWS HOW LONDON’S OLYMPIC PARK CAN BE USED LATER FOR RECREATION.

To spark our creative thinking, prepare us for pitfalls, and learn from first-hand perspectives, MPC is developing relationships in London, as well as Beijing, China, host of the 2008 Games, and Sydney, Australia, Olympics host in 2004. “The Games are a catalyst for 60 days,” Higgins said. “But we are working towards a lasting legacy.” MPC’s sentiments for Chicago exactly.

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Is transit service in Chicago tied to population? Does service go up or down when an area grows? Turn to page 5 to find out. The answers might surprise you.

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PHOTO: JOSH HAWKINS

Feeling good in the new neighborhood

SANDRA YOUNG is a long-time resident of the Chicago Housing Authority’s (CHA) Ida B. Wells development on Chicago’s South Side, and an active one. She has been president of the Wells Local Advisory Council since 1999 and is a member of the CHA Board of Commissioners. Describing the transformation of Ida B. Wells into Oakwood Shores,

Young said, “Ultimately, the future of the new mixed-income communities depends on the ability of our kids to understand, respect and support each other — so this generation helps us grow out of our segregated past and succeed in a diverse society.” Given the philosophical questions about what constitutes success for the CHA Plan for Transformation, these words are both provocative and profound.

The Metropolitan Planning Council’s commitment to quality public housing dates back to its inception in the 1930s as the Metropolitan Housing Council. While our fundamental commitment has remained the same — to the viability of the housing, resident engagement, and the quality of the broader neighborhood — MPC’s strategies and priorities have responded to changing needs over the years.

“Metropolitan Planning Council,” Young mused. “Isn’t that the group that facilitated training for resident leaders in the ‘80s? For me, that was a pivotal learning experience!”

Indeed, back in the late 1980s, a significant amount of the Council’s work was devoted to empowering and training public housing residents, amplifying their voices, and spurring the reform of thousands of dilapidated and mismanaged CHA homes. More than 15 years later, the bricks and mortar reform is well

The spectacular metamorphosis of public housing “projects” into vibrant mixed-income communities set a new standard as residents and developers grapple with a variety of challenges.

underway via the Plan for Transformation, with around 14,000 homes delivered since 2001.

Oakwood Shores — with its new, adjacent Donoghue Charter School (managed by the University of Chicago), a renovated Mandrake Park in the heart of the community, visible revitalization along the nearby Cottage Grove commercial corridor, public housing residents intimately involved in redevelopment efforts — and 100 former public housing renters becoming homeowners in the new mixed-income community — is becoming a model of successful public housing reform.

It’s a new day

Dramatic changes are also underway elsewhere around the city. Only 10 years ago, CHA was run by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) due to a legacy of local mismanagement. Today, where once-infamous high-rises stood — Stateway Gardens, ABLA, Robert Taylor Homes — state-of-the-art residential developments are sprouting up, with new names to signal a new day: Park Boulevard, Roosevelt Square, Legends South. Hundreds of new partners, from experienced developers and savvy property managers to sophisticated supportive services providers and community builders, are building and managing the new communities. However, other ingredients for success must be locked in: despite being located five miles from the Loop, for

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A RENOVATED MANDRAKE PARK (ABOVE) IS AN IMPORTANT COMMUNITY ASSET FOR OAKWOOD SHORES.

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Next stop: new connections

In Chicago, the real estate mantra “location, location, location” frequently means proximity to the Loop or Lake Michigan. Unfortunately, for residents of some of the new CHA mixed-income communities located within minutes of downtown or the lakefront by car, a prime location does not equal prime access. Too many of these communities are not well connected to Chicago’s extensive transit network, which is required by low-income families with no access to automobiles and preferred by savvy commuters who want to avoid the region’s growing traffic congestion.

Transit, retail and jobs are critical to ensure the massive public and private investment in these new communities reaches full potential.

To address these concerns, the City of Chicago is collaborating with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) — with MPC playing a key role — to improve several transit corridors located within the massive Plan for Transformation redevelopment areas.

“Reconnecting Neighborhoods” is a participatory initiative that will bring together long-time community residents, residents of the new mixed-income

CHA, THE PARTNERSHIP FOR NEW COMMUNITIES, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE JOINTLY COMMITTED \$22.5 MILLION TO PROMOTE PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENT ACCESS TO JOBS.

sites, community leaders, neighborhood institutions, developers, and existing and potential businesses and employers in three areas to analyze current conditions; propose plans for improving transportation infrastructure, transit service and commercial options; and make recommendations to bring the plans to fruition.

The three neighborhoods are North Town Village, the redeveloped Cabrini-Green in the Near North area; Westhaven Park on the Near West Side, where the Henry Horner Homes once stood; and the Mid-South lakefront area, which includes three mixed-income communities: Jazz on the Boulevard, Lake Park Crescent, and Oakwood Shores.

As part of the Reconnecting Neighborhoods team, MPC will convene local task forces of stakeholders in the three communities to generate strong public participation. MPC will bring in independent experts to assess the transit and retail recommendations, and build on current efforts to recruit private investors and champions willing to make the recommendations happen.

Reconnecting Neighborhoods is getting underway in the summer of 2007. If you believe transit and retail are key to the success of the CHA Plan for Transformation, contact Brandon Johnson, project manager of Reconnecting Neighborhoods, at bjohnson@metroplanning.org or (312) 863-6046 to get involved.

Feeling good

example, limited transit options result in 45-minute (each way) commute times for Oakwood Shores residents who work downtown. And, as the recent *Stepping Out* report by the Illinois Facilities Fund demonstrated, the area badly needs a community center. Similar needs exist in other Plan for Transformation communities.

“As much as we try to cultivate a sense of community in our development, Westhaven Park, let’s face it: It’s hard to feel neighborly without a neighborhood,” said Delrice Adams, program coordinator of Pathways to Rewards, a Project Match program. “Most of us need that local bookstore, grocery store, and neighborhood cleaners to help reinforce the connection we feel to where we live.” Project Match is working with developer Brinshore-Michaels to help families achieve financial stability and improved quality of life on Chicago’s Near West Side.

A range of other initiatives, including MPC’s Reconnecting Neighborhoods project (see sidebar, left), are being set in motion to attract transit and retail to communities where thousands of families are already moving.

Today, where once-infamous high-rises stood — Stateway Gardens, ABLA, Robert Taylor Homes — state-of-the-art residential developments are sprouting up, with new names to signal a new day.

But Adams isn’t sitting around waiting for a new neighborhood to be created. With support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, she and her counterparts at different mixed-income sites are busy coordinating resident activities and services within their communities, troubleshooting day-to-day issues, and connecting residents to resources in the surrounding city. They’re also plugged into the workforce activities that entities like the Partnership for New Communities, MPC, and the City of Chicago are advancing.

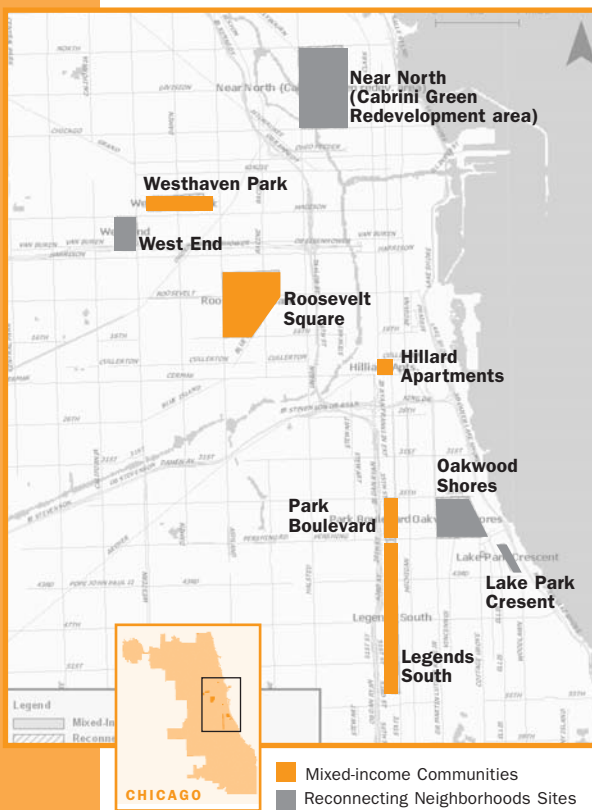
Is there a recipe for success?

Experience shows that a true range of incomes within mixed-income communities is critical to their success. However, as development costs rise, the price-points of for-sale homes in the CHA communities, including those originally classified as “affordable” (around 25 percent of the total number of homes) are rising — jeopardizing the original goal of offering homes for moderate-income, working people. Combined with the reduced number of market-rate rentals available at most sites, more housing opportunities are available at either end of the purchasing-power spectrum, with limited options for buyers and renters in the middle.

Such polarization can be minimized by closely monitoring the price ranges of the affordable homes, exploring possibilities to build some of these homes in lots adjacent to the CHA sites, and pursuing new private and public sector incentives and innovations.

Another essential investment will be sustainable funding streams for much-needed resident services over the life of the developments. As CHA becomes more of an “asset manager,” the question is: who will be footing the bill once the federal transformation dollars are exhausted and the current post-occupancy service contracts that fund resident services end.

Experienced practitioners like Pat Costigan, senior vice president of community initiatives and public policy for the Community Builders, one of the developers of Oakwood Shores, have been experimenting with a menu of options that combines public funds, private investment, and help from the philanthropic community. According to Costigan, “We need to ensure that staff in charge of resident service coordination are there for all families and ‘wire’ these developments to the surrounding community resources.” Early research is showing that basic investments in service coordinators produce high returns for residents, savings for the properties, and benefits in the surrounding community in the form of higher property values and reduced crime.



Through MPC’s Reconnecting Communities project residents in three Plan for Transformation communities will chart a new course for transit service, retail and jobs in Chicago.

PHOTO: LEE BEV



PHOTO: JOSH ELLIS

To create a more viable culture than the one that plagued public housing of the past, the new communities have “site specific criteria,” which include a 30-hour-per-week work (or preparing for work) requirement. While the hope is to set high standards for residents in these high quality homes, and to make sure the residents themselves are contributing to their community’s sustainability, the timing and approach to enforcement is challenging. How can property managers be compassionate and flexible with families struggling to achieve financial and household stability for the first time, while also sufficiently strict and predictable so that those who prefer not to follow the mixed-income communities’ rules can be relocated to other housing in a timely manner?

Learning our lesson

To solve these and other questions, MPC has been convening national and local experts through the “Building Successful Mixed-Income Communities” forums, co-sponsored by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and in collaboration with CHA. MPC has also convened developers, property managers, and service providers in roundtables and working groups to tackle both day-to-day issues affecting life in mixed-income communities and big-picture policy issues. Recently, MPC entered in a collaboration with University of Chicago researchers to gather and broadly disseminate the research and lessons learned through these exchanges.

The stakes of success are enormous for the entire Chicago-land region. Lori Healey, then-commissioner of the Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development and now Mayor Richard M. Daley’s chief of staff, recently described the huge impact the Plan for Transformation had on the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), as it toured Chicago and evaluated it against Los Angeles as potential host of the 2016 Games.

TO BE NEAR FAMILY, INCLUDING GRANDSON IRA YOUNG, SANDRA YOUNG (RIGHT, IN A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY MICHAEL PRISCHMAN FOR MPC’S 2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT) RECENTLY MOVED TO OAKWOOD SHORES, A NEW MIXED-INCOME COMMUNITY BUILT IN PLACE OF THE NOTORIOUS IDA B. WELLS, CLARENCE DARROW, AND MADDEN PARK HOMES.

Healey said she was certain the impressive changes witnessed by the USOC — in an area that only a few years ago contained dozens of dilapidated public housing high-rises — made a key difference in the selection of Chicago as the U.S. representative in the quest to host the Games.

Chicago will not know if it wins the Olympic bid until 2009, nine years into the Plan for Transformation. Between now and then, the public, private and nonprofit sectors must keep working in sync to keep Chicago on the right track to fulfill the promise of the Plan, so we can host the Olympic Games in 2016 and showcase the transformation to the world.



Who funds this work

MPC’s Public Housing in the Public Interest program is supported by:

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- Harris Family Foundation
- McCormick Tribune Foundation

THE PLAN FOR TRANSFORMATION IS FOSTERING NEIGHBORHOODS THAT ENCOURAGE CHICAGOANS TO INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER, AS WELL AS COMMUNITY AMENITIES SUCH AS 31ST STREET BEACH (ABOVE) AND MANDRAKE PARK (COVER).

What you can do

Learn more about CHA Plan for Transformation mixed-income communities and participate in “Building Successful Mixed-Income Communities” forums, which cover different aspects of the Plan. Contact Robin Snyderman, MPC housing director, at (312) 863-6007 or rsnyderman@metroplanning.org to get involved.

program updates

MPC's Community Building Initiative answers call for reinvestment and cooperation in Joliet

The southwest city of Joliet, Ill., is one of the fastest growing municipalities in the nation, but its East Side has suffered from decline. That didn't stop over 400 residents, business leaders, and city officials from demonstrating their commitment to positive change for the city's East Side neighborhoods during two large community meetings this spring.

These meetings were a critical piece of the planning strategy led by the Joliet Quality of Life Task Force, comprised of local leaders and city officials. Joliet's fast growth has, in many ways, left the historic East Side neighborhoods behind. Building off of opportunities from the new I-355 corridor expansion, a growth in industry, and the city's strengthening of the central business district, government and community leaders are working to reinvent and reposition the East Side as an entry point to the city.

A team, led by the Center for Neighborhood Technology that includes MPC, Partec Consulting Group, and Teska Associates, Inc., is helping them create an action plan addressing a breadth of issues ranging from recreation to public transportation to economic development. MPC is taking the lead on housing and retail development strategies.

Community involvement is the backbone of any planning process, and the response has been overwhelming. Nearly 1,000 Joliet residents and stakeholders have provided input through community meetings, mailed surveys, and one-on-one interviews.

As a result, the project team has offered preliminary recommendations that highlight ways to rebuild retail corridors and remove barriers to mixed-use, infill development. Other top priorities are local leadership development, improved public participation, and enhanced communication between city staff, elected officials, law enforcement, and residents. The Joliet team presented a draft of the complete action plan to the community at two additional community meetings on June 23 and 27.

Project Opportunity awaits

For the last five years, the Metropolitan Planning Council has been involved in Project Opportunity, a small loan pool to help investors create affordable rental options in areas of opportunity in Cook County. Turnstone Development, the non-profit housing development arm of the Housing Authority of Cook County, administers the program and is inviting small real estate investors to take part in Phase IV.



PHOTO: LIGHTEN-GALE GROUP

Vouchers and keep the homes affordable for 15 years. MPC reviews all applications to ensure the homes are in areas consistent with Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Housing Endorsement Criteria and have access to transit and job opportunities.

An open application process for Project Opportunity is currently underway. Interested investors should visit www.turnstonedev.org or call Nicolette Vander Meer, Lighten-Gale Group, at (312) 920-1500 ext. 106.

EAH saves dollars and makes sense

More employers across the region are tapping employer-assisted housing as a bottom-line strategy to enhance workforce stability and support loyal employees by offering connections to homebuyer education, downpayment assistance, and other resources. For many companies, their successful EAH program has inspired them to become leading advocates for additional workforce housing solutions in their communities.

In March, Label Master joined the diverse ranks of over 60 Illinois employers offering EAH to their workers. The Chicago-based company, which signed on as part of the North River Commission's EAH Consortium for smaller businesses, specializes in the manufacture and distribution of regulatory labeling.

In April, both JP Morgan Chase Bank and Harris N.A. launched EAH programs for their employees. They are poised to take advantage of Housing America's Workforce



PHOTO: LABEL MASTER

LABEL MASTER EMPLOYEES CAN NOW ACCESS EAH BENEFITS.

Act (S. 1078/ H.R.1850), the federal EAH legislation re-introduced this spring. If enacted, this bill will give employers a federal tax credit for investments in EAH, provide tax relief to employees who receive assistance, and cover start-up costs for the nonprofit housing agencies administering EAH programs.

Employer-Assisted Housing Initiatives are picking up steam! To brainstorm about what an EAH program could do for your business or to refer a business associate, contact Lillie Jernigan, suburban EAH consultant, at (312) 863-6005 or ljernigan@metroplanning.org.



PHOTO: KIT HODGE

Making all streets great streets

MPC's Spring 2007 Roundtable, "Streets as Places," captured the imagination of the many community groups and elected officials from throughout the region who attended the standing-room only event. Co-hosted with the Chicago Architecture Foundation, it featured Fred Kent, president of Project for Public Spaces, and Commissioner Cheri Heramb of the Chicago Dept. of Transportation.

Both speakers discussed the positive effects of approaching community building and transportation planning jointly as placemaking. Kent also challenged the region to break down the traditional silos among government agencies that prevent

immediate, low-cost, and low-tech solutions for creating great places out of community streets.

Since that roundtable, MPC has been working with public officials and community groups to translate the international best practices showcased by Kent for use across the region.

A video of the "Streets as Places" roundtable is available on MPC's Web site, at www.metroplanning.org.

COMMUNITY STREETS THAT ATTRACT PEOPLE OF ALL KINDS HAVE THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME THE PLACES THAT DEFINE A NEIGHBORHOOD.



THIS CONCEPTUAL DRAWING OF THE PROPOSED OLYMPIC VILLAGE, COURTESY OF CHICAGO 2016, IS NOT A FINAL DESIGN.

MPC's Rules of the Games for the 2016 Olympics bid

Priority #1: Improve transportation options in metropolitan Chicago. Improvements to public transit, bike lanes, streets, and sidewalks will have lasting benefits for the city and region and should be based on already developed plans.

Priority #2: Coordinate pre-Games development with the revitalization of Chicago's Mid-South and West Side communities currently underway. Many of the proposed Olympics venues are located in South and West Side neighborhoods undergoing rapid revitalization. Through careful planning that addresses the concerns and incorporates the input and resources of local residents, Chicago has a rare opportunity to use the Games to bring jobs, shopping, mixed-income homes, and improved public facilities to some of the city's most historic — and currently disinvested — neighborhoods.

Priority #3: Maximize benefits for Chicago's low and moderate-income residents. The Olympics can help expand the earning power of Chicago's working poor, by focusing on redevelopment that benefits underserved communities. Likewise, the Olympics can help the city attract and retain young professionals and middle-class families.

Priority #4: Grow Chicago's reputation as a green city. The Olympics can catalyze the next step in Chicago's "sustainable revolution" through the development of "green" neighborhoods, featuring pedestrian and bicycle-friendly streets; compact, mixed-use development; accessible open space and public transportation; and a mix of housing types.

CHA PLAN FOR TRANSFORMATION MIXED-INCOME COMMUNITIES ARE JUST BLOCKS AWAY FROM PROPOSED OLYMPIC VENUES. OLYMPIC VILLAGE (ABOVE), TO BE JUST WEST OF THE LAKE AT MCCORMICK PLACE, IS NEAR SEVERAL NEW AND EXISTING CHA PROPERTIES. WESTHAVEN PARK IS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE UNITED CENTER, THE SITE FOR BASKETBALL FINALS AND GYMNASTICS. RESIDENTS OF LEGENDS SOUTH, LOCATED ALONG STATE STREET BETWEEN 39TH AND 54TH STREETS, WOULD BE A SHORT STROLL AWAY FROM THE OLYMPIC STADIUM IN WASHINGTON PARK.

FROM THE BACK COVER

The long way home

A comparison of transit access within a one-mile radius of 3700 N. Halsted and 3700 S. Vincennes — equidistant from downtown and the lake — finds where you live really matters. From the north side, you can catch an express bus to the Loop throughout the day, once every seven minutes or so (and more often during a.m. rush hour), while from the south side, you can catch an express bus to the Loop only during the morning rush.

The north side is projected to lose population between now and 2011, while the south side will grow by roughly 20 percent over the same period, thanks largely to the influx of residents into CHA Plan for Transformation communities. However, this spring, when the Chicago Transit Authority proposed service reductions, both of the south side neighborhood's express buses were marked for elimination, while only the least frequent express run on the north was slated to be cut.

Letter from the president

The year 2016 ... where will you be, what will you be doing? If city leaders are successful, Chicagoans will be enjoying the festivities surrounding the XXXI Olympiad. But what if Chicago is not chosen to host the Olympics in 2016? Can the region still be a winner?



To assemble the bid to host the Games, the City of Chicago and Chicago 2016 Committee had to outline a comprehensive plan to develop venues for the competitions, transportation to get spectators, athletes, and all the rest of us where we need to be, and living accommodations for the athletes and tourists — some might say a lot of trouble for just a few weeks in the middle of the summer. Yet, the city and Chicago 2016 need an even grander plan to create a lasting legacy of the Games. We need to know how to make the most of new development to spark and sustain economic prosperity throughout the city and region. We need to fast-track transportation infrastructure investments to improve our entire regional transit system. We have to plan for the addition of 5,000 new homes created in the Olympic Village without undermining the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) mixed-income communities, most of which will be completed at about the same time, some in the same communities.

As this issue's cover story illustrates, there is much more at stake in the CHA's Plan for Transformation than just bricks and mortar. Nearly half of the Plan's 25,000 new homes have been completed, but the new mixed-income communities are also going to need improved transit, retail, jobs and community centers to be successful. The Metropolitan Planning Council has been working with the CHA since it embarked on the Plan for Transformation to ensure these essential needs are addressed. We are also urging the city and Chicago 2016 to use MPC's "Rules of the Games" to guide planning for the Olympics, and are enthusiastic about bringing our resources and expertise to this historic community and regional challenge.

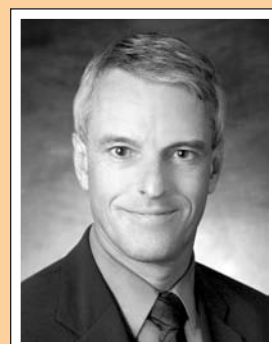
Without a doubt, this is a sports town. But Chicago has a lot more on the line with its Olympic bid than just putting on a preminent athletic competition. If we start working on our legacy plan now — well before the fall of 2009 when we know if we are chosen — when the summer of 2016 is over, we will have something to show for our efforts. We will already be well on our way to making Chicago a perfect 10.

MarySue Barrett
MPC President

Leadership profile

On May 3, 2007, the Metropolitan Planning Council introduced its new Leadership Circle with a breakfast featuring Colin Dyer, president and CEO of Jones Lang LaSalle. More than 60 other CEOs, senior executives, and major donors attended this rare opportunity to hear Dyer's eloquent insights and global perspective on real estate and sustainability.

To commemorate the launch of the Leadership Circle, MPC is adding a *Leadership Profile* as a new feature of *Regional Connection*. In each issue, you will meet a member of the Leadership Circle and learn why he or she is involved with MPC.



MPC: What is your connection to our organization?

CD: Chicago is our headquarters city, so issues regarding the region's growth are important to us. I am an Executive Advisor with MPC; Jacques Gordon is on the Board of Governors; and Tom Kirschbraun co-chairs the Urban Development Committee. Personally, and as representatives of Jones Lang LaSalle, we are committed to Chicago's success and quality of life.

MPC: Which of our issues is most important to you personally?

CD: Sustainability — sustainable growth — is a key issue, both for the Metropolitan Planning Council and for Jones Lang LaSalle. We recognize that buildings can have a significant impact on our environment, and we are addressing environmental challenges through the advice we give to our clients about real estate development, investment and occupancy, as well as through sustainability practices in our own offices. We have been recognized for our efforts by the EPA, which has honored us with its Energy Star Partner of the Year award.

MPC: What is the region's most pressing growth issue?

CD: Chicago is now an international city, attracting investors and businesses from all over the world. It has many of the features that define our "winning cities" — these include a proven ability to manage growth effectively, attract entrepreneurial talent, have infrastructure that works, and offer world-class cultural, educational and health care institutions. Elevating its profile in the international consciousness is a pressing growth issue. This has real meaning when you are competing for knowledge workers. This also is important in competing to host the 2016 Olympics Games.

MPC: What sets the region apart from other metropolitan areas?

CD: Excellent air links, a national freight train hub, compact central business district, excellent universities, and solid work ethic.

MPC: What is your favorite Chicago-area landmark or institution?

CD: The lake; it's an exceptional site for a world city.

Join MPC's Leadership Circle and receive exclusive invitations to briefings, networking events, and tours. Membership is \$5,000 or more annually for corporations or \$1,000 or more annually for individuals. For more information, contact Kristen Hoffman, MPC assistant development director, at (312) 863-6013 or khoffman@metroplanning.org.

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2007 Legislative Scorecard

MPC's 2007 Policy Agenda detailed the Council's priorities for legislative action at the federal, state and local levels. The following charts the progress of some of the key bills MPC supported this year in the Illinois General Assembly.

At press time for *Regional Connection*, the legislature had passed a temporary budget, but not yet adjourned. Action was still pending on essential reforms — most notably education funding and property taxes, and transit operating funding.

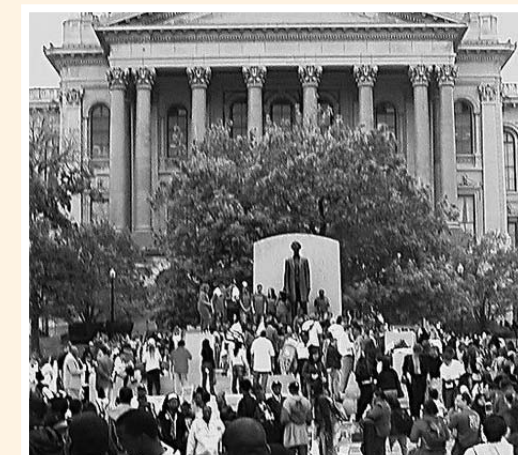
MPC continues to advocate for these and other policy priorities, and welcomes your action. If you want to contact your legislators by phone, fax or e-mail; meet with them in person; or organize your friends and neighbors around any of these issues; contact Peter Skosey, MPC vice president or external relations, at (312) 863-6004 or pskosey@metroplanning.org. Check MPC's Web site for legislative status updates.

MPC's policy priority	Bill	What's next
Encourage local communities to embrace housing that advances the state's "Live Near Work" and preservation goals	Good Housing Good Schools (SB220) Status: PASSED	MPC's Housing team will work with the Ill. State Board of Education and Ill. Housing Development Authority to fund and implement the new school funding bonus program, for communities that welcome workforce housing, which will begin in 2008.
Promote sensible growth and development	Green Neighborhoods Award Act (SB135) Status: PASSED	The U.S. Green Building Council, which designates LEED and LEED-ND status, received 371 proposals for the LEED-ND pilot phase. Of these, 11 were from Illinois. Campaign for Sensible Growth members will meet with the Ill. Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to determine state grant amounts and mechanisms to be available in late 2008.
Support the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning with dedicated revenues and additional powers	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (SB1201) Status: PASSED	The governor gained two additional appointments to the CMAP board, and is expected to sign the bill.

Donor update

We thank the following for their support of MPC's programs and initiatives since the last edition of *Regional Connection*:

- F.B. Heron Foundation for a new grant to support MPC's housing program.
- Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation for its renewed support.
- Shodeen Family Foundation for a new grant in support of MPC.
- Illinois Housing Development Authority for its renewed support of MPC's work on Employer-Assisted Housing.
- Illinois Housing Council for its renewed support of MPC's housing program.
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation for a new grant to support MPC's work in North Lawndale.
- Union Pacific Foundation for a new grant in support of MPC's transportation program.
- S.B. Friedman & Company and DLK Civic Design for their sponsorship of MPC's "Streets As Places" roundtable luncheon.



DESPITE WIDESPREAD GRASSROOTS SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION FUNDING REFORM, LEGISLATIVE ACTION IS STALLED.

PHOTO: LIZ MORAN

Recent MPC Publications

Chicago Housing Authority Plan for Transformation Update, December 2006

Blue Island Reaches Next Crossroads: MPC Blue Island Task Force Report, December 2006

Retail 1-2-3: A workbook for local officials and community leaders, February 2007
(A collaboration of the Campaign for Sensible Growth, International Council of Shopping Centers, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, and MPC)

2007 Policy Agenda: Priorities for Legislative or Administrative Action, February 2007

Resolving the School Funding Debate: Metropolitan Planning Council Recommendations for Education and Tax Reform in 2007, May 2007



Breaking New Ground: Metropolitan Planning Council 2005-06 Annual Report, June 2007

Chicago Housing Authority Plan for Transformation Update, July 2007

St. Charles Housing — Today and in the Future: MPC St. Charles Housing Task Force Report, July 2007

MPC publications available at www.metroplanning.org.

Campaign for Sensible Growth reports on Technical Assistance Panels conducted in partnership with the Urban Land Institute:

Remaking an Historic Corridor: Archer Avenue/Bridgeport, Chicago Illinois, June 2007

Series available at www.growingsensibly.org.

Publications related to the Water Resources and Sustainable Growth project of MPC, the Campaign for Sensible Growth, and Openlands:

Preserving the Kishwaukee Watershed: Guiding development in the Marengo-Union region, April 2007

Reclaiming Trim Creek: Managing growth and protecting resources in the Kankakee River Watershed, May 2007

Series available at www.growingsensibly.org.