

IMPACT REPORT

2023-2025

Bringing Capital and Connections to Communities



**COMMUNITY
DESK CHICAGO**



MISSION STATEMENT

To advance equitable economic prosperity in collaboration with historically under-resourced communities. We do this through an integrated approach of pooling capital, building knowledge and networks, and engaging with investors, funders, and others who influence a community's ability to thrive.

VISION STATEMENT

A Chicago where all communities have the resources they need to create healthy built environments that support their goals for vibrant spaces, positive economic activity, and community wealth-building.

BELIEFS & VALUES

Strong talent and commercial development opportunities exist in communities, but they face challenges accessing necessary capital and resources.

Communities deserve holistic development, including commercial projects that create wealth-building opportunities and improve quality of life.

Projects in communities of color should have equitable access to capital without fear of racial bias.

Community Desk Chicago's role is to collaborate, not duplicate – partnering with the existing ecosystem to add capacity and fill gaps.



COMMUNITY DESK'S VALUE ADD

Where others see risk, Community Desk Chicago sees opportunity. The Desk connects under-resourced entrepreneurs and neighborhood-based developers with the capital, technical coaching, and relationships they need to advance projects, revitalize commercial corridors, and build community wealth.

Photos left to right: 1. Ja'Net Defell and members of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center Team attend the Puerto Rican People's Day Parade & Festival. 2. Panelists at the Diverse Developers CWB Deep Dive Juneteenth Panel Discussion. 3. Community Wealth Building Retreat. 4. W.O.W. team with Mayor Brandon Johnson at the W.O.W. kickoff event. 5. Camille Kerr and Donnell Digby speaking at a Desk Budgets + Bricks event. 6. Englewood Mixtape Team.



JA'NET DEFELL

*Chief Executive Officer,
Community Desk Chicago*



KIRBY BURKHOLDER

*Board Chair,
Community Desk Chicago*

Community Desk Chicago (the Desk) launched in March 2023 with a bold vision to deepen our relationships and impact in neighborhoods. Our strategy centers around building self-reliance in communities through knowledge sharing, capital connections, and technical coaching. Our current programs, including the Neighborhood Developers Initiative, CorridorLive!, Wealth Our Way (W.O.W.), and Budgets + Bricks, are interconnected and create a path to local ownership of community assets, wealth-building, and neighborhood revitalization.

Communities are the foundation of our work. Serving as a “help desk”, our role is to assist them in navigating the complexities of real estate development while educating our community partners and entrepreneurs along the way. Our programs are high-touch, bringing a comprehensive approach to the work we do. Through learning journeys and communities of practice, we empower and prepare our partners to design strategies and make decisions that reflect their long-term goals.

We are proud of our accomplishments over the past three years. Serving the west side and south side of Chicago, we successfully secured \$22 million to help advance small-scale commercial projects. Alongside our partners, we also spearheaded the creation of two community plans, positioning these neighborhoods to advance more than \$150M of anticipated development projects.

Through our W.O.W. program and partnership with the City of Chicago, the Desk serves as a thought leader and coordinator helping to advance commercial shared ownership models. As part of the W.O.W. capital grant program, \$2.6M was awarded to shared ownership models across Chicago.

As we continue to build on our successes and learn from our challenges, we are hopeful that the Desk will continue to play a vital role in neighborhoods while pushing for policies and practices that allow communities to control their outcomes.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve communities and for our funders, who believed in our vision.



WHO WE ARE AND WHY WE DO OUR WORK

Across Chicago, community leaders, entrepreneurs, and neighborhood-based developers are working to revitalize commercial corridors, activate vacant spaces, support local businesses, and create pathways for community-wide investment.

The vision is there. The opportunity is there. But implementation is often challenging.

Community Desk Chicago began as an idea for a community “help desk” — a resource to help local leaders navigate the capital access, technical knowledge, and relationships needed to move community-centered development projects forward. Since launching as an initiative of The Chicago Community Trust in 2019, the Community Desk Chicago (the Desk) has evolved beyond helping connect individual projects to resources. Today, it is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit and community development intermediary focused on helping communities build the capacity to advance small-scale commercial real estate, community wealth-building, and neighborhood investments.



THE GAP THE DESK FILLS

Smaller-scale, community-centered projects can face barriers traditional systems are not designed to solve: limited access to flexible capital, gaps in real estate development knowledge, complex funding requirements, and the need for trusted relationships across public, private, and philanthropic partners.

Chicago offers significant resources for community development, small-business growth, and neighborhood investment. Yet smaller brick-and-mortar businesses, community-rooted nonprofits, and neighborhood-based developers are often left navigating those systems without the capacity, knowledge, or relationships required to move projects from concept to completion – or to build on one successful project with the next.

The Desk's goal is not to replace the existing ecosystem, but to help it work better for the communities, entrepreneurs, and local organizations that have historically been under-resourced, building their capacity to lead neighborhood revitalization over the long term.

HOW THE WORK COMES TOGETHER

The Desk's programs are designed to build self-reliance

Neighborhood Developers Initiative

Neighborhood Developers Initiative builds the capacity of neighborhood nonprofits and their leaders to take a more active role in the strategic planning and physical development of their communities. In 2026, NDI was renamed LeadersFORWARD.

Wealth Our Way

Wealth Our Way supports communities in launching wealth-building models, including community investment vehicles and worker cooperatives, which allow residents and local members to own and control neighborhood assets.

CORRIDORLIVE!

CorridorLive! coordinates assets, technical resources, and capital to revitalize commercial corridors through stabilization, property activation, and long-term local ownership, creating connected investments that build momentum and deepen neighborhood impact.

budgets + bricks

Budgets + Bricks provides technical coaching, project navigation, and capital connections for entrepreneurs pursuing brick-and-mortar spaces in under-resourced communities.



Neighborhood Developers Initiative

How the Neighborhood Developers Initiative (NDI) Helps Communities Build Their Future

The Neighborhood Developers Initiative (NDI)

program provides hands-on support to help organizations in under-resourced communities build capacity – the knowledge, skills, and resources – to lead local real estate development.

NDI provides customized coaching and mentorship, direct funding, and a full-time development staff member for two years.

The program's first cohort provides support for the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Teamwork Englewood, and South Shore Community Development Corporation.

Why Capacity Building is Vital

Community organizations are often the driving force behind neighborhood revitalization, but today's redevelopment projects require expertise in real estate, financing, strategic planning, and partnership building. Real estate development is complex, especially as financing becomes more challenging and funding sources shift.

Through strategic planning and knowledge-building, NDI helps organizations leverage real estate development as a tool to advance their long-term vision for their communities.



THE MODEL IN ACTION

NDI helps community organizations advance their community development goals through three stages:



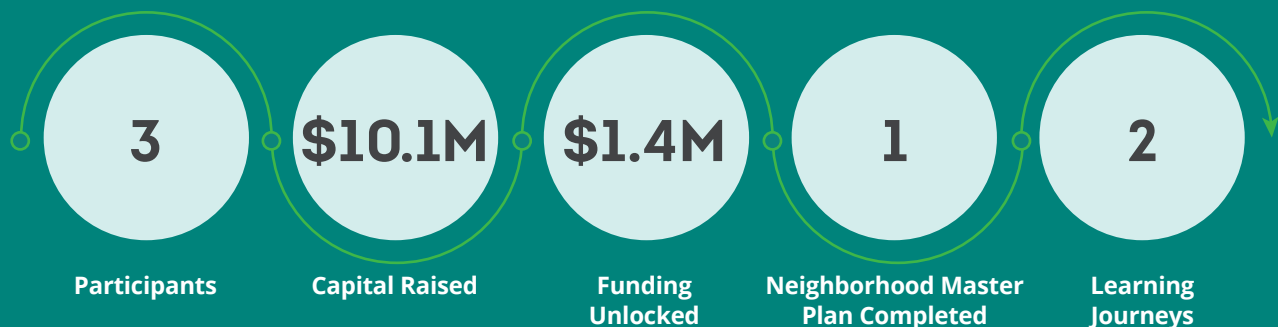
Building Knowledge: providing structured learning and technical coaching focused on real estate development and creating the necessary development plans to be successful.



Advancing Development: helping organizations move from planning to implementation by defining their role in community development, strengthening and supporting projects that advance neighborhood ownership and investment.



Providing Seed Capital: supporting at least one project by providing early-stage investment and funding for a full-time staff member. The initial NDI investment for the first cohort was \$2.6M.



Building the Expertise to Transform Englewood

The Englewood community has always been rich in vision and leadership. What it lacks is ready access to the urban planners, tax attorneys, real estate professionals, and other experts needed to navigate the complexities of redevelopment – expertise that more affluent communities often have at their fingertips.

For more than 20 years, Teamwork Englewood (TWE) has brought together residents, businesses, nonprofits, and public officials to help shape the neighborhood's future. As demand for residents to take a more active role in the physical development of the Englewood community escalated, Executive Director Cecile DeMello realized the organization needed specialized expertise in economic development, commercial real estate, and community investment to turn plans into reality.

The Desk worked with TWE through the Neighborhood Developers Initiative (NDI), helping it build the necessary skill set to serve as the quarterback for coordinated real estate development initiatives in Englewood. The program helped DeMello and her Englewood partners build the skills, relationships, and strategies needed to move complex neighborhood projects forward.

Mastering the Complexities of Redevelopment

Through two years of intense coaching and hands-on project work followed by ongoing weekly consultation that continues today, the Desk helped DeMello deepen her understanding of and expertise in community real estate development, financing, and capital planning. Just as importantly, she learned how to communicate those complex ideas to funders, elected officials, and residents.

One of the partnership's most significant collaborations is the Englewood MixTape, a reinvestment strategy for five of Englewood's commercial corridors. Building on years of community planning, the strategy maps more than \$110 million in active and anticipated investments. Teamwork Englewood and the Desk developed the framework using market research, development analysis, and community priorities. It helps residents, funders, elected officials, and community organizations coordinate their efforts and direct investment where it can have the greatest impact. The plan also lays the groundwork for a future Community Investment Vehicle (CIV), giving residents new opportunities to invest in, shape, and benefit from neighborhood development.



Building Momentum

In addition to broad strategic planning for the Englewood community, Teamwork Englewood also leveraged the \$500,000 NDI capital grant to acquire its first development project – a chronically vacant four-story building and the adjacent lot at 63rd and Halsted. It is the last undeveloped parcel at the gateway to the 63rd Street Commercial Corridor. The site will become the 63rd Rising Empowerment Campus, a permanent home for Teamwork Englewood, a community gallery, and workforce development partners, creating a new hub for neighborhood investment and opportunity.

"What a partnership we have with Community Desk Chicago. To have someone who is culturally supportive, community-friendly, a collaborator, and an executor... if I continue doing community organizing and development work for years to come, this will be one of the highlights of my career." – Cecile DeMello

"These complex projects involve financing, policy, infrastructure, and project management, and it gets complicated very quickly,"

"NDI gave me the practical tools, support, and coaching needed to work across multiple projects, creating a unique multiplier effect in our community."

– **CECILE DEMELLO**

Executive Director, Teamwork Englewood

TEAMWORK ENGLEWOOD **IMPACT SNAPSHOT**

4-year

partnership with the Desk

Five-corridor Englewood MixTape redevelopment plan completed

\$1.8M

to support real estate development initiatives

Acquisition of first development site – 63rd Rising Empowerment Campus

Wealth Our Way

How Wealth Our Way Helps Communities

The Wealth Our Way (W.O.W.) program helps Chicago communities build wealth through shared ownership of neighborhood businesses, real estate, and other local assets.

There is a growing national movement toward shared ownership models because they give communities greater control of local assets, create opportunities to build generational wealth, and help ensure development reflects the people who live there.

In 2025, the Desk and the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development awarded \$2.6 million through the W.O.W. Capital Grant Program to six projects: Bennett Place, CrossTreats, E.G. Woode, Five Point Holistic Health, HAZ Cooperative, and Quilombo Chicago.

Advancing Shared Commercial Ownership in Chicago

Since 2021, the Desk has worked to expand opportunities for residents to build wealth and revitalize their communities through local ownership. That work has included more than 20 convenings and workshops to connect resources and share knowledge, as well as research into shared ownership models.

Through that research, the Desk coined the term Community Investment Vehicles (CIVs) to describe one approach to community ownership and later produced a CIV playbook to provide a roadmap for implementation.

At the same time, the City of Chicago launched a \$15 million commitment to advance community wealth-building citywide. The Desk advocated for CIVs to become one of the City's four priority models and served on the City's Community Wealth Building Advisory Council.

That work continued through W.O.W., which was designed to support both CIVs and worker cooperatives as part of the City's broader community wealth-building investment.

Under Nneka Onwuzurike's leadership, The Community WEB (Wealth Ecosystem Builders) was created to continue the work she began at the City. In 2025, the Desk housed the WEB during its incubation period, reflecting their shared commitment to advancing community ownership in Chicago.

THE MODEL IN ACTION

W.O.W. combines technical coaching, funding, and advocacy to move shared ownership projects from concept to implementation. The W.O.W. Capital Grant Program pairs the Desk's support with City capital funding through:



Sharing Knowledge and Building Networks: organizing learning journeys, workshops, and convenings that connect organizations with shared ownership models, resources, and peers.



Providing Technical Coaching: providing access to legal, financial, real estate, and operational expertise needed to develop community-centered ownership models.



Providing Capital and Implementation Support: moving projects from planning to launch through property acquisition, funding, operational support, and fundraising.



Strengthening the Shared Ownership Ecosystem: supporting partnerships that strengthen and expand community ownership across Chicago.

15

Projects Coached

6

WOW Capital Grant
Program Awardees

\$2.6M

Grants Awarded

\$5.3M

Capital Raised

\$7.7M

Capital Unlocked

20

Convenings and
Workshops

Opening Doors for Entrepreneurs

Many talented entrepreneurs never get the chance to launch a business because they can't afford the financial risk. Those barriers are especially high in historically under-resourced communities.

For nearly a decade, E.G. Woode has helped breathe new life into Chicago's Englewood neighborhood by purchasing and redeveloping vacant properties into affordable spaces where local businesses can launch and grow.

E.G. Woode itself is built around a shared ownership model that brings together mission-aligned investors and entrepreneurs. The organization secured its initial investment capital from family and friends, and the entrepreneurs provide governance and oversight.

Its newest venture, the Pop-up HUB (which stands for Harnessing Urban Brilliance), is located at 1116 W. 63rd St. The long-vacant property will now serve as a space for entrepreneurs to test business ideas, host events, or showcase their work without the financial commitment of a permanent space.

A \$500,000 grant through Community Desk Chicago's (the Desk) Wealth Our Way (W.O.W.) program came along at the perfect time, providing 75% of the funding to build out the space.

A Place to Test Ideas

In working with local entrepreneurs, E.G. Woode found that traditional commercial leases are often impractical in neighborhoods with limited foot traffic. The Pop-up HUB offers flexible, short-term lease space for businesses and community events, lowering costs while boosting activity in the corridor.

When completed, the Pop-up HUB will become the new home of Marie Wesley, an established Englewood-based business that transforms donated clothing into one-of-a-kind designs and hosts fashion shows, among other community events.

Entrepreneurs can also rent space on a short-term basis. A yoga instructor could teach classes a few times a month. A food entrepreneur may use the commercial kitchen to refine a menu before opening a restaurant. Artists, makers, and retailers can host pop-ups, workshops, or special events.

The idea grew from E.G. Woode's experience redeveloping commercial properties throughout Englewood. Purchasing older buildings is only the beginning. Bringing them up to code while keeping rents affordable is often the biggest challenge. For the Pop-up HUB, the W.O.W. grant provided the critical funding needed to move the project forward.

Creating Opportunity that Lasts

For E.G. Woode, success isn't measured by restored buildings. It's measured by the opportunities those spaces create—for entrepreneurs, residents, and the neighborhood itself.

"Just seeing a vacant storefront come back to life changes what's possible. Someone walking by might think, 'Maybe I could try my business idea here.' It could be transformative." – Justin Essig

By lowering barriers to entrepreneurship, the Pop-up HUB aims to become a place where ideas become businesses, and a once-vacant building becomes a vibrant gathering place for the community.



"There are a lot of entrepreneurs and small businesses in the neighborhood that want better things for themselves, want better things for their community, but there are just incredible financial hurdles in the way of getting a space, redeveloping it, and then doing their business. We wanted to create a space where someone can experiment. Maybe they don't need the space every day, but they deserve the opportunity."

– JUSTIN ESSIG
E.G. Woode cofounder

E.G. WOODE IMPACT SNAPSHOT

\$500,000
Wealth Our Way grant

Technical coaching
related to governance
and long-term
sustainability

Grant funded
75%
of Pop-up HUB build-out

\$1.1M in cumulative
capital support for
development projects

How CorridorLive! Helps Communities Revitalize Neighborhood Corridors

The **CorridorLive!** program revitalizes and reactivates neighborhood business corridors. By working with local leaders, the Desk implements a strategic framework that focuses on corridor development, stabilization, and long-term community wealth-building.

The Desk is currently piloting the framework in the South Shore community of Chicago, working closely with the South Shore Community Development Corporation.

Why Corridors?

Neighborhood corridors are the heart of a community. When they reflect the community's culture, they serve as a place for connection, celebration, and commerce. In under-resourced areas, high vacancy rates, absentee landlords, and the complexity of commercial real estate make it challenging for communities to build momentum.

Neighborhood corridors can thrive if provided with the coordinated resources – assets, capacity, and capital.

CORRIDORLIVE!



THE MODEL IN ACTION

CorridorLive! coordinates assets, capacity, and capital to revitalize commercial corridors through stabilization, property activation, and long-term local ownership, creating connected investments that build momentum and deepen neighborhood impact. The CorridorLive! framework consists of four key components.



Centering Community: engaging residents and community organizations to shape the vision and ensure revitalization efforts reflect neighborhood priorities, culture, and needs.



Creating a Development and Activation Strategy: creating a road map that combines immediate stabilization efforts, such as outdoor activations and board-ups, with long-term strategies for property acquisition, business recruitment and retention, corridor branding, community ownership, and wealth building.



Coordinating Capital: aligning multiple funding sources in advance to reduce investment risk, control costs, accelerate implementation, and build momentum along the corridor.



Building an Implementation Team: assembling and coordinating the expertise, resources, and partners needed to carry out the strategy.



Building a Community-Owned Future on 71st Street

Along Chicago's 71st Street in the South Shore neighborhood, the South Shore Community Development Corporation (CDC) and its sister agency, the South Shore Chamber of Commerce, are transforming vacant or blighted properties into restaurants, housing, and spaces for local businesses and artists.

Their vision goes beyond renovating buildings. It's about creating a vibrant commercial corridor that reflects the community's strengths while giving residents a stake in its future.

As a NDI participant, the South Shore CDC was well-positioned to lead the CorridorLive! pilot in South Shore. Working with the Desk, the CDC turned their vision for 71st Street into action. Together, they mapped corridor assets, identified priority properties, built partnerships, and developed a coordinated strategy linking property acquisition, business development, arts and culture, housing, transportation, and community ownership—along with the organizational capacity to move that strategy off the shelf and into the neighborhood. The vision is clearly articulated in the CorridorLive! South Shore - 71st Street Corridor Plan.

Reimagining the Corridor

The 71st Street corridor was selected because it had the ingredients for success: strong community leadership, density, established businesses, strong pedestrian traffic, a special service area (SSA) that supports corridor maintenance, and proximity to the South Shore Cultural Center, the lakefront, and the Obama Presidential Center.

This strategy provided direct support to community-centered landlords while accelerating opportunities for residents to own commercial property so residents and businesses could benefit from redevelopment rather than be displaced by it.

Tonya Trice, Executive Director of the South Shore CDC and South Shore Chamber of Commerce, envisions South Shore becoming "South Chicago Beach," a vibrant lakefront destination known for its restaurants – ideally one on every block to bring in key foot traffic – arts, parks, and waterfront rather than outdated perceptions.



Multi-Program Strategy

Recognizing opportunities in South Shore, the Desk brought all of its programs together in the neighborhood. The Desk provided the South Shore CDC with its initial development training through NDI. Alongside CorridorLive!, the CDC is actively launching a Community Investment Vehicle (CIV) that would expand opportunities for residents to own commercial assets along the redeveloped 71st Street corridor. The Desk also supported several local entrepreneurs through its Budgets + Bricks program.

Building upon each other, these programs create a path from development training to business growth to local ownership, giving residents and community leaders a greater role in shaping and investing in the future of the 71st Street corridor.

"I knew our community needed more control of our assets, but I didn't fully understand how important it was to put together a comprehensive revitalization plan, bring together the right partners, and coordinate the capital resources needed to make it happen. That is what Community Desk Chicago helped us accomplish."

– TONYA TRICE

Executive Director, South Shore CDC and South Shore Chamber of Commerce

SOUTH SHORE 71ST STREET CORRIDOR IMPACT SNAPSHOT

4-year

partnership with the Desk

**8 resident-led
developments**

on 71st Street

\$15M

in investments committed
along the district

Comprehensive
Corridor Plan with
\$30M in projected
investments



How Budgets + Bricks Helps Entrepreneurs Build Brick and Mortar Businesses

The Budgets + Bricks program is a holistic approach to scale entrepreneurs through technical coaching and capital connections. The program is designed to help experienced entrepreneurs navigate the process of acquiring and developing their brick and mortar space including assembling the appropriate professionals to move the project through planning, financing, design, and construction.

Real estate development requires experience and coordination. The Budgets + Bricks program serves as a help desk for local entrepreneurs, supporting them as they launch brick-and-mortar spaces in their communities.



Why Focus on Brick and Mortar?

Ownership is power and financial security. When entrepreneurs own their space, they have security against displacement and hold an asset that can be leveraged to build long-term wealth.

The program supports entrepreneurs who are financially positioned to grow their businesses through real estate ownership but often operate in rental spaces such as incubators and leased storefronts. In under-resourced communities, Budgets + Bricks helps these entrepreneurs acquire property for their businesses while also activating properties that are often vacant or blighted along neighborhood business corridors.

THE MODEL IN ACTION

The Budgets + Bricks program provides the following services:



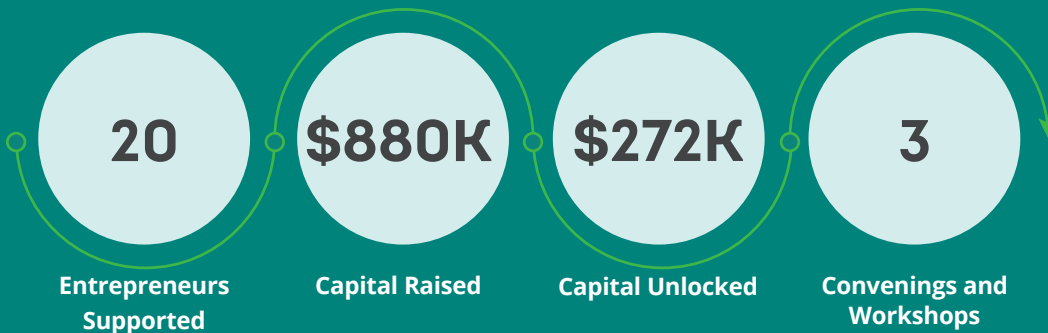
Technical Coaching: confirming financial feasibility and project readiness, and serving as an extension of the team.



Connecting to Capital: identifying loans, grants, and other funding sources based on project needs and feasibility.



Guiding Project Navigation: connecting entrepreneurs with technical experts, financing partners, and other resources to address challenges that arise.



From Vision to Brick and Mortar

A leatherworker who can't afford commercial equipment. A jewelry maker traveling across the city just to use a torch. A fashion designer sewing garments in a basement. A podcaster recording episodes from a garage.

These are the entrepreneurs Quandra Speights hopes one day will fill the Urban Market Exchange, a first-of-its-kind makerspace in Woodlawn that will provide artists, makers, and creative entrepreneurs with affordable access to professional equipment, workspace, and business support.

After leaving corporate America, Speights served as a coach to artisans in a structured entrepreneurship program. Participants often complained about a lack of access to affordable workspaces. They would often work from their homes, with limited equipment and resources to create, produce, or grow their businesses.

Speights saw an opportunity to help her community. She purchased a building and set out to create the first comprehensive makerspace on the south side of Chicago, and is now CEO and co-owner of The Urban Market Exchange.

Urban Market Exchange did not meet the typical profile for Budgets + Bricks community partner, which includes at least two years of experience. But Community Desk Chicago (the Desk) made an exception because the project had the potential to impact and grow the artisan community.

The Desk helped Speights assemble a development team, including an architect, an owner's representative, and other specialists. The program helped her strengthen grant applications, develop financial projections, and ultimately secure more than \$3 million in grants and financing over a five-year period.

A Vision for Woodlawn

Urban Market Exchange is designed to be more than a workspace. It will be a collaborative hub at 6700 S. Rhodes Ave., where makers can create, learn from one another, and build businesses together. It will offer a public café and retail space showcasing products made on site, as well as coworking space, private studios, and four specialized rooms and equipment for:

- videography (lights, cameras, and green screens)
- podcasting (microphones and sound equipment)
- fabrication (sewing and embroidery machines)
- printing (laser cutters, 3D printers, and a heat press)

A jewelry maker can collaborate with a photographer to showcase products online. A fashion designer can learn leatherworking techniques from another maker. Entrepreneurs who once worked alone in garages or basements can share ideas, skills, and customers under one roof.

Flexible memberships – ranging from monthly to annual – will give entrepreneurs access to workspace based on their needs. Two experienced makers will serve as on-site directors, managing daily operations while mentoring members and helping them grow their businesses.

The local YWCA will complement the makerspace by offering business support services for members. Speights hopes this support will help today's makers become tomorrow's storefront owners, transforming vacant buildings into thriving local businesses and helping build a stronger neighborhood economy.

"The Desk held my hand through the entire process. I don't think I would have ever gotten this far without them." – Quandra Speights



URBAN MARKET EXCHANGE IMPACT SNAPSHOT

5-year

Budgets + Bricks partnership

\$3.2 million

in grants and financing secured during partnership

First-of-its-kind
makerspace in Woodlawn

100 artisan and maker members anticipated

"I had never even thought about developing (a commercial project). I just knew that we had a need in our community. The Desk was like my knight on a white horse. They helped me build the team and access the funding to make this dream come true."

– QUANDRA SPEIGHTS

CEO and co-owner of Urban Market Exchange



Community Desk Chicago Funders

We gratefully acknowledge the generous financial support from the following organizations for fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025. This work would not be possible without you.

AMERICAN FAMILY DREAM FOUNDATION

BUILDERS INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST

JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

JPMORGAN CHASE FOUNDATION

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

RICHARD H. DRIEHAUS FOUNDATION

ROBERT R. MCCORMICK FOUNDATION

WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION

Community Desk Chicago Board of Directors

We gratefully recognize the individuals who served on the Community Desk Chicago's Board of Directors for the 2023, 2024, and 2025 fiscal years. Your expertise, guidance, and support were critical to the successful launch of the Desk and our first three years.



DANIEL ASH

President, Field Foundation



NICOLE BELL, SECRETARY

Chief of Staff, Polsky Center at the University of Chicago



DEBORAH BENNETT

Retired Senior Program Officer, Polk Bros Foundation



KIRBY BURKHOLDER, CHAIR

CEO, IFF



JA'NET DEFELL

President & CEO, Community Desk Chicago



LANCE DORN

Partner, SB Friedman



PAULA MCCALED

Large Business & International Division, Internal Revenue Service



TORRENCE MOORE, TREASURER

Head of Access to Capital and DEI, US Bancorp Impact Finance



LIZZY DIAZ-ORTIZ

Vice President - Director, Next Gen & Emerging Segment Growth (Hispanic/Latino & Student), BMO Harris Bank



SHERMANN "DILLA" THOMAS

Founder, Chicago Mahogany Tours

Revenue	2023	2024	2025
	Total Support and Revenue \$2,194,282 Contributions and Grants \$2,000,000 Other \$194,282	Total Support and Revenue \$608,118 Contributions and Grants \$602,000 Other \$6,118	Total Support and Revenue \$2,462,835 Contributions and Grants \$2,343,000 Government Contracts \$112,635 Other \$7,200
Expenses			
	Total Expenses \$246,251 Program Services \$182,913 Management and General \$37,703 Fundraising \$25,635	Total Expenses \$780,351 Program Services \$470,427 Management and General \$279,701 Fundraising \$30,223	Total Expenses \$1,644,802 Program Services \$1,405,013 Management and General \$210,307 Fundraising \$29,482
Change in Net Assets			
	\$1,948,031	(\$172,233)	\$818,033
Net Assets at Year-End			
	\$1,948,031	\$1,775,798	\$2,593,831

The accompanying financial information is a summary of the audited financial statements of Community Desk Chicago for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2024, and 2025. It does not contain all of the information and disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, this summary should be read in conjunction with the organization's complete audited financial statements and the independent auditor's report thereon. Copies of the complete audited financial statements are available upon request from management.

TSVALON PARKCALUI
CHATHAMDOUGLASEA
ENGLEWOODGREATER
SELANDAUSTINWEST EN
AVONDALE LOWER WE
SINGHUMBOLDT PARK
MET HEIGHTSGREATER
WOODLAWNNAVONDAL
SELANDSOUTH CHICA
SENSOUTH SHOREPAR
AWNDALEGARFIELD PA



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