



Updates from CRN

March 2, 2020

Spring Benefit at Revolution Brewing

On Tuesday, May 12, join CRN and our members for a fundraiser at Revolution Brewing. Beer and appetizers will be provided. Minimum \$40 donation. [RSVP today!](#)



2323 N Milwaukee Ave.
Tuesday, May 12 | 6-8pm

In This Issue

[CRN Spring Benefit](#)

[Empowerment Series Begins in April](#)

[H.O.M.E. Joins CRN](#)

[CRN's Q3 Analysis Out Now](#)

[Protecting Fair Housing Supporting CRA](#)

[Affordability Concerns in Fulton Market](#)

[Black History Month in Chicago](#)

CRN
CHICAGO REHAB NETWORK
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT +
EMPOWERMENT SERIES 2020**

With reinvigorated attention on neighborhood and community development at the state and city level, the need for skilled and informed community developers is more critical than ever. Using a value-based approach to learning development fundamentals, you can be a leader in improving the quality of life in your community. This is **YOUR** city.

About CRN

Who We Are:

For 40 years, the Chicago Rehab Network has worked to train, coordinate, and empower community-based organizations developing affordable housing across Chicago and the region. CRN's advocacy has resulted in policies and resources including the Affordable Requirements Ordinance, the Tax Reactivation Program, the State of Illinois Housing Trust Fund, and the Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit. In addition to advocacy and training, CRN provides industry-wide thought leadership through regular policy updates, best practice case studies, and demographic and economic analysis related to housing needs and markets.

Empowerment Series Starts Next Month!

Do you want to learn technical skills for affordable development from Chicago's community development leaders? The Empowerment Series begins April 29-30 with **Community Building** taught by Joy Aruguete of Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation. The first in the series, this workshop will present the community assets perspective as a model for community planning. Through looking at strategies employed by community-based development organizations, we will discuss the elements beyond bricks and mortar that community building requires. Day two includes a tour of affordable housing developed and operated by CRN members. [Register today.](#)

H.O.M.E. Joins CRN

CRN is pleased to announce that [Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly \(H.O.M.E.\)](#) has joined our



coalition. H.O.M.E. is a unique affordable housing organization that presently operates three intergenerational affordable residences that creates a supportive environment by the complimentary programs they offer to residents as well as seniors in the broader community with a mission to promote connectedness and independence. Founded in 1982 by the Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly which was established by the French after the war in Europe, H.O.M.E. owns and manage three good life senior residences that encourage independence and communal living: Nathalie Salmon House, Pat Crowley House, Blackhawk Manor. Beyond the housing, H.O.M.E. provides other community based services for low income seniors: upkeep and repair program including a new partnership with Rush Health Services; a shopping bus with 2,500 trips annually at two dozen senior buildings recently including 7 CHA properties; moving help for seniors via a coordinator and assistance on a sliding scale; and a vibrant volunteer program. Welcome aboard, H.O.M.E.!



CRN Board Secretary Debra Claybron with H.O.M.E. staff.

CRN's Analysis of DOH Q3 Report Out Now

CRN presented our analysis of the [Department of Housing's 2019 Third Quarter Housing Progress Report](#) at the Committee on Housing and Real Estate meeting on February 11th. Testimony focused on the lack of units produced during the quarter, as well as concerns about funding. [Read CRN's analysis here.](#)

Support our Mission:
With your help, we can build strong neighborhoods, strengthen capacity, and foster community leadership.

DONATE TODAY!

CRN thanks our generous supporters:



The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust



Save the Date

Submit Your Comment to Protect Fair Housing



A recent HUD proposal would undo the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule, which requires cities and towns receiving federal funding for housing and urban development to examine whether there are any barriers to fair housing or housing practices that promote bias based on any protected class under the Fair Housing Act, and to create a plan for rectifying fair housing barriers. [You can learn more and submit a comment through Housing Action Illinois.](#) The deadline for comments is March 16.

Act Now to Support CRA

From our partners at the Woodstock Institute:

Spurred by Chicago activists, including Gale Cincotta and Woodstock Institute, Congress passed the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) in 1977 as an antidote to discriminatory policies blocking non-white neighborhoods from bank loans, a practice known as "redlining."

The CRA creates an affirmative responsibility for financial institutions to intentionally invest in low- and moderate-income (LMI) areas. CRA provides vital streams of funding via home mortgages, loans to small businesses and grants to local nonprofit organizations. It is our best tool to ensure that banks are adequately serving all people in their footprint.

Now, two federal banking regulators want to change how banks are evaluated under CRA. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) have issued a proposal that could dramatically reduce the amount and impact of banks' community development activities. The CRA does need updating to accommodate for a changing - and increasingly, digital - financial services market. But this plan is not the way forward.

[Woodstock has provided a a resource packet with further information about CRA, as well as a sample comment letter you can use to share your thoughts.](#) The deadline for comments is April 8, 2020. Woodstock and Housing Action Illinois [will host a webinar about CRA on March 19.](#)

From the archives: Below, an excerpt from a 1980s newspaper article picturing then-CRA president Robert Lucas meeting with bank leaders regarding CRA.



A virtual "love fest" was held by community leaders and officials of First National Bank in early March at a press conference announcing a \$100 million neighborhood loan program. Chicago Rehab Network president, Robert Lucas, (standing) gets a positive reaction from some of the negotiators of the agreement (l to r): Gale Cincotta, National

Training & Information Center; Richard Hartnack, senior vice-president, First National Bank; Larry Swift, Woodstock Institute; Barry F. Sullivan, chairman, First Chicago; and James Capraro, president, Chicago Association of Neighborhood Development Organizations.

In the News

Affordability Concerns about Fulton Market Apartments

A recent approval by the Chicago Plan Commission will bring a 49-story tower with 370 apartments and 240 hotel rooms, as well as an adjacent 15-story office building, to Fulton Market. Because a first iteration of the plan was approved in 2014, only the 150 units added to the plan and approved this year will be subject to the requirements of the Near North ARO Pilot--prompting concerns about affordability. Meanwhile, a second, 550-unit project approved by the Commission will have 55 units affordable for those earning up to 60% of the AMI, and 55 units affordable for those earning up to 100% of the AMI. Commission member and CRN Board Vice President Guacolda Reyes noted, "I will not forget the name of [this] developer, as many others come here and tell us that this is not feasible." [Read the full story from Block Club.](#)

Black History Month's Chicago Roots

February is over, but it's not too late to learn about Black History Month. In a recent news feature, The Renaissance Collaborative Executive Director and CRN Board Member Pat Abrams discusses how the idea to dedicate a month to African-American history and achievements began right here in Chicago. [Watch the video here.](#)



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