Updates from CRN

It's the last NetworkNews of the year (and the decade)! Here at CRN, we're looking forward to taking time off to enjoy the holiday season--and to coming back to some exciting things in 2020. Keep an eye out for our analysis of DOH's newly-released 2019 third quarter report and information about the 25th anniversary of our Community Development and Empowerment Series!

Thank you for joining us during another year of promoting development without displacement. Whether you brainstormed with us at membership meetings, learned new skills during the Empowerment Series, or kept up-to-date with our newsletters, your commitment to a more equitable Chicago was an important part of our vibrant network.

This holiday season, we ask that you consider making a tax-deductible contribution to CRN. Your support is invaluable to helping us further housing affordability through research, capacity-building programs, and advocacy.

Whatever and however you celebrate, we hope you have the opportunity this holiday season to relax and spend time with loved ones. Happy holidays!

Wrapping Up Another Year of Community Development Education
December 6th marked the end of the 24th annual Community Development and Empowerment Series! Joining us from community development corporations, government offices, and advocacy organizations, students learned skills ranging from construction management to real estate finance to community building and more. We can't wait to see what they'll do next!
We will hold a graduation celebration in the beginning of 2020. All are welcome—we will send out a time and date and in the coming months.

Check out some highlights from the year:

Students tour the newly-rehabbed Lathrop Homes during the Community Building class

Sources of Development Financing instructor Yittayih Zelalem helps students during an in-class activity

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

DONATE TODAY!

CRN thanks our generous supporters:
Save the Date

INVEST South/West Kick-Off Events
The City of Chicago has scheduled four kick-off events as a part of INVEST South/West, the community improvement initiative launched by Mayor Lightfoot this fall.

The family-friendly events, organized by the Department of Planning and Development and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, will provide community stakeholders with an overview of the initiative and give the public an initial opportunity to offer feedback on investment priorities.
In the News

Woodlawn Apartments to be Renamed for Mattie Butler

Two properties currently owned by POAH will be renamed after longtime community development leader and CRN board member Mattie Butler in spring 2020 in honor of her ongoing commitment to quality housing for Woodlawn's residents. In addition to leading Woodlawn East Community and Neighbors (WECAN), Mattie recently led the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy in creating a parcel-by-parcel survey of all land publicly or privately owned in Woodlawn, resulting in the Woodlawn Housing Data Project. You can read the full announcement from POAH Senior Vice President Bill Eager here.

Pilsen Gentrification Leading to Lower School Enrollment

A recent report from the Sun-Times finds that public elementary schools in Pilsen enrolled 40% fewer students this school year than they did in 2005. Carlos Ballesteros writes:

"Not too long ago, public elementary schools in Pilsen were overcrowded and underperforming. Today, it's the opposite:
Despite consistent academic gains over the last decade, Pilsen’s public elementary schools are losing hundreds of students a year as working-class families leave the gentrifying neighborhood in droves.”

Read the full report here.

Joy Aruguete and Bickerdike Featured in Sun-Times
A new Sun-Times feature highlights the work of Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation, led by CEO Joy Aruguete, who is also a CRN board member and Empowerment Series instructor. The article touches on the new Emmett Street 100% affordable housing project, the redevelopment of Lathrop Homes, and more. You can read it here.

Rendering of new Emmett Street project

HUD Job Openings
Two Account Executive positions are currently available in Chicago with HUD. The positions, which can be found here and here, both close on December 23rd.

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