HUMBOLDT PARK: Staking Our Claim

QUALITY-OF-LIFE PLAN MAY 2005

Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation | LISC/Chicago’s New Communities Program

[Map and photos of community activities]
Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation worked in partnership with the Near Northwest Neighborhood Network/Humboldt Park Empowerment Partnership, West Humboldt Park Family and Community Development Council, Nobel Neighbors and 42 other organizations to develop this quality-of-life plan. The organizers gratefully acknowledge the following people for the time, energy and resources given to this process.

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**Humboldt Park**

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Neighborhood Creates Plan as New Residents Arrive

A historic beacon for immigrants and low- to moderate-income residents, Humboldt Park is responding to encroaching gentrification by working furiously to stake a claim for longtime residents who wish to stay.

A mixed community with Puerto Ricans to the east, African-Americans to the west and an increasing influx of Mexican-Americans, Humboldt Park is a well-organized, outspoken, sometimes fiery community that has had mixed reactions to the growing number of higher-income, predominantly white newcomers who attract investment but drive up housing prices and property taxes.

Longtime residents appreciate the positive results that new development can bring, such as safer streets and greater amenities, but want to preserve affordable housing, retain industry and improve education, job training and health care. Unfortunately, industry has declined in recent decades, retail
strips have withered and schools have performed poorly, all contributing to the twin plagues of gang and drug activity. But new investments in housing, the commercial strip along Division Street known as Paseo Boricua (Puerto Rican Gateway) and the green expanse of Humboldt Park itself have fostered a sense of renewal.

This plan includes many ideas from earlier plans, notably the Empowerment Zone process in the 1990s led by the Near Northwest Neighborhood Network/Humboldt Park Empowerment Partnership, and plans by West Humboldt Park Family and Community Development Council and Nobel Neighbors. Although implementing this plan will require greater coordination and less attention to “turf” issues among local organizations, all involved realize they must unite—or be conquered.
**STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS**

**STRATEGY 1 Improve local schools using a community-based and culturally sensitive approach**

1.1 Elementary School Network. Create a new organization or enhance the capacity of existing organizations to link teachers, parents and students.

1.2 Community Schools. Establish community centers at schools that will be open evenings and weekends.

1.3 Cultural Awareness Program. Create school programs that connect students with their cultures to increase self-esteem and broaden self-identity.

1.4 Student Motivation Project. Use traditional and non-traditional means to motivate students and create ladders of educational opportunity.

1.5 Five-Year Vocational High School. Create a five-year vocational high school that prepares students for jobs in the trades.

1.6 Student Retention. Develop programs to retain students at risk of dropping out and connect with those who already have dropped out.

**STRATEGY 2 Create a community of wellness where health is a dimension of community improvement**

2.1 Community Healthcare Work Group. Provide leadership on advocacy issues related to health care.

2.2 Health Education and Outreach. Inform residents about and link them to new and existing health care services.

2.3 Asthma Reduction. Establish or expand programs that address the stubborn problem of asthma.

2.4 HIV/AIDS Reduction. Work to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS through screening, testing, counseling and prevention.

2.5 Dental Services. Increase sliding-fee, community-based dental services.

2.6 Substance Abuse. Use schools and youth service agencies to deliver anti-smoking and anti-substance abuse messages.

2.7 School-Based Clinics. Increase the number of school-based clinics that provide treatment, education, psychological counseling and other services.

2.8 Active Lifestyle Program. Promote active lifestyles for adults and youth to combat obesity and related health problems.

**STRATEGY 3 Provide resources to sustain healthy individuals and families**

3.1 Center For Working Families. Develop a center that provides employment services, financial services and financial education under one roof.

3.2 Homeownership Counseling. Coordinate existing homeownership counseling programs to better prepare prospective homeowners.

3.3 Ex-Offender Project. Coordinate and expand job placement and exchange programs for former prisoners.

3.4 Parenting Information Services. Identify available programs and resources to support and inform parents.

3.5 Youth Forums. Develop forums in schools to help students and parents understand each other’s perspectives.

3.6 Child Care Services. Gather data on existing services to facilitate development of new child care programs as needed.

3.7 Spanish-Language and Immigrant Counseling. Increase availability of counseling services in Spanish.

3.8 Holistic Case Management. Develop a holistic system to connect residents with case management services.

3.9 Adult Day Care and Home Care. Expand adult day care and home care programs.

3.10 Gay/Lesbian Services. Develop gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender services to meet the needs of the area’s diverse population.
STRATEGY 4 Increase community control over use of physical resources

4.1 Community Land Trust. Institute the “First Community Land Trust of Chicago” in West Humboldt Park to encourage balanced development and increase control over land use.

4.2 Development Monitoring. Monitor land use and negotiate with developers to ensure projects meet local needs.

4.3 Zoning Remap. Undertake zoning education activities to prepare for the city’s zoning remap.

4.4 Affordable Rental Housing. Develop affordable rental housing and stake a long-term claim for the lowest-income residents.

4.5 Affordable Homeownership. Develop affordable homeownership projects for moderate-income residents.

4.6 Special Needs Housing. Research needs of and develop supportive housing for special needs groups such as the homeless, seniors, people with disabilities, and people with HIV/AIDS.

4.7 Fair Housing. Establish a fair housing program to address violations.

4.8 Employer Assisted Housing. Collaborate with employers to develop subsidy and incentive programs for local home purchases.

4.9 Local Resident Rehab and Home Purchase. Develop a program to help residents purchase and rehabilitate abandoned buildings.

4.10 Retail Corridor Development. Strengthen existing retail corridors to ensure that local businesses thrive and new business are attracted to Humboldt Park to fill identified retail gaps.

4.11 Open Space Coalition. Create an Open Space Coalition to help implement the “Open Space Plan for Humboldt Park.” Enhance existing parks and create new parks and green space.

4.12 Community Facilities Development. Develop new and re-use existing facilities to serve community needs.

STRATEGY 5 Engage youth in the community in productive ways

5.1 Youth Leader Program. Bolster opportunities for youth to give back to their community and become leaders.

5.2 After-School and Summer Programs. Increase after-school and summer programs that emphasize music, sports, gardening and service projects.

5.3 Youth Employment. Expand opportunities through summer jobs programs and internships.

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6.1 Economic Development Summit. Develop an annual economic development summit for business leaders, policy makers and residents.


6.3 Community Walk/Bike Map. Create a tour map that identifies key landmarks and points of interest.

6.4 Focus on the Park. Promote Humboldt Park itself as the center of activities for residents, schools and others.

6.5 Gateway Development. Implement streetscape and community gateway projects to provide a sense of a welcoming front door.

6.6 Community Art and Murals. Develop art and mural projects at prominent intersections and preserve the mural at North and Artesian.

6.7 Paseo Boricua. Enhance and expand the “between the flags” Paseo Boricua Restaurant and Cultural District.

6.8 Cultural Bridge Program. Develop a program to creatively address racial and cultural relations between east and west Humboldt Park.

6.9 CAPS Promotion. Encourage regular attendance at CAPS policing meetings and expand involvement of local businesses.

6.10 Community Safety Initiative. Sponsor creation of a CeaseFire branch or other safety initiative in Humboldt Park.

STRATEGY 6 Improve physical, economic and social infrastructure through marketing, communications, beautification and safety

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Our neighborhood, Humboldt Park, stands poised at the threshold of great promise—but also of considerable peril for the low- and moderate-income residents that have always been the core of our community.

For the last 25 years, we have been a mixed community with a strong Puerto Rican heritage to the east and a largely African-American population to the west. We are a neighborhood with a healthy sense of pride and a fighting spirit. We have grappled with and overcome many challenges, building a sense of community with only modest resources. But today we face new challenges.

As gentrification has spread into the eastern edge of our community near a rejuvenated Humboldt Park, residents have begun to imagine in our neighborhood some of the more positive aspects of what we have seen in adjacent Wicker Park: safer streets, better services, new investment in stores and housing, and a more complete set of neighborhood amenities.

But we also perceive that there are fewer faces of color in our neighborhood today, and a shrinking population of working-class residents. We feel a strong need to stake a claim in Humboldt Park, to create and preserve affordable housing, retain industry and improve services such as job training, education and health care. Many residents, especially the elderly, have been displaced out of other neighborhoods such as Lincoln Park and are tired of having to move. Most importantly, we see a need to build a strong future for our children through better schools, a wider, stronger array of youth programming and a safer environment on our streets.

A typical Chicago neighborhood
Humboldt Park is a large community roughly bounded by Western on the east, the Belt Railway on the west, Kinzie on the south and the Bloomingdale rail corridor on the north. The railroads and factories that surround the community tell part of our story: We are a neighborhood of workers.

Most of today’s Humboldt Park became part of Chicago in 1869, the same year that a 207-acre park was created and named for German naturalist Alexander von Humboldt. The first German and Scandinavian settlers found prairie and farmland, but as streetcars extended into the community in the early 1900s, the neighborhood quickly built up into a dense grid of brick and frame houses, two-flats and apartment buildings.

Waves of immigrants have come, beginning with Italians, Poles and Russian Jews and followed in the 1970s and ’80s by Puerto Ricans and African Americans. Recently, an influx of Mexicans has further enriched our mix. Our population peaked in the 1930s at 80,835 and appeared to be stabilizing at about 66,000 by 2000, with an almost even mix between Latinos (48.0 percent) and African-Americans (47.4 percent).
Issues to address
We came to Humboldt Park in search of jobs in the industrial corridors and downtown, and for decent affordable housing, good schools and convenient shopping. We came for the sense of community that our predecessors and neighbors had created.

But in recent years, some of the things we sought have not been available, or the quality has been less than what our neighborhood should have.

Both industry and retail have declined, leaving us with less earning power and fewer local places to spend the money we do earn. Since the 1970s, an estimated 11,000 factory jobs have disappeared in Humboldt Park and surrounding communities. The once-solid retail strips along Chicago, Division and North Avenues have withered and no longer provide for all of our shopping needs. A 2002 study by MetroEdge showed that nearly half of residents’ purchases were made outside the neighborhood because we are underserved by many retail segments, including banks and grocery stores.

Figure 1  Northwest location close to resources
The Humboldt Park planning area runs from Western St. to the Belt Railway and from Kinzie St. to the Bloomingdale rail corridor. Excellent transportation resources are nearby.
Between 1980 and 2000, Humboldt Park lost 3,900 units of housing, mostly in its southwest corner, which now has hundreds of vacant lots. Some of the remaining housing is overcrowded, especially west of Kedzie Avenue, and the vast majority of it needs reinvestment after 80 to 120 years of use.

Our public schools, like so many in Chicago, are mostly low-performing institutions where the majority of students are from low-income families. A 2004 Illinois Facilities Fund report showed that only two of the 12 public elementary schools in Humboldt Park were “performing” schools, with 40 percent or more of students testing at or above standards. Our high schools struggle to address high dropout rates and low student achievement.

We feel that education and economic independence are our greatest challenges, and that they are linked to another set of problems: gang activity, street violence and drug trafficking.

Humboldt Park in recent years has had among the highest murder rates in Chicago. There were 19 homicides in 2003 and 37 in 2002. Drugs are openly sold on some of our streets and sidewalks, drive-by shootings are all too common and turf battles among local gangs have created boundary lines that prevent youth and adults from full access to local resources.

**A sense of renewal**

Despite these challenges, our community has seen solid renewal in recent years, creating optimism among many. The gains have been significant.

The green expanse of Humboldt Park itself, neglected in recent decades, has been rejuvenated, from its lagoon and boathouse to the $3.7 million renovation of the historic Humboldt Park Stables, which will soon house the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture. Families turn out on summer weekends for movies in the park, mobile food stands do good business selling fried plantains and cuchifrito (pig ear stew), and the lagoon offers a beach and quiet areas for fishing.

Division Street has evolved into a lively and colorful Paseo Boricua (Puerto Rican Gateway) that attracts crowds with small bakeries, grocery stores, restaurants, cafes, the Batey Urbano youth center and the Puerto Rican Cultural Center. Farther west, the Chicago and Kedzie Plaza shopping center, built in the 1990s, represents the new commercial investment that is coming to our neighborhood, including a proposed—but controversial—Wal-Mart on North Avenue. And recent new developments have expanded services and programs available to residents: Chicago Commons’ West Humboldt Park facility (adult day care, skills training); Nia Family Center (child care); Senior Suites (senior housing); Sanctuary Place (housing for women trying to reunite with their families); and Department of Children and Family Services offices.

Housing is also on the upswing. On blocks throughout the neighborhood are new for-sale housing, rehabilitated and affordable rental units and renovated single-family homes. Though housing prices are rising, they remain relatively affordable, especially in the western sections of Humboldt Park. The median housing value was $95,270 in 2000, less than the city median of $132,400 and well below that in neighboring West Town ($271,194), which includes Wicker Park. But prices are rising; Chicago magazine calculated the average price in Humboldt Park at $140,019 in October 2004.
**Tensions, but strengths too**

As a community of mixed races and cultures, our Humboldt Park has not been without tensions. There always have been dividing lines between the African-American community to the west and south and the Puerto Rican areas to the east. Unfortunately, gang boundaries restrict the movement of our youth across the larger geographic area and within sub-areas on the east, west and south.

The small but growing presence of higher-income white residents creates mixed feelings: While their investments may bring positive changes, there is a clear danger of displacement and increased property taxes, as has happened in neighborhoods to the east.

Fortunately, our neighborhood has a history of involvement by residents and a legacy of neighborhood planning that has provided opportunities for discussion and helped define our visions for the future.

The many meetings in 2004 that resulted in this New Communities Program (NCP) quality-of-life plan were preceded over the past decade by several other such efforts, most notably the Empowerment Zone planning process in the 1990s, which was led by the Near Northwest Neighborhood Network/Humboldt Park Empowerment Partnership (NNNN/HPEP).

NNNN/HPEP is “a multi-issue, community-based organizing organization serving the neighborhoods of Humboldt Park, West Town and parts of Logan Square. NNNN’s mission is to develop the will and the vision to stabilize and revitalize the community, so that the community provides quality to both family life and work.”

The NCP planning process adopted NNNN/HPEP’s existing subcommittee structure to take advantage of established Housing, Employment/Skills, Economic Development and Youth Action Teams.

Two other organizations, the West Humboldt Park Family and Community Development Council (WHPDC) and Nobel Neighbors also created plans in recent years. WHPDC was founded in 1992 and has focused on redevelopment of Chicago Avenue, residential involvement through a block club network, a community land trust and the Central Park Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district. Nobel Neighbors was founded in 1985 to address criminal activity near the Alfred Nobel Elementary School. Today it is a multi-issue organization.

All of these earlier neighborhood plans were presented by the groups at the outset of the NCP planning process and many ideas from those plans have been incorporated into this document.
Figure 2  Key organizations

The organizations shown here will help implement projects in this plan.

Schools

1. PrimeCare
2. Spanish Coalition For Housing
3. GNPDC
4. Block Club Federation
5. Youth Service Project
6. Blocks Together
7. Lucha
8. La Casa Norte
9. Hispanic Housing Dev. Corp.
10. United Blocks Of West H. P.
11. Association House, WTLU
12. Puerto Rican Arts Alliance
13. H.P. Vocational Education Center/Wright College
14. Erie Family Health Center
15. Hispanic Housing Dev. Corp.
16. Bickerdike Redevelopment Corp.
17. Near Northwest Arts Council
18. NNINN/HPEP
19. PrimeCare
20. Casa Central
21. Centro Sin Fronteras
22. Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture
23. Puerto Rican Cultural Center
24. Co-op Humboldt Park, Vida/Sida
25. DSBDA
26. Batey Urbano
27. Centro San Bonifacio
28. PANA
29. K.A.T.T. 4 Unity Block Club
30. Interfaith House
31. NHS
32. WHPDC
33. Chicago Commons, Louise Landau Health Center
34. Nobel Neighbors
35. Growing Pride
36. Nia Center
The New Communities Program lead agency in Humboldt Park is Bickerdike Redevelopment Corp., an organization founded in 1967 whose mission is “the redevelopment of the West Town, Humboldt Park, Logan Square and Hermosa communities for the benefit of and control by the lower- and moderate-income residents of these areas.” Founded by community organizations, churches and local residents to rebuild the area’s crumbling housing stock, the organization works to simultaneously preserve ethnic and cultural character while improving its service area economically.

Bickerdike has developed 1,006 affordable housing units, of which 145 units are owner-occupied, 692 are rentals and 169 are cooperative housing. The agency’s Humboldt Construction Company employs 15 to 30 area residents through carpentry and general contracting services. Recent developments include the recently constructed 87-unit, $17.6-million Harold Washington Unity Cooperative and the 57-unit, mixed-use La Estancia now under development.

Bickerdike also undertakes leadership development and organizing through its:

- **Residents Council**, which builds leadership among tenants and community in Bickerdike’s housing developments;
- **Youth Council**, led by Bickerdike resident youth, which develops leadership through organizing and civic activities;
- **Affordable Housing Committee**, which advocates for citywide and countywide reforms; and,
- **Public Safety Campaign**, which focuses on such activities as CAPS participation, resident participation in block parties and safety marches, and police accountability.
Figure 3 Many projects already underway

This quality-of-life plan builds on work already being carried out by neighborhood organizations, public agencies and private developers.
When Bickerdike became a lead agency of the New Communities Program, it knew it needed to recognize the fine work already being done in Humboldt Park and integrate existing plans as it developed the comprehensive list of programs and services in this quality-of-life plan. By incorporating this earlier work, the task force has been able to bring these plans together and address the gaps between them.

The first official meeting of the Humboldt Park NCP task force took place December 2, 2003, when participants reviewed the existing community plans and discussed approaches for executing the eight-month planning process. That first meeting was followed by four other major meetings, numerous gatherings of committees, four focus groups on education and a two-part charrette or workshop where preliminary plan concepts were presented for discussion.

To narrow down an initial list of 176 possible projects, the task force used a voting system that asked each individual to choose his or her “top 40” projects. Subcommittees also designated priority projects. This method resulted in the 58 projects presented in this plan.

Coordination and teamwork
This plan incorporates many ideas from previous planning efforts—such as an initiative to increase access to small-business development resources by NNNN/HPEP and the community land trust concept developed by WHPDC. Since many projects grew out of the NNNN/HPEP Action Teams, Bickerdike will continue to work closely with these committees on implementing the NCP plan.

This is an ambitious plan, one that holds great potential for improving our neighborhood in ways that we ourselves, the community and the task force, through a long and intensive process, have developed and endorsed.

We are aware that implementation will require more coordination and teamwork than our recent neighborhood history has shown. It will require organizations and individuals to move past turf issues that may have seemed comfortable in previous years, and will require new relationships among organizations, political leaders, police officials and resident leaders.

All involved realize that the stakes are too high to let this opportunity pass. We have committed to not only the vision and strategies outlined here, but the implementation of these ideas over the next five years.
The Early Action Projects conceived by the task force moved on a parallel track to the planning process. In keeping with LISC’s philosophy of “doing while planning,” several agencies applied for and received small grants to move forward. As with longer-term projects in the plan, the agencies will need to leverage the LISC seed money to secure additional funding from other sources.

**The Early Action Projects included:**

**BickerBikes**, a summer bicycle education and maintenance program conducted by Bickerdike, was completed by 14 youth, who went home with the bikes that they had fixed up themselves. The program was designed to stimulate independence and self-esteem in participating youth while also improving their health and fitness and providing them with marketable skills in bike repair and maintenance.

**Employment Assessment Survey**, administered by the Greater North-Pulaski Development Corp., surveyed 131 residents and 38 industrial businesses to assess where residents are working and where local workers live. The results of this study will help community agencies make decisions about employment training programs.

**Youth Building through Technology**, a project of the NNNN/HPEP Youth Action Team and Batey Urbano, attracted 16 youth who learned about community organizing and leadership through technology and arts activities, a community survey and site visits to local and out-of-state organizations. Participants produced a youth resource guide and a CD of hip-hop and spoken-word art.

**Chicago Avenue Mural**, led by WHPDC, employed 16 youth to design and paint a mural on Lawndale at Chicago Avenue. The youth worked with local seniors with the aim of fostering community identity and bridging the gap between seniors and teens in West Humboldt Park. The collaboration resulted in a beautiful mural that also fosters community identity, plus television and print publicity about the neighborhood. WHPDC plans to continue the theme of community development through the arts with a similar project next summer.
A Prosperous and Inclusive Community

Our neighborhood will be a prosperous, inclusive community in which children are well educated and cared for, adults can find good jobs or start their own businesses, and all enjoy safe streets, dependable public transportation, affordable health care, attractive open space and excellent city services.

We envision a Humboldt Park where:

- Residents feel empowered to improve the quality of life and the physical environment, working hand-in-hand with city officials;
- Adults can find living-wage employment working for—or starting—positive, indigenous businesses that provide needed products and services;
- Children enjoy state-of-the-art schools as well as after-school and summer programs that prepare them for a future as responsible adults;
- The elderly have easy access to senior services and people with disabilities have opportunities for independent living;
- Families of all incomes can afford decent, safe housing;
- Family members are healthy in body, mind and spirit, with adults responsible for themselves and their children;
- Everyone can access culturally sensitive and affordable health care, attractive and safe open space, and dependable public transportation;
- No one is threatened by gangs or crime—or has public safety used against him and her because of class or racial fears; diversity is celebrated; and,
- Private and public properties are improved through beautification efforts.
Seven Approaches to Community Improvement

To achieve the vision of this plan, our community will pursue seven major strategies and 55 projects. The strategies address both physical improvements, such as high-quality affordable housing, business development, land use and beautification, as well as human needs including education, job training, employment, health care and safe streets. The projects will be added to and refined as time goes along; this is a living document with the flexibility to respond to changing community needs.

Our strategies:

1. Improve local schools using a community-based and culturally sensitive approach.
2. Create a community of wellness where health is a dimension of community improvement.
3. Provide resources to sustain healthy individuals and families.
4. Increase community control over use of physical resources.
5. Engage youth in the community in productive ways.
6. Improve physical, economic and social infrastructure through marketing, communications, beautification and safety.
7. Provide jobs through training and local business development.

Several strategies contain an advocacy component because task force members believed it is crucial to create policies that will support and further key strategies.

Through a comprehensive approach, we can better our neighborhood, its residents and businesses while attracting new people, housing and economic development for the benefit of all.
Strategy 1

Improve local schools using a community-based and culturally sensitive approach

Our vision is to create a community in which children enjoy state-of-the-art schools.

Like many communities in Chicago, Humboldt Park remains less than satisfied with its local schools. If the 13,800 students at local schools do not succeed academically, they are less likely to be prepared for the jobs of tomorrow—and more likely to become stuck in dead-end employment, under-employment or drug dealing and gang membership.

A 2004 study by the Illinois Facilities Fund found that 10 of the community’s 12 elementary schools were “non-performing” schools, with fewer than 40 percent of students testing at or above standards. None of the four public high schools serving Humboldt Park was “performing.” Illinois State Board of Education report cards showed the high schools had high dropout rates as well: Orr (27.2%), Clemente (17.5%), Kelvyn Park (22.2%) and Wells (10.5%).

The issue-bucket exercise undertaken at the March 2004 public meeting showed education was the community’s most pressing issue—and yet the task force had relatively little representation from the area’s educational leaders. For this reason, Bickerdike convened a series of four focus groups of parents, teachers and educators to help develop the project ideas.

Because Humboldt Park is a multicultural community, the educational infrastructure must be multi-dimensional to adequately serve community residents. The strategy to improve local schools involves breaking down segregation within the student body and increasing cultural sensitivity for all teachers. Establishing ladders of educational opportunity leading to living-wage jobs will require a variety of programs and projects to connect schools to the broader community and provide a variety of educational paths for students, such as creating a five-year vocational high school.

We will advocate to address the dropout rate and discourage so-called “push-outs,” students who are forced to drop out because their performance brings down the school’s standardized test scores. We also will lobby for additional resources and work to overhaul curriculum through citywide coalitions aimed at elected officials and the school board. Finally, we will work for adequate school facilities and full and early disclosure by Chicago Public Schools regarding school closures and reorganizations.
Community and School Connections Initiative

1.1 Elementary School Network
Create a new organization or enhance the capacity of existing organizations to link teachers, parents and students in an elementary school network that would continue and deepen the discussions held during Bickerdike’s focus group sessions. This organization would also provide ongoing training to Local School Council (LSC) members and other parents, boosting their knowledge and confidence level in advocating for student interests.

1.2 Community Schools
Establish community centers at local schools that will be open evenings and weekends to draw people of all ages into the school setting with a wide variety of programs.

1.3 Cultural Awareness Program
Create programs in the schools that connect students with their cultures, creating awareness, boosting cultural pride and increasing their self-esteem by broadening their self-identity.

Student Engagement Initiative

1.4 Student Motivation Project
Use traditional and non-traditional means to motivate students by providing new, innovative settings in which to learn, creating ladders of educational opportunity. Approaches will include creation of summer jobs and internship programs and expansion of programs to plant collaborative school gardens and promote nutritional education.

1.5 Five-Year Vocational High School
Create a five-year vocational high school that prepares students for jobs in the trades and other vocational fields.

1.6 Student Retention
Develop programs to both retain students who might be at risk of dropping out and connect those who already have dropped out with the educational and vocational resources they will need to become productive members of the community.
The eastern portion of Humboldt Park is relatively well served with health programs, particularly by St. Elizabeth Hospital, but that institution’s future is in doubt. West Humboldt Park suffers from a notable lack of health care facilities. Only 60 percent of local adults have health insurance, compared with a national average of 86 percent.

A 2004 study by the Sinai Health System of six Chicago communities found that 14 percent of adults in Humboldt Park have been diagnosed with diabetes, double the U.S. average. Obesity is high as well. Thirty-five percent of adults are obese and a startling 62 percent of children are either overweight or obese, compared to 26 percent nationwide.

Smoking among adults is also high in Humboldt Park, with 41 percent of males and 30 percent of females being current smokers, compared to about 23 percent nationally. The large number of smokers likely compounds the problem of asthma, which is epidemic in Humboldt Park youth. Sixty-five percent of children ages 12 and under potentially have asthma and 29 percent have been formally diagnosed.

Improving the health of Humboldt Park residents requires a multifaceted approach that addresses both prevention and treatment. We envision dental programs, services and education around asthma, diabetes and obesity programs and increased mental health services. We will deliver anti-smoking and anti-substance-abuse messages to youth through partnerships with schools and other organizations, and increase the number of school-based clinics.

We are creating a Community Health Work Group that, among other activities, works for universal health care, monitors St. Elizabeth Hospital to ensure it stays open, continually evaluates emergency and inpatient health services at existing hospitals, and supports the continued operation of the Vida/SIDA AIDS Education Prevention Project.

The Puerto Rican Agenda, an informal group of politicians, social service agency staff and residents concerned with the Humboldt Park Puerto Rican community, decided to take on health care as one of its focus issues based on a 2003 planning retreat and the results of the Sinai Health Study. Many of the initiatives and ideas of the Agenda were brought to and adopted by the NCP Healthcare Subcommittee. While the Agenda focuses on the Puerto Rican community, these projects will serve all Humboldt Park residents.

**STRATEGY 2**

**Create a community of wellness where health is a dimension of community improvement**

*Our vision is to create a community in which everyone can access culturally sensitive and affordable health care.*
2.1 Community Healthcare Work Group
Provide leadership on advocacy issues detailed above, oversee implementation of the health components of this plan and work to create a community of wellness.

2.2 Health Education and Outreach
Inform residents about new and existing health care services through a multi-pronged approach that includes an informational web site, educational media campaign, peer-to-peer education and leadership development, greater coordination with schools, and a community-wide health care summit to focus attention and spread the word about facilities and programs.

2.3 Asthma Reduction
Establish or expand programs that address the stubborn problem of asthma, such as the American Lung Association’s “Open Airways” model for asthma education, smoking cessation programs and training for teachers, parents and organization leaders.

2.4 HIV/AIDS Reduction
Work to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS in Humboldt Park through screening, testing and counseling as well as school-based prevention programs.

2.5 Dental Services
Increase sliding-fee, community-based dental services to make the care of teeth and gums affordable for all. This will include a prevention campaign to stop decay before it starts.

2.6 Substance Abuse
Use schools and youth service agencies to deliver anti-smoking and anti-substance-abuse messages to elementary through high school students, with an emphasis on younger students.

2.7 School-Based Clinics
Increase the number of school-based clinics that provide treatment, education, psychological counseling and other services in the hopes of reaching more students and their families with appropriate care.

2.8 Active Lifestyle Program
Promote active lifestyles for adults and youth to combat obesity and related health problems, including diabetes and heart disease. This will be done in part by implementing culturally sensitive, community supported diet and exercise programs, and diabetes screening and counseling.
Healthy, functional individuals and families are basic requirements for a healthy, functional community. This strategy involves improving financial literacy, providing resources and training to ensure good parenting, and ensuring that mental health and social services are available and accessible. This will involve developing a holistic case management system that meets the needs of the community and empowers residents to become part of the solution.

Mental health is another major concern: 20 percent of adults have been diagnosed with depression and an additional 20 percent were screened as depressed, according to the Mt. Sinai study. Social service providers say the high level of violence in the community may itself be a symptom of poor mental health.

The strategy has a particular emphasis on serving ex-offenders because Humboldt Park has consistently been among the top-six community areas in the number of returning former prisoners. A report from the Urban Institute Justice Policy Center found that Humboldt Park had the highest number of returning offenders (699) in 2001. A 2004 analysis by the Chicago Department of Planning and Development (Figure 5) showed even higher numbers of returnees, with more than 1,000 inmate exits to the 60651 ZIP Code area and similar number in the adjoining 60624 zone.

In general, this strategy deals with bringing resources to families. Our plan is to help residents stabilize their financial situation by providing them with the education and tools to access job opportunities, better manage their finances and benefit from additional income supports. One of the best ways for a family to achieve financial stability is through homeownership, and the financial literacy initiative includes a homeownership education and counseling program.

To improve parenting skills, we must first determine what parenting programs are available, identify the gaps and develop additional programs. Providing daycare support and bringing adults and youth together are also components of the parenting initiative. Mental health and social services are also important to the fabric of the community. Projects range from mental health services for seniors to programs serving the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and trans-gendered members of our community.

To strengthen the community, the service agencies that provide these services need the resources to continue operating and expanding their work. We also need to ensure that programs are designed to “help families help themselves” and to build the indigenous leadership in our community.

Advocacy related to mental health issues and holistic case management will support the work.
Economic Stability Initiative

3.1 Center For Working Families
Develop a Center for Working Families to provide job training and support, financial education and other services aimed at helping families achieve self-sufficiency and long-term financial security. The center’s menu of services initially requires:

- Job placement services with strong linkages to major employers throughout the region
- Comprehensive financial education and planning support for low- and middle-income residents
- Family supports including access to government benefits and emergency resources
- Free income tax preparation services
- Ongoing tracking of participants using the Project Match model

Additional services that may be added include training for adults in interpersonal and professional skills, counseling services and youth education resources.

3.2 Homeownership Counseling
Coordinate with existing homeownership counseling programs to fill in gaps and ensure that prospective homeowners have the knowledge and resources to make good decisions. These will include pre-purchase assessment, post-purchase counseling, condominium ownership training, Individual Development Accounts that provide a direct investment strategy and mortgage products geared to local residents.

3.3 Ex-Offender Project
We will coordinate and expand job placement, support services and expunge programs (which “clean up” criminal records for some offenses) with an eye toward reducing recidivism and returning those who once strayed to the straight-and-narrow for life.

Parenting Initiative

3.4 Parenting Information Services
Identify the full range of available programs and resources to best support and inform parents, and fill any gaps in such services.

3.5 Youth Forums
Develop youth forums in schools that engage students and parents in a dialog about life issues to help them understand each other’s perspective.

3.6 Child Care Services
Gather data on existing child care services with the aim of facilitating development of new programs. One potential need: care for children age two and under.

Social Service Initiative

3.7 Spanish-Language and Immigrant Counseling
Increase availability of counseling services in Spanish by creating mutual support groups for recent immigrants and establishing counseling services for residents who do not have a mental health diagnosis but might feel lonely and isolated in their new setting.

3.8 Holistic Case Management
Develop a holistic system to connect residents with case management services through networking of existing case managers, development of a common intake and assessment tool, use of a web-based referral system and partnerships with informal entry points such as schools and promotores (local residents who promote health issues to their neighbors).

3.9 Adult Day Care and Home Care
Expand adult day care and home care programs, which are currently inadequate to serve local needs.

3.10 Gay/Lesbian Services
Develop gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender services to further meet the needs of Humboldt Park’s diverse population.

Figure 5 Returning from prison
The Humboldt Park area has one of the city’s highest concentrations of ex-offenders returning to the neighborhood.

SOURCE: City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development

Number of prisoners returning to Chicago ZIP Codes, 2003.

- <100
- 100-200
- 200-300
- 400-500
- 500-1,000
- 1,000+

Humboldt Park
Figure 6  Land use policy

This map establishes a framework for future zoning within the planning area as the city’s zoning remap proceeds.
As Humboldt Park becomes more desirable, land speculation and redevelopment pressures will continue to grow. This increases the likelihood that for existing low- and moderate-income residents, the industrial jobs they need to earn a living wage, and the community facilities they enjoy for recreation or use for social services, will be displaced.

This strategy seeks to direct resources entering the community to the benefit of existing residents. The effort will address land control, housing, commercial and industrial development, and community facilities.

Advocacy initiatives to support this strategy include: reforming industrial taxation policies to lower property taxes, eliminate or reduce the head tax, and develop tax incentives for industry; developing and implementing a mechanism to limit condo conversions; encourage balanced development through forums including NNNN/HPEP, the Chicago Avenue Task Force, the “First Community Land Trust of Chicago” and the Bickerdike Affordable Housing Committee; training staff and leaders of community organizations in housing policy issues to mobilize the community to fight for policy changes; advocating for open space resources, park maintenance and affordable programming; and advocating for a new library in West Humboldt Park and other community facilities as needed.

The NNNN/HPEP Housing Action Team (HAT) will serve as a forum to discuss and learn about housing policy issues and advocacy. The HAT and its member organizations will develop materials that organizations can use to mobilize their constituents. Policy issues will include funding for affordable condo, co-op development and rental housing as well as single-family housing development, increased resources for rental assistance, property tax reform for both rental and single-family properties, and bank reinvestment/Community Reinvestment Act monitoring.

Figure 7  First Community Land Trust

The First Community Land Trust of Chicago provides a vehicle for guiding the appropriate development of vacant land and the creation and long-term maintenance of affordable housing.
Land Control Initiative

4.1 Community Land Trust
Institute the “First Community Land Trust of Chicago” in West Humboldt Park to encourage balanced development and greatly increase our control over land use and development in and around the Chicago Avenue corridor. This area was selected because it includes several hundred vacant lots that provide a significant opportunity for development and abundant opportunities to put residential and other real estate space to better use (Figure 7, page 25). The First CLT will acquire property and oversee development of affordable housing, retail space and open space that serves community needs. Through a community membership and board structure, the land held by the First CLT will be under the ownership and control of the community, empowering residents to plan and manage what gets developed.

4.2 Development Monitoring
Continue to monitor land use and negotiate with developers through such efforts as the Chicago Avenue Task Force, NNNN/HPEP’s Special Projects review committee, and ongoing work with the city on development of city-owned Request-for-Proposal (RFP) sites.

4.3 Zoning Remap
Undertake zoning education activities to prepare for the city’s zoning remap, which began in the fall of 2004 and provides an opportunity for significant community influence. The land use policy map (Figure 6, page 24) provides the beginnings for this discussion.

Housing Initiative

4.4 Affordable Rental Housing
Develop affordable rental housing and stake a longer-term claim in the neighborhood for the lowest income residents among us through such projects as the La Estancia mixed-use development, set-aside housing in the 26th Ward, and 500 additional affordable rental units throughout the community (Figure 8).

4.5 Affordable Homeownership
Develop affordable homeownership projects and similarly stake a claim for moderate-income residents with projects such as the new homes and condominiums on the 1000 and 1100 blocks of Christiana, the NHS New Homes for Chicago project near Ohio, Erie and Pulaski, the Nobel Neighbors affordable homeownership development, the First Community Land Trust homeownership development, set-aside housing in the 26th Ward and various other projects to rehabilitate abandoned and HUD-foreclosed homes.

4.6 Special Needs Housing
Research needs of and develop supportive housing for groups such as the homeless, seniors, people with disabilities and people with HIV/AIDS, through such projects as the L Fish/Coil Springs senior condominium development on North Avenue and the La Casa Norte transitional housing facility for homeless youth. Conduct a study on homelessness in Humboldt Park to help leverage additional resources to house this vulnerable population.

4.7 Fair Housing
Establish a fair housing program to develop local capacity to address fair housing violations and ensure that no one is discriminated against and everyone has a place to live in our community.
4.8 Employer Assisted Housing
Collaborate with large local employers to develop and support an “employer assisted housing program” that provides subsidies or incentives so that workers can live near their jobs.

4.9 Local Resident Rehab and Home Purchase Support
Develop a program to provide resources for residents to purchase and rehabilitate abandoned buildings, removing these eyesores and sources of danger while helping to boost property values and a sense of community.

Commercial/Industrial Initiative
4.10 Retail Corridor Development
Strengthen existing retail corridors to ensure that local businesses thrive. For Chicago Avenue, prepare a conceptual development program by identifying gaps and attracting desirable new businesses through surveys, identification of retail needs and site marketing. For Division Street and North Avenue, conduct a parking needs analysis to address parking and transit constraints that threaten to curtail growth. Develop and/or attract appropriate businesses in existing retail corridors and other promising locations. These may include a local credit union through the Center for Working Families, full-service supermarket at Division and Homan, bank at North and Western, and CVS pharmacy at Chicago and Pulaski.

Figure 8 Housing development
Many non-profit organizations are working to create and maintain affordable housing. Developments with multi-site locations are shown in shaded areas.

Affordable Housing Initiatives
1  First Community Land Trust of Chicago (WHFDC)
2  26th Ward Set Aside (Ald. Ocasio)
3  CHA Residential RFP Site

Affordable Rental Developments
4  La Estancia (Bickerdike/DSBDA)
5  Harold Washington Unity Cooperative (Bickerdike)

Affordable Homeownership Developments
6  Christiana Housing Sites (NNNN/HPEP)
7  HUD Home Rehab (Nobel Neighbors)
8  New Homes for Chicago—Ohio, Erie & Pulaski (NHS)
9  Affordable Homeownership Development (Nobel Neighbors)

Special Needs Housing
10  Paseo Boricua Senior Housing (HHDC)
11  Senior Suites (Pathway Senior Living)
12  L. Fish/Coil Springs Senior Rental and Affordable and Market Rate Condo (HHDC)
13  The Solid Ground Supportive Housing Program for Homeless Male Youth (La Casa Norte)
Community Facilities Initiative

4.11 Open Space Coalition
Create an Open Space Coalition that works to implement the “Open Space Plan for Humboldt Park” developed by Growing Pride (The Garden Club of Humboldt Park) and Openlands Project. The coalition also will work on open space advocacy issues such as securing a sliding-scale fee for park district programs, encouraging formation of Local Park Advisory Councils and working with local groups to ensure park facility and programming improvements. Also enhance existing parks and create new parks and community green space wherever viable. These will include the Kedvale Park-Nobel School park campus, Kells Park improvements and Park District-owned sites such as 3349 W. Rice and 4302 W. Division. This plan also will include working to convert the unused Bloomingdale rail line into a bicycle and pedestrian trail while addressing the community’s concerns about safety associated with this project. A priority is creation and maintenance of facilities such as baseball diamonds, soccer fields and basketball courts to provide opportunities for active recreation for youth and adults.

4.12 Community Facilities Development
Develop new or re-use existing facilities to serve community needs, including creation of a west Humboldt Park library and West Humboldt Park Center for Performing Arts and re-use of the Wright School, Kelly Hall and Hartgrove Hospital buildings.

Figure 9 Monticello Park
The community supports development of new parks and open space such as the Chicago Park District’s recent Monticello Park project at Monticello Avenue and Hirsch Street. Partners included the Block Club Federation, Monticello Block Club, Ald. Billy Ocasio (26th), Openlands Project, Metra and Chicago Park District.
Youth represent Humboldt Park’s future. They need to be engaged in community life, their educational future and the promise of an adulthood as working, productive citizens if they are to become motivated members of the community. This strategy seeks to provide youth with activities during after-school hours, develop youth as leaders and provide them with the job skills necessary to launch successful careers. Humboldt Park has more than its share of youth to serve: according to the 2000 census, 35.2 percent of Humboldt Park residents are 17 and under, versus 26.1 percent citywide.

Due to recent city and state funding cuts for youth programming, advocating for resources will be crucial to successful implementation of these programs.

5.1 Youth Leader Program
We will bolster opportunities for youth to give back to their community and become leaders through such programs as skill building through technology, the Youth Investment Club, the high-school business mentoring program, expansion of the Teen Town Model that teaches teens leadership and organizing skills, and other leadership programs in Humboldt Park.

5.2 After-School and Summer Programs
We will increase after-school and summer programs that emphasize interest areas like music, sports, gardening and service projects. Some examples include the Drums for Life and Children’s Choir programs at West Humboldt Park Center for the Performing Arts, workshops on themes not taught in schools such as hip-hop and DJ’ing, sports programs in underused parks, and the BickerBikes summer youth bicycle program.

5.3 Youth Employment Programs
We will expand opportunities for youth employment through summer jobs programs. These may include a stipend program for businesses or nonprofits to hire summer interns and provide on-the-job training, jobs for working in community gardens such as Youth Garden Corps, mentoring positions at aldermanic offices for 14- and 15-year-olds and “Our Block”-style programs that provide jobs for older youth preparing open spaces for summer day camp programs for younger children.
STRATEGY 6

Improve physical, economic and social infrastructure through marketing, communications, beautification and safety

Our vision is to create a community in which residents feel empowered to help improve their quality of life and physical environment, no one is threatened by gangs or crime, and property is improved through beautification efforts.

A strong physical, economic and social infrastructure provides the community context within which healthy, functional individuals and families are most likely to thrive. An attractive physical environment underscores public and private willingness to invest in the community’s future. Marketing and communications help spread the word that Humboldt Park is a bustling place to do business and connects residents with the resources they need to succeed. Improving public safety dovetails with the increasingly attractive visual and economic environment, requiring a collaborative partnership among businesses, residents and the Chicago Police Department. This provides opportunities to express our positive energy, culture and willingness to work together to create a cohesive community fabric.

Although Humboldt Park’s infrastructure has seen some improvement in recent years, business development remains spotty. Analysis by the Woodstock Institute showed 352 small business loans totaling $21.8 million in 2001, compared to 1,612 loans totaling $88.1 million that same year in neighboring West Town. Many industries and jobs have left—an estimated 11,000 factory jobs since the 1970s in Humboldt Park and surrounding communities—with the total universe of jobs comprised of 36 percent service sector, 27 percent retail and only 9 percent manufacturing, according to 1997 economic census data compiled by Urban Logic.

In addition, streetscapes are often deteriorated, the park itself remains an underused resource, and, although crime has come down somewhat, public safety continues as a challenging issue, with gangs and drugs still a presence on many street corners. Chicago Police Department data show total crimes in Humboldt Park and West Town combined were down 49.2 percent from 1995 to 2001, compared with a citywide drop of 26.4 percent. Nonviolent crimes per square mile were down 23 percent and violent crimes down 21 percent from 1998 to 2002, according to Chapin Hall. The gentrification in West Town and eastern Humboldt Park probably contributed to the drops in crime. Humboldt Park in 2003 experienced 19 murders, 70 criminal sexual assaults and 1,427 violent crimes overall.

An important component of this strategy is maintaining the racial and ethnic mix of the community, including the continued development of a Puerto Rican cultural district. We will need to advocate for capital improvements such as street lighting, street and sidewalk repairs and sewer work. We will also need to monitor how public resources such as TIF funds are being used and advocate for uses that truly benefit our community.
Marketing and Communications Initiative

6.1 Economic Development Summit
We will develop an annual economic development summit to bring together business leaders, policy makers and residents to discuss and plan for Humboldt Park's commercial future.

6.2 Community Resource Guide
We will develop a web-based resource guide based on the Beehive model (www.beehive.com) that will span all issue areas contained in this plan and serve as a central electronic bulletin board for agencies and individuals.

6.3 Community Walk/Bike Map
We will create a tour map for those wishing to walk or bicycle through Humboldt Park that identifies key landmarks and points of interest in the community.

Community Identity and Beautification Initiative

6.4 Focus on the Park
We will promote Humboldt Park itself as the center of the neighborhood by developing a newsletter for the Humboldt Park Local Advisory Council (HPLAC), encouraging neighborhood schools to use Humboldt Park nature trails, supporting the installation of the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture in the stables, and developing a container garden on the field house veranda.

6.5 Gateway Development
We will implement streetscape and community gateway projects along major streets including Division Street, North Avenue, Chicago Avenue and Western Avenue to provide a sense of a front door that welcomes visitors and residents to the community. The ultimate designs will be developed with community input, but some examples are included in Figure 10.

Figure 10 Community gateway concept
Unified streetscape designs that include gateways at major intersections and landmarks (such as Kells Park, shown above) can help elevate the community’s identity.
6.6 Community Art and Murals
In order to beautify and provide deeper cultural identity to Humboldt Park, we will develop community art and mural projects at prominent intersections and continue working to preserve the mural at North and Artesian. Local youth recently painted a new mural on Lawndale Ave. at Chicago Ave.

6.7 Paseo Boricua
We will enhance and expand the “between the flags” Paseo Boricua Restaurant and Cultural District along Division Street, to further underscore the neighborhood’s Puerto Rican heritage. A concept for pedestrian improvements is illustrated in Figure 10.

6.8 Cultural Bridge Program
We will develop a program to creatively address racial and cultural relations between east and west Humboldt Park, which represent two distinct sub-communities that are mostly Latino and African-American, respectively. This will help stitch together the community in a more cohesive way, which, in turn will provide the greater unity needed to implement many facets of this plan.

Safety Initiative
6.9 CAPS Promotion
We will encourage regular attendance at CAPS meetings, ensuring that in all beats they are used for problem-solving and that the business community, not solely residents, becomes involved in reporting problems and seeking solutions.

6.10 Community Safety Initiative
We will sponsor the creation of a CeaseFire branch or other safety initiative in Humboldt Park. Through this initiative, we will encourage participation in existing block clubs and establishment of new ones, create a Humboldt Park Block Club Network, increase block club activities such as safety marches and celebrations, and organize phone trees to report on crime or drug activity hot spots.

Figure 11 Paseo Boricua Streetscape Concepts
Enhancements to the Paseo Boricua area along Division Street can underscore the neighborhood’s Puerto Rican heritage.
The availability of living-wage jobs is a critical need in the Humboldt Park community. This strategy seeks to ensure that residents can find jobs and receive the support needed to keep those jobs and move up the economic ladder. Projects and programs focus on basic skills training such as GED programs that provide one-on-one assistance and on career-specific training in allied health and industrial vocations. This strategy also seeks to create jobs through business development programs that help local residents become business owners and help local businesses grow.

Overall unemployment in the community was down 2.2 percent from 1990 to 2000, but still stubbornly high at 14.6 percent, according to the census. Per capita income in 2000 was $10,094, just half the city average, while median family income was $30,125.

Preliminary statistics from an employment assessment by the Greater North-Pulaski Development Corporation show that of 131 community respondents, 66 percent said they needed additional education or skills to get a new job in the future. Of these, 41 percent said they needed a high school diploma or GED. The survey asked local businesses what requirements were needed among job applicants; they cited ability to speak English (41 percent); ability to read and write English (23 percent); machine operation (38 percent) and ability to read measuring devices (33 percent).

Advocacy and policy change will be needed to provide jobs and other supportive services for ex-offenders, while changing industrial taxation policies—listed under the land control strategy earlier—is also an important advocacy effort that will impact employment.
Job Training Initiative

7.1 Healthcare Careers
We will create bridge programs that lead to advancement up the healthcare and health policy career ladder. These may include an evening RN program, an education track from public health through to medical school, educational opportunities for existing populations working as volunteers and/or in low-level healthcare jobs, an accelerated program targeted at local residents to earn prerequisites for bridge programs, and a mentoring program to ensure that local residents of color have access to leadership positions in the field.

7.2 Career Training
We will provide paid internships for students in various vocational programs at the Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center (HPVEC). One potential tool to accomplish this is TIF Works, a program that provides job-training funds through the city’s Tax Increment Finance Districts (Figure 11). We will work to ensure that all TIFs in Humboldt Park are TIF Works eligible.

7.3 Basic Skills Training Coordination
We will work to coordinate and enhance existing basic skills training programs in areas like GED preparation and ESL and ensure that residents of subsidized housing have access to these programs.

Business Development and Support Initiative

7.4 Minority/Latino Contractors Association
We will create a minority/Latino contractors’ association to ensure that members of historically under-represented groups have full access to potential government, commercial and residential contracts in the community. The association will offer services such as licensing and MBE/WBE certification assistance and access to financing.

7.5 Access To Small Business Resources
We will increase local access to small business development resources by encouraging lending institutions to provide affordable loan products and services to local business owners and entrepreneurs.

7.6 Technologies Business Development
We will create a Latino Technology Development Center housed at the Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center.
Achieving the vision

By pursuing these seven strategies through the specific programs outlined here, we will achieve the vision set out for Humboldt Park by the NCP Task Force.

Many of the projects have lead agencies ready to roll, some of whom have partner agencies also at the ready. Some of these projects were already underway in the summer of 2004, whether they were LISC-funded Early Action Projects or ongoing work of Bickerdike and its partner agencies.

What follows is the detailed Work Program that shows the 58 projects along with their expected time frame and the agency or agencies who are or potentially might take a leadership role. The project numbers and titles in the work program correspond directly with the strategies outlined above.

Figure 12 Tax increment financing districts

Much of the neighborhood is covered by tax increment financing (TIF) districts that can provide funding for eligible projects. Additional tools for revitalization are available in the city-designated Humboldt Park Redevelopment Area outlined in red.
The Humboldt Park planning process drew input from many nonprofit agencies, public sector actors, businesses and residents. An equally broad array of resources will be necessary to put the plan into action.

Those who might lead or participate in these efforts include:

AHC Association House of Chicago
ARCH architreasures
ASP Aspira
BRC Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation
BT Blocks Together
BU Batey Urbano
BUILD Broader Urban Involvement & Leadership Development
CALOR Comprension y Apoyo Latinos Oposicion al Retrovirus, or Understanding and Support of Latinos Opposed to HIV
CASA Casa Central
CC Chicago Central
CDOT Chicago Department of Transportation
CHO Citizens Health Organization
CHP Co-op Humboldt Park at VIDA/SIDA
CJC Chicago Jobs Council
CMHN Chicago Mutual Housing Network
CPD Chicago Police Department
CSB Centro San Bonifacio
DOH Chicago Department of Housing
DPD Chicago Department of Planning & Development
DSBDA Division Street Business Development Association
EFHC Erie Family Health Center
FM Field Museum
FP Friends of the Park
FBT Friends of the Bloomingdale Trail
GAP Garfield Area Partnership
GNPDC Greater North-Pulaski Development Corporation
GP Growing Pride
GWTP Greater West Town Community Development Project
HAS Health Alternative System
HCC Humboldt Construction Company
HHDC Hispanic Housing Development Corporation
HPEP Humboldt Park Empowerment Partnership, the organizing initiative of NNNN
HPEP-ESAT Humboldt Park Empowerment Partnership-Employment/ Skills Action Team
HPEP-YAT Humboldt Park Empowerment Partnership-Youth Action Team
HPLAC Humboldt Park Local Park Advisory Council
HPVEC Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center, a branch of Wright College
ICNC Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago
IL DCEO Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
ILM Illinois Maternal
IWS Infant Welfare Society
KAFT4U Kedzie, Albany, Franklin, & Troy 4 Unity Neighborhood Organization
LCN La Casa Norte
LL Louise Landau Health Center
LPACs Local Park Advisory Councils
LSNA Logan Square Neighborhood Association
LU Latinos United
LUCHA Latin United Community Housing Association
MPC Metropolitan Planning Council
NCDHC North Central District Health Council
NCLR National Council of La Raza
NM Night Ministry
NN Nobel Neighbors
NNNN Near Northwest Neighborhood Network
NHS Neighborhood Housing Services
NNWAC Near Northwest Arts Council
OLP Openlands Project
OSC Open Space Coalition
PC PrimeCare Community Health, Inc.
PD Chicago Park District
PRCC Puerto Rican Cultural Center
PSL Pathway Senior Living
RES Resurrection Health Care/St. Elizabeth and St. Mary of Nazareth Hospitals
SBHC Streamwood Behavioral Health Center at St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital
SC Spanish Coalition for Housing
SF Safer Foundation
STRAIVE Support & Training Result in Valuable Employees
TASC Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities
TASK Transportation that is Safe and Active for Kids
UBWHP United Blocks of West Humboldt Park
UCC Unity Cooperative Corporation
UIC University of Illinois - Chicago
ULBGC Union League Boys & Girls Club
WHPCPA West Humboldt Park Center for the Performing Arts
WHPDC West Humboldt Park Family and Community Development Council
WSHA West Side Health Authority
WTCH West Town Health Center
WTLU West Town Leadership United
YSP Youth Service Project
## Schedule and Priorities

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<th>ORGANIZATIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2-3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEAD ORGANIZATION</td>
<td>PARTNER ORGANIZATION</td>
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</table>

### 1. IMPROVE LOCAL SCHOOLS USING A COMMUNITY-BASED AND CULTURALLY SENSITIVE APPROACH

#### Community and School Connections Initiative

- **1.1 Elementary School Network**
  - Lead Organization: To be determined
  - Partner Organizations: ARCH, AHC, BT, BUILD, GNPDC, NNNN, NNWAC, WTLU

- **1.2 Community Schools**
  - Lead Organization: WTLU
  - Partner Organizations: AHC, GNPDC

- **1.3 Cultural Awareness Program**
  - Lead Organization: PRCC
  - Partner Organizations: ARCH, EFHC, FM, WTLU

#### Student Engagement Initiative

- **1.4 Student Motivation Project**
  - Lead Organization: To be determined
  - Partner Organizations: ARCH, EFHC, FM, WTLU

- **1.5 Five-Year Vocational High School**
  - Lead Organization: To be determined
  - Partner Organizations: AHC, OLP, WTLU

- **1.6 Student Retention**
  - Lead Organization: GWTP
  - Partner Organizations: ASP, AHC, GNPDC, NNNN, PRCC

### 2. CREATE A COMMUNITY OF WELLNESS WHERE HEALTH IS A DIMENSION OF COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

#### Work Program

- **2.1 Community Healthcare Work Group**
  - Lead Organization: BRC, NNNN/HPEP
  - Partner Organizations: Open to all

- **2.2 Health Education and Outreach**
  - Lead Organization: NCDHC
  - Partner Organizations: AHC, CC, CHO, CHF, CSB, EFHC, LL, PC, RES, WTLU

- **2.3 Asthma Reduction**
  - Lead Organization: WTLU
  - Partner Organizations: AHC, CC, CHO, CSB, EFHC, LL, NCDHC

- **2.4 HIV/AIDS Reduction**
  - Lead Organization: EFHC
  - Partner Organizations: AHC, CALOR, CASA, NM, PC, VIDA/SIDA

- **2.5 Dental Services**
  - Lead Organization: EFHC, IWS
  - Partner Organizations: IWS, NCDHC, PC, WTHC, WTLU

- **2.6 Substance Abuse**
  - Lead Organization: AHC, CASA, YSP
  - Partner Organizations: CC, EFHC, HPVEC, LL, WTLU

- **2.7 School-Based Clinics**
  - Lead Organization: PC
  - Partner Organizations: AHC, CALOR, EFHC, ILM, WTLU

- **2.8 Active Lifestyle Program**
  - Lead Organization: CSB
  - Partner Organizations: AHC, CASA, CC, CHF, EFHC, HPVEC, PC, PSL, RES, TASK, WTLU
### 3. PROVIDE RESOURCES TO SUSTAIN HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

#### Economic Stability Initiative

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<th>STRATEGY</th>
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<tr>
<td>3.1 Center For Working Families</td>
<td>1, 2-3</td>
<td>AHC, CC, EFHC, GNPDC, NHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2 Homeownership Counseling</td>
<td>1, 2-3</td>
<td>CMHN, LU, NHS, NNNN, WHPDC, AHC, BRC, LUCHA, NHS, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.3 Ex-Offender Project</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>To be determined, Ald. Ocasio, CC, CJC, Congressman Davis, Faith Inc., SF, STRIVE, TASC, WHPDC, WSHA</td>
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#### Parenting Initiative

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<tr>
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<td>1, 2-3</td>
<td>WTLU</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.5 Youth Forums</td>
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<td>WTLU, GNPDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.6 Child Care Services</td>
<td>1, 2-3</td>
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#### Social Service Initiative

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<tr>
<td>3.7 Spanish-Language and Immigrant Counseling</td>
<td>1, 2-3</td>
<td>CASA, AHC, CC, CHD, CSB, EFHC, PC, RES, SBHC, WTLU</td>
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<td>3.8 Holistic Case Management</td>
<td>1, 2-3</td>
<td>AHC, CALOR, CASA, CC, EFHC, HAS, LCN, PC, SBHC</td>
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<td>3.9 Adult Day Care and Home Care</td>
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<td>3.10 Gay/Lesbian Services</td>
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<td>YSP, AHC, CALOR</td>
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### 4. INCREASE COMMUNITY CONTROL OVER USE OF PHYSICAL RESOURCES

#### Land Control Initiative

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<tr>
<td>4.1 Community Land Trust</td>
<td>1, 2-3</td>
<td>WHPDC, Ald. Burnett, BRC, CC, DOH, DPD, KAFT4U, NHS</td>
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<td>4.2 Development Monitoring</td>
<td>1, 2-3</td>
<td>DSBDA, GNPDC, NNNN/HPEP, WHPDC, BRC, NHS, WTLU</td>
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<td>4.3 Zoning Remap</td>
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#### Housing Initiative

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<tr>
<td>4.4 Affordable Rental Housing</td>
<td>1, 2-3</td>
<td>BRC, NNNN/HPEP, Ald. Ocasio, ARCH, DSBDA, HHDC, LUCHA NHS, WHPDC</td>
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<td>4.5 Affordable Homeownership</td>
<td>1, 2-3</td>
<td>HHDC, NHS, NN, NNNN, WHPDC, Ald. Ocasio, ARCH, BRC, Ald. Burnett, DDH, DPD, KAFT4U, LUCHA, UBWHP</td>
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<td>4.6 Special Needs Housing</td>
<td>1, 2-3</td>
<td>HHDC, LCN, BRC, CASA, NHS, NNNN, PSL</td>
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<td>4.7 Fair Housing</td>
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<td>4.8 Employer Assisted Housing</td>
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<td>LU, GNPDC, ICNC, MPC, RES</td>
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<td>4.9 Local Resident Rehab and Home Purchase Support</td>
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<td><strong>Commercial/Industrial Initiative</strong></td>
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<td>4.10 Retail Corridor Development</td>
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<td>Community Facilities Initiative</td>
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<td>4.11 Open Space Coalition</td>
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<td>BRC, FBT, KAFT4U, NN</td>
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<td>4.12 Community Facilities Development</td>
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<td>BT, WHPCPA, WHPDC</td>
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<td><strong>5. IN PRODUCTIVE WAYS ENGAGE YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY</strong></td>
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<td>5.1 Youth Leader Program</td>
<td>1 2-3 4-5</td>
<td>ARCH, CC, GNPDC, NNNN/HPEP/YAT, YSP</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.2 After-School &amp; Summer Programs</td>
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<td>5.3 Youth Employment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6. IMPROVE PHYSICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS, BEAUTIFICATION AND SAFETY</strong></td>
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<td>Marketing and Communications Initiative</td>
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<td>6.1 Economic Development Summit</td>
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<td>6.2 Community Resource Guide</td>
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<td>BRC</td>
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<td>6.3 Community Walk/Bike Map</td>
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<td>OSC</td>
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<td>Community Identity and Beautification Initiative</td>
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<td>6.4 Focus On The Park</td>
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<td>6.5 Gateway Development</td>
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<td>6.6 Community Art and Murals</td>
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<td>NNNN/HPEP, WHPDC</td>
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<td>6.7 Paseo Boricua</td>
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<td>6.8 Cultural Bridge Program</td>
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<td>Safety Initiative</td>
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<td>6.9 CAPS Promotion</td>
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<td>BRC</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.10 Community Safety Initiative</td>
<td>1 2-3 4-5</td>
<td>BRC</td>
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## 7. PROVIDE JOBS THROUGH TRAINING AND LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### Job Training Initiative

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<tr>
<td>7.1 Healthcare Careers</td>
<td>1 2 3 4-5</td>
<td>HPVEC</td>
<td>AHC, ASP, CASA, CC, CHO, CSB, EFHC, NCDHC, UIC</td>
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<td>7.2 Career Training</td>
<td>1 2 3 4-5</td>
<td>HPVEC</td>
<td>HHDC, NNNN/HPEP, WHPDC</td>
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<td>7.3 Basic Skills Training Coordination</td>
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<td>CC, CHO, GNPDC, HPVEC</td>
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### Business Development and Support Initiative

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<td>7.4 Minority/Latino Contractors Association</td>
<td>1 2 3 4-5</td>
<td>DSBDA</td>
<td>BRC, HCC, NNNN/HPEP, WHPDC</td>
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<td>7.5 Access To Small Business Resources</td>
<td>1 2 3 4-5</td>
<td>DSBDA, GNPDC</td>
<td>NNNN/HPEP</td>
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<td>7.6 Technologies Business Development</td>
<td>1 2 3 4-5</td>
<td>HPVEC</td>
<td>State Rep. Soto, NCLR, NNNN/HPEP</td>
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New Communities Program

NCP is a long-term initiative of Local Initiatives Support Corporation/Chicago to support comprehensive community development in Chicago neighborhoods. It seeks to rejuvenate challenged communities, bolster those in danger of losing ground and preserve the diversity of areas in the path of gentrification. Each effort is led by a neighborhood-based lead agency that coordinates programs among other local organizations and citywide support groups.

The program gives each of the lead agencies several resources: two full-time staff positions (an NCP director and organizer), technical support for planning and documenting the planning process, a pool of loan and grant funds distributed on a competitive basis for project seed money, and opportunities for learning from both peers and subject-area experts.

All NCP neighborhoods spend their first year undertaking a structured community planning process that leads to the quality-of-life plan, then move on to implementation. They are encouraged to be “doing while planning,” undertaking short-term “Early Action Projects” such as launching a youth program, opening an employment center, creating public art or sponsoring local health fairs.

NCP is designed to strengthen communities from within — through planning, organizing and human development. The comprehensive approach is designed to help broaden opportunities for local residents through better education, broader housing choices, safer streets, stronger personal finances and new economic opportunities. The strengthened community is better equipped to take advantage of larger market forces, attract new investment and enhance the overall quality of life.

For more information

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Juan Francisco Hernandez, page 26
John Knox, page 11
NNNN/HPEP, cover (middle left)
NNNN/HPEP Youth Action Team/Batey Youth,
cover (far left, middle right), page 29
Fernando Prieto, page 21
Eric Young Smith, pages 3, 19
West Humboldt Park Family and Community Development Council,
cover (far right)
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www.lisc-chicago.org
www.newcommunities.org