

West Town Leadership United

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Developing a “Facility Master Plan” for West Town’s Schools



The “Community Dialogue” Planning Process

Do you believe that....

- **Schools are centers of community** and should be used by and in response to the communities needs?
- **Communities are key stakeholders** & should have a voice in facility decisions?
- **Capital resources should be distributed fairly, equitably, & transparently** across the community and across the City?
- **School facility planning should be well coordinated** with other planning agencies and bodies, and are vital anchors to the stability and attractiveness of our neighborhoods & investments?
- **Accountability to the taxpayers is critical?**

If you answered ‘yes’ to these very basic ideals of schools in our neighborhoods, then you should take part in this community planning process to develop West Town’s first Facility Master Plan!

West Town Leadership United, Neighborhood Capital Budget Group’s *Community Capital Planning Commission*, and partnering school leaders are reaching out to the broader West Town community to develop a comprehensive and strategic “Burnham Plan” for our schools and neighborhoods that supports high-quality, 21st Century schools for our children...and we want you to be a part of the West Town planning process!

The mission of NCBG’s Community Capital Planning Commission is to:

- ☞ Ensure that our facility investments deliver equal opportunities and a world-class education for all our children;
- ☞ Envision a future of which our schools are interwoven with the life of our communities; and
- ☞ Develop a model for a comprehensive, balanced, and cost-effective “Facility Master Plan” that serves all of Chicago’s schools and neighborhoods.

Community Dialogue Meeting Dates:

Community Dialogue Meeting #1:
Tuesday, April 20th, 2004
6:00 – 8:30 PM
Northwestern Settlement House
1012 N. Noble Street, 2nd Floor
(Burnside Hall)

Community Dialogue Meeting #2:
Thursday, May 6th
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Von Humboldt School
2620 W. Hirsch St.

Community Dialogue Meeting #3:
Monday, June 7th
6:00 – 8:30 PM
Onward House (Annex)
600 N. Leavitt

Based on the NCBG Community Capital Planning Commission’s shared values and mission, we believe that the West Town & Humboldt Park neighborhoods should convene our own community engagement and planning process to develop our own “Facility Master Plan” for our schools & neighborhoods.



NEIGHBORHOOD CAPITAL BUDGET GROUP

The purpose of the “Community Dialogue” planning meetings: These community dialogue meetings are an important way for us, as the West Town & Humboldt Park neighborhoods, to be involved and have a voice in decisions that affect our schools and neighborhoods. **This process enables our community to come together and begin a “dialogue” about our shared and future visions, values, goals, assets, challenges, and strengths of our public school facilities** and how these decisions should be driven by our community’s needs and vision – all of which will be transformed into a Facility Master Plan for our neighborhood schools. Some of the questions and issues we will address include:

- *How will a new school fit into our neighborhood?*
- *Who gets to decide if and when a new school is built and do parents and educators have any input on the design of the school?*
- *Of all the major repairs necessary in so many schools, when will my child’s school repair issues be addressed?*
- *Do we want smaller schools? Do our children need smaller class sizes?*
- *If enrollment is going down, for how long has enrollment been dropping? What are the chances that enrollment will increase soon? If our schools is overcrowded, how is overcrowding being relieved?*
- *How do we expand to ensure that our schools are open to us, the community?*
- *What if we don’t want to close our schools?*
- *How do we ensure that our neighborhood schools provide the best educational opportunities for our children to learn, grow, and be successful?*
- *What kind of demographic data, school facility data, or housing data do we need to make well-informed decisions?*
- ***Ultimately, where do our schools fit in the changing landscape of our neighborhoods and who is making the decisions?***

Outcomes for our community engagement & planning process:

1. **To enable us a voice** in developing proposals that support how our neighborhood schools will look for generations to come, even as our neighborhoods evolve.
2. **To engage us in an inclusive and community-driven planning process** that results in the development of **a shared vision** for our school facilities based on school and community strengths & assets, and building off of challenges affecting our schools and neighborhoods, and
3. **To develop a Facility Master Plan for West Town!** A Facility Master Plan will provide us with our visionary and balanced plan that will that will help guide CPS’ decisions about school repairs, new construction, overcrowding, school closings, community use of schools, and other vital decisions affecting our children’s schools – and our communities.

Who should participate? Everyone concerned about the future of our children’s education and our neighborhoods! Parents, principals and teachers; community residents and organizations; elected officials; housing developers and those working on community economic development all are welcome and encouraged to attend!

For more information on this project, please contact:

West Town Leadership United

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Neighborhood Capital Budget Group

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You can also go to NCBG’s website for updated Facility Master Plan information at www.ncbg.org.