

**Civic Consulting Alliance
Civic Committee Update
December 10, 2020**

Civic Consulting Alliance is a nonprofit organization bringing together collaborative, pro bono investments to get big things done for Chicago. Our mission is to make the Chicago region a great place for everyone to live in and work. We have an effective model for addressing systemic problems and achieving lasting change - we leverage the power of public-private collaboration, and a unique approach to management consulting, to channel Chicago's proud history of civic engagement. Philanthropy fuels our experienced staff, whose dedication is amplified by our best-in-class pro bono partners' generous commitments; for every dollar we invest in staff, we provide triple in pro bono services to our clients, with nearly \$15 million invested in our region's thorniest challenges annually since 2010.

You should have received an email invitation to join Civic Consulting Alliance on Monday, December 14 from 12 - 1 p.m. for the second event in our new virtual conversation series, "Getting Big Things Done". [Click here](#) to RSVP and learn about our collaboration with the City of Chicago's Chief Equity Officer Candace Moore to catalyze racial healing as a tool to drive long-term, structural transformation and help Chicagoans identify new-found resilience to lift up equity and justice in their communities, including strategies to broaden engagement of corporate leaders.

Recent highlights of Civic Consulting Alliance's work are summarized below, focusing on major milestones since the last report on September 24th. Updates are in **bold**. Projects are organized by Civic Consulting Alliance's three platform areas: Economic Vitality, Education, and Public Safety & Criminal Justice. Additional projects that do not fit squarely within these core platforms are under Special Projects. *Pro bono* partners are noted in parentheses as applicable.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

City of Chicago COVID-19 Response

- **Racial Equity Rapid Response Team:** Civic Consulting Alliance and its partners are supporting the City of Chicago and West Side United to address the racial health disparities of this crisis. We are helping to develop and implement direct interventions to flatten the COVID-19 mortality curve in Black and Latinx communities and laying the groundwork to rectify systemic inequities. **Current efforts are focused on the recent surge and targeting services on the northwest and southwest sides, which continue to have high positivity rates. These "hyper-local" efforts are part of the City's Protect Chicago campaign. In coordination with the Chicago Department of Public Health, community anchor**

organizations are canvassing hot spots to provide community residents with critical information and PPE and expanding testing.

- **Healthcare Provider Racial Equity Scorecard:** Over the summer, Civic Consulting Alliance facilitated an unprecedented joint public statement calling for racial equity in healthcare from thirty-six healthcare providers who make up the Providers Working Group of the Racial Equity Rapid Response team (above). **Civic Consulting Alliance supported these providers to develop a scorecard to assess their organization’s progress towards racial equity. The scorecard has about forty questions across four domains – leadership, organization, patients, and community. We are socializing the framework with providers, local leaders, and national experts and aim to pilot the scorecard by the end of the year. (Oliver Wyman)**
- **Together We Heal:** We kicked off a new project to support the City’s Chief Equity Officer to develop and roll out a citywide racial healing strategy beginning with a challenge to encourage community-level racial healing activities in all 77 Chicago communities. We will create a platform to capture these activities as well as a toolkit to help residents get started.



ECONOMIC VITALITY *We contribute to Chicago’s long-term vitality by growing an economy that works for everyone.*

City of Chicago

- **Recovery Task Force:** Following the July release of the “Forward Together” report outlining 17 recommendations to ensure an inclusive and equitable recovery for Chicago and the region, Civic Consulting Alliance and *pro bono* partner EY supported the Mayor’s Office to design and implement a system to manage execution and stand up a Project Management Office (PMO). **By mid-October, Civic Consulting Alliance completed transition of management of the PMO to the Mayor’s Office, with a fully operational cadence of regular progress updates on each initiative for the City Steering Committee and the Mayor; report outs to the public and to the Recovery Task Force members; and engagement with regional coordination groups. (EY)**
- **INVEST South/West (ISW):** Beginning in March, Civic Consulting Alliance helped execute the business development priorities of this major City initiative, which aims to align \$750 million in public funding over the next three years along ten identified commercial corridors and to maximize those public investments by attracting additional private capital. Our support has included developing a marketing strategy for the corridors, outreach to private sector real estate investors, and identifying catalytic investment opportunities for philanthropic and private sector investment. **In addition, a Fellow from Bain & Company has also joined the**

effort. Recent highlights include:

- **Developed a pilot effort to clean and beautify about 25 vacant lots on ISW corridors.**
- **Helped complete the application for State of Illinois economic assistance with development of city-owned vacant land in Englewood.**
- **Began work to build a more user-friendly online portal for small businesses and to secure corporate partnerships for the City's Regional Business Centers.**
- **Built a framework and process for City departments to decide when to use earmarked TIF funds for ISW neighborhoods.** (Bain & Company)

City of Chicago Treasurer and Illinois State Treasurer

- **Advancing Equity in Banking Commission:** In late June the Chicago City Treasurer and Illinois State Treasurer announced the creation of an Advancing Equity in Banking Commission (AEBC) targeted at advancing equity and eliminating systemic racism in the banking industry. The AEBC includes prominent banking institutions anchored in Illinois and committed to making changes to the industry through equitable hiring, lending, and investment in Black communities. In late August, Civic Consulting Alliance and *pro bono* partner McKinsey agreed to support the data analytics and the establishment of the project management infrastructure for the AEBC. The State and City Treasurer teams are currently confirming the scope of the information sharing agreement and the goals of the project with participating banks. (McKinsey)

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD)

- **Strategic Plan:** In August, Civic Consulting Alliance launched a project to develop a five-year strategic plan for the MWRD. All aspects of the strategic planning process will be informed by an equity lens, and will engage stakeholders, including local communities. Arup, a global design and engineering firm, is participating in its first *pro bono* project with Civic Consulting Alliance by providing industry expertise. **On October 2, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee aligned on nine themes that will be the foundation of the plan. Themes include continued focus on the MWRD's core mission of treating wastewater and protecting area waterways, as well as an expanded focus on equity and proactive community engagement to support the MWRD's role as Cook County's lead storm water management agency.** (Arup, Kearney)



EDUCATION *We advance an education system that provides equitable access to opportunity for all Chicago students and prepares them for lifelong success.*

Chicago Public Schools (CPS)

- **High School Strategy Collaborative:** Kicked off a project to support CPS in prioritizing initiatives and developing cross-functional groups for their recently released High School

Strategy. This project is aligned to CPS's five-year vision that establishes district goals for graduation rate, SAT attainment, and college enrollment and leverages work that Civic Consulting Alliance recently completed for early literacy.

- **School Strategy Alternatives:** Launched a project to support CPS' effort to execute requirements of its August board resolution on School Resource Officers, specifically the need to create an "inclusive, thoughtful, and expeditious process to develop and implement alternative systems of safety."

Chicago State University

- **Equity Working Group for Black Student Access and Success in Illinois Higher Education:** Since July, Civic Consulting Alliance has been supporting the creation and facilitation of a working group of 40 stakeholders, convened by Chicago State University and the Illinois Board of Higher Education, to address access, success, completion and connection to the workforce for Black students in higher education in the state. **The Equity Working Group met virtually for the third time on November 12th and heard from a panel of Black students who shared their experiences in higher education.**



PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE *We facilitate collaborative public safety and criminal justice reform with institutions and communities to ensure that everyone is safe and justice is exercised equitably.*

City of Chicago Mayor's Office

- **Violence Prevention Planning Process:** Civic Consulting Alliance has been helping Mayor Lightfoot to expand the Office of Public Safety and to translate the City's violence reduction strategic framework into a public planning document to align all stakeholders and enable future State grant support. More than 100 stakeholders (including government, community organizations, and residents), provided recommendations focused on: Diversion; Victims Services; Domestic Violence; and Gun Violence (both Policy and Programmatic Response). **The Mayor's Office has incorporated these recommendations, along with ongoing efforts targeting violence reduction across the City, into a comprehensive violence reduction report [Our City Our Safety](#), released on September 29th. This plan outlines five pillars the City will use to guide violence reduction efforts: Empower and Heal People; Protect and Secure Places; Improve and Advance Policing; Affect Public Policy; and Plan and Coordinate.**

Chicago Police Department (CPD)

- **Youth Intervention Strategy:** In July, Civic Consulting Alliance began work to redesign the City's Juvenile Intervention Support Center (JISC) to minimize youth involvement in the justice system and achieve important police reforms outlined in the consent decree. **This**

work is focused on **(1) Implementing immediate changes to address concerns raised by the Inspector General; and (2) Developing a long term vision to increase the number of juveniles diverted and increased access to case management services.**

- **Consent Decree Workflow Prioritization and Automation:** Civic Consulting Alliance and our *pro bono* partner, Slalom, have completed a one-month sprint to support the Chicago Police Department's Office of Reform Management to improve systems to automate and prioritize consent decree workflow and backlogs and ultimately improve compliance with the consent decree. (Slalom)

Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA)

- Civic Consulting Alliance and our *pro bono* partner, Sidley, kicked off a new project to support the review of the Civic Office of Police Accountability's policies through the facilitation of external working groups. (Sidley)

Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities

- Civic Consulting Alliance continues to support the management of the Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities (PSPC), a coalition of more than 40 philanthropic organizations committed to reducing gun violence in Chicago by aligning grant making and collaborating across sectors. Work to date has focused on four strategic areas of direct services: policing and community engagement; gun policy; and community grant making. In August, newly available evaluations of the coalition's investments to date, recent surges in gun violence, increased emphasis on structural inequities in policing practices, and the City's anticipated new comprehensive violence reduction plan, prompted the launch of a refresh of PSPC's strategic approach. **To date, Civic Consulting Alliance has interviewed researchers, experts and practitioners locally and nationally to compile potential next steps for PSPC to consider to increase its impact and is supporting PSPC's review of these potential investments and activities for impact and feasibility.**



FISCAL UPDATE

The Civic Consulting Alliance Board and leadership are focused on building a more fiscally sustainable organization to maintain the scope and scale of our impact. After several years of rapid growth, last fiscal year our foundation revenue decreased significantly. We have cut expenses by 20% and are pursuing strategies to diversify our revenues. We currently project the need to raise an additional **\$101,000** to break even this fiscal year, and a further additional **\$828,000** to restore our budget to previous levels. Please contact Board Chair Deb DeHaas and/or CEO Rebekah Scheinfeld about ways to support Civic Consulting Alliance during this critical time.