

**Civic Consulting Alliance
Civic Committee Update
March 8, 2021**

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 address systemic problems to achieve lasting change with a unique approach to management consulting and *pro bono* resources from our partners. 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. **Please be sure to check out our recently released [2020 Impact Report](#) that details accomplishments of our FY2020 fiscal year.**

Recent highlights of Civic Consulting Alliance's work are summarized below. Updates since the last report on December 10th are in **bold**. Projects are grouped by our three platform areas: Economic Vitality, Education, and Public Safety & Criminal Justice. Special Projects includes engagements that do not fit squarely within these core platforms. *Pro bono* partners are noted in (parentheses) as applicable.



SPECIAL PROJECTS *We capture timely opportunities and address urgent challenges that advance our mission.*

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 helped roll out hyperlocal efforts led by community institutions to provide resources in northwest and southwest side neighborhoods with high positivity rates. We established a weekly cadence of data review by zip code and census tract, and coordination for communication, door to door outreach, testing expansion, and resource supports (e.g. food distribution, cash assistance). These efforts are now serving as a basis for [Protect Chicago Plus](#), the City's equitable framework for vaccine distribution. The City has selected fifteen community areas for targeted communication, outreach, and distribution strategies to increase vaccine uptake.**
- **Racial Equity in Healthcare Progress Report:** Over the summer, Civic Consulting Alliance facilitated an unprecedented joint public statement calling for racial equity in healthcare from the forty providers in the Providers Working Group of the Racial Equity Rapid Response team (above). We have been developing a reporting system for these providers to assess their organization's progress towards racial equity, addressing four domains – leadership, organization, patients, and community. **We have piloted a survey, which creates data reports for participating providers comparing individual providers to the larger group to inform them of the priorities they might pursue to increase racial equity.**

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association has agreed to take responsibility for implementing the Progress Report through its members across the state. (Mayer Brown, Oliver Wyman, KPMG Fellow)

- **Together We Heal:** We supported the City's Office of Equity and Racial Justice to develop this new [citywide racial healing strategy](#). The initiative began with a challenge launched in December to encourage community-level racial healing activities across Chicago. The challenge culminated in a citywide summit with 1,000 participants on January 29th. Zeno Group supported the promotion and outreach strategy for the summit and is developing a communications plan for the Office. (Zeno Group)



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

City of Chicago

- **Economic Recovery:** Civic Consulting Alliance has continued to support the Mayor's Office in efforts to ensure an inclusive and equitable recovery for the region, including the Recovery Task Force that resulted in 17 recommendations in the [Forward Together](#) report. Civic Consulting Alliance and *pro bono* partner EY helped design and implement a Project Management Office to manage implementation of the recommendations. **Recently, Civic Consulting Alliance supported the Mayor's Office to identify opportunities for accelerating access to jobs in priority sectors of the local economy. We established a baseline of current and expected job demand, capacity of existing workforce development programs, and workforce training needs for jobs expected to be in demand in the next 12-18 months. Under the leadership of Civic Consulting Alliance Board Member Mike Evangelides, a *pro bono* Deloitte team is working to increase access to available jobs, augment existing workforce pipelines, and fill identified job training gaps. (Deloitte)**
- **INVEST South/West (ISW):** Since 2020, Civic Consulting Alliance has helped execute the business development priorities of this initiative to align \$750 million in public funding over the next three years along ten identified commercial corridors and to attract additional private capital. Our support has included developing a marketing strategy for the corridors, outreach to private sector real estate investors, identifying catalytic investment opportunities for philanthropic and private sector investment, developing strategies for improving vacant lots, and securing corporate partnerships for the City's Regional Business Centers. **Recently, we helped set up five community engagement meetings for Invest South / West bidders to hear feedback from residents in Austin, Auburn Gresham, and Englewood. This feedback will be used by the City's evaluation committee to recommend a winning bid. Also, we helped organize an event, scheduled for March 9, for the City to showcase several Opportunity Zone project sites within Invest South / West for developers, investors, and local leaders. (Bain & Company)**

West Side United (WSU)

- **Establishing a 501(c)(3):** We kicked off support to transition WSU to a new stand-alone non-profit organization by June 2022. We are coordinating working groups to define and implement the legal structure and develop an operational model and financial planning.
- **Incumbent Workforce Health IT Pathway:** We are supporting WSU to develop a new Health IT pathway for current staff supported by funding under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and a grant from JP Morgan Chase. The pathway program at Cook County Hospital will provide free training to Computer Operators to earn industry-recognized certifications required to transition to new Service Desk Analyst roles.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD)

- **Strategic Plan:** Civic Consulting Alliance, with support from *pro bono* partners Arup and Kearney, recently completely work with the MWRD to develop their next 5-year Strategic Plan. **As a result of engagement from hundreds of internal and external stakeholders, the draft Plan explicitly acknowledges the impact of long-standing racial inequities on the capacity of different communities to address local flooding concerns and identifies strategies for the MWRD to proactively mitigate flooding in those communities. The Plan also highlights the projected impact of climate change on the region's water resources, as well as strategies to reduce the MWRD's greenhouse gas emissions, achieve net energy neutrality, and prepare for more intense rainfall events. (Arup, Kearney)**

Chicago Community Trust

- **Together We Rise (TWR):** The Chicago Community Trust launched TWR to unite the region's philanthropic, corporate, public, nonprofit and community sectors to ensure an equitable economic recovery following the social, financial, and health crises of 2020. The effort aims to reverse disinvestment in Black and LatinX communities and neighborhoods by making grants and investments; promoting more equitable business practices; and advancing public policies. Civic Consulting Alliance with its partner BCG are working to develop a strategic framework and operating model for TWR. (BCG)



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

City of Chicago Mayor's Office

- **Chicago Early Learning Collaborative Governance:** In November, we started a project to refresh and reboot the Chicago Early Learning governance model and use of metrics in decision-making. Civic Consulting Alliance is supporting a Steering Committee of early childhood leaders within Chicago Public Schools, Department of Family and Support Services, and the Mayor's Office. To date, our work has resulted in alignment around a revised mission statement, strategic goals, key performance indicators, and the application of City values in the Steering Committee's collaboration model.

Chicago Public Schools (CPS)

- **High School Strategy Collaborative: Completed** a project to support CPS in prioritizing initiatives and developing cross-functional groups for their recently released High School Strategy. **The project management tools, including a project charter template to align the goals of the workgroup, a project milestone tracker, and an overall dashboard will allow CPS to track progress and resolve any obstacles.** This project is aligned to CPS's five-year vision that establishes goals for graduation rate, SAT attainment, and college enrollment and leverages work that Civic Consulting Alliance recently completed for early literacy.
- **Whole School Safety Plans: The Board of Education charged CPS with creating an inclusive process to ensure that by the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, schools will have access to “Whole School Comprehensive Safety Plans” that account for a range of school safety needs, regardless of School Resource Officer presence in a school building. Civic Consulting Alliance developed a process for community organizations to host design sessions to generate a range of school safety options. These recommendations are anticipated to be used by principals in their planning for next school year. (Slalom)**
- **Portfolio Strategy: Kicked off project to support the development of a portfolio strategy for CPS, which entails building an equity-based decision-making framework for resource investment in schools to help guide decisions about academic programs and resources.**

Chicago State University (CSU)

- **Equity Working Group:** Since July, Civic Consulting Alliance has supported a new working group of 40 stakeholders, convened by CSU and the Illinois Board of Higher Education, to address **equity and improve outcomes for Black student access and success in Illinois higher education. The Working Group has reviewed extensive data and emerging actionable solutions. A final report of the Working Group with recommended actions and commitments from members is expected this quarter.**



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

- **Deputy Mayor Search Process: Helped structure a search process for the vacant position of Deputy Mayor of Public Safety, including development of a prioritized competency scorecard for evaluating candidates. (Lantern Partners)**
- **Our City Our Safety Project Management Design: Civic Consulting Alliance kicked off a project to support the Mayor's Office of Violence Reduction in creating and standing up the project management structure and master plan that will guide implementation of the City's Our City, Our Safety comprehensive violence reduction plan.**

Chicago Police Department (CPD)

- **Youth Intervention Strategy:** Civic Consulting Alliance completed a six-month engagement to support the CPD and the Mayor's Office of Public Safety in (1) executing short-term improvements to the Juvenile Intervention Support Center, per recommendations from the Office of the Inspector General and the Consent Decree and (2) developing recommendations for the future state of a citywide, trauma-informed youth diversion system. The work of the project will be carried forward by CPD, the Mayor's Office, and other stakeholders to reduce recidivism among juveniles and minimize the trauma and harm that young people experience upon contact with the justice system.

Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA)

- **Policy Working Group:** Civic Consulting Alliance and our *pro bono* partner, Sidley, supported the review of COPA's policies as required by the consent decree. **Work concluded in November, resulting in recommendations for improvements to six policies. (Sidley)**

Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities (PSPC)

- **Strategic Refresh:** Civic Consulting Alliance continues to support the management of PSPC, a coalition of more than 40 philanthropic organizations committed to reducing gun violence in Chicago by aligning grant-making and collaborating across sectors. In the fall, Civic Consulting Alliance began working to identify PSPC's highest priorities for 2021-2022 within the four current focus areas (direct services; police reform/community engagement; gun policy; and community grants) and new areas for focus and investment.



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. Please contact Board Chair Deb DeHaas and/or CEO Rebekah Scheinfeld about ways to support our efforts.