

CONSTRUCTIVE NEWS YOU CAN USE



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A Message from Carina

Our world has dramatically changed since our last newsletter. A world-wide pandemic and national civil unrest has challenged all of us to refocus on our health and safety while searching to forge real solutions and create foundational change for our country.

During these unprecedented times, our construction projects have continued to operate with some scheduling and completion delays. However, I am glad to report that the PBC has completed 11 Chicago Public School projects including three high school renovation projects on Chicago's southside; an elementary school renovation project and the construction of seven annexes, along with the pertinent renovation work.

In addition, the PBC concluded the renovation and modernization of the Merlo Branch Library in the Lake View community. You can read more about that successful project and the grand opening we participated in this edition of Constructive News You Can Use.

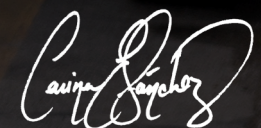
I'm also very proud to share that the project we completed for the Richard J. Daley College Manufacturing Technology & Engineering Center (MTEC) received LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Gold Certification. This recognition validates our commitment to sustainable development in all of the projects we manage.

Furthermore, during this pandemic, the PBC reached out to those seeking a way to enter or further their development in the construction industry as part of CTA's "Construction Talks" series. The virtual interactive programs provided an opportunity to learn how the agencies can assist with training and support programs.

I am happy to report that the PBC also worked closely with our building manager-MBRE-the City, County and State to implement protocols to ensure a safe environment to individuals visiting the Richard J. Daley Center and surrounding governmental building. In addition, members of the PBC family stepped up and contributed to activities across the City. Some examples include volunteering at the Chicago Food Depository, LakeView Food Pantry, helping to clean-up in the 8th Ward and other parts of the City, providing care packages for essential workers in conjunction with Metropolitan Family Services and passing out free backpacks to children in neighborhoods greatly impacted by COVID.

I am grateful for the wonderful team members at the PBC who have stepped up to support our agency and each other as we face these unprecedented challenges. Together we will come out of this stronger and better.

Sincerely,



Carina E. Sánchez
PBC Executive Director

Extensive Renovation & Upgrades Completed at Merlo Branch Library

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot joined Alderman Tom Tunney (44th), former Chicago Public Library (CPL) Commissioner Andrea Telli, and Public Building Commission Executive Director Carina E. Sanchez to celebrate the reopening of the Merlo Branch Library, located at 644 W. Belmont, following a \$6 million gut renovation.

“Chicago’s libraries are more than just places to check out books. They serve as community anchors and centers for education, skills training, and much more,” Mayor Lightfoot said. “The exciting renovations at the Merlo Branch Library have brought this beloved space into the 21st century with an array of new features and programming that will support the education and imagination of Chicagoans of all ages for years to come, and I applaud the many dedicated individuals whose hard work made this moment possible.”



The renovated, two-story Merlo Branch Library will continue to offer traditional library services to the community but will also now provide all the flexible spaces and services featured in 21st century libraries. The branch will serve the neighborhood with a large community space, a dynamic children’s area with a new Maker Lab, and an Early Learning Play Space, as well as a large enclosed YOUmedia area for teens, and an adult area with computers and reading space.

“Merlo is the most recent of several important capital updates to our branches,” former CPL Commissioner Andrea Telli said. “We continue to constantly evaluate community needs and changing library industry standards in order to ensure Chicagoans have up-to-date and modern places to learn.”

The renovation project also featured energy-efficient upgrades to the interior and exterior of the building. Refurbishments also expanded ADA accessibility throughout the building and updated the façade of the library to a modern look that allows the beautiful bas relief and façade, originally designed in the 1940s, to be seen from the street. The renovation was designed by Carol Ross Barney and managed by the Public Building Commission (PBC).

“The Merlo Library Branch modernization and renovation project presented the Public Building Commission of Chicago, along with our partners, the opportunity to develop a striking architectural, community specific design that enhances library resources for the vibrant Lake View community,” Carina E. Sanchez, PBC Executive Director said. “We are grateful for having the opportunity to construct a well-designed, quality renovation project for the community.”

The redesigned spaces allow for additional flexibility to cater to specific community needs. Children ages birth to five will be able to utilize an expanded early learning play space and school age children will have access to a new Maker Lab. High school students will have access to the latest design technology and a new Teen Librarian in the enclosed YOUmedia teen digital learning space.

The \$6M project achieved 32% MBE/WBE participation and employed a number of minority journeyworkers, apprentices, laborers and female apprentices.

The PBC Completes 11 CPS Projects Across the City

The world of education is ever changing but the need for modern cutting-edge facilities where students can network, study and learn is constant. PBC has completed 11 Chicago Public School projects including three high school renovation projects on Chicago's southside; an elementary school renovation project and the construction of seven annexes, along with their pertinent renovation work.

These beautiful schools afford students across the city the opportunity for a first-rate educational experience in facilities that are structured to enhance the learning experience.

The Decatur Classical Elementary School Annex and renovation project included a new 18,700 sq. ft., one story annex connected to an existing one-story school building. Once students are allowed to attend school again, the annex will increase the capacity as well as expand Decatur's educational program to include 7th and 8th grade.

Named after one of the earliest settlers in Chicago's West Ridge neighborhood of Rogers Park, **Rogers Elementary School's** 30,000 sq. ft. two-story annex includes science, music, art and standard classrooms. The project also features site improvements including, but not limited to, a new parking lot, stormwater management infrastructure, landscaping and a new outdoor playground.

The three-story annex joined to the existing one-story **Dirksen Elementary School** via a newly constructed mezzanine, will double student capacity as well as eliminate two four classroom modular units. Work within the existing school building included the conversion of the existing kitchen to a teacher's lounge, severy into an office, along with the transformation of two kindergarten rooms into a drama and music classroom.

Edgar Allan Poe Classical School is a K-6 school on the South Side of Chicago in the historic North Pullman community. The diverse population of academically talented students will return to a 19,000 sq ft four story annex that will include a new gymnasium/multipurpose room, a new student dining/multipurpose room, hybrid kitchen and extensive renovations in the music, library and gymnasium spaces.



Poe Classical Elementary School



Waters Elementary School



Poe Classical Elementary School



Decatur Classical Elementary School



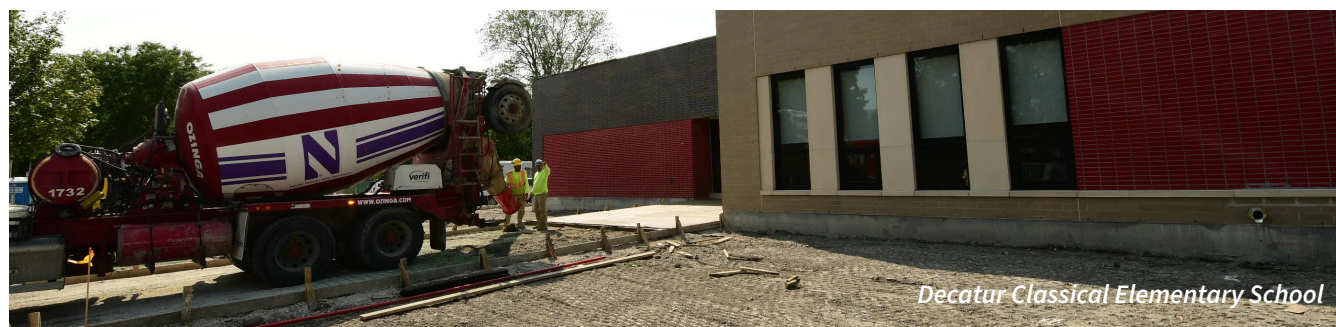
Waters Elementary

Palmer Elementary School annex and renovation project eliminated an existing eight classroom modular unit and created a new 35,000 sq. ft. two story annex to accompany an existing two-story building. The legacy building's renovations featured the conversion of the existing kitchen and lunchroom into two typical classrooms, converting the art classroom into a typical classroom and renovating the computer lab to provide added power/data infrastructure.

McDade Classical Elementary School added a new 9,700 sq. ft. gymnasium/multi-purpose room facility with classrooms to an existing one-story school building. The school now has the capacity to expand programming to include 7th and 8th grade while needed renovations to key areas of the existing school will improve the learning environment for all students.



Palmer Elementary School



Decatur Classical Elementary School

Waters Elementary School, a level 1+ rated neighborhood elementary school with magnet cluster programs specializing in fine and performing arts, ecology and technology, new 31,000 sq. ft three-story annex include music, art and three special needs classrooms. The project also features site improvements including, but not limited to, stormwater management infrastructure, landscaping, a new outdoor playground and outdoor nature play area.

The PBC also completed renovation work for three Southside high schools at Corliss, Kenwood Academy and Washington. While the scope of each project varied, each project aimed to enhance the quality of life of each student by providing safe, inviting facilities that prioritize the needs of our future leaders.

Renovation work was also completed at Locke Elementary School where during a comprehensive replacement of the roof, the PBC and its structural engineer partner identified extensive concrete deterioration following the removal of masonry. The PBC ensured all imminent safety concerns, protocols and correct measures were taken to guarantee the safety of all students prior to the completion of the project.

“Once students are able to safely attend class again, these modern, cutting-edge facilities are places where our future leaders across the city can network, study and learn while being afforded an opportunity for a first-rate educational environment in facilities that are structured to enhance the learning experience.”

- Carina E. Sánchez



Carina E. Sánchez: The Unwavering Public Servant

Article By Billy Yost - Hispanic Executive

©Photo by: Karina Mora

Carina E. Sánchez felt the call to serve her city before she was even ten years old. Growing up in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood, she started noticing people on TV that looked like her parents, her friends, and herself.

“It was the 1980s and I was watching the deportation of Mexicans from the United States, and I remember asking my mother what was happening,”

Sánchez recalls. “She explained that they didn’t have the right papers to be in the country, and I remember asking her who got to make that choice. She told me it was the government who made that decision. I quickly became conscious that people in government make decisions that impact every aspect of our lives, sometimes in a detrimental manner.”

Sánchez knew she wanted to help give voice to those who had to fight hard to be heard.

“To me, being born in this country was a privilege. I wanted to be at the decision-making table to help people that look like me so they weren’t discriminated against,” she says. “I want people to understand that people like my parents came here to build something and make a better life for their family and their community.”

The daughter of Mexican immigrants and current executive director of the Public Building Commission of Chicago (PBC) has spent nearly twenty years working to both give a voice to those without a champion and to help rebuild a diverse and equitable Chicago in an image more reflective of its residents

Bonafides

Sánchez took her first real step toward achieving her goal of championing underrepresented voices in the early 2000s. While working for the Illinois House of Representatives, Sánchez was able to help Illinois become an early adopter of in-state college tuition policies for undocumented students.

“This was legislation that just started as an idea, but I had the opportunity to organize hearings across the state,” Sánchez recalls. “I remember having these young people come forward who just wanted to be recognized and receive an education. That whole process had a major impact on me and, throughout my career, everything I’ve done has ventured to improve the lives of people.”

[Click here to read more](#)

Chicago’s Daley Center and Mobilitie Bring 5G to Iconic Venue -Businesswire

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Mobilitie, the largest privately-held wireless infrastructure firm in the nation, is installing a 5G wireless network inside Chicago’s iconic Daley Center, the city’s premier civic center. The project provides the Daley Center with a robust neutral-host network, providing unmatched reliable voice, data and streaming connectivity throughout the building.

“We are thrilled to begin commercial operation and we are looking forward to continuing to innovate with strategic partners like Mobilitie to augment wireless coverage and capacity and promote digital equity across our city.”

“Our collaborative partnership with Mobilitie will help to dramatically improve wireless connectivity for staff and visitors to Chicago’s iconic Richard J. Daley Center,” said Carina E. Sánchez, Executive Director of the Public Building Commission of Chicago. “We are thrilled to begin commercial operation and we are looking forward to continuing to innovate with strategic partners like Mobilitie to augment wireless coverage and capacity and promote digital equity across our city.”

Mobilitie sets the standard in neutral-host networks for government venues as well as city-wide small cell networks. With a proven track record of deploying and managing complex and challenging wireless infrastructure projects across the U.S., Mobilitie’s experience proved essential for the partnership with the Daley Center.

“Mobilitie has designed a system for the Daley Center that meets the demands of employees and visitors today, and supports the use of future technologies,” said Melissa Mullarkey, Regional Vice President of Wireless Solutions at Mobilitie. “We’re proud to play a role in upgrading historic venues like the Daley Center with today’s innovations and technologies.”

[Click here to read more](#)





Daley College's Manufacturing Technology & Engineering Center Good As Gold

The Richard J. Daley College Manufacturing Technology & Engineering Center (MTEC) received LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

Completed in partnership with City Colleges of Chicago, the project achieved LEED Gold certification for implementing strategies and solutions aimed at achieving high performance in sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.



PBC Engages in Constructive Talks

The PBC stayed connected with various entities as part of CTA's "Construction Talks" series. The virtual interactive programs provided information to those seeking a way to enter or further their development in the construction industry, an opportunity to interact with a variety of organizations at once while learning how the agencies can assist with training and support programs.

PBC team members participated and co-hosted three sessions with Cook County Workforce Partnership, City Colleges of Chicago, Pace, the Safer Foundation and Turner Construction.

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Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, Chairman
Carina E. Sanchez, Executive Director

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