

PUBLIC BUILDING  
COMMISSION of Chicago



# PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION of Chicago

Board of Commissioners Meeting  
08.01.23







## Kari K. Steele Appointed to the Board of the Public Building Commission

The Public Building Commission of Chicago (PBC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Kari Steele to its esteemed board. With her extensive experience in urban planning and commitment to community development, Steele brings a wealth of knowledge and fresh perspective to the PBC.

Steele's appointment marks a significant milestone in advancing the PBC's mission of creating exceptional public spaces and infrastructure for the city's residents. Her expertise in strategic development and community engagement will contribute to the ongoing efforts to transform Chicago's built environment into one that is inclusive, sustainable, and reflective of the City's diverse needs.

As President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's Board

of Commissioners, Steele has demonstrated her dedication to enhancing urban landscapes and promoting equitable access to quality facilities. Her comprehensive understanding of urban planning principles, coupled with her passion for fostering vibrant communities, will undoubtedly strengthen the PBC's ability to deliver innovative projects that meet the evolving needs of Chicagoans.

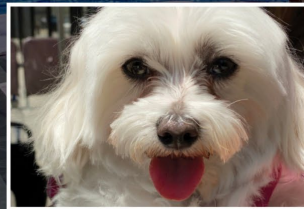
"I am honored and excited to join the Board of the Public Building Commission of Chicago," Steele said. "I look forward to collaborating with fellow board members and stakeholders to create public spaces that not only enhance the City's infrastructure but also reflect the values and aspirations of the communities we serve."

## PBC Presents on Design Build Construction Delivery Method



PBC's Chief Development Officer, Ray Giderof, participated as a panelist in the AIA New York Center for Architecture's - Centering the Role of Design in Design-Build symposium and served as the keynote lunch speaker at the CMAA Chicago Chapter monthly meeting. During both presentations on PBC, its architects, contractors and staff, Ray highlighted PBC's commitment to the community and illustrated how the PBC, its team members and contractors look like the neighborhoods in which they work.

# Adoptable Pet Fashion Show in the Daley Plaza



The Public Building Commission of Chicago (PBC) partnered with the Chicago Animal Care and Control (CACC) to host "Pawject Runway Fashion Show" where adoptable dogs strolled the runway in hopes of finding their forever home.

The City of Chicago takes in thousands of unwanted animals every year. CACC protects public safety and ensures the humane care of animals through sheltering, pet placement and education. The PBC is helping to increase awareness about the CACC's immediate need for supplies and to promote the great animals who are available for adoption. CACC staff were at the Daley Plaza to accept donated pet supplies and further boost awareness of adoptable pets.

*"Studies have shown that pets can decrease stress, improve health and even help children with their emotional and social skills," Carina E. Sanchez, PBC's Executive Director said. "As a pet owner, I know firsthand the joy animals can bring to your life and we at the PBC are honored to partner with CACC to find great homes and give these pets the opportunity to become beloved."*

Individuals who were unavailable to attend the fashion show can support through the CACC Amazon Wish List [https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cacc/supp\\_info/wish\\_list.html](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cacc/supp_info/wish_list.html)





# A Message from Carina



Welcome to 'Constructive News You Can Use,' PBC's quarterly newsletter. We are thrilled to have you join our community of dedicated individuals passionate about shaping the future of our city.

In this newsletter, we aim to keep you informed about the latest developments in the PBC. Whether you are a resident, a professional in the field, or simply interested in the growth and transformation of our city's infrastructure, this newsletter is for you.

At the PBC, our mission is to provide innovative, sustainable and functional public buildings that enhance the quality of life for all Chicagoans. We collaborate with various city agencies, architects, engineers and community stakeholders to ensure that our projects align with the diverse needs and aspirations of our neighborhoods.

In this edition, we will share updates on ongoing and upcoming projects, highlight successful collaborations and showcase the construction or professional service contractors that help us define Chicago's skyline. We'll also delve into the sustainable design practices employed in our projects, emphasizing our commitment to environmental responsibility.

Moreover, we encourage your active participation in this newsletter. If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas for topics you'd like to see covered, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your input is invaluable as we strive to create a dialogue and foster a sense of community around our shared urban environment.

Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey of transforming Chicago's public spaces into vibrant, inclusive and sustainable hubs for generations to come. Together, we can continue to shape the City we love and call home.

Sincerely,

Carina E. Sánchez  
PBC Executive Director



We are pleased to announce that Mayor Brandon Johnson has been appointed as the Chair of the Public Building Commission of Chicago's Board of Commissioners. With his extensive experience and unwavering commitment to Chicago, Mayor Johnson brings a fresh perspective and visionary leadership to this important role.

"As Chair, Mayor Johnson will play a vital role in guiding the PBC's efforts to create innovative and sustainable public buildings that meet the evolving needs of Chicago and its communities," Carina E. Sanchez, PBC's Executive Director said. "His dedication to equity, inclusivity and community engagement will undoubtedly shape

the future of our city's infrastructure in a positive and impactful way."

Under Mayor Johnson's guidance, the PBC looks forward to continuing its collaboration with diverse stakeholders, architects and city agencies to carry on with delivering projects that enhance the quality of life for all Chicagoans.

The Public Building Commission of Chicago welcomes Mayor Brandon Johnson as our new Chair, and we are excited to embark on this journey of building a better Chicago under his leadership.

## Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Public Building Commission of Chicago for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and

its management.

This was the twelfth consecutive year that the Commission applied for and received this prestigious award. We believe that our current ACFR continues to conform to the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.





# Contractor Spotlight



## Playing a Pivotal Role in Shaping Chicago's Built Environment

**Ernest Brown**  
Founder of Brown & Momen

Chicago's rich architectural heritage owes much to the efforts of visionary individuals and influential firms. Among them, Ernest Brown and his firm, Brown & Momen, have played a significant role in shaping the City's construction landscape. With a commitment to excellence, innovation and community engagement, Ernest Brown has left an indelible mark on Chicago's built environment.

Brown credits a portion of his success and 37-year career to his mentor, Kenneth G. Groggs, who was the first African American City of Chicago and State of Illinois Chief Administrator. Mr. Groggs on a career day event at Dunbar Vocational High School selected Brown and two other classmates to intern at Mr. Groggs firm.

"I met Mr. Groggs as a senior at Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School. I was one of the young men in the back of the class throwing spit balls. I wasn't paying Mr. Groggs much attention until I saw his long Mercedes Benz and I said that I wanted to drive a car like that," Brown said. "After that, I started paying attention to what he was saying. He encouraged all three of us spit ball throwers to go to college where we were exposed to a whole new world. After graduation Mr. Groggs helped get us

a job in architecture. Meeting and working with Mr. Groggs, helped to solidify my discipline and confidence in myself."

After stints at various firms, Brown, an enterprising entrepreneur, co-founded Brown & Momen in 1985. The firm quickly gained recognition for its expertise in construction management and general contracting. Under Brown's leadership, the company demonstrated a passion for quality workmanship and dedication to meeting client's needs. This commitment laid the foundation for the firm's success and enduring reputation.

"While in Washington DC, I worked for a construction claims company traveling around the country defending the General Service Administration (GSA) against construction claims," Brown said. "There I learned the value of detailed documentation. When I came back to Chicago, I started my own business by offering construction claims prevention to minority contractors. From there, I was able to meet a lot of good people and consulted on what contractors could provide the services that other contractors were looking for."

Brown & Momen's portfolio boasts a remarkable collection of landmark projects that have significantly contributed to Chicago's urban fabric. Their involvement in both public and private ventures demonstrate their versatility and impact across various sectors.

One notable project was the construction of the McCormick Place West building. The state-of-the-art building is lauded as the largest convention center in North America and has hosted countless events, attracting visitors from around the globe. Brown & Momen's expertise as the chief project scheduler was instrumental in its successful completion.

"We have been really blessed by all of the good people in Chicago," Brown said. "It is really gratifying not only to construct or restore the great architecture in Chicago but also to influence people's lives by providing jobs. As I move to the

"We started the JPSTC [Phase II] project by trying to determine how to maximize the local talent in Chicago – especially on the west side," Brown said. "We knew that it was some very good contractors on the west side, and I wanted to make sure that they had a fair opportunity to be part of a project in their neighborhood that is going to completely change the landscape of the area. It's one of those projects that will become a destination spot."

Brown goes on to say that whenever he has a project, he ensures no less than 30% – 40% of the project has minority participation.



next phase of my career, I want to increase my opportunities to give back to the city which has given so much to me."

Brown & Momen has partnered with Pepper Construction to adopt Dunbar High School and St. Vincent de Paul, where on a quarterly basis they take materials and in-house carpenters to host training sessions on tool safety and building basic protocol.

In addition, Brown is maximizing the local talent [subcontractors] for all the projects that he is currently engaged with, including a joint venture with Berglund Construction on the PBC's Joint Public Safety Training Campus – Phase II (JPSTC) project and as one of five general contractors building the Barack Obama Presidential Center.

"Community involvement makes a difference in the quality of work that you are going to get on a project. When individuals work on projects in their neighborhood or in a neighborhood where there are a large amount of people that look like them, there is a certain sense of pride in their work that cannot be replaced," Brown said. "In my case, there is no greater feeling than to be driving down the street with my two daughters and my son and be able to point to a project that we had a hand in building."

Looking ahead, Brown is poised to play a pivotal role in Chicago's future development. With a focus on sustainable construction practices, embracing technological advancements and fostering collaborations, Brown & Momen will continue to contribute to the city's evolving skyline.

## The PBC participated in Chicago Department of Procurement Services (DPS) 10th Annual Procurement Symposium at Malcolm X College

This conference was for entrepreneurs and business owners to meet and network with local, county, state, and federal partners who provided resources and assistance on how to start a business, how to become certified, explain the bidding process, and how city programs and incentives that can grow their businesses. Participants had an opportunity to learn about funding, grants, certifications, and other business resources.



## CONSTRUCTIVE NEWS YOU CAN USE



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Carina E. Sanchez, Executive Director

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# EDGAR FELLOWS



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