



# CONSTRUCTIVE NEWS YOU CAN USE

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# A Message from Ray

This year has been a year of continued momentum for the Public Building Commission of Chicago and its partners. We welcomed new partnerships and continue to enhance existing ones. Together, we created opportunities that are reshaping our communities.

Through mid-year 2025, the PBC marked the successful completion of \$42M in projects delivered on behalf of its municipal partners. PBC is projected to complete a projected \$100M in additional capital renovation and infrastructure development projects by year's end.

The PBC's current Program Forecast for projects in planning, design and construction includes nearly \$1.4B of multi-year investments on behalf of our municipal partners, including the Chicago Department of Transportation, Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Public Libraries, Chicago Department of Fleet and Facility Management, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, City of Chicago Department of Water Management, Forest Preserve District of Cook County and City Colleges of Chicago.

Each of these investments strengthens Chicago's communities and serves as a catalyst for more development.

Additionally, throughout 2025, we remained committed to bringing resources, opportunities, and jobs to our communities. We reprocured the Job Order Contracting (JOC) program, awarded multiple professional service and construction contracts, connected with industry experts and partners through our Assist Agency Roundtables and Annual Connection Sessions, and implemented a meaningful and successful student hiring initiative.

Earlier this year we hosted 76 future leaders here at the Daley Center to provide an opportunity for them to explore meaningful career pathways in all aspects of public development, including but not limited to design, engineering, construction, and program management.

Various contractors and professional service firms attended, offering students the chance to network with experts and explore career options. The team provided a wealth of information to students (see the full story and event photos in this issue).

Our success is directly attributed to the continued support and leadership of our chairman, the guidance from our commissioners, ongoing collaboration with our Municipal partners, and our staff's commitment to excellence.

Looking ahead to the 2026, a number of projects are in the procurement, planning and design phases – demonstrating the continued strength of our work and commitment to long-term investments throughout Chicago and Cook County. As we transition into a new calendar year, we look forward to our work together, reinforcing partnerships and prioritizing program initiatives.

Our journey continues...

Sincerely,  
Ray Giderof  
PBC Executive Director



The March of Dimes 2025 Construction & Transportation Awards Luncheon was held on Friday, October 3, 2025, at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago was the 31st Anniversary of this unique event.

The annual event recognizes companies, organizations and individuals for their excellence in the construction and transportation industries. Honoree categories include Construction, Transportation, Professional Services, Leadership in the Private Sector, Leadership in the Public Sector, Rufus Taylor, and Wintrust Community Impact Award. Honorees are nominated and reviewed by a committee of industry leaders.



The committee nominated the Chicago Joint Public Safety Training Campus (JPSTC) for the 2025 Construction Award. This award recognized PBC and its partners, Chicago's Fleet and Facility Management and Office of Public Safety Administration for this outstanding construction project.

*"For 31 years, this event has helped fund the vitally important work of the March of Dimes," Kristen Robertson, Manager, Donor Development, March of Dimes said. "Congratulations to the teams behind the construction of the Joint Public Safety Training Campus. This state-of-the-art facility is a major investment in Chicago's future and a significant milestone in civic and public safety infrastructure."*

The JPSTC is a modern, state-of-the-art campus designed to bring Chicago's public safety agencies together and revitalize an unused site. Opened in 2023, the campus provides training for the Chicago Police Department, Chicago Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management and Communications.

With advanced simulation environments, scenario-based learning, and collaborative training spaces, the JPSTC ensures that first responders are prepared to serve and protect Chicago with skill, professionalism and compassion.



# PBC Hosts Orientation for CPS' Chicago Builds Program Students



As part of its ongoing Student Employment Initiative, the Public Building Commission of Chicago (PBC) hosted an orientation session for 76 students enrolled in Chicago Public Schools' (CPS) Chicago Builds Program (Chicago Builds). Chicago Builds is a citywide, two-year, off-campus construction training initiative for high school juniors and seniors interested in pursuing careers in the construction industry after graduation.

“Every student’s career path is unique,” said CPS Board President Sean B. Harden. “We are grateful for our partnership with the PBC because it supports our future graduates who seek careers in the skilled trades industry. This program gives them the knowledge, training and exposure that can open doors that lead to career opportunities in that industry.”

In partnership with the Chicago Board of Education, the PBC welcomed Chicago Builds students to the Daley Center for an exciting day highlighting meaningful career pathways in all aspects of public development, including but not limited to design, engineering, construction, and program management. Various contractors and professional service firms attended the event, offering students the chance to network with

experts and explore career options.

“A special thank you to President Harden, President Steele and Commissioner Maldonado and his incredible colleague Lucia Alvarado from the Mid America Carpenters Training Center of which both attended. President Steele also had her staff member, Ed Coleman, attend. The team provided a wealth of information to students. President Harden, you and your leadership team from Chicago Builds have PBC’s unequivocal support,” Ray Giderof, PBC Executive Director said.

“Supporting these future professionals is a priority for the PBC. We are proud to connect CPS students with the resources, mentorship, and real-world insights they need to succeed in these high-demand fields,” Giderof continued. “Our entire team was truly amazed by the questions, professionalism, and eagerness expressed by the students.”

The event was one of several events organized under the PBC’s Student Employment Initiative, which aims to build stronger pathways from education to employment for young Chicagoans.







## Quotes from the events

*To be “Young , Gifted and Diverse!” Our young people are doing their thing by becoming true leaders of tomorrow. Thank you for allowing Melissa Chinwah Enterprises, Inc. to be a part of it. I don’t have to wait for the future because it’s Now!*

*- Melissa Chinwah Enterprises, Inc*

*Thank you for allowing me to be in the room. Wow. To speak to so many young minds who know where they’re headed is great. I was glad you invited me so I can give them some sound advice. I can’t wait to work with some of them.*

*- SMM Construction Company, Inc.*

*It was our sincere pleasure to attend the PBC CPS Chicago Builds Program. The event was perfectly orchestrated, and it is wonderful to connect with the students. Thank you for including us.*

*- Cannon Design*

*You should ALL give yourselves pats on backs and firm handshakes. I’ve not attended so well-choreographed an organizational student employment initiative in recent years. Count us in on future endeavors. Your team deserves nothing but the AEC community’s unconditional support.*

*- Design Group JEDI Incorporated:*

*On behalf of the ALL Construction Group team, thank you for hosting such an impactful event. ALL Construction Group is proud to continue supporting the Chicago Builds Program and its mission. The students who visited our table were engaged and asked thoughtful questions about our company and roles. Kudos to the program coordinators for preparing such an impressive group of future professionals. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute and look forward to future collaborations.*

*- ALL Construction Group*

*I applaud PBC’s sustained efforts to create pathways to the AEC industry for our young leaders. We will all need their time and talent soon enough. Keep up the awesome work and let us know if there is a way to engage further!!!*

*- Studio ARQ*

*Thank you for the opportunity to be part of something so special. You and your entire staff as always, did a phenomenal in setting up such a great event. We look forward to our continued partnership in creating great opportunities for the future leaders and builders of our great city.*

*- Mid America Carpenters Regional Council*



## The PBC Hosts a Series of Successful Pre-Submission Conferences

The PBC continues to host pre-submission conferences to ensure clear communication, reduce risk mitigation and level the playing field among all stakeholders before submission are received.

The meetings allow all prospective respondents to receive the same detailed information about the project's objectives, plans, specifications, and quality standards directly from the PBC. This ensures everyone operates from a shared, accurate understanding of the work required. Since September 1st the PBC hosted the following pre-submission conferences



- On September 11th, the PBC hosted a well-attended non-mandatory pre-submission conference in conjunction with a Request for Proposals for Project Development Services.
- On September 16th, the PBC hosted a non-mandatory virtual pre-submission conference in conjunction with a Request for Proposals for Construction Document Printing and Online Hosting Services.
- On September 23rd, the PBC hosted a non-mandatory virtual pre-submission conference in conjunction with a request for proposal for Construction Signage Services.
- On October 14th, the PBC hosted an in-person non-mandatory pre-submission conference at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center in conjunction with a Request for Proposals for Design-Build Services for DFSS Bronzeville Regional Senior Center.
- On November 5th, the PBC hosted a non-mandatory virtual pre-submission conference in conjunction with a Request for Proposals for Construction Document Printing and Online Hosting Services.



Scan the QR Code to visit our Current Opportunities Page



## PBC Executive Director is an Honoree at the 34th Annual USMCA Millennium Builders Awards

For his outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment to equitable public development, PBC's Executive Director, Ray Giderof, is the recipient of the United States Minority Contractors Association's (USMCA) 2025 Honorable Thurgood Marshall Legacy Award.

Foundation, to select a group of deserving students – including college-bound youth pursuing STEM degrees, students attending trade school, exceptional high school students and students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

"I am profoundly honored to receive the Honorable Justice Thurgood Marshall Legacy Award. To be recognized in connection with a man whose life's work shaped justice, equality, and opportunity in this country is deeply humbling. Justice Marshall used his influence to open doors for those who had been shut out - and that is a value I try to live by every day," Giderof said.

This prestigious award acknowledges the values that lie at the heart of USMCA's mission to expand opportunities for minority contractors and professionals throughout the construction industry.

"This year's theme "Construction Reimagining – Survival for Success," celebrates the resilience, innovation and forward-thinking leadership exemplified by honorees like Ray," Rev. Larry Bullock, President/CEO of USMCA, said. "The industry contributions that Ray have made played a vital role in advancing USMCA's mission and left a lasting impact on communities across the country."

The evening also included a presentation of scholarships by the USMCA STEM Education



*"For more than 30 years, I've devoted my life to the design and construction industry. I've approached every project, every partnership, and every day with intentionality, passion, and purpose," Giderof said. "I believe our greatest legacy is not the buildings we complete - it's the people we lift as we build."*

# PBC in the Community



On August 13th, the PBC joined the Chicago Department of Transportation, 15th Ward Alderman Raymond Lopez and community members to commemorate the start of WPA Street Reconstruction: W. 57th Street and W. 58th Street.



Also on September 11th, the PBC joined 19th Ward Alderman Matt O'Shea at a community meeting regarding the CDOT Works Progress Administration (WPA) Street Reconstruction Project in the vicinity of 114th Street from South Rockwell to Western Avenue. We will continue to work closely with the Alderman and community to maintain open lines of communication throughout the duration of the project.



On September 10th, the PBC attended the 20th Annual Business Conference hosted by one of our Assist Agencies, the Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce. We were proud to be there along with Aviation Commissioner Michael McMurray, Chief Procurement Officer Sharla Roberts, and the Illinois Capital Development Board Executive Director TJ Edwards in a segment regarding "Unlocking Procurement Opportunities."



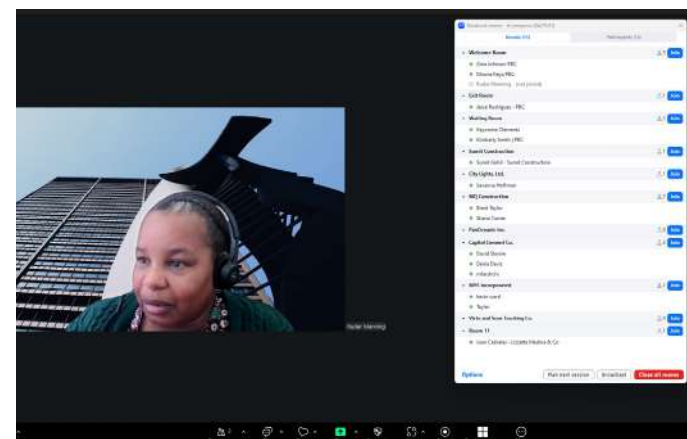
On September 13th, the PBC was honored to join Mayor Brandon Johnson, 3rd Ward Alderman Pat Dowell, Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) Commissioner Angela Green, representatives from Fleet and Facility Management (2FM), along with hundreds of seniors, to announce the development of the new DFSS Bronzeville Regional Senior Center, located at 4711-4755 South Calumet Avenue.



On September 17th, PBC presented at the monthly meeting of the African American Contractors Association, another one of PBC's Assist Agencies. We shared details regarding PBC's current and upcoming procurement opportunities during the meeting.



On September 25th, PBC presented at the meeting of the U.S. Minority Contractors Association, one of PBC's Assist Agencies. It was a great forum for PBC to inform the members regarding upcoming opportunities. PBC and the U.S. Minority Contractors Association will conduct follow-up meetings.



On September 22nd and 24th, virtual Community Hiring events were held for CDOT Works Progress Administration (WPA) Street Reconstruction projects and Capital Alley projects for twenty-two project locations.



On October 23rd, PBC presented at the Federation of Women Contractors' Meeting & State of the Industry Luncheon where we presented about upcoming opportunities and how promising contractors and professional service providers can participate in PBC projects.

# Behind the Build

Jaylan Womack



The PBC remains committed to empowering the next generation of architects, engineers, and builders by connecting young talent with the resources, mentorship, and real-world experience they need to thrive in a high-demand industry.

One of those emerging leaders is Jaylan Womack, an Assistant Project Coordinator currently supporting the CDOT WPA Street Reconstruction Projects. Jaylan's interest in construction began the moment he saw a house being built.

*“When I saw videos of people building houses—and then later walked past a construction site where a real house*

*was going up—I said to myself, that’s something I want to do. But I didn’t know much about the options in construction or even where to begin,” Womack said.*

Fortunately, during his senior year of high school, a guidance counselor recognized Jaylan's budding passion and encouraged him to enroll in Chicago Public Schools' Chicago Builds program.

*“My senior year, I joined Chicago Builds,” Womack said. “The program exposed me to HVAC, carpentry, welding, and electrical work. After graduation, I was*

*invited to Dawson Technical Institute through City Career Launch Chicago and became an apprentice.”*

At Dawson Tech, Jaylan developed hands-on skills that strengthened his construction management education and deepened his desire to enter the field.



*“I learned how to troubleshoot, work well with others, and coordinate the many moving pieces needed to get a job done safely, efficiently, and effectively,” he said.*

Jaylan sees this moment as just the beginning of a lifelong career in construction management.

*“This opportunity is a huge leap, a huge boost to jump-start my career. I’m thankful to the PBC for being open to helping under-represented youth become the next generation of architects, engineers, and builders.”*

He takes his role—and the responsibility that comes with it—seriously.



*“I don’t take this job lightly. There’s a lot that goes into it. This opportunity has helped me to start to become someone people can depend on, and I hope to offer others the same support that so many have offered me.”*



PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION OF CHICAGO

## Assist Agencies Conference

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 | 11:00am - 12:30pm  
Richard J. Daley Center - 2nd floor  
50 W. Washington | Board Room  
Chicago, IL 60602

The Public Building Commission of Chicago is inviting leadership from its Assist Agencies to join a follow-up Conference. The intent of the Conference will be to provide updates regarding input and key discussion points from the last Conference conducted on July 17, 2025, updates regarding upcoming procurement opportunities, continued support for minority and women owned businesses, continued collaboration with the Assist Agencies, and enhanced outreach efforts.

In person attendance is encouraged. For all who cannot attend in person, please join the Zoom Call via Meeting ID or Zoom Link

Meeting ID:  
883 6334 3902  
[us06web.zoom.us/j/88363343902](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88363343902)

Registration is Recommended



Contact Info:  
[patricia.montenegro@cityofchicago.org](mailto:patricia.montenegro@cityofchicago.org)



# Key Discussion and Input Takes Place at the PBC Assist Agencies Conference

The PBC continues to host the leadership from its 17 Assist Agencies to join quarterly conferences that provide updates regarding upcoming procurement opportunities, continued support for minority and women owned businesses, continued collaboration with the Assist Agencies, and enhanced outreach efforts.

The 2025 fourth quarter meeting featured a presentation from the U.S. Minority Contractors Association regarding the services they offer and opportunities available within their organization.

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**PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION** of Chicago

Brandon Johnson, Chairman  
Ray Giderof, Executive Director

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