



PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION of Chicago

Board of Commissioners Meeting

October 1, 2026

Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce 21st Annual Convention

Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce

21ST ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
NO LONGER DIVIDED

ONE VISION. ONE COMMUNITY. UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITY.

Uniting Black businesses with corporations, agencies, and communities to build stronger partnerships and create lasting economic impact.

2 DAYS OF CONNECTION, COLLABORATION & BUSINESS GROWTH

SEPT 9th- 10th, 2026
WIND CREEK CHICAGO SOUTHLAND
EAST HAZEL CREST, IL

POWERFUL NETWORKING
Connect with corporate leaders, state agencies, and industry pros.

IMPACTFUL PANELS
Engage in timely conversations on business, policy, and innovation.

ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY
Discover funding, resources, and strategic partnerships that drive growth.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE
Highlighting Black entrepreneurship and the power of our community.

TIMELY. RELEVANT. TRANSFORMATIVE.
PANEL TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Access to Capital & Financial Empowerment
- Government Contracting & Procurement
- Technology & Innovation
- Workforce Development & Talent Retention
- Business Expansion & Scaling
- Policy, Advocacy & Economic Equity

YOUR NEXT BREAKTHROUGH STARTS HERE! REGISTER TODAY!
www.ilbcc.org

Stronger Together.
BUILDING WEALTH. BUILDING LEGACY.

[f](#) [i](#) [in](#) [x](#)

**Emergency
Management
and Regional
Security event
at the Daley
Plaza**

2026 PREPAREDNESS FAIR

**READINESS STARTS
WITH COMMUNITY
SAVE THE DATE!**



Join the Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security, Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications and Illinois Emergency Management Agency – Office of Homeland Security for a dynamic day focused on community preparedness, public resources and building resilience.

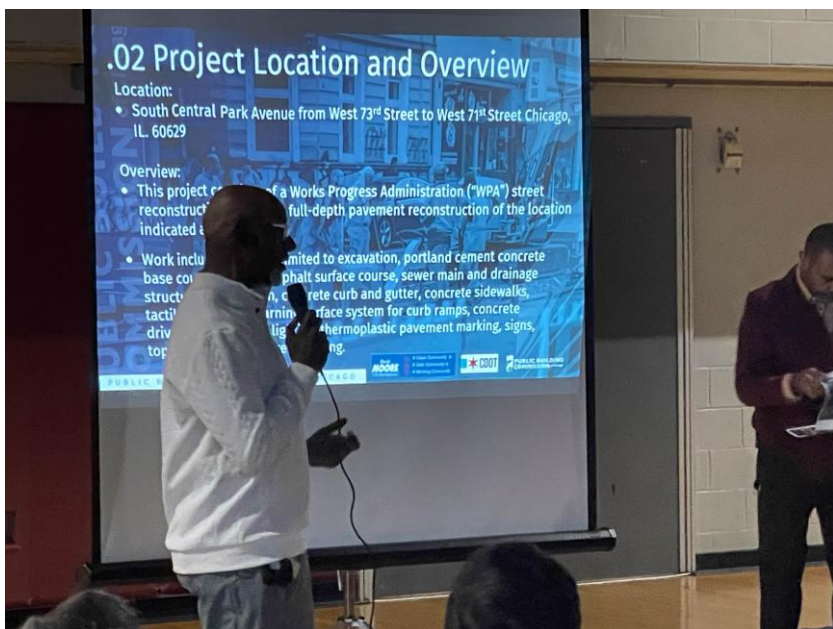
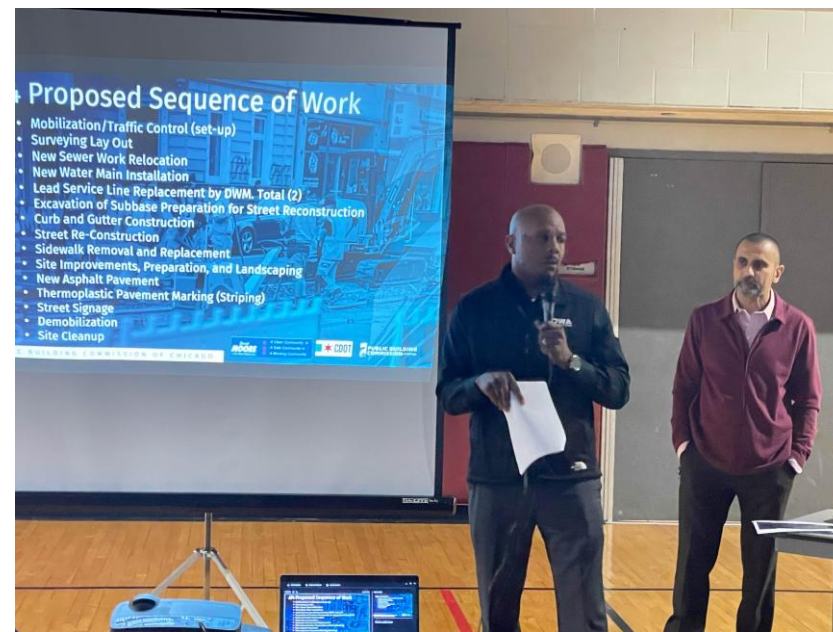
DALEY PLAZA
50 W. WASHINGTON ST.
CHICAGO, IL 60602

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 15
10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

**HACIA
Scholarship
and Education
Foundation at
Obama Center**



Ald. Moore WPA Reconstruction Community Meeting



Assist Agency Conference

PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION OF CHICAGO

Assist Agencies Conference

Thursday, September 24, 2026 | 1:30pm - 3:00pm
Richard J. Daley Center - 2nd floor
50 W. Washington | Board Room
Chicago, IL 60602

The Public Building Commission is hosting its quarterly Assist Agency Conference on September 24, 2026. The intent of the Conference will be to provide updates regarding input and key discussion points from the previous Conference conducted on June 23, 2026, and upcoming procurement opportunities, continued support for MBE and WBE firms, ongoing 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

Registration is
Recommended



Contact Info:
patricia.montenegro@cityofchicago.org



Constructive News You Can Use: PBC Newsletter





PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION OF CHICAGO

Celebrating
70
YEARS
of Public
Development
and Community
Investment

CONSTRUCTIVE NEWS YOU CAN USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from Ray | PBC Celebrates 70 Years | Connection Session 2026
Contractor Spotlight - Wilbur C. Milhouse III | PBC in the Community
Community Hiring Initiative



Community Hiring Initiative

The PBC continues to work alongside contractors and agency partners to connect residents living in the 'project' communities with pathways to employment opportunities tied to public investments.

Targeted outreach efforts focused on increasing awareness of available construction careers, apprenticeship opportunities and pathways into the trades.

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY HIRING OPPORTUNITY

Kells (George)

Friday, April 10, 2026 | 10:00am - 11:00am

Friday, April 17, 2026 | 10:00am - 11:00am

COMMUNITY HIRING OPPORTUNITY

City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) School Nursing Expansion at Kennedy-King College

Kennedy-King College
8 Building - Theater Room
6300 South Halsted, Chicago, IL 60649

Tuesday, March 31st
10:00am - 2:00pm

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY HIRING OPPORTUNITY

City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) School Nursing Expansion at Kennedy-King College

April 7, 2026 | 10:00am - 11:00am

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY HIRING SESSION

CDOT Capital Program Alleys (Various Locations) Packages 7, 8, and 9

Thursday, August 27, 2026
10:00am - 2:00pm

Tuesday, September 1, 2026
10:00am - 2:00pm

CONSTRUCTIVE NEWS YOU CAN USE





PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION of Chicago

Brandon Johnson, Chairman
Ray Gilderof, Executive Director



PBC ALERTS
your direct connection



We are social!

Please like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for additional updates.

Visit our website at pbcchicago.com or call us at (312) 744-3090 for more information.

To subscribe to our newsletter, [click here.](#)

Constructive News You Can Use: PBC Newsletter

PBC Creates Avenues for Fruitful Collaboration within the Construction and Professional Services Industries at Third Annual 'Connection Session'

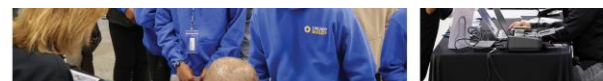


The PBC hosted its third annual "Connection Session," a dynamic networking and collaboration event designed to encourage industry networking with contractors, professional service providers, Assist Agencies, and MBE/WBE firms, subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, and emerging businesses.

This interactive event provided attendees with insights into PBC's upcoming contracting opportunities, including new and pending projects. The "Connection Session" is designed to foster meaningful networking among Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs), subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, and assist agencies.

Participants had the opportunity to engage directly with representatives from PBC's pre-qualified general contractors and pre-approved JOC firms through structured, rotating

discussions. These conversations are intended to compel collaboration, encourage dialogue, and explore potential partnerships. PBC also shared information regarding its ongoing Student Hiring Initiative.



8 | CONSTRUCTIVE NEWS YOU CAN USE | Q3 2026

CONSTRUCTIVE NEWS YOU CAN USE | Q3 2026 | 9

10 | CONSTRUCTIVE NEWS YOU CAN USE | Q3 2026

CONSTRUCTIVE NEWS YOU CAN USE | Q3 2026 | 11

Constructive News You Can Use: PBC Newsletter

Contractor Spotlight

Building Chicago, Building Opportunity: Milhouse Marks 25 Years of Growth and Impact

For 25 years, Milhouse has grown from a small structural engineering firm into a multidisciplinary engineering and construction company with more than 360 employees. Throughout that growth, the company has remained focused on one central idea: creating a positive impact through the built environment.

Founded in 2001 by a University of Illinois-trained structural engineer, Milhouse began with a focus on structural engineering before expanding into mechanical, electrical, architectural and other engineering services. Today, its work spans aviation, transportation, power, gas, facilities, forestry, construction and program management.

The company's founder said his interest in engineering began at an early age, inspired by his mother and a natural curiosity about how things are designed and built.

"I liked seeing things built," he explained. "I wanted to be able to look at something and say, 'I had something to do with that.'"

That philosophy continues to guide Milhouse's work today.

The firm has been working with the Public Building Commission of Chicago (PBC) since approximately 2004 or 2005, supporting projects that have a direct impact on Chicago communities. Its work has included construction management, design reviews and engineering services for public facilities, including fire stations, police stations, schools and libraries. More recently, Milhouse has contributed to PBC projects involving Chicago's shoreline and senior services.



Wilbur C. Milhouse III | Chairman / CEO

For Milhouse, working on public projects is about more than completing a contract. It is about understanding the number of people who ultimately rely on the facilities and infrastructure being designed and constructed.

"We are builders of the built environment," the founder said. "Water, electricity, gas, roadways, airports, terminals—all of those things touch everybody."

That perspective also shapes Milhouse's commitment to mentoring smaller and emerging firms. The company shares technical and business knowledge with firms looking to grow, including lessons on marketing, staffing, back-office operations and managing workloads.

One of his key pieces of advice to emerging business owners is knowing when to say no.

"You can take on more than you can do, and it causes you to lose your reputation," he said. "All money isn't good money." Milhouse's growth also reflects

the opportunities that can emerge through programs designed to increase participation by minority- and women-owned businesses. The founder noted that such programs helped Milhouse gain access to relationships and opportunities that historically were not as accessible to diverse firms.

He believes those opportunities should continue to evolve as businesses grow, with programs recognizing that firms at different stages of development have different needs.

Even after 25 years, the founder sees Milhouse as a relatively small firm compared with the largest global engineering companies. That perspective reinforces his belief that there is still room to grow while creating opportunities for the next generation of professionals and business owners.

The company's relationship with PBC is an important part of that journey.

"PBC has been instrumental in building who we are," he said.

As Milhouse celebrates its 25th anniversary, its story reflects more than the growth of one Chicago company. It reflects the potential of engineering, construction and public investment to create opportunity, strengthen communities and shape the places where people live and work.



Feasibility Study - Shoreline Restoration 71st to 75th Street



DFSS Bronzeville Regional Senior Center

Constructive News You Can Use: PBC Newsletter

A Message from Ray

The PBC is proving that public infrastructure doesn't have to be slow, predictable, or ordinary. It can be bold, innovative, efficient, community-driven—and yes, exciting.

In 2026, the PBC continued to move critical capital investments forward across Chicago and Cook County, turning plans into projects and investments into results. We strengthened partnerships, expanded economic opportunity, and opened doors for the next generation of construction and design professionals. From rebuilding neighborhood infrastructure to modernizing public safety facilities and advancing sustainable community investments, the PBC stayed focused on one goal: delivering infrastructure that works for the people who rely on it every day.

We also expanded the scale and diversity of our portfolio across transportation, public safety, community facilities, environmental infrastructure, and recreational improvements. That breadth matters. It allows the PBC to serve more agencies, tackle more complex challenges, and deliver greater value to taxpayers—while continuously raising the bar for how public projects are planned, designed, and delivered.

These are more than project milestones. They are tangible investments in stronger neighborhoods, safer facilities, better public spaces, and a more resilient future. Every project reinforces the PBC's commitment to accountability, innovation, speed, and measurable community impact. And we are not doing it alone.

Collaboration is one of the PBC's greatest strengths. By working closely with sister agencies, elected officials, contractors, professional service firms, community organizations, and educational institutions, we are breaking down barriers, creating opportunities, and building the partnerships needed to deliver at a higher level. We are not simply building public facilities, we are building capacity, connections, and opportunity.

There is more work ahead, and we intend to meet it with urgency and ambition. As 2026 continues, the PBC will keep pushing forward: delivering equitable and sustainable infrastructure, challenging conventional approaches, strengthening communities, and making sure every public investment delivers maximum value.

Thank you to our Board of Commissioners, agency partners, staff, contractors, and stakeholders for helping drive this work forward. Your partnership makes progress possible.

Sincerely,
Ray Giderof
PBC Executive Director

2 | CONSTRUCTIVE NEWS YOU CAN USE | Q3 2026

Public Building Commission of Chicago Celebrates 70 Years of Building Stronger Communities and Shaping the City's Future

"Seven decades of delivering award winning designed schools, libraries, public safety facilities, and civic infrastructure that have strengthened neighborhoods and improved the lives of Chicagoans."



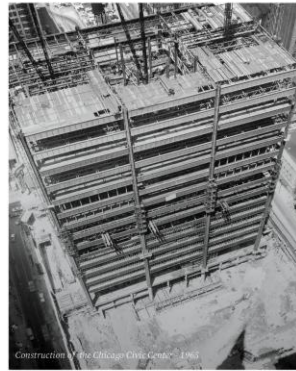
The Public Building Commission of Chicago (PBC) proudly commemorates its 70th Anniversary, celebrating seven decades of delivering transformative public facilities that have strengthened neighborhoods, expanded opportunity, and improved the quality of life for generations of Chicago and Cook County residents. (See commemoration video)

Since its founding in 1956, the PBC has served as Chicago's trusted public developer, transforming bold ideas into lasting public assets that improve the lives of residents across the city. For 70 years, the Commission has partnered with the City of Chicago and sister agencies to deliver high-quality public facilities that reflect excellence in design, fiscal stewardship, innovation, and community investment while shaping the city's landscape by presenting schools, libraries, public safety facilities, parks, municipal buildings, and other essential public assets that serve millions of residents every day.



CONSTRUCTIVE NEWS YOU CAN USE | Q3 2026 | 3

Constructive News You Can Use: PBC Newsletter



"Seventy years ago, the Public Building Commission was established with a simple but powerful mission—to build public facilities that serve the people of Chicago," Ray Giderof, Executive Director of the Public Building Commission of Chicago, said. "Today, that mission remains as relevant as ever. Every project we deliver is an investment in stronger neighborhoods, expanded opportunity, and a brighter future for generations of Chicagoans."



Throughout its history, the PBC has delivered hundreds of projects that have become landmarks in their communities while earning national and international recognition for architectural excellence, sustainability, and innovation.

Over the decades, the PBC has continued to build projects that have become defining landmarks in communities throughout the city while earning national recognition for architectural excellence and innovation. Among them is the award-winning Chinatown Branch Public Library, celebrated for its striking contemporary design that honors the neighborhood's rich cultural heritage while providing an inviting space for learning, creativity, and community engagement. This architectural landmark has become a vibrant cultural and educational destination while showcasing how thoughtful public design can celebrate the unique identity of a neighborhood. The library has received widespread acclaim for its innovative design and its role as a welcoming community gathering space.

More recently, the PBC completed the state-of-the-art Joint Public Safety Training Campus, one of the most significant public safety investments in Chicago's history. The campus provides modern, collaborative training facilities for the Chicago Police Department, Chicago Fire Department, and Office of Emergency Management and Communications while serving as a catalyst for economic investment and neighborhood revitalization on the city's West Side.

These signature projects along with hundreds of public schools, shoreline revitalization work and innovative public safety or park district structures exemplify the Commission's commitment to delivering facilities that are not only functional and sustainable but also transformative for the communities they serve.

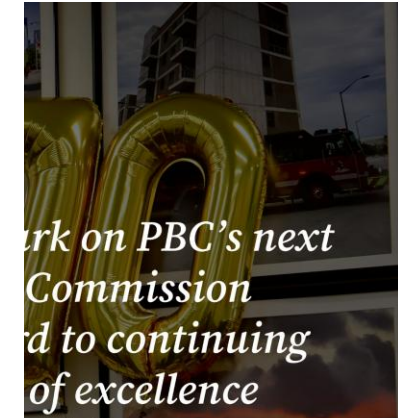
Beyond its buildings, the PBC's legacy is measured by the opportunities it creates. For decades, the Commission has championed community hiring, workforce development, and meaningful participation by minority-



and women-owned businesses, ensuring that public investment generates lasting economic opportunity throughout Chicago.

"The Public Building Commission's greatest achievement is not simply the buildings it has constructed, but the communities it has strengthened," Giderof said. "For 70 years, the PBC has demonstrated that great public infrastructure can inspire learning, improve public safety, expand economic opportunity, and bring people together. Its legacy is woven into the fabric of every neighborhood it has served."

As Chicago continues to grow and evolve, the PBC remains committed to delivering innovative, equitable, and sustainable public facilities that respond to the city's changing needs while responsibly stewarding taxpayer resources. From iconic libraries and neighborhood schools to public safety facilities and resilient infrastructure, the PBC has spent seven decades building more than public buildings—it has built opportunity, strengthened communities, and helped define the story of Chicago.



work on PBC's next Commission and to continuing of excellence by creating public spaces that inspire, connect, and serve future generations of Chicagoans,"

- Ray Giderof



A photograph of the Chicago Public Building, a large, ornate, light-colored stone structure with many windows and classical architectural details. In the foreground, the dark, reflective, curved surface of the Cloud Gate sculpture is visible. The scene is set in an urban environment with other tall buildings in the background and some green trees at the base of the Public Building.

Thank you



**PUBLIC BUILDING
COMMISSION** of Chicago