

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“A Central City Strategy for All of Chicago”

(Chicago)--The Chicago Central Area Committee (CCAC) today released “A Central City Strategy for All of Chicago,” an equity-focused white paper leveraging the dynamism of the Central City’s jobs center to secure inclusive growth in our neighborhoods by catalyzing neighborhood economic opportunity, improving transit connectivity and extending broadband accessibility.

The starting point for this initiative was the understanding that Chicago is at an inflection point. Following global trends, we have seen rapid Central City growth in recent years, but now faces an increasingly competitive world beyond our boundaries and its own local challenges with many neighborhoods needing transformational change. This is also a time of changing leadership across government, private and civic sectors.

In December 2018, CCAC sponsored a roundtable, including some of Chicago’s leading urban experts and set a direction for member working groups focused on these three themes. In recent months, member working groups have crafted detailed recommendations on:

- **Catalytic Economic Initiatives:** business and labor market links to share growth more widely, place-based investments in retail and industrial areas, and the role of major new developments as bridges between the Central City and neighborhoods.
- **New Mobility:** new routes, enhanced transit and new technology connecting neighborhoods to the Central City, neighborhoods to neighborhoods and districts within the Central City, while leading in transportation and other data.
- **Digital Connectivity for All:** closing gaps in high speed internet accessibility in neighborhoods and using public facilities and assets as broadband Wi-Fi hubs for use by City residents and business start-ups.

“This process was established as a rapid and strategic initiative, offering new and integrated thinking that would be helpful to the entire community as it acts over the next 10 years. We view this white paper as an open-source document and part of a dynamic conversation we hope offers ideas and directions that will be helpful to others,” said CCAC chairman Greg Hummel, senior counsel at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP.

This member led initiative drew on significant input from content experts across multiple topic areas and was facilitated by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill’s (SOM) City Design Practice. The concept of strong neighborhoods interacting productively with a strong Central City to the benefit of all of Chicago is this white paper’s vision for the future.

Copies of “A Central City Strategy for All of Chicago” are available through the CCAC website.

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The Chicago Central Area Committee (CCAC), formed in 1956 by corporate leaders and developers, has a long history of influencing strategic planning choices in Chicago. Members share an interest in supporting activities that strengthen the City’s competitive edge and enhances its urban quality of life. Since its founding, CCAC members have worked in partnership with the City of Chicago on major plans that focus on the development of the downtown area including Chicago 21. CCAC remains committed to being at the forefront of creating the City’s identity, shaping the vision of a global destination and helping to set the right priorities to attract broad based investment.