

To the candidates for Mayor of the City of Chicago,

In Chicago, everyone has an opinion about design. We take pride in our innovations in urban planning, in our architecture, and the outside spaces that bring us together. Designers and planners create great places and can help solve city problems in ways that affect everyone who lives in, works in, and visits our city. In this present mayoral election, eleven organizations came together as the Chicago Built Environment Coalition to ask: *what do the candidates for the next Mayor of Chicago think about the issues that are critical to our members and to the public?*

The Chicago Built Environment Coalition consists of organizations focused on design in Chicago: architecture, historic preservation, landscape architecture, urban planning, and zoning. Each organization includes the education of its members, as well as the public, on how design is a key aspect of addressing a wide range of issues in our city. We know that Chicagoans pay attention to their built environment and to the key role played by designers in shaping that environment. We want to know your views on issues important to us and to the people who look to us to shape their environment.

The Chicago Built Environment Coalition invites you to answer these questions:

- What is your favorite building or place in Chicago? What do you like about it? Why is it special to you?
- How can residents be better informed about planning and zoning changes in their communities? What initiatives would you propose to enhance public input on decisions that affect communities or the city as a whole?
- In 2020, the Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development began a major initiative, We Will Chicago, that is intended to guide planning decisions for the next ten years. Do you support its goals, and what initiatives would you support to further its goals?
- How familiar are you with the 2022 Chicago Climate Action Plan? Do you support its goals, and what initiatives would you support to further its goals?
- Throughout the pandemic, the immense value of green corridors and open spaces became clearer than ever. How will you ensure that green space and parks are supported and championed to further improve community links and public well-being?
- As mayor, how will you correct the historic racial inequities of health, amenities, infrastructure, and economics manifested in the built environment?
- If you could build or initiate one major physical improvement in the city, what would it be? Recent examples: central area Riverwalk; public libraries with apartments; revitalizing railroad rights-of-way and river edges as public amenities; expanding transit lines.

Please let us know your responses by Monday, February 6.

Feel free to simply respond to this email with your answers typed after each question.
A copy of this letter is also attached as a PDF file.

Your responses will be shared by each coalition partner with their members and followers,
as well as with the local media.

If you have any questions, contact:

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Thank you in advance for sharing your ideas with us.

Sent on behalf of the Chicago Built Environment Coalition

American Institute of Architects, Chicago chapter
American Institute of Architects, Illinois council
American Society of Landscape Architects, Illinois chapter
Arquitectos Chicago
Chicago Architecture Center
Chicago Metro Section of the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association
Chicago Women in Architecture
Illinois Green Alliance
Landmarks Illinois
Metropolitan Planning Council
National Organization of Minority Architects, Illinois chapter

