

A stylized white line-art graphic of a classical archway with four columns and a pediment. The words "LINCOLN SQUARE" are inscribed across the top of the arch. The background is a solid orange color with a faint white grid pattern.

LINCOLN SQUARE

WELCOME TO LINCOLN SQUARE

To call Lincoln Square a special place would be an understatement – visitors know it as a hip neighborhood with a quaint, walkable shopping street, unique local restaurants, and lively community events. For the 40,000+ residents, businesses and institutions who call Lincoln Square home, this is also a neighborhood of folks who care deeply about their community and the happenings within. An extension of the community, the Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce (LSRCC) are strong supporters of Lincoln Square’s commercial districts and the neighborhoods which abut them.

The LSRCC, founded in 1949 as the “Lincoln Square Chamber of Commerce,” worked to evoke an Old-World European style street. The success of this effort is evident today, and Lincoln Avenue – with its pedestrian friendly amenities and beloved small businesses – has become a model for other streetscapes.

However, Lincoln Square has seen its fair share of development challenges. Recent trends in the residential market include the deconversion of two and three-flats to single family homes, and suburban style commercial developments continue to limit pedestrian use and comfort. Public plazas and streets need functional and aesthetic improvements to meet the demands of this growing community. Various modes of transportation need to be better supported, including CTA bus and rail, bicycle and pedestrian access throughout.

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Lincoln Square
Master Plan
(LSRCC)



2018 - 2019

TIMELINE + CONTENTS

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Planning (LSRCC)



2020 - 2021

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Pop-Up (CDOT)



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Streetscape
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and Plaza Planning
(LSRCC)



2021 - 2022

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CTA Brown Line Station
Streetscape and Plaza
Implementation
(CDOT/CTA)



2023 - 2024

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MAP



STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce/ Neighborhood Improvement Program (LSRCC)
 Aldermanic Offices (40th / 47th Wards)
 Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
 Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)
 Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)



THE LINCOLN SQUARE MASTER PLAN

2018 - 2019

Purpose

Adopted in 2019, The Master Plan is the culmination of a 12-month collaboration between residents, business owners, city stakeholders and many others. The Plan is actively used by the Chamber of Commerce to guide decision-making for transportation projects, public infrastructure, and private development. Central to the Plan was a robust outreach process that solicited inputs from residents, businesses, and local organizations. The Master Plan identifies objectives, projects and actions distilled from thousands of comments received.

Plan highlights

The plan addresses Lincoln Square's commercial corridors, including:

- Lincoln Avenue
- Western Avenue
- Lawrence Avenue
- Rockwell Street
- Montrose Avenue

Recommendations address improvements within the public way as well as private design guidelines.

Key features of the plan

- Develop multi-modal transportation improvements along and across corridors.
- Improve connectivity between the 4700 block and surrounding corridors.
- Humanize the North Lincoln Avenue Streetscape and develop Ainslie Arts Plaza.
- Improve the CTA station plaza areas and pedestrian access under the 'L' Tracks.
- Implement private design guidelines with a focus on ground floor activity and quality design.

LINCOLN SQUARE WANTS...

Address traffic congestion / pedestrian / bike amenities	94%
Public art, culture and history	38%
More landscaping	37%
Public gathering places	32%
Affordable housing	42%

LINCOLN SQUARE LOVES...

79%	The walkable environment
71%	Local shops and eateries
37%	Access to Metra/CTA
34%	Sense of community

NEIGHBORHOOD POLLS

1745 total poll responses
 1835 comments - poll 3: urban design
 156 comments - poll 2: placemaking
 200 comments - poll 1: likes + needs

WEBSITE IDEAS

534 idea contributions (hearts)
 280 mapped comments
 150 apple fest insights

DIALOGUE + CHECK-POINTS

01 community event (apple fest)
 25 stakeholder interviews/ focus groups
 05 committee/ commission meetings
 01 public open house presentation

Implementation

The Master Plan set the stage for public and private improvements:

- Lincoln Avenue North Streetscape + Ainslie Arts Plaza
- Lawrence Avenue Streetscape
- Leland Greenway
- CTA Station Area Plan
- Western Avenue Corridor Study
- Several Mixed - Use Developments
- Lincoln Square Parking Pulse Study



STRATEGIC PARTNERS

The Master Plan presented an opportunity for dialogue with aldermanic offices and City agencies, setting the stage for future project implementation.



02

03

04



NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE CORRIDOR PLAN + AINSLIE ARTS PLAZA

2020 - 2021

Purpose

NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE CORRIDOR PLAN

Based on Master Plan recommendations, The North Lincoln Avenue Corridor Plan (Foster Ave to Lawrence Ave) delved further into multi-modal design and placemaking opportunities, including reorganizing the road to support bike lanes + wider sidewalks.

AINSLIE ARTS PLAZA

In partnerships with 40th Ward Alder Andre Vasquez, Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD), and Department of Transportation (CDOT), a section of underutilized roadway was transformed into Ainslie Arts Plaza, a vibrant pop-up people space through CDOT's Make Way for People Program.



Proposed Lincoln Avenue rendering



NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE AND PLAZA

STREETScape: CDOT is managing the streetscape project for Lincoln Avenue (Lawrence Ave to Catalpa Ave), including Ainslie Arts Plaza and Catalpa Plaza. Construction is currently underway.

Outreach

Historically dominated by automobiles, North Lincoln Avenue supports homes, businesses and an emerging arts district. The community wanted a corridor that accommodates walkers and cyclists and supports a public gathering space.

Highlights

THE AINSLIE ARTS POP-UP PLAZA:

Features include a fest and events space, casual seating and gathering and a place for local artists to display and sell products.

LINCOLN AVENUE STREETScape + PLAZA:

Lincoln Ave will include a narrowed street, protected bike lanes, wider sidewalks with street trees and decorative lighting and side street plazas. Ainslie Arts Plaza will provide a formalized public gathering space with seating, plantings, festoon lighting and performance stage.

Lessons Learned

- Local businesses and artists benefitted from Saturday market sales.
- Local organizations expanded their programming into the plaza.
- The plaza provided multiple canvases upon which local artists provided their art.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

The Ainslie Arts Plaza was implemented as a Make Way For People Plaza, a program managed by CDOT and planned in conjunction with:



- 02
- 03
- 04

Ainslie Arts Plaza Pop Up Installation (2021)

Implementation + Funding

Managed by DPD, Open Space Impact Fee (OSIF) funding was applied to the Ainslie Arts Plaza project. The plaza was opened in 2021.

Managed by CDOT, construction of the Lincoln Avenue Streetscape and Plaza project has commenced and is scheduled to be complete by 2024.





LAWRENCE AVENUE STREETScape

2022 - 2023

Purpose

Project goals include safety improvements, upgrades to aging infrastructure, creation of a livable street, increased walkability and support for economic development. Construction is underway and is anticipated to be complete in the summer of 2024.

Highlights

LAWRENCE AVENUE PHASE 1 (Clark Street to Western Avenue) was completed in 2015. This work included a road diet to reduce speeding and improve safety, as well as new streetscape pavements, plantings, and furnishings.





LAWRENCE AVENUE PHASE 2 (Western Ave to the Chicago River) is designed to create a more walkable, inviting street that supports economic development. Improvements include widened sidewalks, enhanced pedestrian crossings, a contraflow bike lane, and new plaza space at Washtenaw Ave and Lawrence Ave. Work is scheduled to be complete in spring 2024.

Implementation + Funding

The \$11.8 million project, funded through TIF and the Chicago Works capital plan, is expected to be completed in Spring 2024.

Lessons Learned

The Phase 1 road diet along Lawrence Avenue reduced speeding, increased pedestrian safety and supported local businesses.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

The Lawrence Avenue Streetscape was designed and installed by CDOT and planned in conjunction with:



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CTA BROWN LINE STATION, STREETScape AND PLAZA RENOVATIONS

PRIVATE REDEVELOPMENT - 4715 N. WESTERN 2022 - 2024

Purpose

CTA STATION AREA PLANNING STUDY (LSRCC)

Based on the recommendations in the Master Plan, the CTA Station Area Study delved further into design and place-making opportunities for the Western Avenue Brown Line 'L' Station Area, including the station plaza, bus depot entrance / alley, Farmers Market Parking Lot, Leland Avenue, and pedestrian way beneath the 'L' tracks

WESTERN AVENUE CORRIDOR STUDY (DPD)

The Corridor study is a community-based planning initiative led by the DPD and CDOT to envision an equitable, long-term future for a five-mile section of Western Avenue from Addison to Howard Streets, traversing through Lincoln Square. The study examined land uses, development patterns and circulation and was adopted by the Chicago Plan Commission November 2022.



Note: Graphic is illustrative of strategies and potential

CTA BROWN LINE STATION, STREETScape AND PLAZA RENOVATIONS

Following widespread support by the community to improve this area, City Council approved \$8 million in tax increment financing to upgrade the Brown Line Station, including improvements to the station building's interior and exterior areas. The CTA is currently developing final design documents to guide construction. CDOT is also currently developing final design documents to guide construction of the roadways, sidewalks, transit plaza, farmers market parking lot and pedestrian way under the 'L' tracks. Construction is anticipated to commence in Spring 2024.



CTA Brown Line Transit Plaza Rendering construction anticipated, 2024



PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT - 4715 N WESTERN AVENUE

Located in a city-owned lot, the proposed development includes 6-stories, including 65 affordable apartments, a second-floor public/private parking deck, ground-floor commercial space and outdoor public space.



Public outreach event at the Farmers Market

Implementation + Funding

City Council approved \$8 million in tax increment financing to upgrade the Brown Line Station, including improvements to the station building's interior and exterior areas.



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



LIST OF SPEAKERS

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LSRCC WEBSITE +
MASTER PLAN



teska

PREPARED FOR
THE 2023 INTERNATIONAL
DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL
CONFERENCE MOBILE TOUR
OCTOBER 5, 2023