GREATER AUBURN-GRESHAM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

REIMAGINE. REBUILD. REVITALIZE.

79TH STREET

FAIRMONT CHICAGO - MILLENNIUM PARK

5:30PM - RECEPTION | 6:30PM - DINNER
Reimagine. Rebuild. Revitalize. Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation is hosting our second benefit dinner with a focus on raising capital to rebuild our community - one vacant building and vacant lot at a time. Auburn Gresham’s 79th Street Business Corridor is renowned for having the busiest bus line in the CTA system as the #79 bus travels from the Lakefront to Ford City Mall. Yet, there exists numerous vacant lots and vacant buildings like the four-story, 56K square feet, terra-cotta clad structure next to Leo High School, once the Rusnak Brother’s Furniture Showroom and Warehouse. We are seeking to transform this building into the 839 Healthy Lifestyle Hub.

This prominent, boarded up edifice, near the busy corner of 79th & Halsted, has existed so long that for many people it goes unnoticed, as if lingering signs of disinvestment are part of the fabric of our existence. This epitomizes why the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation has worked for more than a decade to provide comprehensive community services. GAGDC’s work has helped to wake up the imaginations of residents, giving them a voice in their community. This process includes Reimagining what Auburn Gresham might be with investment in our families, our schools, our youth, our housing stock, and our commercial corridors.

As GAGDC continues to provide services to improve the quality of life for residents, we know that we must Rebuild what was once a vibrant community with bustling corridors like 79th Street where residents had access to goods and services that allowed for them to live wholesome lives.

I am proud of our work bringing expertise and resources while connecting to the people and neighborhoods that need them most. Our work to Revitalize our community has many dimensions and involves thousands of people – donors, volunteers, advocates, agency staff, and board members. We ask each of you now to help us take on this ambitious plan to physically transform and rebuild the 79th Street commercial corridor.

Join us right now as a neighborhood investor, as a community partner, and an advocate by investing in our organization, investing in our work, and investing in our community.

Regards,
Carlos A. Nelson
Chief Executive Officer
CATALYTIC PROJECT
Redevelopment and transformation of a vacant 60,000+ SF commercial site to serve as a healthy lifestyle hub poised to invigorate future development along the 79th Street Business Corridor. This project will provide living wage jobs for more than one hundred community residents.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
Provide safety and security services, marketing assistance, facade enhancement, debris removal, maintenance and beautification to over 900 businesses along West 79th Street and South Ashland Avenue.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Strengthen and support with emphasis on organic business stabilization as a Neighborhood Business Development Center.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Train and hire local hard-to-employ men and women to staff the Urban Green Team, a social enterprise of the GAGDC focused on landscaping, maintenance and beautification, litter abatement and recycling in south side business districts.

FREE INCOME TAX PREP
Coordinate and host the annual Income Tax Prep Site, an operation which service thousands of clients each year, at no cost. Since 2004, we have returned over $20 million in tax refunds.
EDUCATION

AUBURN GRESHAM NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK
Lead agency for the Auburn Gresham Neighborhood Network and support to AG GOLD - our community-driven education plan, which is active in local schools.

MATH & LITERACY
Coordinate AG GOLD Summer Camp serving curriculum, enrichment activities and citywide excursions all in an effort to counter the “summer slide” effect.

URBAN TEACHER PREP PROGRAM
In partnership with Illinois State University’s College of Education, Chicago Teacher Education Pipeline (CTEP) and National Center for Urban Education (NCUE) works to develop high quality, culturally competent urban educators from outside of the community while developing urban educators from within our own neighborhood schools to teach in Chicago Public Schools.

GAGDC AREAS OF FOCUS

AUBURN GRESHAM GOLD (AG GOLD COMMUNITY DRIVEN EDUCATION PLAN)
Provides the 2-generation strategy and community schools programming at our partner elementary and high schools. Programming includes: *After-School Programming (Host activities include Performing Arts, Dance, Drumming, Theatre, Athletics, Culinary Arts, Urban Agriculture, Creative Writing, Academic Tutoring and more) * School Attendance support, *Parent engagement including parent workforce development for AG GOLD parents, literacy enrichment to increase test scores and hire apprenticeship programs as a pipeline for full-time jobs, homeownership classes and parent cafes.

ACT PREP CHICAGO
Provide on-site ACT and SAT prep, and one-on-one tutoring to Chicagoland students.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ANNUAL 79TH STREET RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL
Created and coordinated since 2005, this iconic event is now one of the largest neighborhood festivals on the south side, held along a quarter mile stretch of the 79th Street Business Corridor. Now a two-day event boasting more than 25,000 attendees.

COMMUNITY TASK FORCE
Organize residents and other community stakeholders to develop a Quality of Life Plan that integrates existing and planned strategies to improve the lives of residents.

GAGDC AREAS OF FOCUS

HOUSING & SENIOR SERVICES
FREE SENIOR HOME REPAIRS
Provide small repairs allowing senior citizens to remain safe, secure, and independent as they age in their homes. Since program inception, over 800 seniors have been served, utilizing local subcontractors.

HEALTH & WELLNESS
Promotion of health and wellness in the greater Auburn Gresham community including increased access to health care facilities for children and families, implementation of health fairs, support to school-based health centers operated by UI Health and the satellite health clinic at John W. Cook Elementary School so that students are healthy and in compliance with CPS requirements. Partner to construct a full-service health and wellness center in the Auburn Gresham Healthy Lifestyle Hub.

NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION
Promote affordable housing and wealth building by acquiring and renovating vacant homes while educating local homeowners and renters.

SENIOR BREAKFAST
Hosted bi-annually to honor our seniors with free hot breakfast, which includes a live blues band and an opportunity for student volunteerism, promoting intergenerational interaction between our seniors and youth.

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BECOME A SPONSOR

Thank you for your generous hearts, your contribution, and for celebrating with us!

GOLD SPONSOR
$25,000
• Two VIP tables of 10
• Company name/logo on event invitations and website
• Company name/logo listed on signage during event
• Company representative to make remarks during the program
• One page ad in program book
• Company name/logo to appear on sponsorship slide on projector screens at event
• Company listed in all press materials

SILVER SPONSOR
$10,000
• One table of 10
• Company name listed on invitations (hard copy and digital) and website
• Company logo listed on signage during event
• Company name listed in event program book
• Special acknowledgement from stage during event

BRONZE SPONSOR
$5,000
• One table of 10
• Company name listed on invitations (hard copy and digital) and website
• Company name listed on signage during event
• Company name listed in event program book
• Name listed on table

ALLYSON SCRUTCHENS
EVENT COORDINATOR
allyson@forwardplanninginc.com
312.391.7221

TABLE SPONSOR
$1,500
• One table of 10
• Name listed on table
• Name listed on table sponsor list on program book
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HOSTED BY JANET DAVIES
ABC7 News