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2016 Fund for Chicago Neighborhoods Announces Second Phase of Grants

\$1.5 million awarded to nine organizations to benefit Chicago communities

CHICAGO — Wednesday, September 16, 2009 — The 2016 Fund for Chicago Neighborhoods announced today a second wave of grants to nine organizations for planning and community development activities that support Chicago communities and complement the City's bid for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The investments total more than \$1.5 million and support youth programming, neighborhood tourism and infrastructure planning, small business certification and workforce development strategies. With the implementation of these initiatives, the Fund is closer to ensuring that the 2016 Games, if held in Chicago, will have a long-term beneficial impact on Chicago neighborhoods.

These second-phase grants, awarded between February and July 2009, built on research findings of eight planning grants awarded in 2008. Combined with the first round of grants, the 2016 Fund has channeled nearly \$2 million into planning, mapping, and implementing projects in areas of critical importance to Chicago. All of the activities supported by the Fund aim to help position neighborhoods to benefit from the opportunities presented if Chicago is chosen as the 2016 Host City, and they are specifically designed to benefit the city's neighborhoods whether or not the Olympic and Paralympic Games come to Chicago.

The initial projects uncovered opportunities to make measurable progress towards priorities identified by the Fund. For example, a database compiled by the Metro Chicago Information Center (MCIC) showed that less than 10 percent of the city's women- and minority-owned businesses are certified as such with the City of Chicago, despite the many benefits of certification.

Now, four Fund grantees – Women's Business Development Center, Chicago Urban League, Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities – will collaborate to increase the number of certified businesses and improve communication to business owners about requirements and opportunities. Their work will help minority-, women- and disabled-owned businesses become better-equipped to compete for Olympic contracts as well as other business.

The Chicago Jobs Council (CJC) also was funded in phase one to begin an assessment of workforce development opportunities. In phase two, CJC is conducting a more in-depth analysis

that will result in an implementation plan for training and development activities in key industry sectors in the event that Chicago is awarded the games.

Through the Fund's first major grant in 2009, Local Initiatives Support Corporation/Chicago (LISC/Chicago) and partners launched Neighborhood Sports Chicago (NSC). In April, NSC ran Spring Into Sports, introducing Olympic sports to over 1,500 youth; while this summer, NSC's Co-Motion program reached more than 15,000 youth and their families. MCIC also conducted a youth sports survey and mapping project that complements these activities.

Neighborhood development grantees include the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs' Chicago Office of Tourism (COT) and the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC). COT will forge stronger connections between City- and neighborhood-level tourism, partnering with LISC/Chicago on key portions of the project. COT will also leverage the city's official tourism website, www.ExploreChicago.org, to attract more visitors to destinations in neighborhoods throughout the city. This work builds from the Fund's first phase of grant making, through which community organizations identified cultural tourism as a key priority. Currently, Chicago attracts nearly 45 million visitors each year, resulting in an economic impact of \$11.5 billion.

MPC will address two issues: affordable housing and transit-oriented development. It will research affordable housing strategies for areas adjacent to proposed Olympic venues, including the proposed Olympic Village site. It also will facilitate community engagement in the planning for two major redevelopment nodes, South Lakefront and United Center, building on its Reconnecting Neighborhoods initiative that has been underway since 2007.

No further grants will be awarded before the 2016 host city selection is announced on October 2 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo are also vying for the honor to host the 2016 Games.

Contributors to the 2016 Fund for Chicago Neighborhoods include The Boeing Company; The Chicago Community Trust; the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; The Joyce Foundation; McCormick Foundation; Polk Bros. Foundation; Wieboldt Foundation, and one anonymous donor.

About the Grant Recipients

Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is a cabinet-level municipal department dedicated to promoting an ongoing celebration of the arts, serving the individuals and institutions who create and sustain them, and marketing the city's abundant cultural resources to a worldwide audience. The Chicago Office of Tourism (COT), a division of DCA, is the official City agency dedicated to promoting Chicago to domestic and international visitors and to providing innovative visitor programs and services. COT is a nationally recognized leader in cultural tourism. For more information, visit www.explorechicago.org.

Chicago Jobs Council

The Chicago Jobs Council is a coalition of community-based training organizations, advocacy groups, businesses, and individuals that work together to ensure access to employment and career advancement opportunities for people living in poverty. For more information, please visit www.cjc.net.

Chicago Mayor's Office for Persons with Disabilities (MOPD)

MOPD promotes total access, full participation, and equal opportunity for people with disabilities of all ages in all aspects of life. It seeks to accomplish this mission through a multi-faceted approach that includes systemic change, education and training, advocacy, and direct services. MOPD promotes an understanding of the issues of concern to people with disabilities and assists both individuals and organizations in working to comply with a variety of laws and regulations relating to disability, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. MOPD serves five major constituencies: people with disabilities, all city departments and agencies, other government agencies, disability-related agencies and organizations, and the private sector. For more information, visit www.egov.cityofchicago.org.

Chicago Urban League

Established in 1916, the Chicago Urban League supports and advocates for the economic development of African Americans through an agenda focused on economic empowerment as the key driver for social change. The Chicago Urban League is committed to empowering African American economic development through entrepreneurship, education, workforce development, and real estate development. For more information, visit www.cul-chicago.org.

Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (IHCC)

The Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (IHCC) is the principal voice for the more than 45,000 Hispanic owned businesses in the State of Illinois. IHCC promotes the growth and success of Hispanic firms and serves as a strong advocate for business issues. IHCC is committed to connecting businesses with opportunities and has been recognized as a leader in helping match corporations with qualified and capable Hispanic firms to meet supplier diversity goals. With more than 1,200 paid members, IHCC is one of the largest Hispanic business groups in the country and a leading small business service provider in Illinois. In addition to serving its members through strategic business development assistance and matchmaking, IHCC provides free technical assistance and other services to Hispanic businesses and emerging entrepreneurs through a variety of programs and is the host of the Make the Connection! Hispanic Business Expo, one of the nation's largest and most successful Hispanic business events. For more information, visit www.ihccbusiness.net.

Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC/Chicago)

LISC/Chicago's purpose is to stimulate the redevelopment of neighborhoods throughout Chicago and to reconnect them to the socio-economic mainstream in the region. Since 1980, LISC/Chicago has infused \$165 million into comprehensive development programs throughout the city, which has leveraged an additional \$3.6 billion in community investment and resulted in the development of 27,000 units of affordable housing, over 4.5 million square feet of commercial space, and a wide variety of social and economic development programs. For more information, visit www.lisc-chicago.org.

Metro Chicago Information Center (MCIC)

MCIC is a not-for-profit research and information resource dedicated to improving access to data and information that will positively impact quality of life in the Chicago region. The work of MCIC extends across a broad range of issues, including social capital development, neighborhood investment, social policy, health, human services, arts and culture, and education. For more information, visit www.mcic.org.

Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC)

Founded in 1934, the Metropolitan Planning Council is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan group of business and civic leaders committed to serving the public interest through development, promotion, and implementation of sound planning policies so all residents have access to opportunity and a good quality of life, the building blocks of a globally competitive greater Chicago

region. MPC originally focused on advocating for quality affordable housing for low-income families in the city of Chicago. Today, MPC continues those commitments and brings people and ideas together around issues and opportunities concerning housing, community development, planning and investments, and sensible growth. For more information, visit www.metroplanning.org

Women's Business Development Center (WBDC)

Since 1986, the Women's Business Development Center has offered a full-service approach to help women launch new and strengthen existing businesses. The WBDC is recognized nationally as a leader in creating dynamic programs and affecting public policy on women's economic status and business ownership. The WBDC offers individualized counseling in all aspects of business development and management, entrepreneurial training, financial management and loan packaging, assistance in identifying new market opportunities and Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) national certification. The WBDC has served over 60,000 clients since its inception and remains at the forefront of women's economic development issues. For more information, visit www.wbdc.org.

About the 2016 Fund Contributors

The Boeing Company

The Boeing Company is the world's leading aerospace company and the largest manufacturer of commercial jetliners and military aircraft. With customers in more than 90 countries, Boeing is committed to being a leading global corporate citizen around the globe. For Boeing, this means partnering with communities in 26 states in the U.S. and 16 countries and four regions internationally to drive strong, positive change in the world. It's what makes Boeing a good citizen—sharing what we know and who we are as members of our community to convene, collaborate and lead in building vibrant communities and making the world better for everyone. For more information, visit www.boeing.com.

The Chicago Community Trust

For 94 years, The Chicago Community Trust, our region's community foundation, has connected the generosity of donors with community needs by making grants to organizations working to improve metropolitan Chicago. In 2008, the Trust, together with its donors, granted more than \$100 million to nonprofit organizations. From strengthening schools to assisting local art programs, from building health centers to helping lives affected by violence, the Trust continues to enhance our region. To learn more, please visit the Trust online at www.cct.org.

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

The MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, the Foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places, and understand how technology is affecting children and society. For more information, visit www.macfound.org.

The Joyce Foundation

Based in Chicago, the Joyce Foundation supports efforts to protect the natural environment of the Great Lakes, to reduce poverty and violence in the region, and to ensure that its people have access to good schools, decent jobs, and a diverse and thriving culture. For more information, visit www.joycefdn.org.

McCormick Foundation

The McCormick Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to strengthening our free, democratic society by investing in children, communities and country. Through its grant making programs, Cantigny Park and Golf, museums, and civic outreach program, the Foundation helps

build a more active and engaged citizenry. It was established as a charitable trust in 1955, upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. The McCormick Foundation is one of the nation's largest charities, with more than \$1 billion in assets. For more information, visit www.mccormickfoundation.org.

Polk Bros. Foundation

The Polk Bros. Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for the people of Chicago. The Foundation partners with local not-for-profit organizations that work to reduce the impact of poverty and provide area residents with better access to quality education, preventive health care, and basic human services. Through its grant making, the Polk Bros. Foundation strives to make Chicago a place where all people have the opportunity to reach their full potential. For more information, visit www.polkbrosfdn.org.

Wieboldt Foundation

The Wieboldt Foundation was founded in 1921 by William A. and Anna K. Wieboldt with the hope that its grants would support "charities designed to put an end to the need for charity." Eighty years later, the directors of the foundation remain committed to preserving the founders' charge, now translated into a concentration on grassroots community organizing. For more information, visit www.wieboldtfoundation.org.

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