

# Partnership Update

June 2009

from The Partnership for New Communities

[www.thepartnershipfornewcommunities.org](http://www.thepartnershipfornewcommunities.org)

## Partnership announces \$412,000 in new workforce development grants

The Partnership for New Communities awarded \$412,000 in new grants to three Chicago nonprofit organizations in May. This brings a total of nearly \$7 million invested by The Partnership since 2006 in new programs and services for public-housing residents through Opportunity Chicago, a workforce development collaborative with the City of Chicago, Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago Jobs Council and other partners.

Two organizations – Instituto del Progreso Latino (\$220,000) and Capacity Developers, Inc. (\$150,000) – will deliver intensive employment training to low-skilled workers that will prepare them for jobs in industries with growth and career potential. As operators of Chicago’s One Stop Sector Centers for Manufacturing and Hospitality, respectively, both grantees bring industry expertise and strong employer connections to the Opportunity Chicago initiative.

These grants will give more than 100 public-housing residents access to industry-specific job training and will bring good information about careers in hospitality and manufacturing to hundreds more. The grant to Instituto also includes support for a pilot program that will introduce participants to concepts in manufacturing while helping them to improve reading, writing, math and computer skills – an approach known as “contextualized literacy” that is considered a best practice in the field of workforce development.

“Opportunity Chicago identifies the training and education needs of low-skilled job seekers and the labor needs of some of the area’s biggest employers,” said Maria Hibbs, Executive Director at The Partnership for New Communities. “It also aligns the resources of the various entities that help public-housing residents find employment. All of these pieces need to fit together.”

### The Partnership requests proposals for energy efficiency job training

On behalf of Opportunity Chicago, The Partnership for New Communities was recently awarded a grant from national funder collaborative Living Cities to catalyze job opportunities in residential weatherization for low-income residents.

The Partnership is requesting proposals for innovative programs that will provide entry-level skills training and education to prepare individuals with low levels of literacy and numeracy for jobs in the emerging field of energy efficiency. **Proposals are due at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, June 19.**

For more information, and to download the RFP, visit [www.thepartnershipfornewcommunities.org](http://www.thepartnershipfornewcommunities.org).

The initiative aims to place 5,000 public-housing residents in employment over five years (2006-2010) and to make lasting improvements to Chicago’s workforce development system. More than 3,300 residents already have been placed in jobs. With metropolitan Chicago’s unemployment rate at 9.9 percent – the highest in 25 years – and a 10.6 percent rate for the city alone, Opportunity Chicago also is helping to position low-skilled, low-income workers for when the economy recovers.

Opportunity Chicago is attracting national attention for its success in helping such workers connect with training programs and jobs that offer the chance to move up a career ladder. The initiative received funding from the National Fund for Workforce Solutions, which is supporting the career advancement and employer engagement components of the current grants to Instituto del Progreso Latino and Capacity Developers, Inc. Opportunity Chicago also was recently awarded a grant from the national philanthropic collaborative Living Cities to catalyze job opportunities in residential weatherization for low-income workers.

A third Partnership grant, to the Taproot Foundation (\$42,000), will leverage thousands of dollars worth of strategic planning, branding and other capacity building support for seven additional nonprofit workforce development organizations. Taproot's competitive service grants connect high-quality, professional pro bono consulting services with specific nonprofit projects to maximize the impact of their work.

*Links:*

*Opportunity Chicago:*

<http://www.opportunitychicago.org/>

*City of Chicago:*

<http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/webportal/home.do>

*Chicago Housing Authority:* <http://www.thecha.org/>

*Chicago Jobs Council:* <http://www.cjc.net/>

*Instituto del Progreso Latino:* <http://idpl.org/>

*Capacity Developers, Inc:*

<http://www.capacitydevelopers.org/>

*National Fund for Workforce Solutions:*

<http://www.nfwsolutions.org/>

*Living Cities:* <http://www.livingcities.org/>

*Taproot Foundation:* <http://www.taprootfoundation.org/>

## Bronzeville Community Market kicks off second season

The Bronzeville Community Market's second season gets under way this Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. A gathering place to shop for healthy food and commune with neighbors, the market provides much needed resources to area residents.

"This community is still without a full-service grocery store and has limited choices for healthy prepared food," said Bernita Johnson Gabriel, Director of the Quad Communities Development Corporation's (QCDC) New Communities Program, "so the thought of providing fresh vegetables and home-cooked meals is fabulous!"

The Partnership for New Communities provided funding to Sustain to work with QCDC to plan and develop the market. It complements other economic development investments in the community and helps bring fresh food to residents who would usually travel outside their neighborhood to get it.

Originally conceived of as a more traditional farmers market, the concept shifted after a community survey and other research revealed that residents desired a broader array of foods, as well as non-food items and services.



*Vendors prepare for the day at the Bronzeville Community Market*



**When:** Saturdays, June 6 through October 31, 8am-1pm

**Where:** 4400-4500 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Chicago. ([map](#))

*Parking readily available*

The resulting "hybrid market" puts exotic fruits and vegetables alongside locally produced food as well as health and wellness programs and entertainment.

The market has helped to forge relationships that benefit both local businesses and the community.

"Last year we were able to connect one of our vendors that provided baked goods and a farmer to a small local market, Z&H Market, where their products are now sold," noted Johnson Gabriel. "That gives us a 'two-fer' – connecting entrepreneurs and providing quality products year-round."

This year's switch from Sundays to Saturdays is expected to drive more traffic to the market, as

well as allow for a joint celebration of Groovin' in the Grove, an annual neighborhood festival held in September.

Links:

Bronzeville Community Market <http://www.qcdc.org/display.aspx?pointer=6022>

Sustain <http://www.sustainusa.org/>

Quad Communities Development Corporation <http://www.qcdc.org/home.aspx>

## U.S. Bank's Rosinsky joins Partnership Advisory Committee

Lynn Rosinsky, Market President of U.S. Bank in Chicago, joined The Partnership for New Communities' Advisory Committee last month. Her 23 years of experience in Chicago's banking industry includes roles as head of National City Bank's Midwest commercial banking unit, commercial lender at J.P. Morgan Chase (First National Bank of Chicago) and manager of commercial banking at Credit Agricole Indosuez. She joined U.S. Bank in 2008.

"U.S. Bank and The Partnership for New Communities share a special commitment to building up the people and neighborhoods of Chicago," said Rosinsky. "I'm very pleased to be joining forces with The Partnership and its important efforts to help changing communities prosper and connect more residents with job training and employment opportunities."



Lynn Rosinsky

Rosinsky also serves on The Lyric Opera's Guild Board of Directors, the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, and is the founder of Athena *Powerlink* of Chicago, a business mentoring program designed to increase the growth and profitability of women-owned businesses. She earned an MBA from The George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in political science in her home state from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Links:

U.S. Bank: <http://www.usbank.com/>

## Full-service supermarket plans Bronzeville location

For a community where fresh food is scarce, the recent announcement that Roundy's Supermarket is moving in was welcome news to Bronzeville residents.

Capri Capital Partners, LLC (Capri) of Chicago announced that it has signed a long-term lease agreement with Roundy's Supermarkets, Inc. of Milwaukee, Wisconsin for a new location at South State Street and Pershing Road (39<sup>th</sup> Street). The 60,000-square-foot full-service grocery store will be an anchor for The Metropolis, a \$50 million dollar commercial/retail development planned for that location.

"Capri is committed to transforming the near south side, and we're pleased that Roundy's has partnered with us," said Quintin E. Primo III, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Capri and a member of The Partnership for New Communities' Advisory Committee. "This historically significant project addresses the chronic lack of commercial retail in the Bronzeville area, and will be the catalyst for the rebirth in this underserved market. A grocer with the reputation and quality of Roundy's gives the community a first-class supermarket, plus jobs for the people of the neighborhood."

The Partnership for New Communities made one of its first grants to Civic Consulting Alliance (formerly known as Financial Research and Advisory Committee, or FRAC) in 2004 to build a business case for retail investment in five sites near the Chicago Housing Authority's new mixed-income developments, including the site slated for Roundy's, which is just blocks from the new Park Boulevard development.

“The value of a quality supermarket to a neighborhood is tremendous, and the new Roundy’s will be a real milestone in the economic revitalization of this community,” said Maria Hibbs, Executive Director of The Partnership. “We’re thrilled to welcome them and grateful to the many other partners who came together to make this happen.”

The new Roundy’s Supermarket is scheduled to open in fall 2010.

*Links:*

*Capri Capital Partners* <http://www.capricapital.com/>

*Civic Consulting Alliance:* <http://www.ccachicago.org/>

*Press release from Capri Capital Partners:* [http://www.capricapital.com/print/Newsroom\\_PR11.htm](http://www.capricapital.com/print/Newsroom_PR11.htm)

*Park Boulevard:* [http://www.findyourplaceinchicago.com/pages/development\\_info/25.php?development=13](http://www.findyourplaceinchicago.com/pages/development_info/25.php?development=13)

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**The Partnership for New Communities** is a fund created by leading civic institutions and businesses to support the success of the Chicago Housing Authority’s sweeping Plan for Transformation. The Partnership raises money and invests it in economic development, community building and employment-related initiatives to bring about large-scale improvements to the neighborhoods most affected by public housing transformation.

*Partnership Update* is published regularly by The Partnership for New Communities to provide information on our activities that we feel is of interest and value to our network. It may include status updates on the CHA’s Plan for Transformation, highlights of our grantees’ work and relevant research findings.

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**The Partnership for New Communities thanks its investors:**

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Northern Trust  
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