

Partnership Update | New Partners

Quad Communities revitalization works to improve the quality of life.

Revitalization of the Cottage Grove Trade Area will soon be under way as Quad Communities Development Corporation's (QCDC) Commercial Revitalization Initiative works to fuel retail development.

Founded in 2003, QCDC works to plan, guide, support, and monitor human infrastructure and community development activities in the Quad Communities of North Kenwood, Oakland, and portions of Douglas and Grand Boulevard.

QCDC and other community and city partners are embarking on a coordinated corridor enhancement, beautification, and marketing effort to demonstrate to potential developers and retailers how attractive this commercial district can be. The Initiative is part of the community's Quality-of-Life plan, developed in 2004 and 2005 with the input of more than 400 community residents and stakeholders.

The initiative will target Cottage Grove Avenue and key intersecting corridors where commercial development will be crucial as three Chicago

Housing Authority transformation communities add approximately 10,000 new consumers to the area's already 22,400 residents and 8,700 households.

The Cottage Grove trade area currently has \$675 million of annual purchasing power, but \$450 million of it is spent elsewhere. The community can support up to 700,000 square feet of new retail, according to a 2003 MetroEdge report.

The proposed work, supported by a \$140,000 Partnership grant, brings together numerous community actors – including the Fourth Ward Alderman's office, Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation, Little Black Pearl Art and Design Center, the Abraham Lincoln Center and others – to create a cleaner, more vibrant environment, change the behavior of property owners and pedestrians toward litter, and collaborate to attract commercial development residents desire. All of this is the essence of community building envisioned by the Plan for Transformation.

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The Partnership for New Communities is a funders collaborative bringing together business, civic and philanthropic leaders to solicit funds and invest them in strategic economic development, community-building and employment-related initiatives to bring about large-scale improvements to the neighborhoods most affected by public-housing transformation in Chicago.

The Partnership Update is published bi-monthly by The Partnership for New Communities to provide information on a variety of topics, including status reports on the CHA's Plan for Transformation, updates on The Partnership's activities and projects, highlights of relevant research findings and copies of recent news coverage.

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Commercial expansion will be crucial to providing a mix of goods and services for the residents in Cottage Grove's three mixed-income developments, including Jazz on the Boulevard (above) and Lake Park Crescent (below).

