

# HERMOSA AND LOGAN SQUARE WEST HERE TO STAY



## STEERING COMMITTEE

Yali Amit	Teresa Labastida
Charlene Andreas	Rebecca LaMadrid Quejedo
Gabriela Barajas	Maria Luna-Duarte
Raymon Barrera	Jhoanna Maldonado
Cheryl Beadle	Bhaskar Manda
Elizabeth Berkeley	Sam Masi
Marla Bramble	Annissa Mora
Joyce Brody	Brian Quinlan
Sonia Caban	Ellen Ray
Alexis Canalos	Norma Rios-Sierra
Daniel De Los Reyes	Gabriela Roman
Liz Dryst	Jose Ruano
Emily Duma	Cassandra Solis
Ashley Galvan Ramos	Rebecca Sumner Burgos
Gretchen Henninger	Judy Torres
Arturo Hernandez	Ally Young
Candice Ibaceta	
Raul Islas	<b>LSNA staff:</b>
Maggie Jordan	<i>Nancy Aardema</i>
Quiletta Jordan	<i>Brian Perea</i>
Judy Kinch	<i>Susan Yanun</i>
Susan Klonsky	

## ISSUE AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Housing

Raymon Barrera (co-chair)  
Bhaskar Manda (co-chair)  
Charlene Andreas  
Ashley Galvan Ramos  
Arturo Hernandez  
Cecilia Marchan  
Deborah McCoy  
Victoria Moreno  
Bridget Murphy  
Esperanza Nancy Rosario  
Mike Stanek  
Ariel Zamora  
*Christian Diaz*  
*Brian Perea*

### Immigration

Norma Rios-Sierra (chair)  
Reynalda Covarrubias  
Rev. Paula Cripps-Vallejo  
Monica Espinosa  
Diego Moreno  
Itzel Moreno  
Mariana Osoria  
Cristina Ricano  
*Marcelo Ferrer*  
*Susan Yanun*

### Economic Development

Alexis Canalos (co-chair)  
Leila Rahravan (co-chair)  
Cassandra Solis (co-chair)  
Lynn Basa  
Elizabeth Berkeley  
Emily Duma  
Jessica Wobbekind  
Ally Young  
*Susan Yanun*

### Wellness and Recreation

Candice Ibaceta (chair)  
Robin Cline  
Reid Drake  
Merari Flores  
Huu Nguyen  
Rev. Bruce Ray  
Rachel Rhagwat  
Lori Rios  
Alisha Warren  
*Juliet Alejandre*  
*Lucy Gomez-Feliciano*

### Education

Jhoanna Maldonado (co-chair)  
Annissa Morua (co-chair)  
Gabriela Barajas  
Arely Barrera  
Monica Barrera  
Delia Bonilla

Ana Centeno  
Eugene DeJesus  
Christine Dussault  
Samantha Ellison  
Jose Florentino  
Carmina Hernandez  
Teresa Labastida  
Laura Miranda  
Areli Morales  
Maura Nugent  
Fatima Patiño  
Maria Patiño  
Maria Rios  
Catalina Rivera  
Elizabeth Skinner  
Briceyra Zermeno  
*Leticia Barrera*  
*Lili Diaz*

*\* LSNA staff liaisons in italics*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Introduction

2

### Issue Areas

Housing

6

Immigration

8

Economic Development

10

Wellness and Recreation

12

Education

14

### Focal Project:

17

Hermosa Here To Stay

### Focal Project:

18

Armitage Avenue Welcoming Corridor



We are sounding the alarm. We see the tidal wave of gentrification building just at the horizon to the east. Locally owned businesses are replaced by trendy boutiques and bars. Homes long occupied by generations of working families are being bought, gutted and flipped. Families are given 30 days to vacate long-occupied apartments before the rents are increased. There's a threat at our doorstep. We are rising to meet it.

Our community—a cultural refuge and home for immigrants, generations of Latinx families, and working men and women—has come to the attention of powers and systems that regard it simply as a market. Long an affordable and accessible sanctuary in the city, Hermosa and Logan Square West has not been a perfect place, but it has been ours. We see ourselves in the stores along Armitage Avenue, the food in the grocery stores, the music and dance that fills backyard gatherings. We are a beautiful and sometimes messy mosaic of peoples, cultures and traditions.

When the front of gentrification advanced, we knew we must act. This Quality-of-Life Plan works on both sides of the border of two Chicago community areas, Logan Square and Hermosa, which we acknowledge but do not validate. There is no border when it comes to impact of gentrification on Hermosa and Logan Square West.

What has made Hermosa and Logan Square West a community that can sustain working families is precisely what makes it a valuable market and investment opportunity. Our scenic residential blocks are filled with well-maintained housing stock, a mix of two- and four-flats and single-family homes, much of it built before WWII, and our main streets are robust retail corridors with train and transit options. We're flanked by industrial corridors, which still include working factories and distribution centers, providing well-paying jobs.

The forces behind gentrification are a speculative and opportunistic set of housing developers hunting for relatively inexpensive housing, including stock that can be bought cheaply and flipped for profit, and the public and private systems and structures that collude to accommodate those developers. Banking and lending policies prioritize more affluent, white households, and the Cook County tax assessment system has a proven systemic racist bias.



Over the last decade or more, at an accelerating pace, the results of the City's preference significantly impact the lived experience of our families. Housing prices have skyrocketed, while the incomes of long-term residents remained nearly flat. Logan Square lost more than 19,200 Latinx residents from 2000 to 2014, more than a third of its Latinx population.

As a neighborhood experiences gentrification, it loses its schools, businesses, churches, local institutions, history and culture. Housing instability disrupts children's academic lives, causes stress and depression and weakens the social networks that provide a sense of belonging and connection. Many of those who moved into Hermosa and Logan Square West over the last 15 years are from the east, having already lost their homes and their community in the most profound sense of both of those words.

The trauma of loss and erasure is accentuated by a political climate and set of actions that have immigrants feeling increasingly anxious and isolated. A quarter of the residents in Logan Square in 2009 were born outside of the U.S., more than a third of the population of Hermosa, and a much higher percentage of families have both immigrants and citizens. Immigrants have been and will continue to be leaders in our community, and we are proud to have a history of protecting and advocating for issues that impact the immigrant community. Yet the current atmosphere and federal policies leave immigrants more vulnerable and fearful, with little political voice or clout.



While we created this plan, we strengthened our community and our connections. "Six O'Clock on the Block" events by Opera-Matic were a low-key way for neighbors to have fun and enjoy each other's company.



In this plan we outline strategies that can explicitly resist our displacement: clear support and programs to support immigrants, plans to protect current homeowners and add new affordable housing, ways to foster local businesses owned by residents, immigrants and people of color. We also are ready to help residents improve their own quality of life, so they are more able to stay—improving education by strengthening neighborhood schools, bringing in more jobs and training residents for better-paying work, and improving health care, including mental health services.

We know this can work because we've done it and we've learned from it. For instance, the 606 "Neighbors against Displacement" campaign, led by LSNA, garnered a pledge of \$1 million to help working-class homeowners repair and upgrade their building.

Our community has the building blocks of a strong and organized resistance. The Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA) has worked west for years, perhaps most notably with youth leaders at Kelyvn Park High School and with Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center and En Las Tablas, organizations that foster Latinx arts and culture in our community, schools like McAuliffe and Nixon Elementary, and churches such as New Hope and Grace and Peace. Over 300 community leaders

came together in May 2017 to decide this plan's focus areas. Eighty leaders returned that September to form the plan's five committees, who worked for months before presenting the draft plan for final feedback to an additional 300 local residents and stakeholders in May of 2018.

Hermosa and Logan Square West will remain a cultural refuge and place-based sanctuary for immigrants, generations of Latinx families and working people: a celebrated and connected mosaic of peoples, cultures and traditions that comprise our beautiful/hermosa neighborhood on Chicago's Northwest Side.

We are here to stay. Working together, we will shape the change coming to our community and direct the political and civic processes to ensure community ownership and accountability. We will build on the strengths and assets of our community.

We are here to stay. We believe that improvements in our quality of life are possible without displacement; that our communal lives together can be shaped for the better without the wholesale turnover of a community's residents.

We are here to stay. We believe that it is possible to move forward while honoring the past. Hermosa means "beautiful" in Spanish, and our histories, cultures and stories are a beautiful composition. That heritage can and will continue.

We are here to stay, but we will continue to change. We welcome partners and neighbors, new and old, who are moved by this vision and share our commitment to build our future on, not over, our histories and cultures. Together, we can build a neighborhood that remains a part of the Latinx Northwest Side, an asset to the City of Chicago and an *hogar hermoso*.

Hermosa and Logan Square West will remain a cultural refuge and place-based sanctuary for immigrants, generations of Latinx families and working people: a celebrated and connected mosaic of peoples, cultures and traditions that comprise our beautiful/*hermosa* neighborhood on Chicago's Northwest Side.



## ISSUE AREA | HOUSING

We will improve affordable housing opportunities for residents so they have the stability in their lives to establish a home, build wealth, be healthy and achieve their fullest potential.

### STRATEGY 1

**Create new and preserve existing affordable housing options in Hermosa and Logan Square West.**

- Establish Hermosa Here to Stay, a local land trust that will purchase and rehab properties and then sell them at affordable prices to first-time homeowners.
- Work with other organizations in the city to reform the property tax assessment system to make it progressive and fair.
- Help local residents conduct property tax appeals and identify eligible exemptions.
- Build affordable rental housing on the Emmett Street lot near the Logan Square Blue Line station.
- Purchase vacant lots along Armitage Avenue and other local commercial corridors for affordable housing and mixed-use development.

### STRATEGY 2

**Increase the capacity of the community to have a say in and impact our housing market.**

- Establish Community Driven Zoning in all wards in Hermosa and Logan Square West to ensure the community's voice is front and center.
- Collect and disseminate data and information about local housing, and collaborate with and leverage resources from partner community-based organizations.

### STRATEGY 3

**Change policies to protect the housing of current residents and allow them to remain in our community.**

- Help the Lift the Ban Coalition's campaign to allow municipalities in Illinois to legislate rent control so that Chicago has the option to rent-stabilize units.
- Join with allies to pass a Just Cause for Evictions ordinance to protect renters.
- Work to establish the 606 Affordable Residential Area Preservation Ordinance.

**MEASURES OF OUR SUCCESS:**

1. Creation of 50 permanent affordable homes for purchase and at least 75 affordable family-size rental apartments
2. Change in Cook County property tax assessments to become more equitable, reducing the need for individual homeowner appeals
3. Community residents empowered to make decisions on zoning and land use decisions in their neighborhood
4. Housing policies centered on protecting community residents against displacement and preserving the rich history of the neighborhoods.



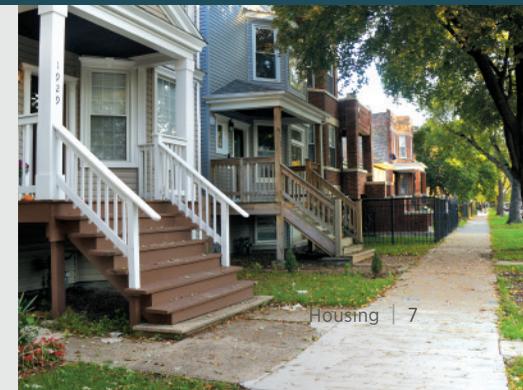
Logan Square had **the most tear downs in the city** in 2017.



Hermosa is ranked as **Chicago's third most overassessed community** in property value assessments for property taxes.

## Nearly one in ten residential

properties in Hermosa that sold between 2011 and 2015 were assessed at more than double their market value.



Hermosa and Logan Square West will retain and strengthen our immigrant identity through programs, projects and policies that protect and celebrate the immigrants in our community. We will fight for national and state immigration practices and policies that unite, not separate, families.

### STRATEGY 1

**Decrease feelings of isolation for our immigrant neighbors and support their full integration into our community and country.**

- Participate in the New Americans Initiative, which helps immigrants become U.S. citizens and navigate the DACA process.
- Create a Community Navigators program that teaches local leaders how to use workshops and house meetings to provide immigrants with know-your-rights information.
- Educate residents about existing services that are dedicated to supporting the immigrant community, such as the CityKey Initiative and the Immigrant Family Resource Centers.
- Pilot a “welcoming corridor” along Armitage Avenue that connects our immigrant community, other residents and our business community.

- Disseminate the immigration butterfly symbol widely in the community and visibly celebrate Latinx/immigrant artists and businesses through public art such as banners, murals and street art.

- Continue to reach out to local business owners to hear their hopes and their concerns through youth-led initiatives.
- Continue to make our schools a place of safety and belonging for all.

### STRATEGY 2

**Maintain a social media presence that highlights immigrant stories and contributions.**

- Create a Photo Project that documents the stories and lives of immigrants in our community by working with local artists and youth.
- Highlight immigrant business owners in the community in conjunction with Economic Development efforts.
- Use LSNA’s Facebook and website to disseminate this information and stories.

### STRATEGY 3

**Participate in local efforts that advocate for better immigration laws nationally and at the state and local levels.**

- Hold Illinois’ elected officials accountable to support better immigration laws and encourage citizens in our community to vote for pro-immigrant candidates through the LSNA Democracy Ambassadors model.
- Advocate for improved state laws by organizing to pass pro-immigrant legislation, like the Campaign for a Welcoming Illinois, the Safe Zones Act and the Student Access Bill.
- Strengthen ordinances that impact immigrants in Chicago, like the Welcoming City ordinance, which carves out exceptions to immigrant protections based on an unreliable and unregulated “gang database” held by the Chicago Police Department.



**MEASURES OF OUR SUCCESS:**

1. Strong local networks for connecting to immigration resources, celebrating our heritage and a strengthened sense of place and belonging
2. Perceptible shift in public narrative locally about the benefits of immigrants and immigration
3. Illinois continues to be a leader nationally in electing officials at local, state and national levels that are supportive of pro-immigrant legislation and the move towards comprehensive immigration reform



AND IMMIGRATED FROM A VARIETY OF PLACES, INCLUDING MEXICO (41%), PUERTO RICO (20%), GUATEMALA, ECUADOR AND MANY OTHERS



Since 2000, **Logan Square** lost more Hispanic residents than any other area of the city.

More than **a third of the residents** of Hermosa are **first-generation immigrants**



Nationally, Hispanic residents **feel more worry or stress on a daily basis after the 2016 election**



## ISSUE AREA I ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our neighborhoods will be economic hubs for true prosperity and vibrant small, local, long-time, aspiring and/or immigrant-owned businesses. We will prepare job seekers for well-paying careers and connect them to equitable local jobs.

### STRATEGY 1

**Support small businesses, particularly those owned by local residents, immigrants and people of color.**

- Research and identify existing policies, best practices and anti-displacement incentive programs in other communities and cities.
- Develop a database of property, business owners and market conditions along target corridors, as well as businesses looking to locate there, to serve existing and aspiring owners.
- Offer tailored financial and small business coaching services and access to resources.
- Build a welcoming, supportive environment for businesses, such as “butterfly banners,” which show that our community is a place for immigrant owners and customers.
- Advocate for local policy changes that would support local, long-term businesses, such as creating ward-based community zoning and taxes for empty storefronts at their market value.

### STRATEGY 2

**Help local job seekers find employment in the area and meet the training and hiring needs of local businesses.**

- Establish anti-displacement community standards for businesses to hire locally.
- Coordinate directly with small business and growing local industry to prepare and place local job-seekers with opportunities.
- Create policies and programs that increase local control and input in our neighborhood shopping districts, such as zoning review and community benefits agreements.

### STRATEGY 3

**Create a pipeline for local workers to large and growing economic sectors on the Northwest Side.**

- Develop a survey to determine the gap between local hiring needs and residents’ qualifications to build a deeper understanding of what strategies and programs will have the greatest impact.
- Create partnerships with workforce agencies in the City of Chicago to train interested residents toward the skill gap and then place graduates in jobs.

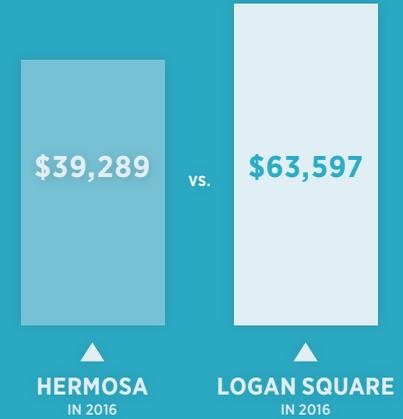


**MEASURES OF OUR SUCCESS:**

1. Long-time small business owners are able to stay in the community if desired by adapting to changing market conditions
2. Local jobs and local workers have effective mechanisms for connecting to one another
3. Local residents are able to take advantage of emerging living wage jobs due to increased training and access

**43% of workers**  
in our community earn  
less than \$40,000 a year

Median Income



“You can tell the community is changing by how hard it is to find a taco for \$1.50 anymore. That’s how you know we’re being priced out.”

— participant at a planning meeting

From 2011 to 2015

UNEMPLOYMENT IN HERMOSA: 9.6%

UNEMPLOYMENT IN CHICAGO: 12.1%



## ISSUE AREA I WELLNESS AND RECREATION

We will address mental health issues that are triggered and exacerbated by poverty, broken immigration and criminal justice systems, housing segregation, and other injustices. We will promote wellness through formal supports like mental health clinics and informal networks of relationships, cultural and community programs.

### STRATEGY 1

**Expand mental health efforts that are accessible to all regardless of documentation, insurance status or culturally specific needs.**

- Use a binding referendum through the Community Expanded Mental Health Services Act to raise funds to establish a new mental health center that is focused on and directed by local residents and operated by a health care provider chosen by the community.

### STRATEGY 2

**Expand the local promotora model to encourage residents to take advantage of mental health and other services.**

- Strengthen and develop a mental health component to the current promotora programs, a model of community health worker/ peer educators.
- Develop a resource navigation system for promotoras to link people to comprehensive resources.

- Explore how the Parent Mentor Program operated by the Logan Square Neighborhood Association can support families engaged with a school-based IEP processes.

### STRATEGY 3

**Increase knowledge of and access to affordable quality health care.**

- Facilitate the creation of a network of health care organizations with other groups that work directly with residents, allowing local health providers to expand their efforts to help community members learn about health care coverage and how to access local services.

### STRATEGY 4

**Promote personal and communal physical activity through culturally relevant programs and spaces.**

- Establish programs and places that preserve and embolden the existing community's sense of belonging, such as developing a community-wide playing project of free workouts that visibly reclaims places marked by violence and crime.
- Research how other communities threatened by gentrification have used cultural arts programming to strengthen a sense of belonging and resolve to stay.



**MEASURES OF OUR SUCCESS:**

1. New Community Mental Health Center provides increased mental health services regardless of income or immigration status
2. *Promotoras* increase connections to health, wellness and other resources for underserved populations
3. Residents are well-informed and take advantage of their health care options
4. Established cultural and play options throughout the community in public spaces

**37% Residents in Hermosa report fair or poor health**



**The closest public mental health center** to our community is in North Park, **more than five miles from Hermosa and Logan Square West**

**ADULT OBESITY IN HERMOSA:  
42.9%**

**40% HIGHER THAN THE CHICAGO  
AVERAGE OF 30.8%**



## ISSUE AREA | EDUCATION

By investing in our public neighborhood schools, we will strengthen our community and ensure all of our students are life, college and career-ready. Our schools will work together as a campus of learning, with a welcoming culture that celebrates everyone's unique strengths, and community members will lead and participate in our schools.

### STRATEGY 1

#### **Connect our schools to each other and to the community.**

- Expand our current collections of community schools, opening the doors to residents and providing afterschool programs for students and services for families.
- Find and create opportunities for the schools in our community to work together and excel, covering students from kindergarten through high school graduation.
- Create programs and procedures that give children the best opportunity for an authentic, well-rounded education.
- Limit the use of and preparation time for standardized tests.
- Emphasize language and literacy for our children in local early childhood programming.

### STRATEGY 2

#### **Establish strong community leadership for strong community schools.**

- Advocate for a community-driven elected school board that will be responsive to neighborhoods like Hermosa and Logan Square West.
- Educate local principals about the community and build relationships for long-term success.
- Empower residents to run for Local School Councils and to become leaders in their children's schools.
- Create active student councils at our schools to ensure student voice in decision making.
- Create new opportunity for parent and youth leadership growth through the Parent Mentor program and LSNA Youth Leadership Institute.

### STRATEGY 3

#### **Fight displacement of residents through our schools.**

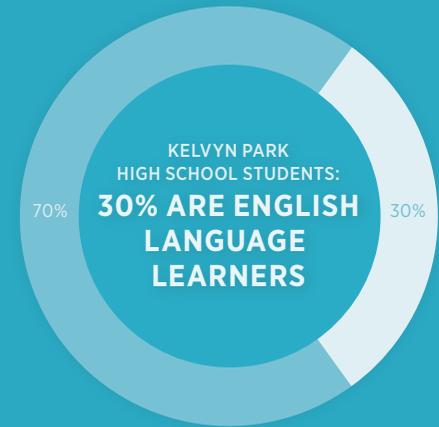
- Connect schools and the parent community to housing resources so they can stay in Hermosa and Logan Square West and to anti-displacement campaigns so they can become advocates.
- Advocate for state and city revenue solutions that do not punish schools for a decline in student population.



**MEASURES OF OUR SUCCESS:**

1. A supportive community school network that is welcoming to students, parents and community members
2. A responsive community-driven elected school board that empowers students, parents and community to become leaders in their schools
3. Increased academic performance by providing stability in education through anti-displacement strategies
4. Culturally affirming curricula and extra-curricular activities that celebrate students' cultural heritage
5. Neighborhood schools using restorative rather than punitive disciplinary techniques

Nixon and Mozart elementary schools are **dual-language academies.**



▲ THIS IS MORE THAN FOUR TIMES THE DISTRICT AVERAGE



In two years, due to enrollment and budgetary pressures, **Kelvyn Park High School lost more than 40 staff positions.**



Since 2010, public schools in our planning area have **lost \$32.8 million in funding.**

**STRATEGY 4**

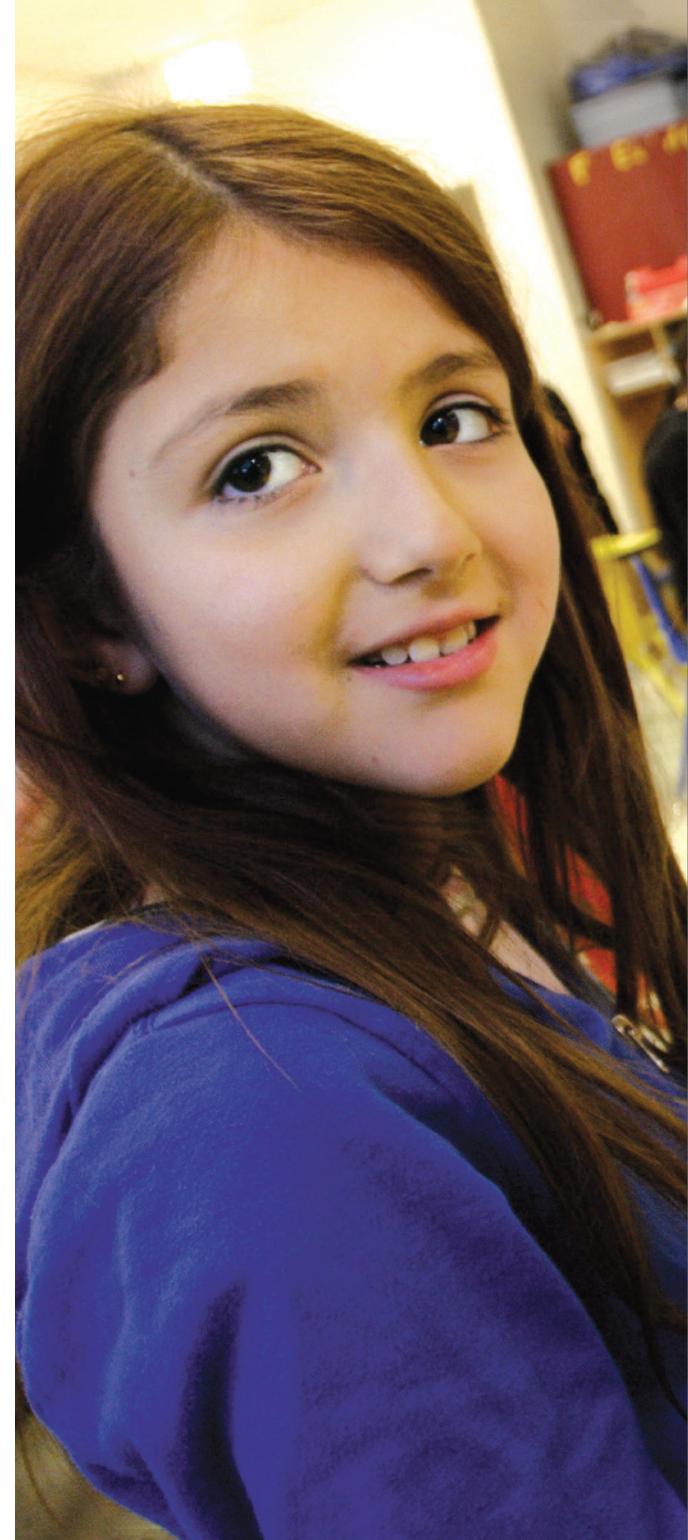
**Create La Cultura Cura: culturally and historically relevant schools and a transformative curriculum.**

- Target teacher recruitment through Grow Your Own Illinois Teacher Preparation Program and Early Childhood Cohorts.
- Shift from Transitional Bilingual Education to Dual Language across campus schools.
- Prioritize students from Spanish-speaking families for seats in dual-language programs.
- Invest in and integrate culturally affirming curriculum with each school's Continuous Improvement Work Plan.
- Celebrate students' cultural heritage through extracurricular programming, festivals and events.

**STRATEGY 5**

**Use restorative justice in our schools to support the emotional needs of students and parents and to welcome and involve all members of the community.**

- Develop a base of parents and youth interested in developing alternative solutions to School Resource Officers in our schools.
- Establish a Restorative Justice Cohort in our high schools.
- Train students, teachers and staff in mindfulness, de-escalation and other conflict resolution practices in schools.
- Promote restorative/transformational justice training and support in our schools.



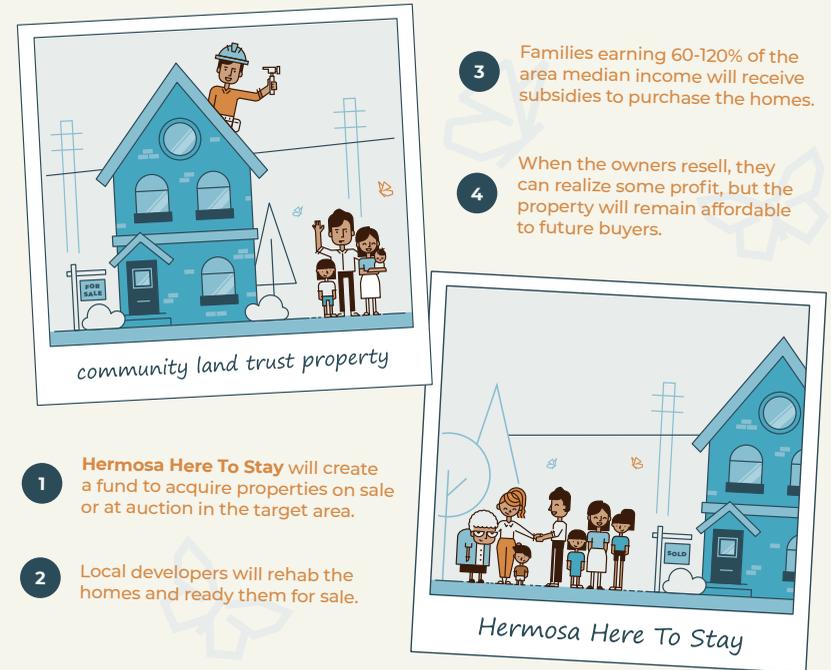
In creating this Quality-of-Life Plan, we considered projects that would tie together some of the key strategies and goals: stopping displacement, and making the neighborhood more affordable and welcoming to immigrants and long-time residents. By combining goals from all parts of this plan, the Hermosa Here To Stay housing program and targeted corridor development along Armitage Avenue will demonstrate how Hermosa is a beautiful community where we and our neighbors can stay for years to come.

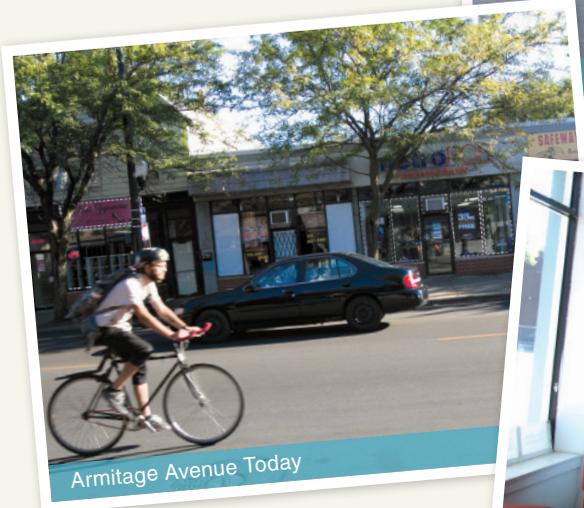
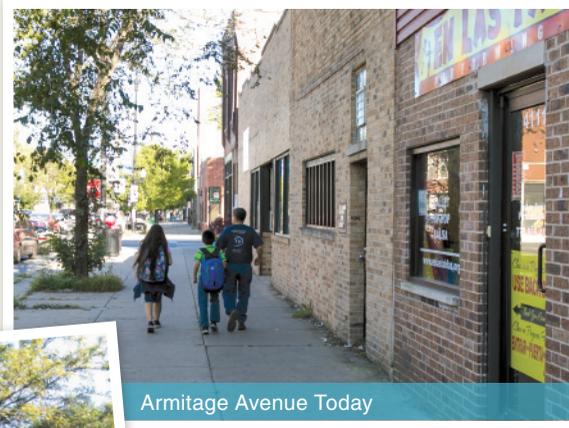
**Hermosa Here To Stay**

Over the last decade or more, housing prices have skyrocketed at an accelerating pace, while the incomes of long-term residents remained nearly flat. In response, we propose Hermosa Here To Stay (HHTS), an innovative, multi-pronged initiative to develop homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income buyers who are at risk of displacement due to rising rents and sharp increases in home prices.

HHTS will create a fund to acquire properties on sale or at auction in the target area, create a pool of homebuyers who are ready to purchase, and provide subsidies for families earning between 60 and 120 percent of the area median income. We will work with local contractors and developers to rehab these homes and ready them for sale to community residents who have worked with local financial coaches and housing counselors. In exchange for the subsidy, the property will be placed in a long-term land trust or restricted deed. When the owners resell, they can realize some profit, but the property will remain affordable to future buyers.

Led by LSNA, LUCHA, The Spanish Coalition for Housing, and the Center for Changing Lives, Hermosa Here To Stay is a viable anti-displacement model that not only maintains affordable housing, it also allows residents an opportunity to benefit from an increasing market.





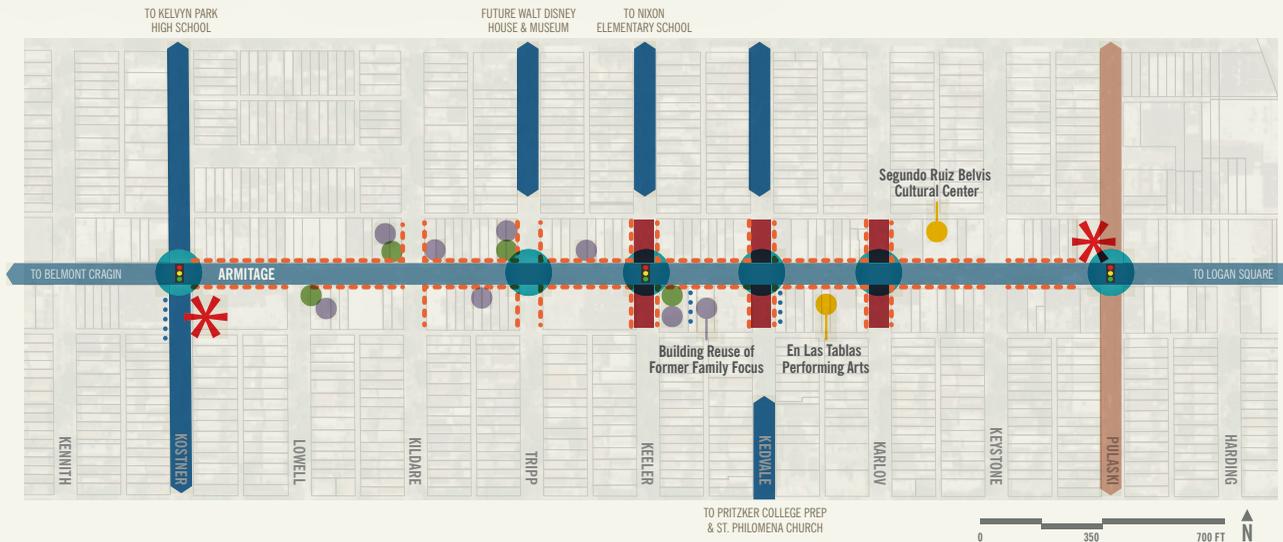
**Armitage Avenue Welcoming Corridor**

Armitage Avenue ties together Hermosa and Logan Square West, and it can become a welcoming, walkable, safe space for immigrants and our long-time residents to shop, gather, celebrate and simply see and talk with their neighbors. Improvements envisioned in planning charrettes with Teska Associates will demonstrate community ownership and pride in our neighborhood and be part of the fabric we weave to protect businesses and residents from development pressure.

Cultural and placemaking projects will include gateway signs, painted crosswalks, light-pole signage, murals, and mosaic seating cubes and planters. Spaces along the street can offer seating areas protected from the main corridor, electrical outlets, and special banners—making the spots a community gathering place for special events.

The urban design improvements will be coordinated with other key goals of the Quality-of-Life Plan. For example, there are currently eight vacant opportunity sites along Armitage Avenue between Lowell and Kedvale that could be available for either residential or mixed-use development with ground floor retail or nonprofit use with affordable housing above.

# IDEAS



### **Lead Agency: LSNA**

Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA) is a community-based organization advancing diversity, leader development and models for engagement as the catalyst for social justice, and serves as the lead agency for the Hermosa and Logan Square West Quality-of-Life Plan as part of the New Communities Network. In this role, LSNA convened residents and stakeholders to create the plan, and facilitates implementation by the issue area committees.

LSNA began in 1962 as a committed group of neighbors motivated by the emergence of community redlining. Today, we are a multi-issue community organization, directly serving more than 6,500 residents across the Logan Square, Hermosa, and Avondale neighborhoods of Chicago, and impacting tens of thousands more through nationally-recognized issue campaigns and programs. LSNA represents 38 member institutions, including churches, schools, block clubs, and social service agencies. With our partners, we develop leaders, organize issue campaigns, and operate innovative programs. All of our work is integrated toward building a community in which mostly low-income, immigrant families have opportunities to be more engaged in the decisions that impact their lives, to connect with larger networks for greater impact, and to move toward prosperity.

### **LISC Chicago**

With residents and partners, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Chicago forges resilient and inclusive communities of opportunity across America — great places to live, work, visit, do business and raise families.

Embedded in LISC's founding, and strengthened over the last two decades, we are committed to comprehensive community planning. This planning process is essential to building the local capacity to effectively connect to the right resources to achieve fundamental change and long-lasting results in our communities. In the late 1990s, LISC, with leadership support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, created the New Communities Program (NCP), a groundbreaking, bottom-up, comprehensive community planning effort in which LISC supports the development of Quality-of-Life Plans (QLPs) by community leaders and residents in Chicago neighborhoods.

In each neighborhood, a designated lead agency brings together a diverse group of organizations and residents to identify priorities ranging from better education, housing, broader job choices, safer streets, new economic opportunities and stronger personal finances. LISC invests in, coaches and champions each effort from the earliest building of local relationships, through plan creation, implementation and continual evaluation

As of 2018, 27 QLPs have been created, garnering more than \$872M in new investments aligned in support of community visions in neighborhoods across the city.

**Planning Consultants  
for Focal Projects:**

**Teska Associates, Inc.**

Scott Goldstein *Principal*

Jodi Mariano *Principal*

Bobby Mordenti *Associate Planner*

[www.teskaassociates.com](http://www.teskaassociates.com)

**Brook Architecture**

RaMona Westbrook *President*

[www.brookarchitecture.com](http://www.brookarchitecture.com)

**Axia Development**

Stephen Porras *President*

[www.axiadevinc.com](http://www.axiadevinc.com)

**Translation:**

Alejandro Yanun

[aayanun@gmail.com](mailto:aayanun@gmail.com)

**Writing:**

**Carl Vogel**

[www.vogeditorial.com](http://www.vogeditorial.com)

**Introduction by Ellen Ray**

**Design:**

**Forward Design**

[www.forward-design.net](http://www.forward-design.net)

**Photo Credits:**

Gordon Walek

Ashley Galvan Ramos

Alonzo Alcaraz

LSNA

Opera-matic

Deborah McCoy

View the full plan online: [www.lсна.net](http://www.lсна.net)

For more information:

**LOGAN SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION**

Nancy Aardema  
*Executive Director*

Susan Yanun  
*Director of Planning*

2840 N. Milwaukee Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60618  
773-384-4370 ext 16

[syanun@lsna.net](mailto:syanun@lsna.net)

[www.lсна.net](http://www.lсна.net)

**LISC CHICAGO**

Meghan Harte  
*Executive Director*

Claudia Marchan  
*Program Officer*

Jake Ament  
*Director, Neighborhood Network*

10 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60606  
312-422-9573

[jament@lisc.org](mailto:jament@lisc.org)

[www.lisc.org/chicago](http://www.lisc.org/chicago)

