

PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION • OF CHICAGO

Celebrating 70 YEARS of Public Development and Community Investment

CONSTRUCTIVE NEWS YOU CAN USE

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A Message from Ray

As we near the end of the year, the PBC is proving that public development and community investments can be bold, innovative, efficient and community driven.

In 2026, the PBC in collaboration with its client partners continued the momentum to move critical capital investments forward across Chicago and Cook County, turning plans into projects and investments into results. We strengthened partnerships, expanded economic opportunities, and opened doors for the next generation of construction and design professionals. From rebuilding neighborhood infrastructure to modernizing public safety facilities and advancing sustainable community investments, the PBC stayed focused on one goal: delivering infrastructure that works for the people who rely on it every day.

We also expanded the scale and diversity of our portfolio across transportation, public safety, community facilities, infrastructure, and recreational improvements. That breadth matters. It allows the PBC to serve more agencies, tackle more complex challenges, and deliver greater value to taxpayers—while continuously raising the bar for how public projects are planned, designed, and delivered.

From our student hiring initiative and annual connection session to our assist agency conferences and new municipal collaborations, the work we do makes a difference. By year's end, we are on track to deliver nearly $170 million in project investments on behalf of our client partners.

And we are not doing it alone.

Collaboration is one of the PBC's greatest strengths. By working closely with sister agencies, elected officials, contractors, professional service firms, community organizations, and educational institutions, we are breaking down barriers, creating opportunities, and building the partnerships needed to deliver at a higher level. We are not simply building public facilities, we are building capacity, connections, and opportunities.

There is more work ahead, and we intend to meet it with urgency and ambition.
As 2026 continues, the PBC will keep pushing forward: delivering equitable and sustainable infrastructure, challenging conventional approaches, strengthening communities, and making sure every public investment delivers maximum value.

Thank you to our Board of Commissioners, agency partners, staff, contractors, and stakeholders for helping drive this work forward. Your partnership makes progress possible.

More than just words, our actions will continue to showcase our collective work.

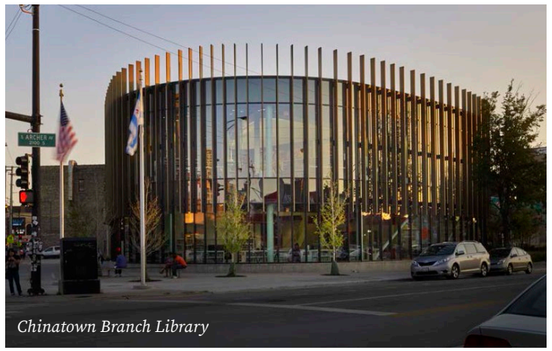
Thank you for being part of our journey.

Sincerely,
Ray Giderof
PBC Executive Director

Public Building Commission of Chicago Celebrates 70 Years of Building Stronger Communities and Shaping the City's Future



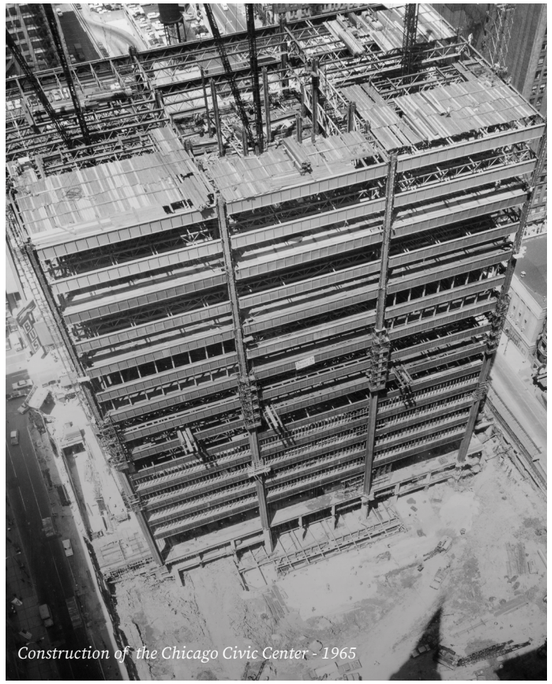
The Public Building Commission of Chicago (PBC) proudly commemorates its 70th Anniversary, celebrating seven decades of delivering transformative public facilities that have strengthened neighborhoods, expanded opportunity, and improved the quality of life for generations of Chicago and Cook County residents.


Chinatown Branch Library

Since its founding in 1956, the PBC has served as Chicago's trusted public developer, transforming bold ideas into lasting public assets that improve the lives of residents and visitors across the region city. For 70 years, the Commission has partnered with the City of Chicago, Cook County, sister agencies, local municipalities and other stakeholder partners to deliver high-quality public facilities that reflect excellence in design, fiscal stewardship, innovation, and community investment while shaping the city's landscape by presenting schools, libraries, public safety facilities, parks, municipal buildings, infrastructure, and other essential public assets that serve millions of residents every day.


Dett Elementary School


Ogden International School of Chicago



Construction of the Chicago Civic Center - 1965

"Seventy years ago, the Public Building Commission was established with a simple but powerful mission—to build public facilities that serve the people of Chicago," Ray Giderof, Executive Director of the Public Building Commission of Chicago, said. "Today, that mission remains as relevant as ever. Every project we deliver is an investment in stronger neighborhoods, expanded opportunity, and a brighter future for generations of Chicagoans."



Unveiling of the Picasso - August 15, 1967

Throughout its history, the PBC has delivered hundreds of projects that have become landmarks in their communities while earning national and international recognition for architectural excellence, sustainability, and innovation.

The Commission's legacy began with its very first project, the construction of Richard J. Daley Center, originally known as the Civic Center. The Daley Center became an enduring symbol of modern civic architecture and remains one of Chicago's most recognizable public landmarks with the Picasso standing proudly in the plaza. That landmark project established the Commission's reputation for delivering transformative public facilities.

Over the decades, the PBC has continued to build projects that have become defining landmarks in communities throughout the city while earning national recognition for architectural excellence and innovation. The Commission's projects, including hundreds of new and modernized educational and public safety facilities, cultural and informational resources, community centers and recreational spaces exemplify the Commission's commitment to delivering facilities that are not only functional and sustainable but also transformative for the communities they serve.

Beyond its buildings, the PBC's legacy is measured by the opportunities it creates. For decades, the Commission has championed community investment, local hiring, workforce development, and meaningful participation by minority- and women-owned businesses, ensuring that public investment generates lasting economic opportunity throughout Chicago.

"The Public Building Commission's greatest achievement is not simply the buildings it has constructed, but the communities it has strengthened," Giderof said.

"For 70 years, the PBC has demonstrated that great public infrastructure can inspire learning, improve public safety, expand economic opportunity, and bring people together. Its legacy is woven into the fabric of every neighborhood it has served."



31st Street Harbor

As Chicago continues to grow and evolve, the PBC remains committed to delivering innovative, equitable, and sustainable public facilities on behalf of its partners.

From iconic libraries and neighborhood schools to public safety facilities and resilient infrastructure, the PBC has spent seven decades building more than public buildings—it has built opportunity, strengthened communities, and helped define the story of Chicago.



Malcolm X College



PBC Staff 2026

Scan the QR code or **Follow the link** to view Our 70th Anniversary video

tinyurl.com/PBC70th













“As we embark on PBC’s next chapter, the Commission looks forward to collaborating with its client partners and continuing its tradition of excellence by creating public spaces that inspire, connect, and serve future generations of Chicagoans,”

- Ray Giderof

PBC Creates Avenues for Fruitful Collaboration within the Construction and Professional Services Industries at Third Annual "Connection Session"



The PBC hosted its third annual "Connection Session," a dynamic networking and collaboration event designed to encourage industry networking with contractors, professional service providers, Assist Agencies, and MBE/WBE firms, subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, and emerging businesses.

This interactive event provided attendees with insights into PBC's upcoming contracting opportunities, including new and pending projects. The "Connection Session" is designed to foster meaningful networking among Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs), subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, and assist agencies.

Participants had the opportunity to engage directly with representatives from PBC's pre-qualified general contractors and pre-approved JOC firms through structured, rotating discussions. These conversations are intended to compel collaboration, encourage dialogue, and explore potential partnerships. PBC also shared information regarding its ongoing Student Hiring Initiative.































"By bringing together a diverse range of talented professionals, PBC aims to facilitate meaningful conversations and create avenues for collaboration and partnerships," said Ray Giderof, Executive Director of the PBC. "The expertise and perspectives shared at this event continue to create unique networking opportunities."











Scan the QR code or **Follow the link** to view the Connection Session 2026 recap video

tinyurl.com/CS26recap

Building Chicago, Building Opportunity: Milhouse Marks 25 Years of Growth and Impact

For 25 years, Milhouse has grown from a small structural engineering firm into a multidisciplinary engineering and construction company with more than 360 employees. Throughout that growth, the company has remained focused on one central idea: creating a positive impact through the built environment.

Founded in 2001 by Wilbur C., a University of Illinois-trained structural engineer, Milhouse began with a focus on structural engineering before expanding into mechanical, electrical, architectural and other engineering services. Today, its work spans aviation, transportation, power, gas, facilities, forestry, construction and program management.

The company's founder said his interest in engineering began at an early age, inspired by his mother and a natural curiosity about how things are designed and built.

"I liked seeing things built," he explained.

"I wanted to be able to look at something and say, 'I had something to do with that."

That philosophy continues to guide Milhouse's work today.

The firm has been working with the Public Building Commission of Chicago (PBC) since approximately 2004 or 2005, supporting projects that have a direct impact on Chicago communities. Its work has included construction management, design reviews and engineering services for public facilities, including fire stations, police stations, schools and libraries. More recently, Milhouse has contributed to PBC projects involving Chicago's shoreline and senior services.



DFSS Bronzeville Regional Senior Center


Wilbur C. Milhouse III | Chairmain / CEO

For Milhouse, working on public projects is about more than completing a contract. It is about understanding the number of people who ultimately rely on the facilities and infrastructure being designed and constructed.

"We are builders of the built environment," the founder said. "Water, electricity, gas, roadways, airports, terminals—all of those things touch everybody."

That perspective also shapes Milhouse's commitment to mentoring smaller and emerging firms. The company shares technical and business knowledge with firms looking to grow, including lessons on marketing, staffing, back-office operations and managing workloads.

One of his key pieces of advice to emerging business owners is knowing when to say no.

"You can take on more than you can do, and it causes you to lose your reputation," he said. "All money isn't good money."

Milhouse's growth also reflects the opportunities that can emerge through programs designed to increase participation by minority- and women-owned businesses. The founder noted that such programs helped Milhouse gain access to relationships and opportunities that historically were not as accessible to diverse firms.

He believes those opportunities should continue to evolve as businesses grow, with programs recognizing that firms at different stages of development have different needs.

Even after 25 years, the founder sees Milhouse as a relatively small firm compared with the largest global engineering companies. That perspective reinforces his belief that there is still room to grow while creating opportunities for the next generation of professionals and business owners.

The company's relationship with PBC is an important part of that journey.

"PBC has been instrumental in building who we are," he said.

As Milhouse celebrates its 25th anniversary, its story reflects more than the growth of one Chicago company. It reflects the potential of engineering, construction and public investment to create opportunity, strengthen communities and shape the places where people live and work.


Feasibility Study - Shoreline Restoration 71st to 75th Street

PBC in the Community

Public engagement remains a critical component of PBC's project success.

The PBC continues to work closely with community organizations, elected officials, residents and stakeholders to ensure project reflects neighborhood priorities and community needs.

Through transparent communication and ongoing dialogue, the PBC strengthened relationships that helped support smoother project implementation and greater community awareness.

Outreach & Events included:

- **Assist Agency Conferences**
- **HACIA Assistant Project Engineer (APE) Cohort Training Program**
- **Government Finance Officer Association (GFOA) 120th Annual Conference Panel Discussion**
- **Malcolm X College South Campus Townhall Community Meeting**
- **DFSS Bronzeville Regional Senior Center Community Meeting**
- **CDOT WPA Street Reconstruction Community Meeting**
- **Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce 21st Annual Convention Panel Discussion**

Department of Water Management Pre-Submission Conference



Shoreline Restoration 71st to 75th Street Community Meetings



Department of Procurement Services 2026 Construction Summit participation



AIA Chicago Large Firm Roundtable Panel Discussion



Mayor Brandon Johnson's Build Better Together Construction Season Kick-Off Hard Hat Tour at Malcolm X College West Side Campus



Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast



WPA Community Meeting - Central Park Avenue - W.71st to W. 73rd Street



HACIA Education Foundation at Obama Presidential Center





Community Hiring Initiative

The PBC continues to work alongside contractors and agency partners to connect residents living in the 'project' communities with pathways to employment opportunities tied to public investments.

Targeted outreach efforts focused on increasing awareness of available construction careers, apprenticeship opportunities and pathways into the trades.



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