



presents the

2025 Installation & Awards Luncheon

September 12, 2025 at 12 PM

Regency Ballroom

Reception starts at 11 AM in Regency Foyer
(outside Ballroom)

Hyatt Regency McCormick Place

2233 S Dr Martin Luther King, Jr Drive | Chicago, IL

with special guest



Ciere Boatright

Commissioner, Chicago Dept of
Planning & Development



Join Us!

2025 Installation & Awards Luncheon

September 12, 2025 at 12 PM

Hyatt Regency McCormick Place

2233 S Dr Martin Luther King, Jr Drive | Chicago, IL

For more info, contact John Adams at:
(773) 726-7900 | jadamscpa@bronzevilletrail.org



August 11, 2025

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Bronzeville Trail
Task Force, Inc.
1501 E. 53rd Street #821
Chicago, IL 60615
(773) 726-7900
www.bronzevilletrail.org

Greetings!

In less than five years, we have achieved phenomenal success in advancing the adaptive reuse of a municipal asset, that has been abandoned for almost 70 years, into a walking, running, and biking trail. The abandoned rail line was originally known as the Stock Yard Line and later known as the "Kenwood 'L' Embankment." According to former Chicago Department Planning & Development Commissioner, Mr. Maurice Cox, the "Bronzeville Cultural Trail" will induce over \$1 Billion dollars of investment in Bronzeville and the near south side of the City of Chicago.

Our four major accomplishments thus far have been:

1. January 2023, we assisted in the completion of a \$250,000 feasibility study, ordered by the Chicago Department of Planning & Development, to repurpose the embankment. We helped organize a community forum, where said feasibility study was presented, and
2. In October 2024, the City of Chicago made a \$5 million dollar commitment to activate the project by investing in the preparation of a "Framework Plan" and, upon its completion, invest in "Phase One Construction," and
3. In October 2024, we were awarded a 3-year, \$900,000 grant by the Mellon Foundation to conduct archival research on the history of the former "Stockyard Line" and to study its related landscape and habitat, and
4. On June 25, 2025, we successfully launching a summer enrichment program in partnership with Illinois Tech and Dawson Technical Institute, called the "Bronzeville Trail Design Studio: Enrichment Program" where 15 young people ages 16 – 24 years old will attend a six-week course and are paid by One Summer Chicago.

With deep gratitude and great anticipation, we cordially invite you to attend our third **Installation and Awards Luncheon** as a proud supporter of this important health initiative. Our time together will be a powerful convergence of thought leaders, community practitioners, policymakers, advocates, philanthropists, and neighbors, all working collaboratively to bring a healthier future to the residents of Bronzeville and the near south side of Chicago.

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Please consider supporting the Bronzeville Trail Task Force by becoming a sponsor of our third Installation and Awards Luncheon. Explore our sponsor proposal to learn more about available sponsorship opportunities and related benefits. You're also welcome to consider sponsoring by providing "Equity Donations" to support attendance of our program participants and nonprofit partners.

We are a Federally tax-exempt 501(c) 3 organization. Your gift will support our work in making the **Bronzeville Cultural Trail** a reality. Proceeds will also benefit our continuing work to engage our young people in a workforce development program that is associated with a construction project. Our course encourages students to either continue their education or seek an apprenticeship in one of the many construction trades. The Bronzeville Cultural Trail's 2025 signature event is an immersive convening designed to center leadership, celebrate community power, and advance critical conversations and actions. This year's event will immerse you in the expansive breadth of our vision, mission, philosophies, and work.

We look forward to your favorable response. To discuss your partnership with me in more detail contact me directly at (773) 726-7900 or via email at jadamscpa@bronzevilletrail.org.

Together, let's bring the healthiest, and most transformative and catalytic economic development project in the history of Bronzeville, to the near south side of Chicago and generate the power necessary for a healthier future.

Very truly yours,

John E. Adams, CPA
Founder & Executive Director



John E. Adams, CPA



Walter A. Freeman



David D. Ali



Karen Riley, Esq.



Robert Young, CPA

Featured Speakers



Ciere Boatright
Keynote Speaker

Ms. Ciere Boatright was appointed commissioner of the Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD) in November 2023 by Mayor Brandon Johnson. An experienced real estate and economic development executive, Boatright is responsible for leading DPD's economic development, planning and zoning functions while promoting inclusive, equitable growth across the city. Local business publications have named her among Notable Women in Commercial Real Estate, 40 under 40, Notable Black Leaders and Executives, and Notable Executives of Color in Construction and Commercial Real Estate.

Mr Monieson is CEO of UICO LLC, an industrial monitor company located in Elmhurst Illinois. Active in the Chicago startup ecosystem, Doug is Chairman Emeritus of Hyde Park Angels, one of the largest angel groups in the Midwest and serves on the Board of the University of Chicago Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and the Kaplan Institute for Entrepreneurship at Illinois Institute of Technology in Bronzeville. He is a Board Member of the Bronzeville Trail Task Force and National Treasurer and Board Member of the Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC), a Washington D.C. think tank that advocates for building a nation connected by trails. Doug has brought a wealth of experience to the development of the Bronzeville Trail Project and will conduct the interview with Ms. Boatright.



Doug Monieson
Interviewer



Event Awardees

In recognition of their service and commitment to the Bronzeville Trail Task Force, we are pleased to celebrate this year's awardees:



Toni Preckwinkle

Ms. Preckwinkle is the 35th president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, an office she has held since 2010. She is the first Black woman to be elected to the office. President Preckwinkle was one of the first elected officials to lend her support the Bronzeville Trail Development Project and was a former alderman of the ward where the rail embankment resides.



Maria Villalobos-Hernandez

Ms. Villalobos-Hernandez is an Associate Professor, Director of the Master of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism, at Illinois Tech College of Architecture. NAMLA Board of Directors DMU NAMLA, ASLA. Ms. Villalobos-Hernandez began teaching a course using the embankment in her landscape architecture course before she became aware of any effort to repurpose the embankment into a linear park. Villalobos-Hernandez served as one of the founding members of the BTTF Development Committee.



Vernon Williams

Mr. Vernon Williams, Architect of several buildings in Chicago and Bronzeville, has over 43 years of experience in the built environment. He was the first design professional to get involved with the Bronzeville Trail Project and served on its Development Committee.

An award-winning, multinational, integrated design firm founded in 1853 with 21 offices worldwide and over 1,500 employees. The SmithGroup gave early support to the project and served as one of the founding members of the BTTF Development Committee. The following staff members have worked tirelessly towards the success of the Bronzeville Cultural Trail Project since 2021. They are: Ms Janet Attarian, Ms. Hannah Higgins, and Mr. Kris Lucas.

SMITHGROUP



Bronzeville Trail Design Studio

Our summer enrichment program is a 6-week immersive experience, designed to give high school students and young adults the opportunity to learn about making a real impact in the community. In partnership with Illinois Tech and Dawson Technical Institute, we launched hands-on programs that dive into urban design, community research, and creative prototyping. We are proud to have 15 students enrolled in the program, while also earning compensation through One Summer Chicago.



Young people discussing and illustrating opportunities for residents to benefit from the Bronzeville Cultural Trail linear park



2025 Last Day Class Photo



Field trip visits to the Bloomingdale Trail (606), in order for young people to convene on the potential of the Bronzeville Cultural Trail



Sponsorship Opportunities

event day promotion

	PRESENTING SPONSOR \$10,000	PLATINUM SPONSOR \$7,500	GOLD SPONSOR \$5,000	STERLING SPONSOR \$2,500
Exclusive naming rights ("BTTF Installation and Awards Luncheon Event Presented by...")	•			
Speaking opportunity at event	•			
Access to exclusive VIP pre-event reception	4 guests	3 guests	2 guests	1 guest
Complimentary Valet Parking	4 passes	3 passes	2 passes	1 pass
Recognition during opening remarks at event podium	•	•	•	•
Recognition for one (1) Senior Executive on the Annual Event Host Committee	•	•	•	
Recognition in printed event program	Quote (+ featured logo)	Prominent Logo	Large Logo	Logo
Recognition on digital signs at event	Featured Logo	Prominent Logo	Large Logo	Logo
Recognition on table number cards	Logo	Logo	Logo	Logo
Reserved seating placement	Front Row	Front Row	Premium	Priority
Reserved tables (10 guests per table)	1	1	1	1



Sponsorship Opportunities

pre-event print & media recognition

	PRESENTING SPONSOR \$10,000	PLATINUM SPONSOR \$7,500	GOLD SPONSOR \$5,000	STERLING SPONSOR \$2,500
Company profile in BTTF's e-newsletter, sent to over 1,300 unique subscribers	•	•	•	
Recognition in event invitation (if sponsorship confirmed by 8/23/25)	Featured Logo	Prominent Logo	Large Logo	
Social media recognition post	Dedicated post	Dedicated post	Grouped post	
Listing in all media materials and briefings	•	•	•	
Recognition in email event communications	Featured logo	Prominent logo	Logo	
Recognition on event web page	Featured logo	Prominent logo	Logo	
Listing in Project Overview	•	•	•	•

*please note that the deadline for inclusion in our printed event invitation is August 23, 2025



Join Us!

additional info & registration

Table Host, \$1,500

- 10 guest per table
- standard reserved seating placement
- recognition on table number card

Individual Ticket, \$150

- standard reserved seating placement

We prefer table(s) and individual tickets are purchased via Eventbrite, click here
<https://BTTF-2025-Luncheon.eventbrite.com>

We are so honored to have you participating in our fundraising luncheon. Proceeds from this event will support BTTF and our summer enrichment program. You may submit your payment via:

Mail

Please make your check payable to:
Bronzeville Trail Task Force
1501 East 53rd Street, Ste 821
Chicago, IL 60615

Direct

ACH payments are accepted, contact
John Adams, BTTF Founder & Executive
Dir. at (773) 726-7900 or email him at
jadamscpa@bronzevilletrail.org

BTTF is a 501(c) 3 organization and contributions are deductible as provided by law.



A Very Special Thank You!

to our sponsors & donors through June 30, 2025

PRESENTING SPONSOR \$250,000+



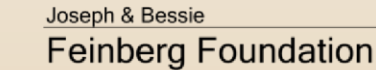
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