



President's Report

Board of Governors Meeting June 21, 2023

Staffing and Operations

MPC staffing is stable, which was one of my priorities for the organization. As we move into the middle of year, we will start to focus staffing efforts on roles that support the strategic plan. We have developed a job description for the VP of Policy and Advocacy position and plan to post it this summer. We are also drafting a grant writer job description to be posted this summer. One of my goals is to expand our funding base to include government grants. This new position will be geared toward that goal.

We are exploring ways to decrease costs for rent. We have a 10-year lease that began in 2018. Currently, our rent is more than \$400,000 annually. The MacArthur Foundation owns the building and while they provide grant funding to MPC, as a practical matter, we return those funds back to the foundation through rent. We are working with a real estate advisor on ways to potentially revise the lease agreement with the goal of getting rent relief. I will keep the board updated on our progress.

Programmatic Work

This year, we prioritized several programmatic areas – (1) a zoning and land use assessment; (2) a campaign around transit system sustainability; (3) affordable housing, including closing the racial wealth gap through homeownership; and (4) lead service line replacement advocacy. For the zoning work, we have established a steering committee that has met several times, conducted interviews and focus groups with stakeholders, and developed a methodology for the assessment. Regarding our transit work, we continue to participate in the CMAP's Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART) committee, which has the goal to provide recommendations on the ideal regional transit system we would like to see, how it would be funded, and governance issues. The committee has met since January and a report is due by the fall. We have also developed an outreach and advocacy strategy in partnership with business, transportation, and environmental advocate groups. The goal is to educate state elected officials on the funding crisis and to garner support for PART's recommendations. We have met with legislators twice on these issues.

For affordable housing, we are working with the Department of Housing on its 5-year Housing Plan. MPC is developing updated goals for the plan and key performance indicators. We anticipate that the City Council will adopt the plan in the first quarter of 2024. MPC has also provided change management trainings for DOH to address structural inequities. We are now in the second phase of the pilot project. Finally, we expanded the Change Labs partnership with

the Chicago Community Trust and its efforts to close the racial wealth gap through homeownership. MPC will facilitate conversations between community-based organizations, banks, and community development financial institutions to develop new financial tools to help close the homeownership gap.

MPC continues to be a key advocate for equitable lead service line replacement at the state level. Program Manager Justin Williams participated in the statewide LSLR Advisory Board and had a lead role in compiling the Board's full report and recommendations. We hosted a well attended Cross Committee forum on June 7, 2023 and provided these and other programmatic highlights to committee members.

Finally, we have been very active in the Mayoral Transition. Kendra Freeman participated on the Housing Committee for the transition team, and I participated on the Transportation Committee. Each committee was charged with developing issue area recommendations with the ultimate goal of putting together the Mayor's Strategic Priorities Plan. The committees ended their work in mid-June, and we expect the Mayor's plan to be released by the end of the month.

We also hosted informational webinars for the new alders. The webinars were well attended with 8 out of 13 new alders in attendance. We covered built environment issues, including land use and planning, equitable transit-oriented development, and lead service line replacement efforts. The alders expressed interest in additional information sessions.

Strategic Planning Update

At the board meeting, I will provide a detailed update on the MPC Institute. We have now formed a Steering Committee that includes staff and board members. We retained a consultant who will work with us through the fall to frame out the purpose, target audience, training content, staffing, and funding structure for the Institute. We are in the process of scheduling a kickoff meeting with the Steering Committee.

Finances/Development

The Investment, and Audit & Finance committee reports are included in the board packet. We received a clean audit from the auditors. Regarding fundraising, we are on track to meet our budget goals, having raised 44% of the budget as of the beginning of May. Laura Reilly will discuss fundraising efforts at the meeting. Like last year, foundation support has been robust for the first part of the year and is at 73% of the goal. We expect corporate and individual giving to increase through sponsorship of the annual event and ticket purchases. We will also conduct our end of year giving campaign to increase individual donations.

We are also exploring ways to increase fee for service work. We currently have a pending proposal to provide evaluation support for the Chicago Prize grantees.

Funders	2023 Total Received	2023 Total Pledged	Submitted Request Amount (as of 5/3/2023)	2023 Goals	%
<i>Foundation</i>	\$1,115,500.00	\$1,495,500.00	\$345,000.00	\$2,036,500.00	73%
<i>Corporate</i>	\$197,750.00	\$415,250.00	\$936,500.00	\$1,502,250.00	28%
<i>Individuals</i>	\$48,495.35	\$112,500.00	\$401,500.00	\$737,232.00	15%
<i>Government</i>	\$-	\$-	\$7,500.00	\$90,000.00	0%
<i>Other</i>	\$250,000.00	\$255,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$844,957.00	30%
Total	\$1,611,745.35	\$2,278,250.00	\$1,710,500.00	\$5,210,939.00	44%

Finally, we held several cultivation and engagement events. Board Chair Paul Carlisle hosted a round-table discussion with business leaders at the Chicago Club in April. We hosted the “Discovering MPC” event in May at the McDonald’s headquarters in the West Loop with nearly 90 attendees. It was an opportunity for us to share the impact of our work with existing and potential new stakeholders.

Save the Date announcements have gone out for the annual event. The theme this year is “The Power of Possibility: Imagining an Equitable Future.” The Champion of Change awardee is former MPC Board member Quintin Primo who is currently working on the State of Illinois Building/Google project and a LaSalle Street corridor revitalization project. Mr. Primo is aware that we have a \$1 million fundraising goal for the annual event and is engaging his network to help us meet the goal. Tonika Lewis Johnson is the Community Impact Awardee. Ms. Johnson worked with MPC on the Cost of Segregation report, which was a catalyst for her groundbreaking Folded Map Project. The annual event will be on September 20, 2023, from 6 to 9 pm at the Geraghty.

Board Engagement and Survey Follow Up

At the last board meeting, our consultant summarized the board survey results and recommendations. To ensure sufficient time for feedback, the consultant will facilitate board focus groups. The first took place on May 25, 2023. The second is scheduled for June 28, 2023. Board governance chairs Matt Reilein, Julian Posada and Board Chair Paul Carlisle are reviewing key takeaways from those discussions and will work with the staff on next steps.