

Places mean something. They can be repositories of memory and familiarity, indeed of family, like our homes. Places can also be for joining together in purpose like our churches and school, or for joy and contemplation like our parks, or for healing, like CMH.

When CMH left, we knew we needed a NEW kind of place – a place of community to restore the loss we felt right here on Lincoln Avenue when CMH left. We can already see the impact of this development on our community. Dormant properties coming to life, new investment.

Because Lincoln Common will be a new crossroads for Lincoln Park, to connect the Appollo Theatre on the North with the Greenhouse Theatre on the South.

And this PLACE will be for our entire community, from our kids on the playground to our beloved parents who may need assistance. And in between single professionals, young families, returning empty nesters, of ALL income levels, thanks to our commitment to set aside 10% of the housing for affordable housing, including, for the first time in Chicago, in an assisted living facility. This is the first new affordable housing built in LP in 35 years.

And this PLACE will honor what we love about our Lincoln Park – our historic buildings, old and reconstructed, carefully combined, like our entire neighborhood, with the new.

All of this will be centered around an acre of open plazas, plantings and art – free and accessible for our entire community.

I want to thank everyone who is bringing this beautiful new place into being –McCaffery, City staff and my staff, but most important the LP community – whether you were for it or against it, you voiced your beliefs and contributed to making this a better **new place** for our wonderful, beautiful, messy Lincoln Park. We are stewards for our community. I wouldn't have it any other way.