Chicago Prize 2022
Request for Applications
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The Opportunity

How would you invest $10 million in the built environment to create economic opportunity and build wealth for your community?

The Pritzker Traubert Foundation believes that all Chicagoans should have equal access to economic opportunity.

We partner with visionary leaders to implement their bold plans to connect talent to jobs, build an inclusive and growing economy, and strengthen communities in Chicago. Only when all our neighbors and neighborhoods thrive can Chicago reach its full potential.

The Chicago Prize demonstrates this approach through investment in community-led plans for neighborhood change. The Chicago Prize is based on a simple premise: Black and Brown communities on the South and West sides are home to entrepreneurs, residents, community organizations and leaders who have the visions and talents to strengthen their communities. They are, and have been, diligently working on bringing their visions to life, but they do not always have enough access to the capital and resources that can enable their most ambitious plans to become realities. We believe these barriers not only keep each community from realizing its full potential – they undermine the strength of Chicago. Chicago’s neighborhoods deserve better. Chicagoans deserve better.

Chicago Prize 2020 asked community leaders how they would use $10MM (million) to create change in their communities. We were honored to select the inaugural recipient, “Auburn Gresham Always Growing”, for its compelling projects, committed leadership, and unique strategy to strengthen the health and wealth of the community. We were humbled by the outpouring of support and catalytic investment to other teams that participated – totaling over $70MM to-date in funding to Chicago Prize applicant teams.

Visit the Chicago Prize website to learn how the inaugural Chicago Prize recipient, Always Growing Auburn Gresham, and other community leaders nationwide are using real estate to create economic impact and build wealth.

Building on the lessons of Chicago Prize 2020, Chicago Prize 2022 will provide $10MM in capital to a community-led initiative that uses real estate development to produce significant economic impact – creating quality jobs, growing businesses, and increasing wealth for Black and Brown workers, entrepreneurs, and residents. Initiatives should also have the catalytic potential to stimulate and attract investments that can improve quality of life and economic opportunity in and for the community. (See Appendix I: Frequently Asked Questions for further definition of “catalytic” and “economic impact,” along with other key terms used in this document.) Chicago Prize 2022 will also invest up to $5MM in planning, capacity-building, and other awards to help more teams move their projects forward.

The Pritzker Traubert Foundation is proud to announce Chicago Prize 2022 as part of a larger $30MM commitment to community development on the City’s South and West side over the next five years, and as part of our broader $100MM+ commitment to increase access to opportunity for more residents across Chicago.
Chicago Prize 2022 is designed to meet communities where they are; provide access to networks, grants, and feedback to advance their vision that is customized to their needs; and infuse initiatives with significant resources. It aspires to accelerate bold ideas, help projects navigate the complex development process, and bring new partners to the table, including other funders. We are especially proud to partner with We Rise Together, an unprecedented coalition of partners from across philanthropy, business, and communities committed to equitable recovery from COVID-19 in Chicago’s Black and Brown communities.

Chicago Prize 2022 invites proposals from community-led initiatives with a compelling vision for how investments in the built environment can create lasting economic impact and build wealth for their neighborhoods. The initiatives should be led by diverse coalitions of community leaders, experts, and other stakeholders with expertise to implement their plans and maximize the impact of the Chicago Prize award.

The strongest proposals will include the following attributes:

| Team | Leadership by a community non-profit, with capacity (or a designated fiscal agent partner) to manage a multi-year $10MM award including reporting and compliance responsibilities  
|      | An experienced community economic developer on the team  
|      | Evidence of community engagement and response to feedback |
| Impact | One or more real estate projects (at one location or across multiple) that are linked by a shared “theory of change” describing how they relate and how they will collectively impact the community  
|      | Project scale and location strategy (e.g., key corridors, vacant lots, “eyesore” buildings) that can enable “spill over” impacts and attract investment for the surrounding community  
|      | Robust mechanisms for community residents, businesses, and organizations to participate in ownership and wealth generation opportunities generated by the initiative |
| Feasibility | At least one “investment-ready” project that serves as centerpiece of the overall initiative  
|      | Ability to deploy the full Chicago Prize award in fewer than five years  
|      | Clear path to operational sustainability |
| Leverage | Projects relate to and build upon other recent or pending public and private investments in the community's built environment (e.g. infrastructure improvements, housing, INVEST South/West, ETOD Policy)  
|      | Total initiative capital budget leverages the Chicago Prize award 2x or more |
Chicago Prize is seeking catalytic initiatives with complementary, investment-ready projects – applications composed of many discrete elements are not necessarily preferrable to applications with fewer, well-planned and integrated investments.

Chicago Prize funds should be used primarily for project capital, either through direct investment in the project’s development or via strategies that build wealth in or for the community. Applicants may apply for up to $10MM, 5% of which must be designated for Monitoring, Learning, and Evaluation activities to be jointly defined with the Foundation post-award. The full award should be disbursed within five years, with no more than 50% disbursed in a single year. Chicago Prize reserves the right to make grant awards of less than the total requested amount. In addition to giving the final awards, we anticipate sharing proposals with other funders and exploring co-funding opportunities.

Eligibility

The initiative must be led by a US-based registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in or near the community that will host the proposed initiative.

Chicago Prize 2022 initiatives should include at least one major “investment-ready” project.

The awarded initiative will be in one or more of the communities listed below. Your initiative’s geographic footprint does not need to conform to community area boundaries and could range from a single building to multiple community areas.

- **West Side**: Humboldt Park, West Town, Austin, West Garfield Park, East Garfield Park, Near West Side, North Lawndale, South Lawndale, Lower West Side
- **South Side**: Armour Square, Douglas, Oakland, Fuller Park, Grand Boulevard, Kenwood, Washington Park, Hyde Park, Woodlawn, South Shore, Bridgeport, Greater Grand Crossing
- **Southwest Side**: Garfield Ridge, Archer Heights, Brighton Park, McKinley Park, New City, West Elsdon, Gage Park, Clearing, West Lawn, Chicago Lawn, West Englewood, Englewood
- **Far Southeast Side**: Chatham, Avalon Park, South Chicago, Burnside, Calumet Heights, Roseland, Pullman, South Deering, East Side, West Pullman, Riverdale, Hegewisch,
- **Far Southwest Side**: Ashburn, Auburn Gresham, Beverly, Washington Heights, Mount Greenwood, Morgan Park

To assess your eligibility and fit, you may complete a Self-Assessment and participate in an informational webinar. Visit the Chicago Prize website to learn more.
Selection Process

Chicago Prize 2022 will be administered through a two-phase process. The goals of this process are to identify the Chicago Prize 2022 recipient and support applicants as they advance their plans.

Initial Applications

The initial phase of Chicago Prize 2022 (December 8, 2021 – March 1, 2022) will invite short applications from interested teams. During this phase, prospective applicants are encouraged to:

- Review the Chicago Prize 2022 website and Request for Applications document
- Participate in a Chicago Prize 2022 webinar to learn more about key strategies for building community wealth and connecting to sources of project capital, and to ask questions about the Chicago Prize 2022 process

The application process will have a written and an interview-based component. Teams will be asked to submit an application describing their initiative (see details below). The submission window will be open from February 15 – March 1, 2022.

Please sign-up at this link to receive important updates on Chicago Prize 2022 and receive access to the application portal.

Your written application may take between 5-15 hours to prepare and submit. If your initiative is in the planning stage, additional time may be required to develop your concept, organize your team, or conduct other activities that may strengthen your proposal.

Written applications received by March 1, 2022 will be screened for eligibility. Those that are ineligible will receive written notification.

Eligible teams will be invited to a 60-minute interview via web conferencing. The interview will allow you to introduce your team’s leadership, describe your initiative, and receive feedback. Applicants should not prepare presentation materials, but additional documentation may be requested after the conversation.

Based on this application process, Chicago Prize 2022 Advisors will help select from this process a group of teams to be invited to submit complete business plans – see below. Applicants not invited to proceed but potentially eligible for other funding opportunities may be referred to other funding partners. All applicants will receive written feedback within 60 days after the review process concludes.


Business Plans

The second phase will begin in mid-May 2022 and will invite teams to create and submit complete business plans for their initiative. These business plans will be stand-alone “pitch documents” that include detail on the proposed initiative, theory of change, development team, project feasibility and operations. The Foundation will provide planning funds to applicants to help the work required in this phase. Applicants may need to raise additional funds to fully support the business planning process.

After the submission of their business plans, applicants will be asked to participate in interviews and facilitate site visits to further discuss their application. Participating in the business planning phase of Chicago Prize may require between 40 and 120 hours depending on the readiness of the team’s initiative. Additional details on the process and timing will be provided at the start of this phase. Based on the evaluation of the project teams’ business plans, Chicago Prize 2022 Advisors will help select one initiative to receive a $10MM grant.

Applicants that participate in Phase 2 but are not selected for the Chicago Prize award will be considered for other types of planning, capacity, or match grants. The Foundation reserves the right to make grant awards of less than the total requested amount. As with Phase 1, proposals may be shared with other funders that may consider their own awards. All applicants will receive written feedback from the review process within 60 days of the award announcement.

At the conclusion of Phase 2, awarded applicants will work with the Foundation and its designees to develop a grant agreement dictating terms and conditions for the award, including payment triggers, financial controls, and reporting.

Awards

Chicago Prize 2022 will offer the following categories of awards:

- Planning grants will be available to teams invited to submit full business plans beginning in May 2022.
- Chicago Prize 2022 will award $10MM in project capital at the end of Phase 2.
- Applicants invited to submit business plans but not awarded the Chicago Prize may be eligible for additional awards in the form of match, capacity-building or planning grants.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be considered and scored in each phase of the process based on Chicago Prize’s core criteria – Leverage, Team, Impact, and Feasibility. The criteria below attempt to balance the desired project attributes described above with a recognition that communities will have differing barriers, opportunities, and strategies to achieve economic impact and build wealth in their communities – there is no “one size fits all” approach.
| Team                                                                 | • Does the team have community-based leadership reflecting the make-up of the community, development expertise, and program partners needed to successfully implement the proposed initiative? |
|                                                                     | • Is there evidence of strong community involvement in the initiative’s development and operations? |
|                                                                     | • Is the team leadership credible in the community and capable of leading this effort? |
| Impact                                                              | • Will this initiative create significant and sustained economic impact in and for the community? |
|                                                                     | • Will this initiative be catalytic in attracting additional investments in the neighborhood? |
|                                                                     | • Does the community lead, its designees, or others in the community have an equity stake in the project or other path to wealth creation? |
| Feasibility                                                         | • Does the team provide a credible plan for designing, funding, and managing successful construction of the project(s)? |
|                                                                     | • Will the project be financially self-sustaining? |
|                                                                     | • Is the lead project “investment-ready”? |
| Leverage                                                            | • Does the initiative effectively leverage the CP grant to attract additional public and private investment? |
|                                                                     | • How does the initiative leverage other investments in the community? |

Review Appendix I: Frequently Ask Questions for more detail on key terms included here and visit the Chicago Prize website to hear how past applicants and partners use these themes to shape their initiatives.

How to Apply

As described above, the initial Chicago Prize 2022 application will have a written and interview-based component. The written application will include the following elements:

- Lead applicant organizational profile
- Chicago Prize 2022 application + video

Download Appendix II: Chicago Prize 2022 Application Template for more information on each section of the application. Note that the application will ask for detail on both the overall initiative – elements such as team, objectives, theory of change, wealth-building strategy – and the individual project(s) contained in the initiative.
You will be asked to submit your responses via an online application portal that will be open from February 15 to March 1, accessible via the Chicago Prize website. Chicago Prize 2022 reserves the right to modestly amend these questions prior to the launch of the online portal.

Please sign-up at this link to receive important updates on Chicago Prize 2022 and receive access to the application portal.

Questions? Contact Chicago Prize 2022

Please submit questions to chicagoprize@ptfound.org with the subject line “Chicago Prize 2022 Application Questions”. Appendix I: Frequently Asked Questions will be periodically updated to reflect questions received. In the interest of fairness and transparency, the Chicago Prize team will not meet with teams to discuss specific initiatives during the application process.
Rules

Chicago Prize 2022 is a sponsored program of the Pritzker Traubert Foundation. By participating you are eligible to receive various forms of recognition and a possible monetary award from the Pritzker Traubert Foundation. Please read these rules carefully, as they describe the conditions under which you can participate. (The terms “you/You” and “your/s” refer to the applicant team, in whole and in part.)

SUBMISSION OF AN ENTRY IN THE CHICAGO PRIZE CONSTITUTES FULL AND UNCONDITIONAL AGREEMENT TO AND ACCEPTANCE OF THESE RULES. NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR TO WIN.

ELIGIBILITY

- The Pritzker Traubert Foundation welcomes applications from lead organizations that are US-based, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations or entities that have a recognized legal existence and structure under applicable law (State, Federal or Country) and that are in good standing in the jurisdiction under which they are organized. Lead organizations must be based in the United States or its territories. Organizations in the following categories are eligible organizations and may submit proposals as the lead organization:
  - An organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") that has received a tax determination letter from the IRS.
  - A private foundation under section 501(c)(3) of the IRC that has received a tax determination letter from the IRS.
  - A public college or university under section 501(c)(3) of the IRC that has received a tax determination letter from the IRS.
- Proposed initiatives must take place in, and benefit residents from, Chicago’s south or west sides to remain eligible.
- All potential applicants are strongly advised to review and complete the Chicago Prize Self-Assessment Tool in order to confirm eligibility and fit for the Prize. Applicants who are not able to respond affirmatively to most of the questions listed within the tool are not likely to advance.
- Lead organizations are welcome to partner with for-profit companies, foundations, schools, colleges and universities, government agencies, and other entities in order to implement the initiative. Teams may include experts and partners based outside Chicago. Teams should also include individuals/organizations with a strong and successful track record of leading similar neighborhood initiatives to revitalize physical space at scale.

INELIGIBLE PERSONS OR ENTITIES

- Individuals, for-profit entities, and organizations that are not based in the United States or the United States Territories are not eligible to be a lead applicant.
- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations requesting Chicago Prize funding for an initiative that takes place outside of Chicago's south or west sides are not eligible to apply.
GUIDANCE RELATED TO NON-CHARITABLE APPLICANTS

Grant funds will be awarded only to 501(c)(3) organizations and will be used solely for charitable purposes and will not result in private benefit to other people, organizations, or entities other than incidental benefit that is a necessary byproduct of the accomplishment of the charitable purpose.

FINANCIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

All applicants must demonstrate their financial and organizational capacity to carry out the proposed project and to appropriately manage any Grant Award.

TREATMENT AND USE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Each application should reflect the anticipated ownership, use, and licensing of any intellectual property. You represent and warrant that your Entry is an original work created solely by You, that You own all Intellectual Property in and to the Entry, and that no other party has any right, title, claim or interest in the Entry, except as expressly identified by You to us in writing in Your application. You retain all right, title and interest in any inventions, software, or work of authorship You invent or create. The ownership and use of intellectual property arising from this competition remains with You.

PROHIBITED USE OF AWARD FUNDS

Grant Award funds must be used for the project for which they are awarded, and may not be used:

- For non-charitable purposes;
- To carry on propaganda or otherwise to attempt to influence legislation within the meaning of Code Section 4945(d)(1);
- To influence the outcome of any specific public election, or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive within the meaning of Code Section 4945(d)(2); or
- To make a grant to any individual for travel, study, or other similar purposes, or to make a grant to any organization, except in compliance with the provisions of Sections 4945(g) or (h), as the case may be.

GRANT AGREEMENT

The successful applicant or Grantee will be expected to enter into a grant agreement with the Pritzker Traubert Foundation, containing key terms and conditions. Before any offer of a grant agreement is made, organizations proposing to work together must demonstrate through a fully-executed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or other similar agreement, executed by all parties, that a single eligible entity or organization will serve as the grantee and will have direction, control, and supervision of the proposed project and management of all grant funds and reporting requirements. NOTE: Each grant agreement governing the use of Awards may vary, depending on the nature of the project and the organization receiving the Award.
REPORTING
Any Grantee who enters into a separate grant agreement to receive funding will be required to report progress towards milestones and other goals. Those reporting requirements may vary, based on the organization and the project.

OTHER RULES

Your application must be in English.

Individuals representing an applicable organization must be 18 years of age or older at the time of entry to participate by representing an applicant organization. You cannot reside in nor be governed by countries that are prohibited by law, regulation (including United States or other applicable export laws and regulations), treaty or administrative act from entering into trade relations (including export of technology) with the United States of America or its citizens. Your Entry should meet the application requirements stipulated on the website and this document. You are required to register in advance of any deadlines for the submission of an Entry, and You must comply with all other deadlines posted. Your Entry may not, in the sole and unfettered discretion of Pritzker Traubert Foundation, contain obscene, provocative, defamatory, or otherwise objectionable or inappropriate content. Pritzker Traubert Foundation reserves the right to cancel, modify or suspend Chicago Prize 2022 in whole or in part without liability to You. Pritzker Traubert Foundation also reserves the right to disqualify You from participating.

By participating in the Chicago Prize, you represent, warrant, and agree that:

- You are the sole author, creator, and owner of the Entry;
- the Entry is not the subject of any actual or threatened litigation or claim;
- the Entry does not and will not violate or infringe upon the intellectual property rights, privacy rights, publicity rights, or other legal rights of any third party;
- the Entry does not and will not contain any harmful computer code (sometimes referred to as “malware,” “viruses” or “worms”); and
- the Entry, and Your use of the Entry, does not and will not violate any applicable laws or regulations, including, without limitation, applicable export control laws and regulations of the United States and other jurisdictions. If the Entry includes any third party works (such as third-party content or open source code), You must provide Pritzker Traubert Foundation with all appropriate licenses and releases for such third party works. In the event You cannot provide all such required licenses and releases, the Foundation reserve the right, in the Foundations’ sole discretion, to disqualify the applicable Entry.

You may not register more than one true and uniform identity; multiple registrations for a participant using multiple identities are not allowed. Pritzker Traubert Foundation reserves the right to disqualify any Entry made by a participant violating this limitation, regardless of whether all of the respective parties had knowledge of such violation. Each registrant may submit at most one Entry.
The application requirements are clearly described on the website and this document. The Selection Process is to be directed and administered at the sole discretion of the Pritzker Traubert Foundation. The selection criteria are to be applied at the sole discretion of the Pritzker Traubert Foundation. By participating in the Chicago Prize, you acknowledge and agree to be bound by the final decision of the Pritzker Traubert Foundation.

By submitting your Entry, you agree to release, discharge and hold harmless the Pritzker Traubert Foundation and their partners, affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising agencies, agents and their employees, officers, directors and representatives from any Loss arising out of your participation in Chicago Prize 2022 and the acceptance and use, misuse, or possession of any Award(s). Pritzker Traubert Foundation assumes no responsibility for any error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, or delay in operation or transmission; communications line failure; theft or destruction of or unauthorized access to Chicago Prize 2022 entries or entry forms; or alteration of entries or entry forms. Pritzker Traubert Foundation is not responsible for any problems with or technical malfunction of any telephone network or lines, computer online systems, servers or providers, computer equipment, software, failure of any entry to be received on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet or any website, human errors of any kind, or any combination thereof, including any injury or damage to competitors’ or any other persons’ computers related to or resulting from participation, uploading or downloading of any materials related to Chicago Prize 2022.

THIS COMPETITION IS VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Competitors agree that this Competition shall be subject to and governed by the laws of the United States of America and the forum of any dispute shall be in the courts of the United States of America.

If for any reason Chicago Prize 2022 is not capable of running as planned, due to infection by computer virus, bugs, worms, Trojan horses, denial of service, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures or any other causes beyond the control of Pritzker Traubert Foundation that corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of Chicago Prize 2022, Pritzker Traubert Foundation reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to disqualify any individual(s) who tamper with the process, and/or to cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend the Competition.

The Competition Sponsors reserve the right in their sole discretion to disqualify any Competitor who is found to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Chicago Prize 2022, to be acting in violation of these rules, or to be acting in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner, or with the intent to disrupt or undermine the legitimate operation of the Chicago Prize, or to annoy, abuse, threaten, or harass any other person.

Entry into Chicago Prize 2022 does not constitute entry into any other Pritzker Traubert Foundation competition or process.

Pritzker Traubert Foundation reserves the right to disqualify any participant who violates these rules and any standards of behavior expressed or implied in them. The names of Chicago Prize 2022 award recipients will be posted on this website for such period of time as the Competition Sponsors deem reasonable.

You may contact us with any questions or comments about these rules.