



To: Teresa Córdova, Chair, Chicago Plan Commission
Attn: Noah Szafraniec Noah.Szafraniec@cityofchicago.org
Cc: Graham Grady ggrady@taftlaw.com

Chairwoman Cordova,

My name is Patricia Ford and I am the Executive Director of the Steans Family Foundation. I am writing in support of North Lawndale Employment Network's planned development amendment. The Steans Family Foundation (SFF) concentrates its grant making and programs in North Lawndale in partnership with local residents and institutions to build and enrich the community. Our work supports the idea that effective revitalization can occur *within* the embedded social and economic networks that create and sustain communities. SFF and NLEN have enjoyed a productive partnership for over 20 years. NLEN is an essential part of the fabric of the North Lawndale community and its expansion promises to increase its significant positive impact.

NLEN's renovation of the building at 1111 S. Homan will provide an inspiring space from which NLEN can run their programs and enhance their already vital role in the community. SFF is in full support of NLEN's audacious goal of reducing the unemployment rate in North Lawndale by 10% by 2023. SFF and NLEN are aligned in valuing the dignity that comes from meaningful work and the understanding that opportunities that match potential can transform lives.

This expansion project will not only enable more employment opportunities, but promises to be a space that will rise up to meet those who enter to bank, attend a job training workshop, or sip a cup of tea at the worker bee cafe. NLEN's plan for this new, beautiful space will make a huge difference in the lives of North Lawndale residents.

Already, the expansion has provided over 100 jobs. The construction itself, along with the programming that will benefit from the new space, and NLEN's baking partner, Wintrust Bank will secure additional, sustainable, living wage jobs for North Lawndale residents. It is SFF's hope that NLEN's expansion will also draw other businesses to North Lawndale and continue to expand on the momentum that NLEN has worked hard to establish.

The Steans Family Foundation is a big supporter of NLEN and has been since its inception over two decades ago. We are very excited about this next phase of their evolution. They have our wholehearted support for their planned development, and we look forward to many more years of fruitful partnership in North Lawndale.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Ford".

Patricia Ford, Executive Director
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