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Chicago Architecture Center Partners with City of Chicago on ‘Come Home’ Initiative As Part of Continued Commitment to INVEST South/West

The Chicago Architecture Center has launched a multi-staged competition for architects and developers to reimagine and redesign standard housing typologies with an emphasis on density, affordability, and replicability.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHICAGO – The [Chicago Architecture Center](#) (CAC), the City of Chicago’s Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and Department of Housing (DOH) have launched [Come Home](#), a new design excellence initiative and competition looking to bring infill housing to six target neighborhoods within the city’s INVEST South/West community development program. Aimed at increasing affordable home ownership and incentivizing local emerging developers, Come Home seeks to create a community development model that will welcome current and former Chicago residents “back home.” The first phase of this competition, the request for qualifications (RFQ), launched this week on architecture.org/comehome. Architecture firms are encouraged to complete the RFQ no later than Monday, January 9.

As part of its overarching commitment to design excellence, the CAC serves as a critical platform for connecting and championing Chicago’s design community. In 2020, the CAC opened its [Housing for A Changing Nation exhibition](#) explicitly calling for solutions to bring new thinking to Chicago’s common housing stock in ways that accept and embrace society’s evolving needs and requirements. Come Home will be a proactive next step toward addressing this important issue.

“Our city’s planners, developers and residents will benefit from the new pre-approved quality plans for infill housing the Come Home initiative is poised to produce. We are proud to partner with the Department of Planning and Development and the Department of Housing on this important work and are excited to bring this opportunity to talented, local designers. We encourage all architecture firms to get involved in Come Home to further strengthen our great city,” said CEO of the CAC Eleanor Esser Gorski.

Come Home will support “missing middle density” infill housing as INVEST South/West evolves to focus on residential design. As part of the larger effort, Come Home will focus on the communities of Auburn Gresham, Bronzeville, East Garfield Park, Englewood, Humboldt Park, and Woodlawn. A juried exhibition will challenge architects to reimagine Chicago’s single family, two- and three-flat, rowhouse, and six-flat typologies to prioritize affordability, construction efficiency and 21st century lifestyles. The best of the exhibited designs will then live on as a resource to city agencies in the form of a print publication inspired by the pattern books of American housing, common in the early decades of the 20th century.

“This partnership will create pre-approved design plans to help emerging and minority developers participate in the revitalization of the South and West Side,” DPD Commissioner Maurice Cox said. “It will also streamline construction of attractive and affordable buildings that current and future residents can call home.”

In due course the competition activities will yield to a final Build Phase where select winning designs will be brought to fruition as new case study homes. The city is committed to delivering 30-100 affordable units as the final exclamation point to this ambitious competition. Construction is estimated to commence in the second half of 2023.

Visit architecture.org/comehome for more information and to download the [RFQ](#) and [register](#) your firm. Completed forms are due by Monday, January 9.

About the Chicago Architecture Center

The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1966, dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. A national leader in architecture and design education, the CAC offers tours, programs, exhibitions, and more that are part of a dynamic journey of lifelong learning.

Opened to the public in 2018, its riverfront location is in the heart of the city, where Michigan Avenue meets the Chicago River, featuring nearly 10,000 square feet of exhibition space with views of a century of iconic skyscrapers.

Through partnerships with schools and youth-serving organizations, the CAC reaches approximately 30,000 K-12 students annually, while teacher workshops provide educators with tools and resources, they need to advance STEM curricula in their classrooms. Committed to serving under-represented communities in construction, engineering, and design professions, the CAC offers many of its education programs—and all its programs for teens—at no cost to participants. CAC programs for adults and members include talks with acclaimed authors and practicing architects, in-depth presentations on issues and trends in urbanism, and classes unlocking subjects related to the built environment

Proceeds from programs, tours, and the CAC Design Store, as well as from grants, sponsorships, and donations, support its educational mission. Visit architecture.org to learn more and follow @chiarchitecture and #chiarchitecture on social media.

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