



Pilsen

Mi Barrio
My Neighborhood
Můj Sousedství



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Letter from the Alderman



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- AVIATION
- BURGH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
- COMMITTEES, RULES & ETHICS
- EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
- FINANCE
- HUMAN RESOURCES
- PUBLIC SAFETY
- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND AUDIT

October 13, 2017

Dear Community Residents and Stakeholders,

For over 21 years I have proudly represented the 25th Ward and all of its residents. It is my great honor to proudly endorse the 2017 Pilsen Quality of Life Plan entitled "Pilsen-Mi Barrio."

This plan serves as a guide that will take our community and its residents into a better future by bringing residents, community organizations, stakeholders, businesses, and elected officials together to address key issues, such as: housing, jobs and economic development, health, education and youth, arts and culture, public safety and immigrations and others.

I am witness of the many hours of hard labor that it took to develop this plan. I am also witness of the large number of people and stakeholders that were involved in the creation of this plan, as my staff and I were active participants of this process.

Still, a comprehensive plan like this will be futile without implementation and execution moving forward. As committed as I was to the creation of Pilsen Quality of Life Plan, I will be committed and involved in its implementation. I ask you to do the same by find areas of interest, find out the date to the next meetings and become actively involved in "Pilsen-Mi Barrio."

Once again, it is with pride and honor that I support Pilsen's 2017 Quality of Life Plan "Pilsen-Mi Barrio."

Sincerely,

Alderman 25th Ward

Letter from the PPC Steering Committee

Dear Community Residents and Stakeholders,

It is with great pride, we the members of the Steering Pilsen Planning Committee, present our new Pilsen Quality of Life Plan for the next five years. Although this plan was driven by the Pilsen Planning Committee (PPC), it was created by the participation of over 1000 people representing local residents, community based organizations, and stakeholders. The plan outlines our history, our struggles and our successes. The plan describes Pilsen's current state: a continued struggle for social justice, a celebration of culture, and a rapidly changing diversity. Most importantly it outlines a vision created by our community with specific actions and strategies to accomplish the stated goals. *Pilsen: My Neighborhood* celebrates our accomplishments and improvements in our beloved community, however it states and clarifies the work still needed in our community, such as, but not limited to: accessing affordable housing, creating a community driven economy, ensuring an excellent education for every student in Pilsen, preserving and expanding arts and culture, and maintaining a safe and healthy community. All of this, while maintaining the social fabric of our community.

Let us be clear, this plan does not belong to a selected few, or only to those who participated in its development. Nevertheless, we want to thank the more than 1000 people, the community based organizations and the stake holders who participated in this process. The countless hours that each individual invested to meet and engage in discussion and develop strategies and specific actions. Thank you also to those who believed in us and have provided financial contributions. Once again, we are grateful for the time, passion and commitment to our Barrio of Pilsen.

Today, October 21st, we proudly unveil our Pilsen Quality of Life Plan. This marks the beginning of our next phase—implementation. We hope and expect the same level of participation for the implementation as we had for the development of our plan. Whether you are a resident, community based organization, business owner, or a stakeholder, we invite and welcome you to learn about our plan and find an area of interest you may want to work with.

Once again thank you and we look forward to your participation as we begin the implementation process of collective plan.

Sincerely,

Theresa Fraga
 Pilsen Neighbors Community Council
 PPC Co-Chair

Raul Raymundo
 The Resurrection Project
 PPC Co-Chair

Esther Corpuz
 Alivio Medical Center

Juan Soto
 Pilsen Neighbors Community Council

Alex Esparza
 18th Street Development

Participating Organizations

AARP	The Law Project	St. Ann Church
Access Living	Lincoln Methodist Church/Centro Sin Fronteras	St. Ann School
Accion Chicago	*+LISC Chicago	+St. Anthony Hospital
+Alderman Danny Solis, 25th Ward	+LULAC	+St. Pius Church
+~Alivio Medical Center	+Manuel Perez Elementary School	St. Pius V School
+Arturo Velasquez Institute	Metro Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force	*+St. Procopius Church
+Blue1647	Mt. Sinai Hospital	St. Procopius School
Casa Juan Diego	*+Mujeres Latinas en Acción	*+San Jose Obrero Mission
Central States–SER	+myowndocor	+SGA Youth & Family Services
Center for Economic Progress	+National Able Network	+Small Business Majority
CESAP	*+National Museum of Mexican Art	Spanish Coalition for Housing
*+Chicago Commons	+Openlands	Taller de José
+Chicago Día de los Niños	+Orozco Community Academy	University of Illinois at Chicago
+Chicago Mariachi Project	+El Paseo Community Garden	University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System
Chicago Nowruz Program	+Pachanka	University of Illinois at Chicago, Latino Cultural Center
+Chicago Police Department, 12th District	+Perez Elementary School	University of Illinois, School of Public Health
+Chicago Park District, Dvorak Park	+Persepolitan Networks	Union League Boys and Girls Club
+Chicago Public Schools, Network 7	+Pilarte	*+United Neighborhood Organization
+Cook County State’s Attorney Office	+Pickard Elementary School	El Valor Corporation
+Cooper Elementary Dual Language Academy	+Pilsen Academy	+Walsh Elementary School
*+~Eighteenth Street Development Corporation	+Pilsen Arts and Culture Committee	+Whittier Dual Language School
+ElevArte Community Studio	+Pilsen Economic Development Task Force	+Women’s Business Development Center
+Finkl Elementary	+Pilsen Education Task Force	
+Frida Kahlo Community Organization	+Pilsen Family Task Force	
*+Gads Hill Center	+Pilsen Health Task Force	
+Greater Pilsen Economic Development Association	+Pilsen Housing Task Force	
Healthcare Alternative Systems	*+~Pilsen Neighbors Community Council	*Financial contributor to the plan
Healthy Hood	+Pilsen Public Safety and Immigration Task Force	+Pilsen Planning Committee (PPC) Member
+El Hogar del Niño	+Pilsen Wellness Center	~PPC Steering Committee Members
Illinois Single-Payer Coalition Chicago	Rauner Family YMCA	
+Instituto del Progreso Latino	*+~The Resurrection Project	
+Juarez Community Academy	+Ruiz Elementary School	
+Jungman Elementary School	Rush University Medical Center	

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Executive Summary

This 2017 Pilsen Quality-of-Life Plan builds on over a decade of work by the Pilsen Planning Committee (PPC) and its partnering organizations to put forth a vision to preserve Mexican and Latino culture in the Pilsen neighborhood by building on existing strengths and addressing pressing needs. This plan contains strategies and actions to develop affordable housing, create community-driven economic stability, ensure educational excellence, preserve and expand arts and culture, and create a safe and healthy community for all.

The Pilsen Quality-of-Life planning process was participatory and community-led as a means to capture the hopes, dreams, concerns, and ideas of Pilsen residents and community stakeholders. The planning process had three main phases: information collection, strategy and action development, and final plan development. Information collection took place from December 2015 through July 2016 and included participation of over 1,000 residents, community leaders, school teachers and administrators, students, business owners, and staff from community organizations and local nonprofits. Those 1,000 individuals contributed to the plan through interviews, surveys, and a variety of planning meetings that were open to public participation.

Participants in this process prioritized seven key areas that have an impact on the quality of life in Pilsen. Those areas include housing, jobs and the economy, health, education and youth, arts and culture, community coordination, and public safety and immigration. The plan includes strategies and actions or recommendations for each plan area that were developed by over 80 organizations that have committed to executing the plan.

Upon completion of this plan, implementation of strategies was already under way. Some projects that emerged from the planning process and have already been implemented include the establishment of a local business council, and the opening of a new community education center at the repurposed Perez Annex that includes early childhood education and a parent university. This plan is meant to be a living document that is adaptable to fit the changing

conditions and needs of the neighborhood. As communities change, plans—and the strategies and recommendations presented here—are meant to be updated to respond to new opportunities and challenges as they arise.

Plan Strategies

Housing

STRATEGY 1: Increase the development of affordable housing

STRATEGY 2: Accelerate the preservation of affordable housing

STRATEGY 3: Assist property owners in preserving affordable housing stock

STRATEGY 4: Provide outreach to property owners and renters about available housing resources

Jobs and the Economy

STRATEGY 1: Develop a strong business council or alliance

STRATEGY 2: Support and grow local businesses

STRATEGY 3: Beautify and improve the 18th Street commercial corridor

STRATEGY 4: Enhance workforce development opportunities

STRATEGY 5: Expand business and employment opportunities in the Pilsen Industrial Corridor

STRATEGY 6: Promote entrepreneurship

Executive Summary

Health

STRATEGY 1: Promote healthy lifestyles and wellness

STRATEGY 2: Increase access to health care services

STRATEGY 3: Expand access to behavioral health (including mental health and substance abuse) and address all levels of social-emotional wellness

STRATEGY 4: Advocate for health policy issues

STRATEGY 5: Expand access to and maintain green spaces throughout the community

Education and Youth

STRATEGY 1: Increase enrollment at Pilsen schools

STRATEGY 2: Build an educational pipeline from cradle to career

STRATEGY 3: Develop parent education and leadership opportunities

STRATEGY 4: Expand after-school opportunities for youth and families

Arts and Culture

STRATEGY 1: Develop sustainable funding mechanisms for the arts and artists

STRATEGY 2: Promote and preserve cultural traditions

STRATEGY 3: Expand youth arts programs and opportunities

STRATEGY 4: Create, expand, and preserve public art

Community Resources

STRATEGY 1: Develop a comprehensive community resource guide

Public Safety and Immigration

RECOMMENDATION 1: Rebrand the Family Task Force as the Public Safety Task Force

RECOMMENDATION 2: Create and build on safe spaces that promote peace and nonviolence

RECOMMENDATION 3: Provide community education on immigration and public safety issues

RECOMMENDATION 4: Provide individual legal and care services

Introduction

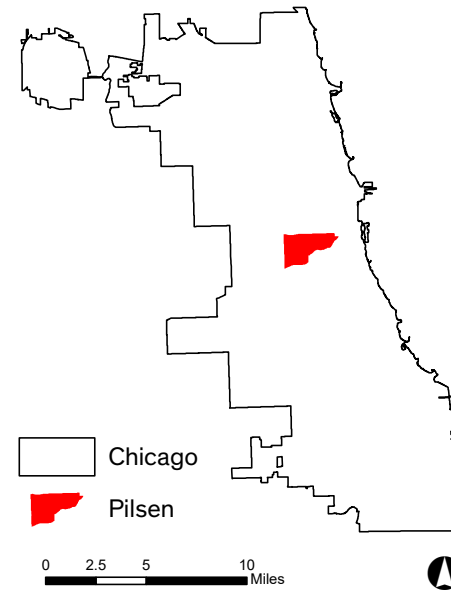
Pilsen (Lower West Side) is located just three miles southwest of downtown Chicago. The neighborhood is bounded by 16th Street to the north, the Chicago River and I-55 to the east and south, and railroad tracks just west of Western Avenue to the west.

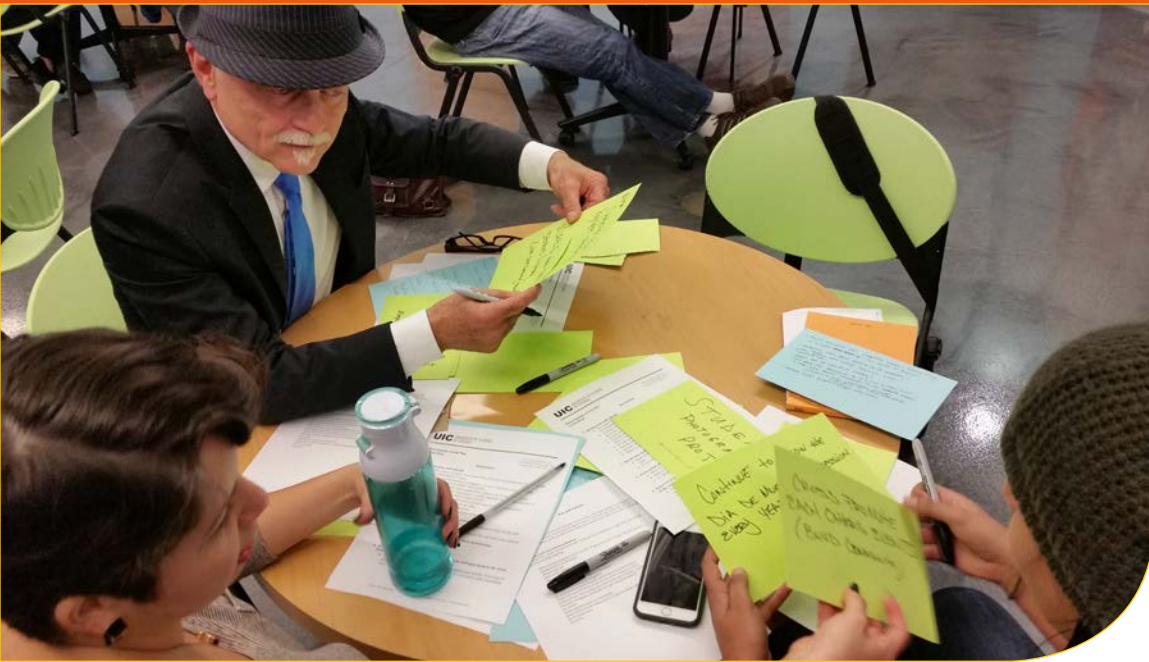
Since the mid-20th century, Pilsen has been focal point of Mexican life and culture in Chicago. Over the past several decades, residents and strong local organizations have worked to build a thriving community.

The neighborhood has numerous assets to be proud of, including its vibrant arts and culture community, strong local schools, a robust commercial corridor, strong housing stock, close proximity to local job centers, interstate highways, and local colleges and universities, as well as various community-based organizations and activists working to better the lives of residents.

In 2000, Pilsen began to change as a result of increasing housing prices and stagnant wages, two factors contributing to the threat of gentrification. Community organizations and residents formed the Pilsen Planning Committee in 2005 to develop a plan and execute their vision for a neighborhood that would serve as a center of Mexican life in Chicago. Together, they developed the first Pilsen Quality-of-Life Plan in 2006.

The 2017 Pilsen Quality-of-Life Plan builds on over a decade of work and puts forth a vision to preserve Mexican and Latino culture by building on the neighborhood's existing strengths, shoring up weaknesses, developing affordable housing, creating community-driven economic stability, ensuring educational excellence, and striving for a safe and healthy community for all.





More than 1,000 residents attended and participated in at least one planning meeting and contributed ideas to the Pilsen Quality-of-Life Plan.



Planning Process

The process for the Pilsen Quality-of-Life Plan was participatory and community-led, and facilitated by the Great Cities Institute (GCI) so as to capture and include in the plan the hopes, dreams, concerns, and ideas of residents and community stakeholders. The planning process primarily focused on encouraging deep community participation, building on existing community assets, and developing new capacity and networks to strengthen the community fabric.

The planning process had three main phases: information collection, strategy and action development, and final plan development. Information collection took place from December 2015 through July 2016 and included 26 one-on-one interviews with Pilsen Planning Committee (PPC) members; the dissemination of a community survey to over 170 individuals who live and/or work in Pilsen; a community visioning meeting with over 135 residents, community leaders, school teachers and employees, students, business owners, and nonprofit staff; and two youth-organized open houses where over 225 residents and community stakeholders prioritized and shared additional ideas for the plan. Nearly all of the 32 organizations that participated in the 2006 plan participated in the 2017 plan along with 56 additional organizations and task forces.

The community-based task force and committee structure supported the engagement of residents and community stakeholders over the following nine months. Seven task forces and committees were involved in the planning process, and these community-based entities. Some of them, such as the Pilsen Education Task Force, resulted from the 2006 quality-of-life planning process, but others were newly formed. The task forces and committees were composed of residents, staff from local nonprofits, business owners, health and mental health practitioners, local artists and musicians, teachers and principals, public safety officials, and other community stakeholders. The information and ideas collected from the community were categorized into 12 overarching issue areas, which were then divided among the seven task forces and committees.

From August 2016 to April 2017, the strategy and action development and final plan development phases took place. In the strategy and action development

phase, task force and committee members discussed their concerns for the neighborhood and used the original ideas from the community visioning and open-house meetings to develop vision statements. Next, they developed overarching strategies and actions that would help them achieve their vision. Great Cities Institute (GCI) planners served as facilitators. Members also shared the development of their strategies and actions with one another at monthly PPC meetings to foster additional collaboration on issue areas. Over 500 additional participants contributed and provided feedback to the plan during these phases.

In the final plan development phase, performance measures were developed. GCI planners worked with community members to set achievable benchmarks and a corresponding timeline for each action. Performance measures were determined on the basis of how best to measure the success of each action, including what the community wanted to achieve and ways to continue to build community capacity. When appropriate, baseline data from existing conditions were used as a guide to determine the performance measure for an action.



History

In the mid-19th century, German, Czech, and Irish immigrants first settled in the area that later became known as the Pilsen neighborhood. After the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, an abundance of new jobs in the area attracted thousands of Bohemian immigrants to the neighborhood. One such resident opened a restaurant, At the City of Plzen – named for the city in the modern-day Czech Republic – from which the neighborhood derives its name. The area became a major manufacturing hub with the presence of key railroad lines and the Chicago River, which passes through the community. Many local industrial workers participated in a series of local and national strikes leading up to the Haymarket Riot in 1886.

By the 1920s, there were large numbers of Mexicans in several Chicago neighborhoods including the Near West Side, South Chicago and Back of the Yards. The 1940 Census shows 114 Mexicans living in the Pilsen neighborhood. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, recent arrivals from Mexico and those displaced from the development of the interstate highway system and the creation of the University of Illinois Circle Campus – later the University of Illinois at Chicago – displaced many Mexican families from the Near West Side into the Pilsen neighborhood. Since that time, Pilsen has remained a predominantly Latino community.

With historical churches and settlement houses, Pilsen is home to a strong culture of civic engagement and activism that dates to the 19th century. Since the late 1960s, Latino and Latina activists and community leaders have organized to create new community organizations, schools, and community clinics, as well as to develop affordable housing, to provide bilingual training and education, and to encourage new generations of leaders.

Since 2000, Pilsen has lost roughly 10,000 residents, the majority of whom are Mexican or of Mexican descent. Today Latino residents account for about 80 percent of the population, a number that has fallen by 9 percentage points since

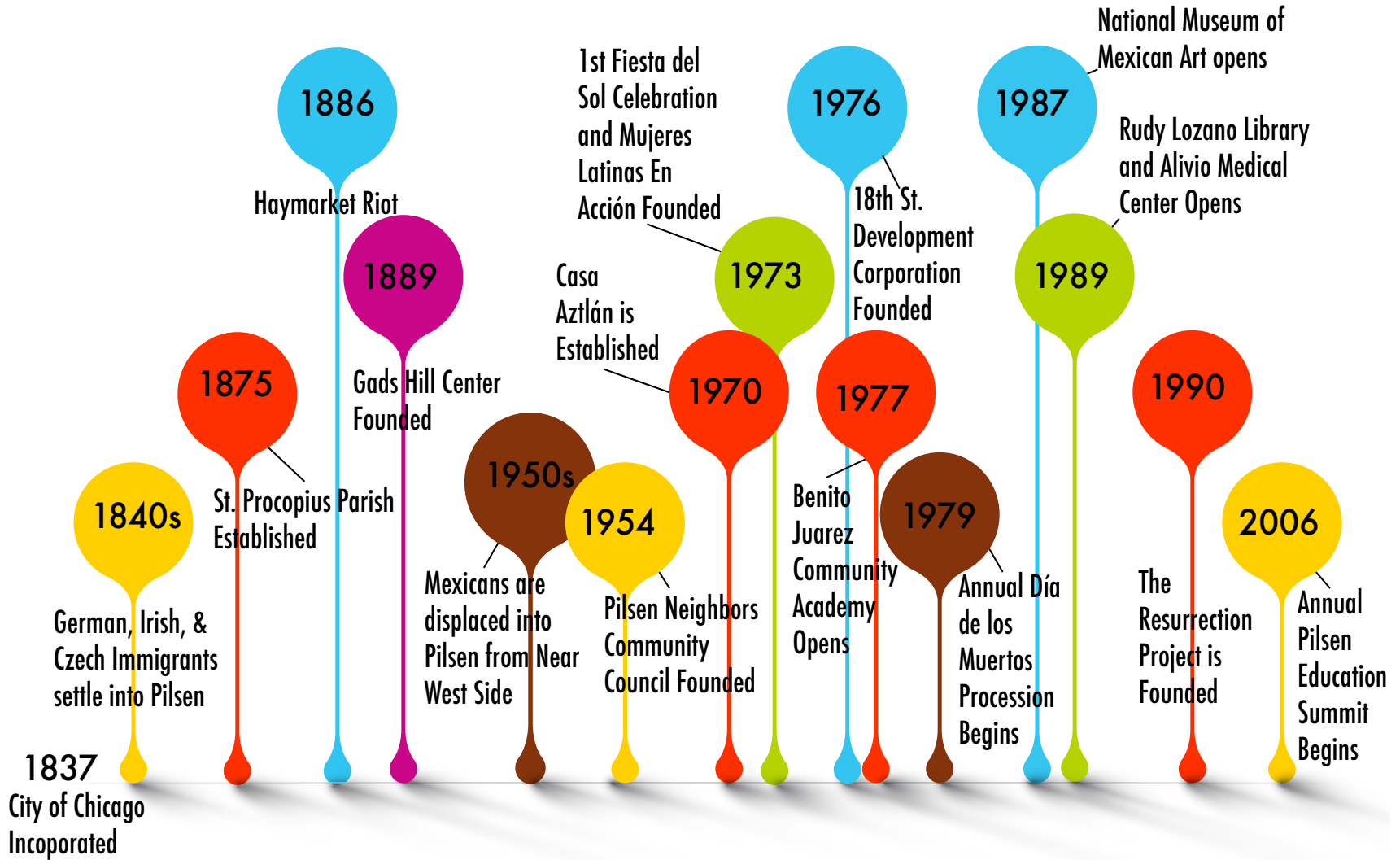
that time. Despite the changing neighborhood demographic profile, Pilsen continues as a center of Mexican cultural life in Chicago.

Over the decades, Mexican artists have created dozens of public art pieces that are located throughout the community. Fiesta del Sol – the largest Latino festival in the Midwest – began in 1973 and continues to this day. Today, Pilsen is home to numerous cultural centers, annual parades, food and arts festivals, the National Museum of Mexican Art, and other institutions that highlight the neighborhood's vibrant Mexican cultural identity.



Intersection of Blue Island Avenue and 18th Street, looking south on 18th Street, 1923. DN-0075694, Chicago Daily News negatives collection, Chicago History Museum. © Chicago Historical Society, published on or before 2015, all rights reserved.

Historical Timeline



Data sources available on page 56.

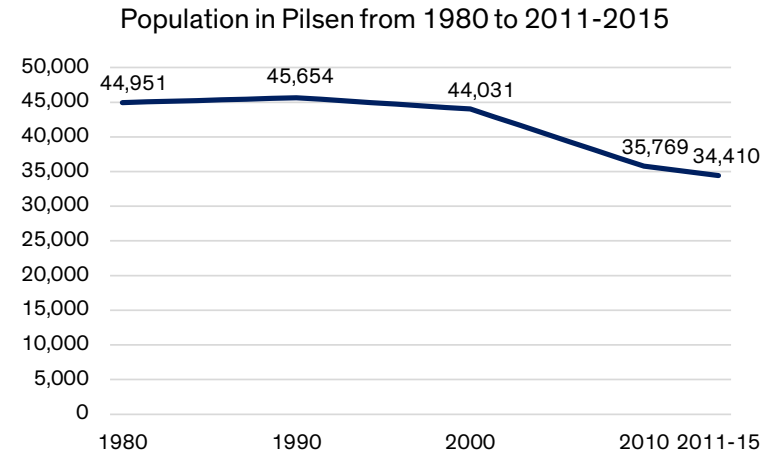
Community Profile

Pilsen has been a port of entry for immigrants since the City of Chicago incorporated. As such, it is a community that has experienced changing population demographics over time. Today, Pilsen continues to experience demographic changes for a variety of reasons, including overall population loss, changes in household type, and pressures on the existing population related to increasing housing costs and other factors.

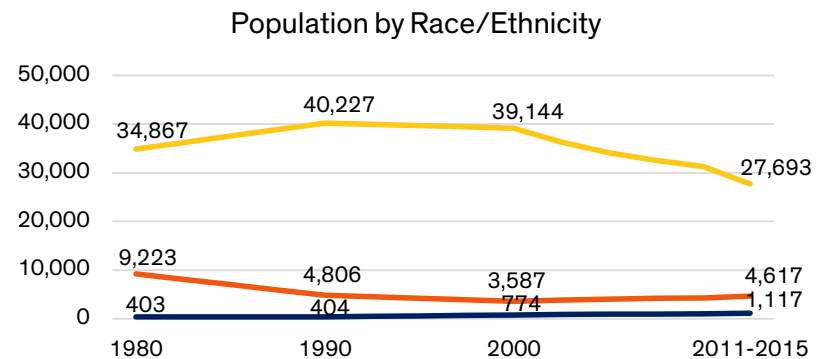
In 1980, the population in Pilsen was 44,951, and by 1990, it had increased to 45,654. The population then declined in the following two decades, to 44,031 in 2000 and 35,769 in 2010. The largest population decrease, of 20.4 percent, occurred between 2000 and 2010. The 2011–2015 population was 34,410.

The Hispanic or Latino population increased from 34,867 in 1980 to 40,227 in 1990, before decreasing to 39,144 in 2000 and 27,693 in 2011–2015. The White alone (non-Hispanic or Latino) population was highest in 1980 at 9,223 and decreased to 4,806 in 1990 and 3,486 in 2000 before increasing to 4,617 in 2015. The Black or African American Alone (Non-Hispanic or Latino) population increased from 403 in 1980 to 1,117 in 2011–2015.

Today, 80.5 percent of the Pilsen population identifies as Latino. Of the Latino population in Pilsen, 91.9 percent are of Mexican descent and Puerto Rican residents constitute 4.8 percent of the population. No other ethnicity or national origin accounts for more than 1 percent of the neighborhood's Latino population.



Data Source: 1980, 1990, 2000 Census and 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Data Source: 1980, 1990, 2000 Census and 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Community Profile

Household type has been steadily changing in Pilsen since 1970, with the proportion of nonfamily households increasing. In 1970, 77 percent of the households were family households. By 2000, that percentage had dropped by 4 percentage points to 73 percent. From 2000 until 2011–2015, the percentage of households that were families dropped by 26 percentage points to 57 percent.

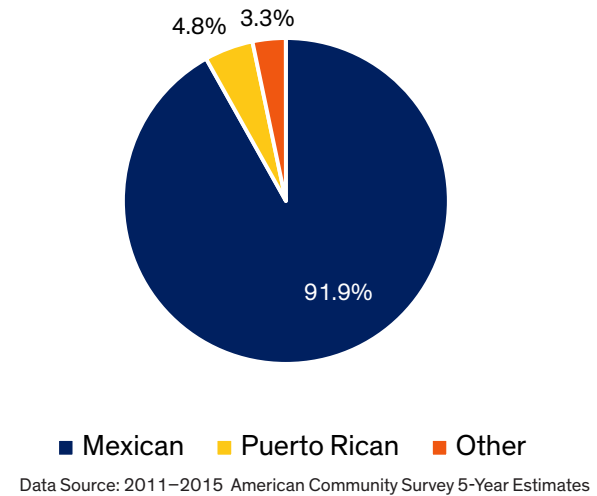
In 1990, 67.7 percent of the population had less than a high school diploma, while just 5.3 percent of the population had a bachelor’s degree or more. As higher levels of educational attainment increased, lower levels of educational attainment decreased. In 2011–2015, 35.1 percent of Pilsen residents had less than a high school degree and 21.4 percent had a bachelor’s degree.

The median household income saw little change between 1980 (\$37,800) and 1990 (\$37,892), increasing by just \$92. However, from 1990 to 2000, the median household income increased by \$1,614, to \$39,506. The median household income decreased in the period following 2000.

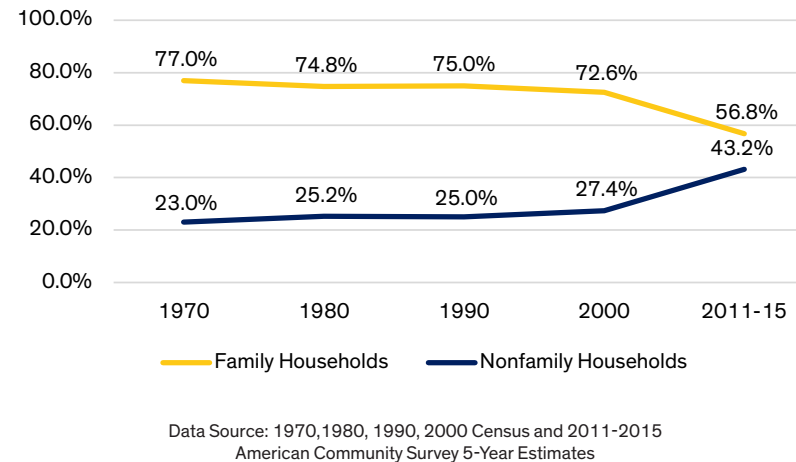
The 5-year estimate between 2011 and 2015 was \$35,103, which is \$3,510 less than in 2000. From 2000 to 2011–2015, the proportion of the population earning less than \$25,000 increased by 4.6 percentage points, while the population earning between \$25,000 and \$50,000 decreased by 1.8 percentage points. The proportion of residents earning over \$100,000 fell by 2.1 percentage points.

The poverty rate grew from 14.2 percent in 1970 to 23.5 percent in 1980, then to 26.0 percent in 1990. By 2000 the rate had dipped to 24.6 percent, but it rose slightly to 24.9 percent for 2011–2015. Additional demographic data and information are also available in each section of the plan.

Latino by Specific Origin in Pilsen, 2011-2015

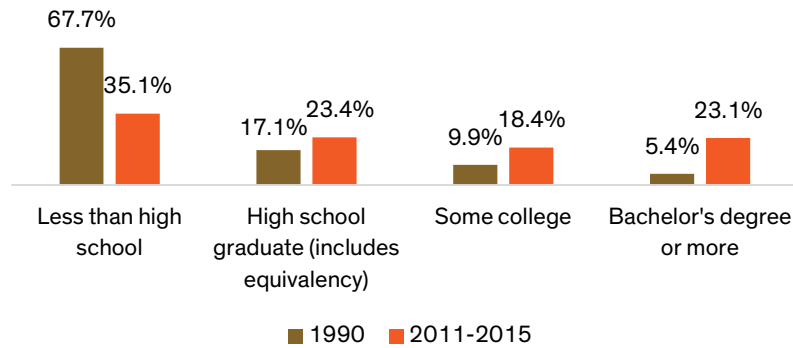


Family and Nonfamily Households in Pilsen, 1970 to 2011-2015



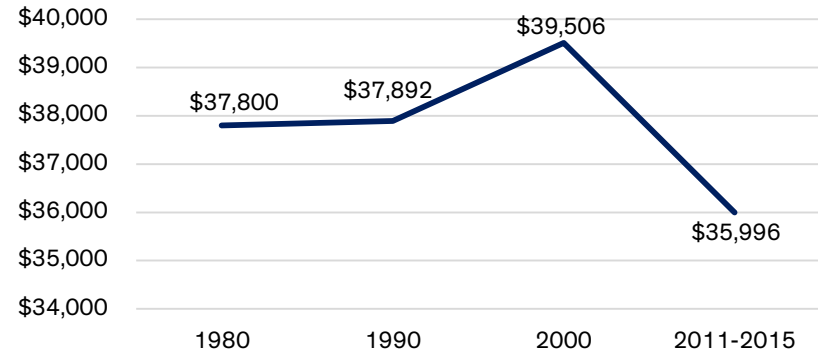
Community Profile

Educational Attainment for Population 25 Years Old and Older in Pilsen, 1990 and 2011-2015



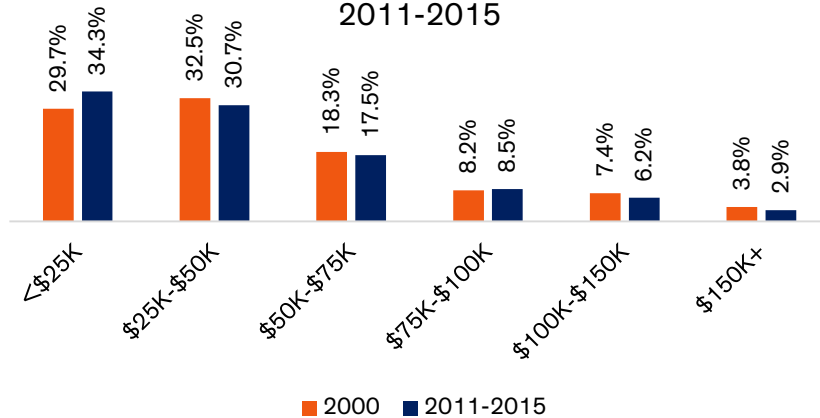
Data Source: 1990, 2000 Census and 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Median Household Income in Pilsen, 1980 to 2011-2015



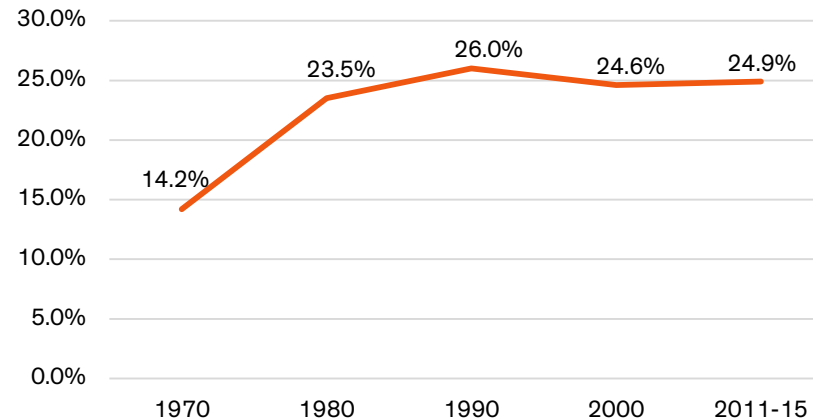
Data Source: 1980, 1990, 2000 Census and 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Dollar values in 2015 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Household Income Cohorts in Pilsen, 2000 and 2011-2015



Data Source: 2000 Census and 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

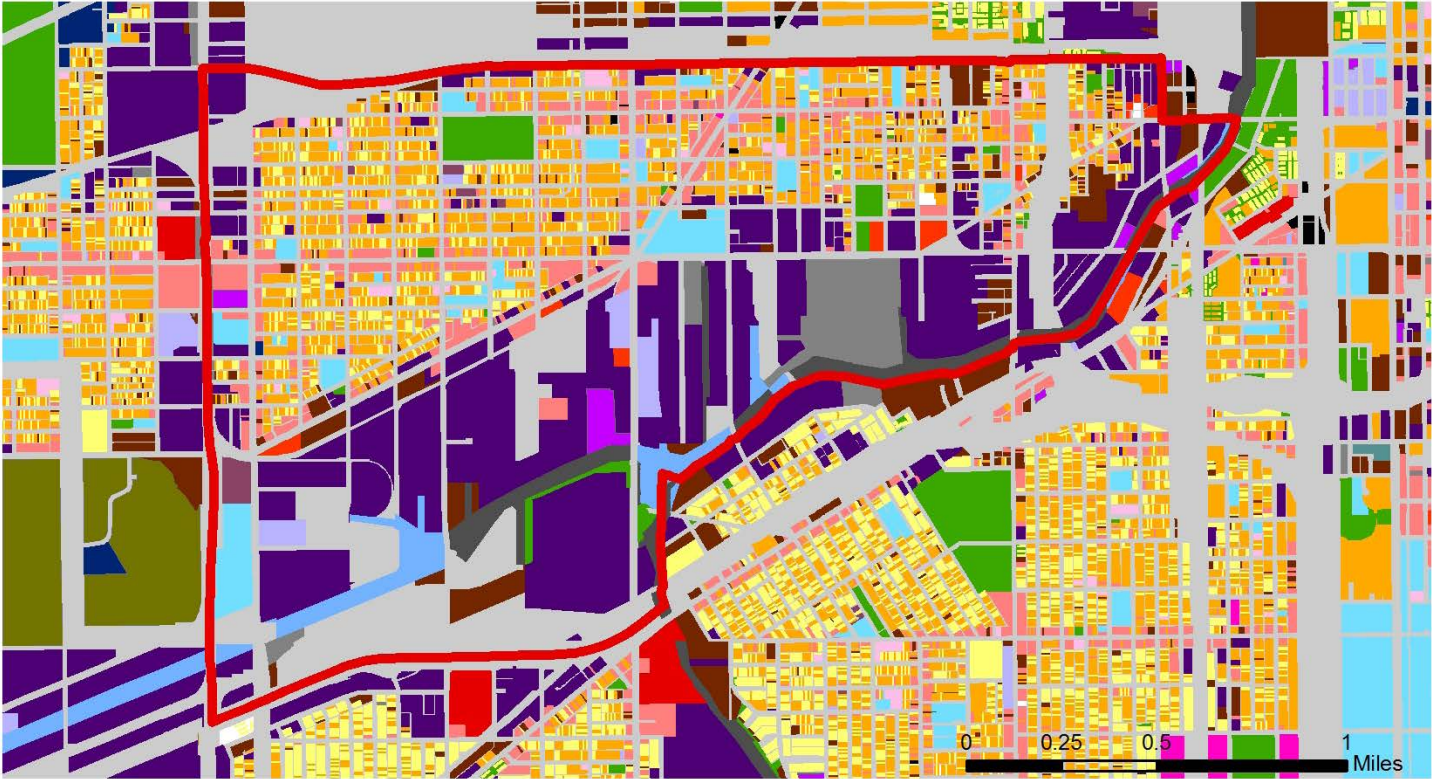
Poverty Rate in Pilsen, 1970 to 2011-2015



Data Source: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 Census and 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Community Profile

Pilsen Land Use, 2010



Legend

Pilsen

Land Use

Single-Family Residential	Educational Facilities	Industrial	Utilities and Waste Facilities
Multi-Family Residential	Government Administration and Services	Storage	Vacant Land
Open Space	Medical Facilities	Other Institutional	Construction
Commercial	Cultural/Entertainment	Parking	Non-Parcel
Mixed Use	Office	Prison and Correctional Facilities	Not Classifiable
Hotel/Motel	Religious Facilities		

Data Source: CMAP 2010 Land Use Inventory.
Map created by Great Cities Institute.

Note to Readers

This most recent plan is the result of hundreds of hours of work over two years by Pilsen individuals, families, and organizations. It includes the ideas and proposals of both individuals who live in the neighborhood or work there and the community organizations that are striving to provide Pilsen residents and families with education, social services, health care, cultural programming, and more.

The strategies and recommendations that follow were developed and elaborated on by various working groups and committees made up of residents and representatives from many organizations. Those groups focused on housing, jobs and the economy, health, education and youth, arts and culture, and public safety and immigration. Those groups and task forces are listed at the beginning of this document.

Upon completion of this plan, implementation of strategies was already under way. Some projects that emerged from the planning process and have already been implemented include the establishment of a local business council, and the opening of a new community education center at the repurposed Perez Annex that includes early childhood education and a parent university.

This plan is meant to be a living document that is adaptable to fit the changing conditions and needs of the neighborhood. As communities change, plans—and the strategies and recommendations presented here—are meant to be updated to respond to new opportunities and challenges as they arise.

Lead and Potential Organizations

The organizations that have been identified throughout the quality-of-life planning process as lead, partnering, and potential organizations to include in implementing the strategies of the plan include the following:

12th District: 12th District, Chicago Police Department

AARP: AARP

Able: National Able Network

AC: Accion Chicago

Access Living: Access Living

Ad hoc CCC: Ad hoc Community Coordinating Committee

Alderman's Office: Office of 25th Ward Alderman Danny Solis

Alivio: Alivio Medical Center

AMDM: Academy of Mexican Dance & Music

AVI: Arturo Velasquez Institute

Blue1647: Blue1647

CCC: City Colleges of Chicago

Cooper: Cooper Elementary Dual Language Academy

CCCMHB: City of Chicago Mental Health Board

CCommons: Chicago Commons

CCSAO: Cook County State's Attorney Office

CCT: Chicago Community Trust

CDDLN: Chicago Día de los Niños

CDP: Chicago Department of Planning and Development

CDPH: Chicago Department of Public Health

CEP: Center for Economic Progress

CHA: Chicago Housing Authority

CJD: Casa Juan Diego

CSS: Central States–SER

CESAP: CESAP

CHICAT: Chicago Center for Arts & Technology

CHIP: CHIP

CHS: Chicago Historical Society

Lead and Potential Organizations

CMP: Chicago Mariachi Project	Juarez: Juarez Community Academy	POS: Pilsen Open Studios
CNP&F: Chicago Nowruz Parade & Festival	Jungman: Jungman Elementary School	PPC: Pilsen Planning Committee
CPS: Chicago Public Schools CPS Network 7: Chicago Public Schools Network 7	KK: Kennedy-King College	PWC: Pilsen Wellness Center
Cristo Rey: Cristo Rey Jesuit High School	Local Business Council: Local Business Council	Ruiz: Ruiz Elementary School
CUP: Comerciantes Unidor de Pilsen	LULAC: League of United Latin American Citizens	Rush: Rush University Medical Center
DCASE: Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events	MCBCTF: Metro Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force	SAH: St. Anthony Hospital
EI: Erikson Institute	MFS: Metropolitan Family Services	SJOM: San Jose Obrero Mission
ElevArte: ElevArte Community Studio	Mt. Sinai: Mount Sinai Hospital	SGA: SGA Youth & Family Services
El Valor: El Valor Corporation	Mujeres: Mujeres Latinas en Acción (Latin Women in Action)	SBM: Small Business Majority
Encuentro de Jaraneros: Encuentro de Jaraneros	MOD: myowndocor	SCH: Spanish Coalition for Housing
EPCG: El Paseo Community Garden	NLU: National Louis University	St. Ann: St. Ann School
ESDC: Eighteenth Street Development Corporation	NMMA: National Museum of Mexican Art	St. Pius: St. Pius V School
FKCO: Frida Kahlo Community Organization	NYBDC: NYBDC	St. Procopius: St. Procopius Elementary School
Forefront: Forefront	Openlands: Openlands	TRP: The Resurrection Project
GHC: Gads Hill Center	Orozco: Orozco Community Academy	UIC: University of Illinois at Chicago
GPEDA: Greater Pilsen Economic Development Association	Pachanka: Pachanka	UIC LCC: University of Illinois at Chicago, Latino Cultural Center
HAS: Healthcare Alternative Systems	PACC: Pilsen Arts and Culture Committee	UIC SPH: University of Illinois, School of Public Health
Healthy Schools Campaign: Healthy Schools Campaign	Park District: Dvorak Park, Chicago Park District	UIH: University of Illinois Health
HH: Healthy Hood	Perez: Perez Elementary School	BGC: Union League Boys and Girls Club
HMPRG: Health & Medicine Policy Research Group	PETF: Pilsen Education Task Force	VEDC: VEDC
El Hogar: El Hogar del Niño	PF: Pilsen Fest	Walsh: Walsh Elementary School
IDPL: Instituto del Progreso Latino	PHTF: Pilsen Health Task Force	Whittier: Whittier Dual Language School
IHSCA: Instituto Health Sciences Career Academy	Pilarte: Pilarte	WBDC: Women's Business Development Center
ILAC: Illinois Arts Council	Pilsen Academy: Pilsen Academy	YMCA: Rauner Family YMCA
Ingenuity: Ingenuity	Pickard: Pickard Elementary School	Yollocalli: Yollocalli
ISPCC: Illinois Single-Payer Coalition Chicago	PLUC: Pilsen Land Use Committee	
	PN: Persepolitan Networks	
	PNCC: Pilsen Neighbors Community Council	
	PNCC/URT: Pilsen Neighbors Community Council /University Round Table	



Housing



Housing Vision

We envision affordable housing as a major strategy for maintaining the Latino character of the community.

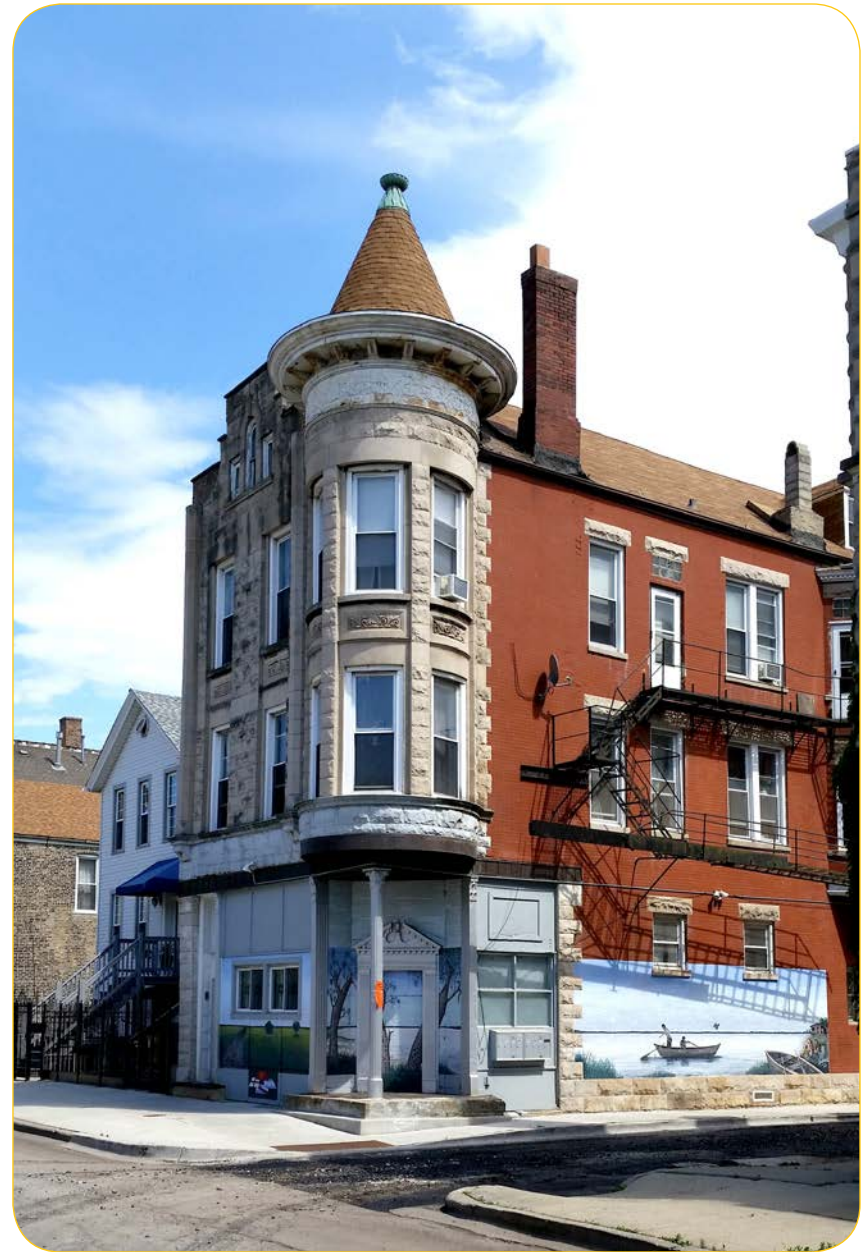
Housing

Rising housing costs for Pilsen owners and renters combined with stagnant wages and incomes have left the neighborhood with a housing affordability issue that threatens to shift property ownership away from longtime community residents.

Since 2000, Pilsen's housing stock has been transformed as many older properties have been demolished and replaced with higher-priced multiunit developments. This trend is gaining momentum, and without intervention and affordable housing strategies, it threatens the Latino identity of Pilsen.

Local community organizations and parallel planning processes such as the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's Land Use Plan have made great strides to provide resources for property owners and to develop housing units to maintain affordability. In addition, the Pilsen Land Use Committee (PLUC), with support from the Alderman, has created local policy to ensure that new developments include either 21 percent affordable housing or an equal community benefit. The strategies in this section represent the continued commitment to housing affordability in the neighborhood.

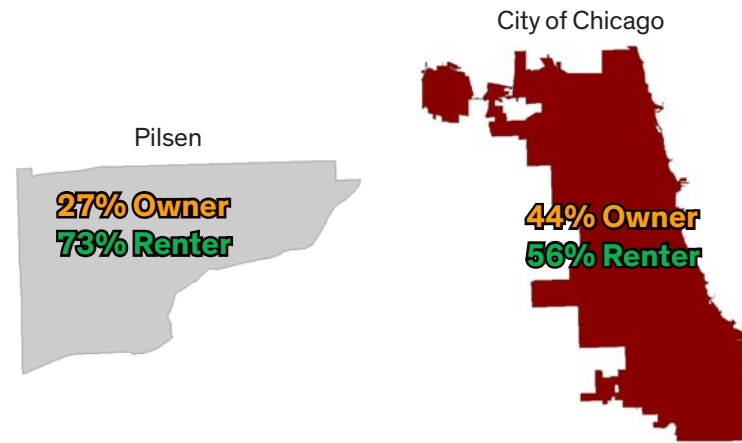
The strategies that follow focus on both preserving and increasing the development of affordable housing, acquiring properties to keep prices affordable, and assisting homeowners in maintaining their property through direct assistance and the marketing of programs that will stabilize and sustain property ownership for current residents.



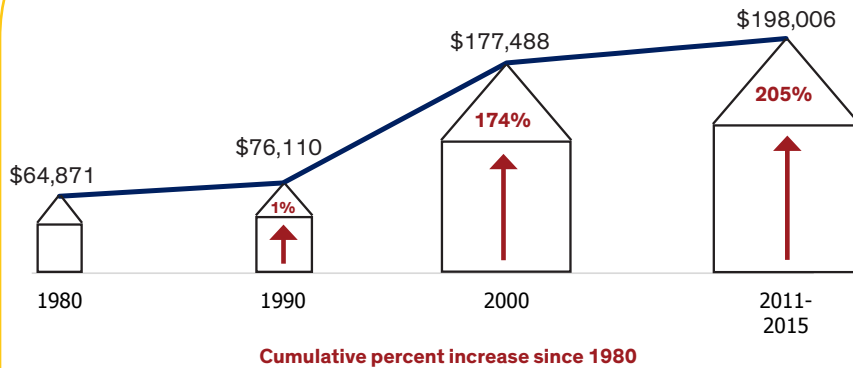
Housing – Existing Conditions

Percentage of Owner and Renter Households in Pilsen and Chicago

- Pilsen has a lower percentage of home owners than the City of Chicago by 48 percent.



Data Source: 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Data Source: 1980, 1990, 2000 Census and 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
 Note: Calculations by Great Cities Institute, University of Illinois at Chicago.
 Dollar values in 2015 inflation-adjusted dollars.

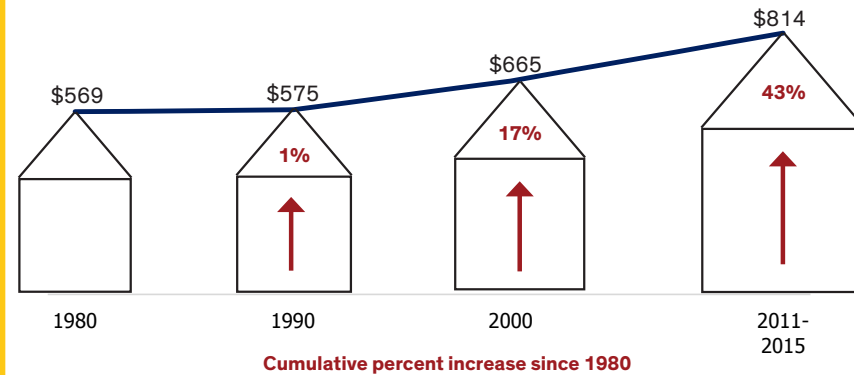
Median House Value for Owner-Occupied Housing in Pilsen

- Median house values for owner occupied units have increased from \$64,871 in 1980 to \$198,006 in 2011–2015.
- Median house prices increased 205% from 1980 to 2011–2015.

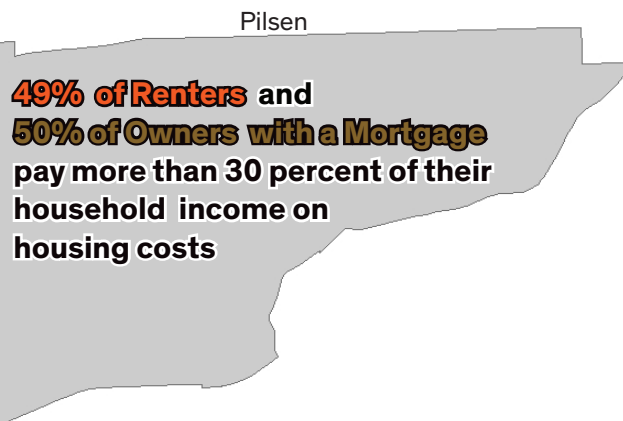
Housing - Existing Conditions

Median Rent for Renter-Occupied Housing in Pilsen, 1980 to 2011–2015

- Median rent increased 43% from \$569 in 1980 to \$814 in 2011–2015.



Data Source: 1980, 1990, 2000 Census and 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Note: Calculations by Great Cities Institute, University of Illinois at Chicago. Dollar values in 2015 inflation-adjusted dollars.



Data Source: 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Note: Dollar values in 2015 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Percentage of Households Paying More Than 30% of Income on Housing Costs in Pilsen

- Nearly half of renters (49%) and half of homeowners (50%) in Pilsen were cost burdened, or paid more than 30% of income on housing costs.

Housing – Strategies

STRATEGY 1

Increase the development of affordable housing

In Pilsen nearly half of renters and half of owners pay more than 30% of their income toward housing costs. The direct development of affordable housing units and enforcement of zoning to include 21 percent affordable housing units will increase the number of affordable housing units in Pilsen. In addition to the current tools available to and used by organizations in Pilsen, researching and implementing new tools will ensure that the best methods for supporting and creating affordable housing are accessible to the community.

STRATEGY 2

Accelerate the preservation of affordable housing

This strategy addresses affordable housing through actions including acquisition, owner education, and utilization of existing and new affordable housing programs and models. Specifically, acquiring housing and keeping units at affordable prices prevents market-rate units from becoming unaffordable as housing values increase. Educating residents about real estate practices and how to sell their property at fair market value will protect homeowners and allow time for more offers from current community members. Many Pilsen residents are eligible but do not take advantage of the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) voucher program that can assist with housing costs. A new campaign for landlords and residents will raise awareness of the program and assist residents with the application process. Finally, providing an alternative affordable ownership model through a limited-equity scattered site cooperative model will give residents another affordable route to homeownership.

STRATEGY 3

Assist property owners in preserving affordable housing stock

Assisting owners of hard-to-maintain properties of between two and seven units will keep them from having to sell their multiunit buildings because of an inability to maintain them. Tracking harassment and working with the Alderman's Office to oversee building inspections will protect owners from being coerced into selling their property.

STRATEGY 4

Provide outreach to homeowners and renters about available housing resources

Providing outreach and education to homeowners about resources such as tax incentives, foreclosure prevention, and rehab and down-payment assistance programs enables residents to maintain their homes and keep costs affordable.



Jobs and the Economy

Jobs and the Economy Vision

We strive for community-driven economic stability.

Jobs and the Economy

Job-intensive local institutions, the Pilsen Industrial Corridor, and opportunities to own and operate a small business present Pilsen residents with numerous work opportunities—if adequate connections to jobs, job training, and small business resources are made available to residents.

Pilsen's vibrant local economy is evident in the numerous locally owned Mexican and Mexican American businesses along 18th Street. As population demographics have shifted and Pilsen becomes more attractive to investors, stabilizing businesses along 18th Street and providing them with resources to grow and flourish is a priority in retaining the street's Mexican identity.

The Pilsen Industrial Corridor, Illinois Medical District (IMD), and University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) are major employers located in or near Pilsen. Providing employment training and connecting qualified individuals to these employers can promote neighborhood stability by improving the economic circumstances of Pilsen residents.

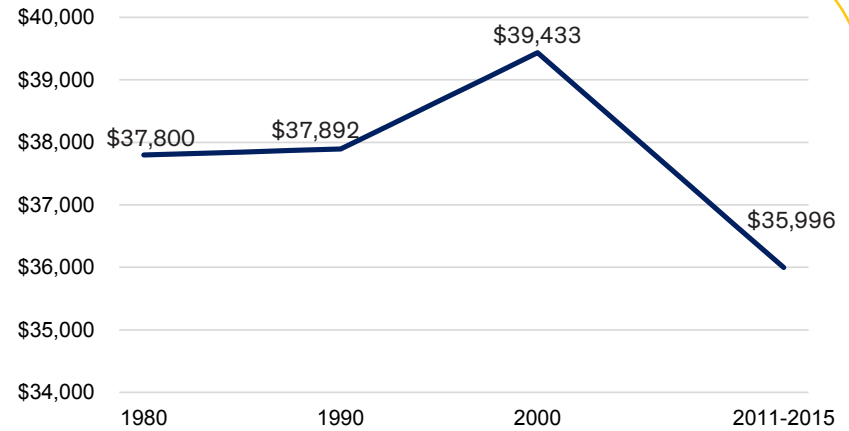
The strategies that follow focus on reinforcing partnerships between existing organizations and associations that serve local businesses, supporting local businesses and promoting entrepreneurship, beautifying 18th Street, developing the local workforce, and strengthening the industrial corridor.



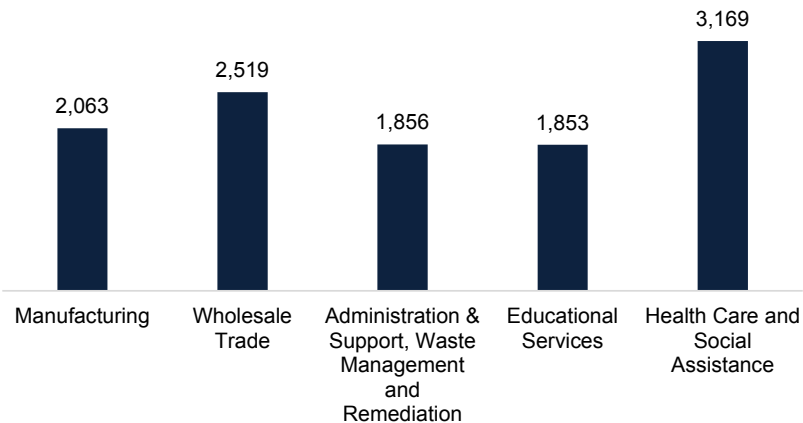
Jobs and the Economy – Existing Conditions

Median Household Income in Pilsen, 1980 to 2011–2015

- Median household income in Pilsen decreased by \$3,437, or 9%, from 2000 to 2011–2015.



Data Source: 1980, 1990, 2000 Census and 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
 Note: Dollar values in 2015 inflation-adjusted dollars.



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau. LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2014)

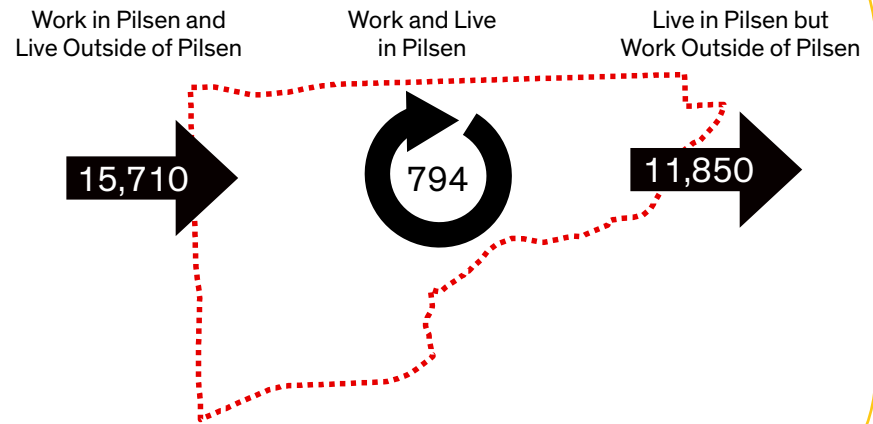
Top 5 Job Sectors in Pilsen, 2014

- The top 5 job sectors located in Pilsen account for nearly 70% of the jobs in Pilsen.

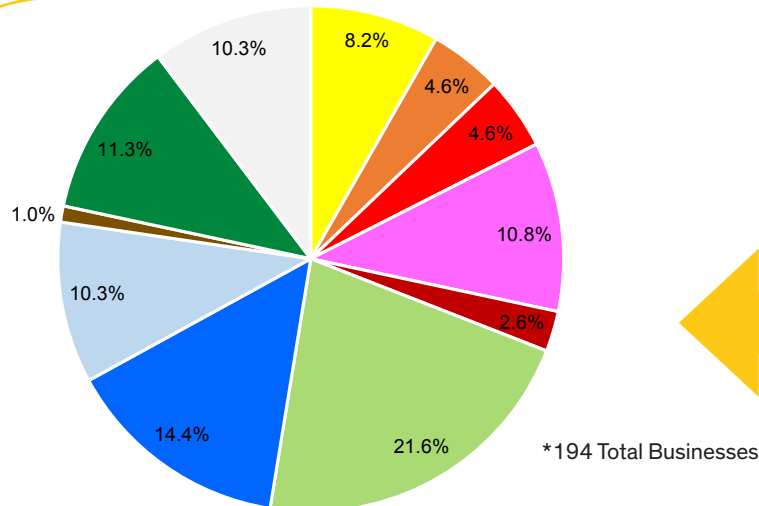
Jobs and the Economy – Existing Conditions

Pilsen Inflow and Outflow of Workers, 2014

- 794 people work and live in Pilsen.
- 15,710 work in Pilsen and live outside the community .
- 11,850 Pilsen residents leave the community to work.



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2014)



Data Source: Great Cities Institute Walking Survey, 2016

Pilsen's Business Mix on 18th Street between Halsted and Damen

- Food Stores
- Home Goods & Hardware
- Books, Music & Hobbies
- Full Service Restaurants
- Automotive
- Other
- Health & Personal
- Apparel & Accessories
- Personal Services
- Cafés & Take Out
- Professional & Financial

Jobs and the Economy – Strategies

STRATEGY 1

Develop a strong business council or

Strengthening the relationship between organizations and associations that serve local businesses to develop a strong business council or alliance will improve service delivery to businesses and strengthen the 18th Street commercial corridor.

STRATEGY 2

Support and grow local businesses

Local businesses will be strengthened through being showcased at festivals, marketed to the community, and highlighted through “shop local” programs.

STRATEGY 3

Beautify and improve 18th Street commercial corridor

Filling vacant storefronts, improving building facades, and making the corridor more accessible and attractive will enhance the pedestrian experience and patronage of businesses and service providers on 18th Street.

STRATEGY 4

Enhance workforce development opportunities

Linking Pilsen residents with local jobs and providing training for jobs in both Pilsen and in growing industries across the city will increase the number of Pilsen residents who work locally and in well-paying jobs outside of the community.

STRATEGY 5

Expand business and employment opportunities in the Pilsen Industrial Corridor

Preserving and expanding the Pilsen Industrial Corridor, including by enhancing the riverfront, will lead to more economic opportunity in the neighborhood for community residents.

STRATEGY 6

Promote entrepreneurship

Promoting entrepreneurship will assist Pilsen residents in starting their own businesses, filling storefront vacancies, and improving the neighborhood economy.



Health

Health Vision

We strive to create a healthy community with access to quality care and effective educational programs that prevent disease and injury and improve residents' health and well-being. We envision Pilsen as an active community with a network of parks and green space that creates centers for healthy community and civic life.

Health

Pilsen has several health institutions located within the community or in close proximity. More than eight local hospitals, medical clinics, and a wide array of local community-based organizations provide disease prevention, nutrition and fitness education, and behavioral health services (which include but are not limited to education and treatment around mental health disorders, trauma, domestic violence, sexual assault, and substance abuse).

However, many residents may not be aware of services that are available in the community. In the Quality-of-Life Survey that informs this plan, only 34 percent of respondents indicated that they believed health care was available or very available in their community. In the area of mental health, 50 percent of respondents remarked that there was little or no availability of services.

According to the Chicago Department of Health, the top three causes of death in Pilsen are coronary heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. In community outreach work, maintaining a healthy lifestyle that includes access to healthy foods and regular health-care services and also increasing exercise are critical to improving the health and well-being of all residents.

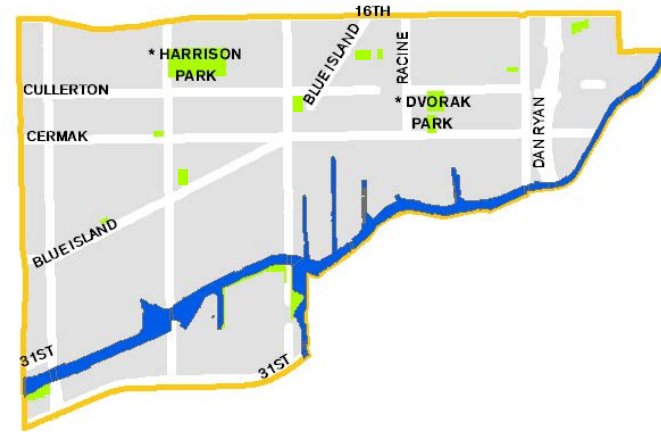
The strategies that follow focus on illness prevention and increasing awareness of health services and healthy living, as well as greater access to health, community education, and wellness services throughout the community. They also promote healthy lifestyles, advocate for critical health policy issues, and expand access to green spaces throughout the community.



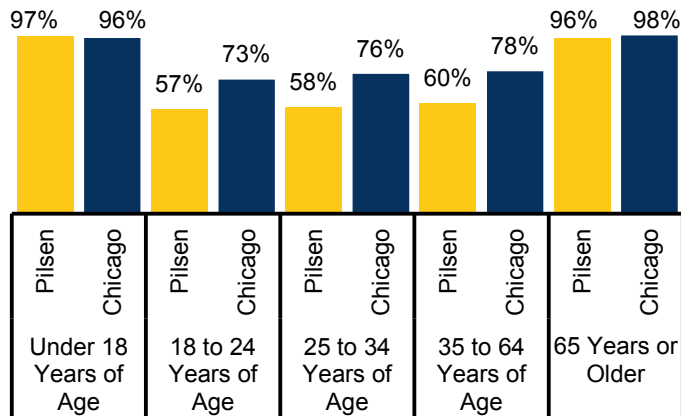
Health – Existing Conditions

Open Space in Pilsen

- Pilsen has roughly 1 acre of land per 1,000 residents, but the City of Chicago suggests 2 acres of open space per 1,000 residents.
- Existing open space in Pilsen is located primarily in Harrison Park (17.4 acres) and Dvorak Park (5.6 acres).



Data Source: CMAP Pilsen and Little Village Existing Conditions Report. Map created by the Great Cities Institute, University of Illinois at Chicago.



Data Source: 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Pilsen Residents Who Have Health Insurance Coverage

- Pilsen adults between the ages of 18 and 64 have significantly less insurance coverage than Chicago residents overall.

Health – Existing Conditions

Obesity Rate for Pilsen Youth

- 47% to 53% of Pilsen's kindergarteners and 6th and 9th graders were obese in 2010–2011.

Data Source: Overweight and Obesity among Chicago Public Schools Students, 2010--2011, City of Chicago, February 2013



Pilsen Quality-of-Life Survey

Availability of Neighborhood Health Care

- 34% of respondents rated health care as available or very available.
- 25% rated health-care quality as good or very good.
- 32% rated the quality of health care as poor or very poor.

Mental Health Services Availability

- 50% of survey respondents indicated little or no availability of services.

Healthy Food

- 36% of respondents rated the availability of healthy foods as available or very available.

Data Source: Great Cities Institute Quality-of-Life Survey

Health – Strategies

STRATEGY 1

Promote healthy lifestyles and wellness

This strategy focuses on improving community health and well-being by systematically identifying and assessing available resources and services and working collaboratively across organizations to connect residents more effectively to the programs they need. In addition, creating a healthy food campaign with local restaurants will help residents make more informed meal choices for their families.

STRATEGY 2

Increase access to health-care services

By aligning efforts and developing partnerships, Pilsen will be better able to ensure that residents have access to all of the health-care services that are available. Providing accessible information to residents will increase awareness of the availability of resources in the community. Utilizing new technology tools will also increase access to information or doctors, and increasing enrollment in health insurance programs for 18- to 64-year-olds will improve access for a population that is currently underinsured.

STRATEGY 3

Expand access to behavioral health (includes both mental health and substance abuse) and address all levels of socioemotional wellness

Improving access to behavioral health is critical for the overall health and well-being of Pilsen residents. By increasing awareness of and education about behavioral health disorders, we can reduce stigma and increase treatment opportunities. Providing trauma-informed services will give residents who have experienced abuse, violence, racism, discrimination, poverty, and/or oppression needed resources to reduce its harmful effects. Fostering coordination and collaboration between health institutions and local schools is a key component to success.

STRATEGY 4

Advocate for health policy issues

Advocating for comprehensive health policy that supports the strategies and actions that health institutions and organizations can implement on the ground will maximize their impact—specifically, providing support to community health workers, expanding access to health insurance, and increasing the availability of green space in the community.

STRATEGY 5

Expand access to and maintain green spaces throughout the community.

Expanding access to green spaces will allow for increased opportunities for community gatherings, health and wellness education, and group and individual recreation activities. Programs held in green spaces can teach about healthy eating, exercise, and gardening, and can also provide opportunities for intergenerational activities. Properly maintaining green spaces will ensure that these valuable areas can be utilized to their fullest potential and will last into the future.





Education and Youth

Education Vision

The Pilsen community will provide academic and socioemotional learning through schools and educational programs to ensure that people of all races, ethnicities, cultures, legal statuses, and abilities are strategic thinkers and holistic leaders.

Education and Youth

Pilsen has an abundance of educational institutions and youth- and family-serving organizations with a strong collaborative foundation. The Pilsen Education Task Force (PETF) was formed in 2006 and consists of more than 45 community organizations, public schools, colleges and universities, and parents.

According to the U.S. Census, Pilsen was home to 14,197 children and youth age 24 and younger in 2010. From 2000 to 2010, the youth population age 24 and younger decreased by 6,791 individuals.

Changes in the population have led to a decline in enrollment at local schools, and eight of the ten public elementary schools were listed as “underutilized” on the 2015 Chicago Public Schools Space Utilization report. Additionally, according to the PETF, approximately 1,500 school-age children who live in Pilsen attend schools outside of the neighborhood.

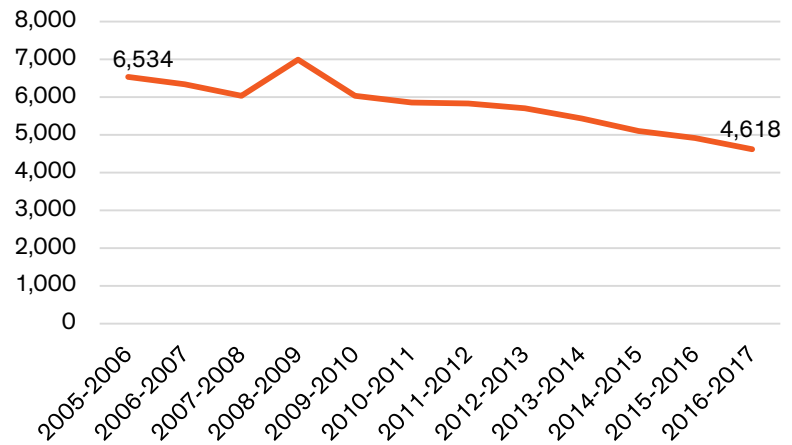
The strategies that follow focus on increasing enrollment at Pilsen schools through coordinating a marketing strategy to highlight the quality of education provided in the community, building a seamless educational pipeline from cradle to career with supports for children and families in order to increase educational attainment and success, providing educational opportunities for parents and developing their leadership skills, and expanding after-school opportunities for youth and families throughout the community.



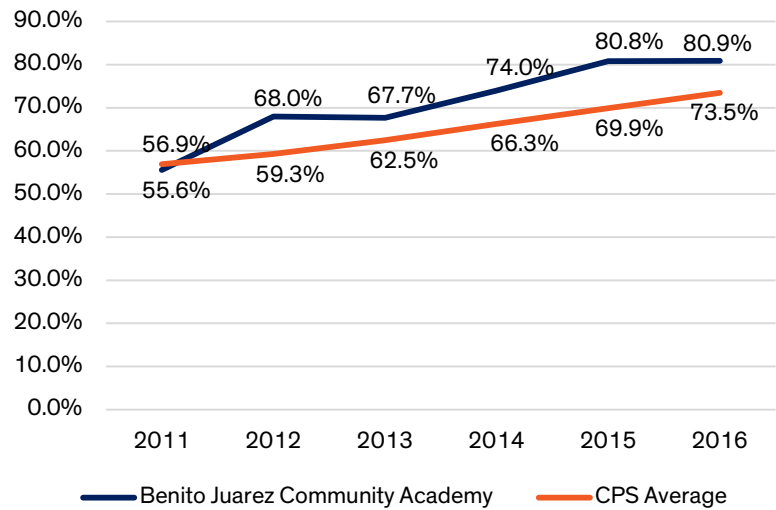
Education and Youth – Existing Conditions

Total Yearly Enrollment for Pilsen Public Schools

- Enrollment at Pilsen schools has declined steadily over the past decade. Elementary school enrollment declined 29% between 2005 and 2016.



Data Source: Chicago Public Schools, 2005–2016 Enrollment



Data Source: Chicago Public Schools, 2011–2016 Graduation Rates

Graduation Rate for Juarez Community Academy and Chicago, 2011–2016

- Between 2011 and 2016 Juarez Community Academy, the largest high school in the neighborhood, saw its graduation rates increase at a faster rate than the City of Chicago overall – graduation rates increased 25 percentage points during that period.

Education and Youth – Existing Conditions



Education and Youth – Existing Conditions



Education and Youth – Strategies

STRATEGY 1

Increase enrollment at Pilsen schools

Prior to the quality-of-life planning process, the Pilsen Education Task Force (PETF) launched a school specialization initiative to expand the number of educational opportunities for Pilsen students, to reengage students attending schools outside of Pilsen to drive enrollment within Pilsen, and to attract new families to Pilsen schools. This initiative focuses on developing an innovative marketing strategy that highlights the new school specializations, the quality of education in Pilsen, and the collaborative partnerships and supportive programming available at local schools.

STRATEGY 2

Build an educational pipeline from cradle to career

This strategy harnesses the collaborative power of the PETF to build an educational pipeline from cradle to career with the goal of improving educational outcomes overall. A full analysis of the community's educational ecosystem will identify gaps and strengthen transition points in the pipeline. In addition, the development of communication systems, peer mentoring programs, and college readiness programs will help prepare and support students and parents for each step in the educational system.

STRATEGY 3

Develop parent education and leadership opportunities

The role of parents in their child's education is critical for children's success. This strategy focuses on providing support, education, and leadership opportunities for parents in the community and in schools. Multiple parent education and engagement centers will be developed, including the Child Parent Center, a Parent University, and three Parent Engagement Centers. Workshops and educational offerings will be determined through a needs assessment and coordinated to ensure that they meet community need and support parents.

STRATEGY 4

Expand after-school opportunities for youth and families

In the Quality-of-Life Survey that informs this plan, 49 percent of respondents indicated that they did not think there were adequate after-school programs available in Pilsen. This strategy focuses on strengthening partnerships, providing additional academic and nonacademic programs for youth and families, expanding training for youth organizing, and civic engagement opportunities and family activities.





Arts and Culture



Arts and Culture

We envision Pilsen as a center for arts education, preservation, and public display, including the honoring and celebration of Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, and immigrant culture; the integration of arts into all schools; a sense of public art permeating Pilsen; and the preservation and teaching of mariachi and traditional music.

Arts and Culture

Pilsen's vibrant Mexican cultural identity is apparent throughout the neighborhood. The many stories of the community, its artists, and its history are painted on countless murals throughout the neighborhood on the walls of institutions, businesses, schools, churches, CTA stations, viaducts, and homes.

Pilsen is rich in artistic and cultural assets. Numerous musicians, dancers, chefs, artists, cultural centers, annual parades, food and arts festivals, the National Museum of Mexican Art, and other institutions and nonprofits that work to enrich, perform, educate, and celebrate the neighborhood's many cultural traditions and artistic forms all call Pilsen home.

The arts have many benefits for youth and for the local economy. Research compiled by the Americans for the Arts documents that students involved in the arts have higher GPAs and standardized test scores and lower dropout rates. Research also demonstrates that the arts strengthen the local economy by driving tourism and attendance at cultural events and patronage of local businesses. However, despite these benefits to the overall community, many individual artists struggle economically with fair wages and support for their work, and arts programming is often the first to be cut at schools during budget negotiations and cuts.

The strategies that follow focus on developing sustainable and community controlled funding mechanisms for the arts and for artists; promoting and preserving the existing cultural traditions in the community; expanding youth arts programming and opportunities in partnership with local artists, musicians, photographers, and local schools; and preserving, creating, and expanding public art in Pilsen.



Arts and Culture – Existing Conditions

Arts and Culture as an Asset

In an open-ended question about what works well in Pilsen and what the neighborhood’s greatest assets are, respondents said:

- Culture (51)
- Community (26)
- Food/restaurants (25)
- Transportation (25)
- Art (19)

What do you value about Pilsen and what are the neighborhood’s greatest assets (what’s working well)?

	Frequency	Percent
Culture	51	29.7
Community	26	15.1
Food/restaurants	25	14.5
Art	19	11.0
		n = 172

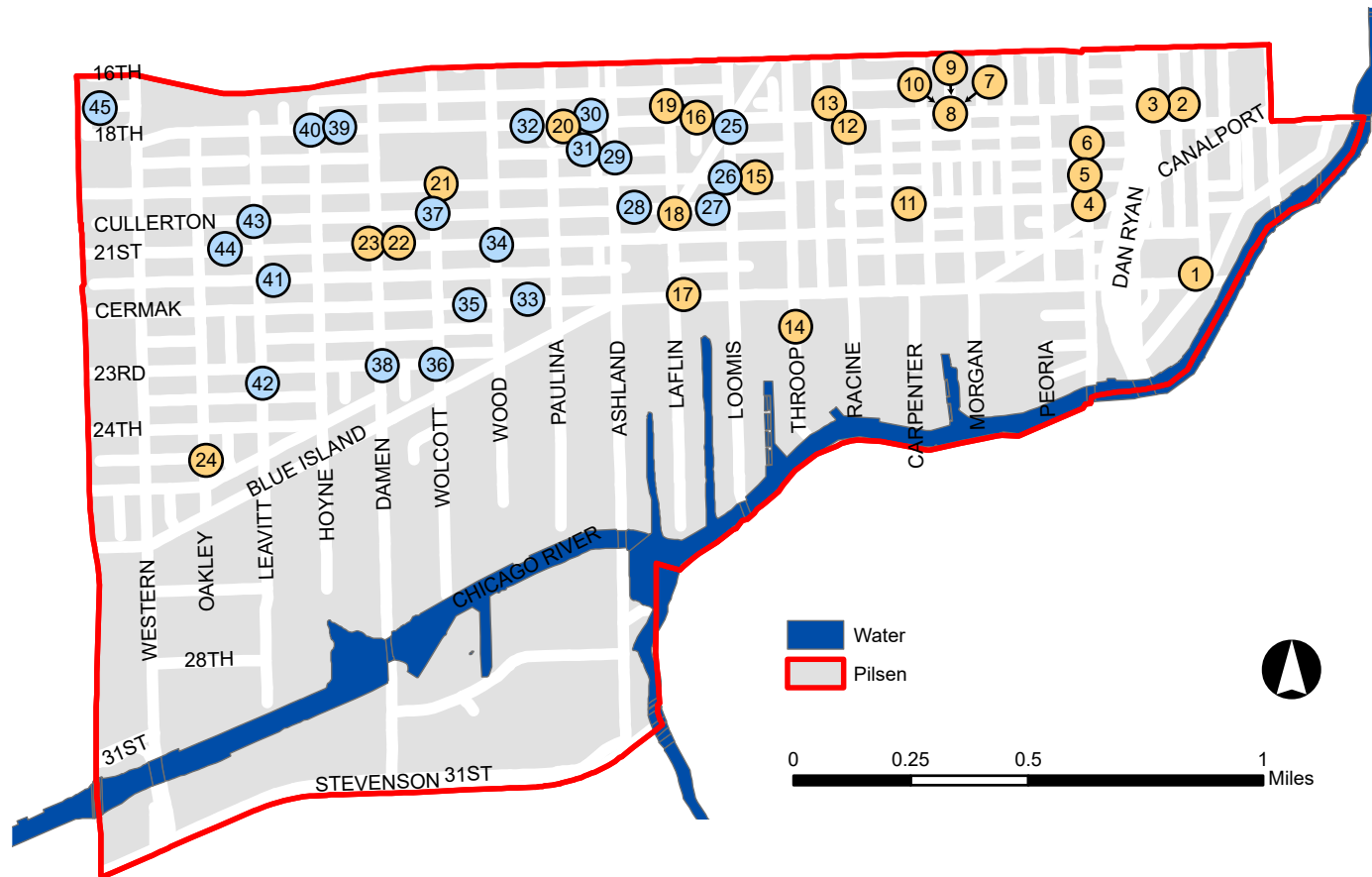
Data Source: Great Cities Institute Quality-of-Life Survey

Arts and Culture Key Research Facts

- “63 percent of the (American) population believe the arts lift me up beyond everyday experiences.”
- “64 percent of the (American) population feel the arts give them pleasure to experience and participate in and 73 percent say the arts are a positive experience in a troubled world.”
- Students involved in the arts have higher GPAs and lower dropout rates.
- Arts drive local tourism, strengthen the economy, and are good for local businesses.
- Arts improve health and well-being: “Nearly one-half of the nation’s healthcare institutions provide arts programming for patients, families, and even staff. 78 percent deliver these programs because of their healing benefits to patients – shorter hospital stays, better pain management, and less medication.”

Data Source: Quotations and information from Americans for the Arts, February 2017

Arts and Culture – Existing Conditions



Pilsen Art Institutions

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Chicago Public Art Group | 13. Prospectus Art Gallery |
| 2. NYCH Gallery | 14. Mana Contemporary Chicago |
| 3. Rootwork Gallery | 15. ACRE Projects |
| 4. Chicago Arts District | 16. Mestizarte |
| 5. Chicago Art Department | 17. Chicago Mariachi Project |
| 6. Simantikos Dance | 18. Citalin Gallery and Theater |
| 7. Cultura in Pilsen | 19. Antena |
| 8. La Catrina Café | 20. Café Monsiváis/Reciclarte |
| 9. Gabriel Project | 21. National Museum of Mexican Art |
| 10. Gozamos | 22. Cobalt Studio |
| 11. ElevArte Community Studio | 23. Pilsen Outpost |
| 12. Honky Tonk | 24. Hoofprint Workshop |

Pilsen Open Studios

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 25. Rudy Lozano Library | 36. Jesus Acuna |
| 26. Juan Carlos Torres Studio | 37. Hector Duarte Studio |
| 27. Paige Landesberg Studio | 38. Olin Studio Chicago |
| 28. Carlos & Dominguez Fine Arts Gallery | 39. Colibri Studio and Gallery |
| 29. Skeemer Chorne; -
Rockstar Barber Shop & Ink | 40. Surreal Rabbit |
| 30. Colby Gallery | 41. 21 PL Place |
| 31. Cynthis Marris Studio | 42. Revolutionary Lemonade Stand |
| 32. Art-O-Parts | 43. Gerry Lang Studio |
| 33. JPWeber Studio | 44. Gringolandia Studio |
| 34. Mahtinauhkali | 45. Pilsen Art and Design Center |
| 35. Victims of Art Tattoo Gallery | |

Arts and Culture – Strategies

STRATEGY 1

Develop sustainable funding mechanisms for the arts and artists

This strategy focuses on creating community-controlled funding mechanisms for artists and the arts. This is achieved by establishing a community arts fund with a legal framework to fund raise and solicit proposals from local artists to commission art in the community; by developing an artist cooperative business with local artists, architects, and interior designers; and providing professional development training for artists.

STRATEGY 2

Promote and preserve cultural traditions

Culture reflects and shapes people's values, beliefs, and aspirations, thereby defining the identity of the community. This strategy focuses on promoting and preserving cultural traditions including music and dance as the cultural heritage of the community and expanding an artist exchange program with Mexican artists to share knowledge.

STRATEGY 3

Expand youth arts programs and opportunities

According to the report *Champions of Change: The Impact of the Arts on Learning*, researchers found that students who participate in the arts outperform their peers on nearly every measure, and the greatest benefits are seen in students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Given the important role that the arts play in leveling the playing field for youth and in helping them achieve excellence, this strategy focuses on expanding youth arts programming and opportunities in the community, including cooking classes of traditional dishes, photography projects to learn and document culture in Pilsen, expansion of mariachi programs in public schools, expansion of school arts programs, and gallery-sponsored showcases of student art work.

STRATEGY 4

Preserve, expand, and create public art

Pilsen has a long history of public art and murals that have been created throughout the community. This strategy focuses on creating new forms of public art, expanding places where public art can be created, and preserving the public art that currently exists in the community.



Public Safety and Immigration

Public Safety and Immigration

We imagine a safe and peaceful community with positive and productive interaction, communication, and collaboration between law enforcement entities and neighbors.

SAFE PLACES

Public Safety and Immigration

Crime rates in Pilsen have dropped significantly from 2007 to 2015. In fact, in 2016, crime rates in Pilsen were below the City of Chicago average. The combined and concerted efforts of the numerous community-based organizations, faith-based institutions, social service providers, schools, police department, government institutions, activists, elected officials, and residents all contributed to this increased level of community safety and well-being.

Despite the drop in crime rates, some residents' perception of the community is that it is still unsafe. In the Pilsen Quality-of-Life Survey done for this plan, 52.2 percent of respondents who live in Pilsen indicated that they feel either "a little safe" or "not at all safe" when walking alone after dark. Similarly, 53 percent of respondents indicated that the level of crime in Pilsen was "high" or "very high." In addition, recent changes in national public discourse and policy around immigration have led to heightened and very real concerns for people's safety in a community that historically has been a port of entry for immigrants arriving in Chicago.

The recommendations that follow build on the strong networks of collaboration that are interwoven throughout this plan, existing assets in the community, and the breadth of services and resources that Pilsen has to offer. Rebranding the existing Family Task Force to focus directly on providing public safety, creating and building safe spaces to promote peace and nonviolence for all members of the community, delivering education on immigration and public safety issues to increase awareness, and offering individual legal and care services so individuals and families have the support and resources they need to thrive will maintain and strengthen public safety in the community.



Public Safety and Immigration – Existing Conditions

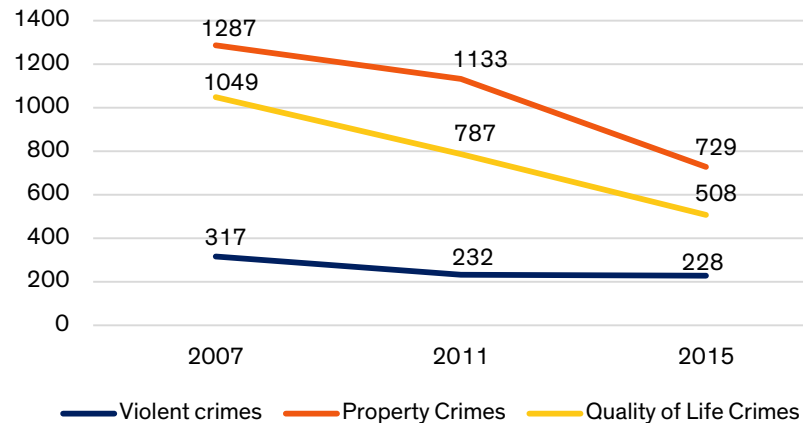
Pilsen Crime

- Pilsen has lower rates of violent, property, and quality-of-life crimes than Chicago overall.
- Among Chicago's 77 Community Areas, Pilsen has the 36th highest violent crime rate, the 44th highest property crime rate, and the 34th highest quality-of-life crime rate.

	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime Rate	Quality-of-Life Crime Rate
Lower West Side/ Pilsen	23.1	24.7	14.0
Chicago	30.1	32.2	16.5
Lower West Side/ Pilsen rank among 77 Community Areas	36th of 77	44th of 77	34th of 77

Data Source: Crimes - 2016. Chicago Police Department. Accessed via City of Chicago Data Portal. Calculations by Great Cities Institute.

Crimes in Pilsen, 2007, 2011, and 2015



Data Source: Crime in Chicagoland. Chicago Tribune.

Pilsen Crime

In Pilsen, from 2007 to 2015:

- Violent crime decreased by 28%.
- Property crime decreased by 43%.
- Quality-of-life crime decreased by 52%.

Public Safety and Immigration – Existing Conditions

Perceptions of Safety

- In the Pilsen Quality-of-Life Community Survey, 19.7% of respondents living in Pilsen said the level of crime in Pilsen was very high, 33.3% said high, 34.2% said moderate, 12% said low, and .9% said very low.

How would you rate the level of crime in your neighborhood? (respondents living in Pilsen)		
Level	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Very high	23	19.7%
High	39	33.3%
Moderate	40	34.2%
Low	14	12.0%
Very low	1	0.9%
Total	117	100.0%

Data Source: Great Cities Institute Quality-of-Life Survey

How safe do you feel walking alone after dark in your neighborhood? (respondents living in Pilsen)

Level	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Very safe	3	2.6%
Safe	14	12.0%
Somewhat safe	39	33.3%
A little safe	36	30.8%
Not at all safe	25	21.4%
Total	117	100.0%

Data Source: Great Cities Institute Quality-of-Life Survey

Perceptions of Safety

- In the Pilsen Quality-of-Life Survey, 2.6% of respondents living in Pilsen stated they felt very safe walking alone after dark, 12% felt safe, 33.3% felt somewhat safe, 30.8% felt a little safe, and 21.4% felt not at all safe.

Public Safety and Immigration – Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Rebrand the Pilsen Family Task Force as the Public Safety Task Force

For over 10 years, the Pilsen Family Task Force (PFTF) has provided a variety of quality services, programs, and community coordination to young people and families in Pilsen. Through analyzing the PFTF and other Pilsen task forces, this plan recommends that the PFTF rebrand itself as a new Pilsen Public Safety Task Force.

The work done by the PFTF has evolved over time to center predominantly on promoting public safety through after-school and summer programming, and providing services such as drug counseling, gang intervention, and education and job-training enrollment. Rebranding the task force brings an increased focus to the work previously undertaken by the PFTF and highlights the importance of promoting safety in the community.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Create and build on safe spaces that promote peace and nonviolence

Since 1999, the Resurrection Basketball League (RBL) continues to provide safe spaces and activities for youth. Taking place on blocks that are known to have gang activity or have had recent instances of violence, RBL promotes active use of these areas with sports and other youth-centered activities and gives neighbors a feeling that the block belongs in the hands of the community while also connecting neighbors. Additionally, these events are a great opportunity for community-based organizations and service providers to engage with youth and families.

As part of TRP's Increase the Peace initiative, additional events such as peace marches on blocks that have recently been the location of violence have engaged young people, united neighbors and spread a collective message to

stop violence. Expanding RBL, Increase the Peace, and other similar types of successful events, and bringing additional partners and task forces on board the projects and out to events in order to engage with youth and their families, will increase the accomplishments of these already successful programs and events.



Public Safety and Immigration – Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 3:

Provide community education on immigration and public safety issues

Recent community concerns around immigration have created a need for community education on individuals' rights, updates about policy and immigration enforcement, and connections to specific services that can help individuals and families in need. Close monitoring of the national and local immigration policy landscape is needed to determine the level of services required in the community.

The PFTF identified a need for additional community education around sexual assault, domestic violence, gang awareness, and nonviolence trainings that build on the work already being done in the community through expanded outreach and program capacity. Although service providers have been able to increase awareness and knowledge around these issues, ongoing and continued education is necessary so that all individuals and families who need support are able to access these essential resources. Close collaboration and partnership with the Pilsen Health Task Force and the Pilsen Education Task Force will expand outreach potential and access to behavioral health services in the community.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

Provide individual legal and care services

In addition to education about public safety issues, direct services are needed to assist the individuals and families with immigration legal-service needs, survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, gang-involved individuals, and individuals with substance use disorders. A variety of organizations provide such services, but the community need as identified by the PFTF exceeds the current service levels and many community members are not aware of all the services that do exist.

Providing targeted outreach to vulnerable and hard-to-reach individuals will increase the effectiveness and reach of valuable community services. Information sharing through the collaborative efforts of the new Public Safety Task Force can increase the ability to identify and reach the most vulnerable populations in need of services. Similar to the recommendation above, close collaboration with other task forces will expand outreach potential and access to additional services in the community.



Community Coordination

Community Coordination

We envision a community where Pilsen residents' social and emotional needs are met through culturally sensitive, ample, and coordinated community resources.

Community Coordination

Pilsen is a community with more than 79 community organizations that provide valuable resources in the areas of arts, education, schools, faith, children and youth services, housing, immigrant services, health, community development, public safety, sports, and more. With so many programs offered in the community, it is a challenge for residents to navigate all the organizations and the numerous programs they provide.

During the quality-of-life planning process, residents and community-based organization representatives and each quality-of-life planning working group (Housing, Jobs and the Economy, Health, Education and Youth, Arts and Culture, and Public Safety and Immigration) expressed the need for more coordinated resources. Often parents would mention that they did not have a place to send their child after school only to learn that there was an after-school program with open slots looking for children. The coordination of community resources will allow for higher utilization of available programs and services in the community that provide the supports many individuals and families need to maintain a high quality of life.

At the time of the plan's creation, the Chicago Voz (formerly Pilsen Portal) website provided valuable information about Pilsen, including news stories, highlights of community businesses and individuals, photos and videos of the community, an events page, documentation of murals, a catalog of services in the community, and listing of community stores. Building on the valuable information that Chicago Voz provided to create a comprehensive community resource guide will enhance the ability of community residents to access businesses and services and will also assist service providers and businesses in accessing their customers.



Community Coordination – Existing Conditions

Former Community Resource Guides

- Chicago Voz (formerly Pilsen Portal) was an extensive community resource guide for Pilsen.
- The Pilsen Portal was created as a result of the 2006 Pilsen Quality-of-Life Plan



Coordination of Services

- The need for increased coordination of services was mentioned as a priority during the public community visioning meeting.
- Each quality-of-life planning working group (Housing, Jobs and the Economy, Health, Education and Youth, Arts and Culture, and Public Safety and Immigration) expressed the need for more coordinated services in their respective areas.

Community Coordination – Existing Conditions

Community Service Providers Located in Pilsen



Data Source: 2015 Non-Profit Registration

Organization	Label	Organization	Label	Organization	Label
ABC-Pilsen	1	Goal Corp Grupo Oficial De Arbitros Latinos	27	National Museum of Mexican Art	54
Alderman Danny Solis	2	Greater Pilsen Economic Development Association NFP	28	National Partnership for New Americans	55
Alivio Medical Center INC	3	Green Star Movement NFP	29	New Life Covenant Pilsen Ministry	56
America Scores Chicago	4	Habitat for Humanity International INC	30	New Life-Knew Solutions	57
Artists Cooperative Residency and Exhibitions Project	5	Healthcare Alternative Systems	31	Pilsen Alliance	58
Bethel Assembly of God	6	Healthy Hood	32	Pilsen Community Market	59
BLUE1647 NFP	7	Heart of Chicago Association	33	Pilsen Little Village Community Mental Health Center INC	60
Centro Sin Fronteras Community Services Network	8	Helen Miller-SEIU Member Education and Training Center	34	Pilsen Montessori School INC	61
Changing Worlds	9	High Concept Laboratories NFP	35	Pilsen Neighbors Community Council	62
Chicago Art Department	10	Holy David Missionary Baptist Church	36	Pilsen Youth Athletic Association	63
Chicago Inventors Organization	11	Home of the Child El Hogar Del Nino	37	Poder Learning Center	64
Chicago Mariachi Project	12	Iglesia Bautista Berea	38	Quiroga Foundation	65
Chicago Nowruz Parade Corporation	13	Ignatian Spirituality Project	39	Recovery on Water INC	66
Chicago Public Art Group	14	Immanuel Baptist Church	40	Red Mexicana de Organizaciones y Lideres Migrantes	67
Chile Link INC	15	Instituto for Latino Progress	41	Resurrection Project	68
Clinard dance Theatre	16	Instituto Health Sciences Career Academy	42	Saint Matthew Lutheran Church	69
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School	17	Instituto Justice and Leadership Academies	43	Salud Latino-Latino Health	70
David Bolland Foundation	18	Jane Addams High School	44	San Jose Obrero Mission	71
Dominicans Province of St. Albert	19	KIPP Chicago	45	Spanish Coalition for Housing	72
Eighteenth Street Development Corporation	20	KIPP Chicago Schools	46	St Plus V Church & School	73
El Paseo Community Garden	21	Latin Women in Action	47	Togolese Nurses Association-Illinois	74
El Valor Corporation	22	Latino Union INC	48	United Network for Immigrants and Refugees Rights	75
Federación De Clubes Michoacáños En Illinois	23	Lincoln United Methodist Church	49	Unity Parenting and Counseling INC	76
Frida Kahlo Community Organization	24	Mariamatters Foundation	50	URI-EICHEN Gallery	77
Gads Hill Center	25	Museum of Universal Self-Expression INC	51	William and Rosemary Pacella Family Foundation INC	78
Gamaliel of Metro Chicago	26	National Able Network	52	Pilsen Wellness Center	79
		National Alliance of Latin American & Caribbean Communities	53		

Community Coordination – Strategy

STRATEGY 1

Develop a comprehensive community resource guide

The creation of a comprehensive community resource guide will require the establishment of a new committee to guide the process with representation across community planning areas. Utilizing the valuable resources and content already available and other community resource guides and directories, and identifying all the existing and available community resources, will be a large task requiring the cooperation of numerous community-based organizations over a long period of time to maintain and update information.

The resource guide may take many forms, including an online format, a paper format that can be distributed by service providers, and the use of innovative technology such as phone apps. The various forms, each with different audiences, will allow for the most widespread distribution of community resource information. Advertising the various forms of the guide with a marketing campaign around it will encourage its use by residents, and will also encourage businesses and service providers to include their most current information in the guide.



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Intersection of Blue Island Avenue and 18th Street, 1923. Chicago Daily News negatives collection, Chicago History Museum. Image ID DN-0075694. Copyright © Chicago Historical Society, published on or before 2015, all rights reserved.

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Health: Images courtesy of Micaela Bernal (Page 27), El Paseo Community Garden (page 28 top), GCI (page 28 bottom), Pilsen Community Academy (page 30).

Education and Youth: Images courtesy of Gads Hill Center (page 33 and 34). Juarez Community Academy, Orozco Fine Arts + Sciences Elementary, Cooper Duel Language Academy, Instituto Health Sciences Career Academy, Cristo Rey Jesuit high School, Walsh Elementary (page 37).

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Appendix

Appendix A: Ideas from Community Visioning Meeting

Community Resources

Regular resource fairs
Community centers for all ages
Directory of services in Pilsen
Athletic facility
LGBTQIA center
Community center
More information for community residents
Save the St. Adalbert church towers
Parks, schools, and community/social service organizations have adequate funding so that they are stabilized
Metered parking (many people take two spaces)
A learning center for the community
LGBT center/program
Destigmatization to seeking social services
Social Services coordination
A new library with a second floor
More coordination of social services
That community organizations be more responsible to what is relevant to the community
Community accessible centers
Accessible community center - job skill and artisanal Gyms
Community center
Community center

Economic Development

Vocational training - building trades for youth in carpentry, plumbing, electricity, and health sciences
Benefit Agreement for the community. Be part of the development of our community
No to large businesses
For there to be more Job resources
Legal advice for small business owners
No displacement of small businesses for luxury ones
One strong chamber of commerce
Industrial corridor employs mostly Pilsen residents
Employ people of the community - build with people from our community
No to a power plant
Raise the minimum wage

Better salaries
Diversity in employment
There should be no discrimination
No discrimination
Bring jobs to the community
Jobs - Diverse
Trade school to reduce recidivism
Reuse power plant
Dissolve TIFs and reinvest money into community
Legal help/advice small business owners
Local business - development of local business
Local businesses employing youth and seniors from the community
New local economic plan
Better paying jobs
No large business in the community
That there more sources of work

Arts/Culture Entertainment

More mariachi programs in our schools - Programs like the Chicago Mariachi project
Expand historic preservation
Historic Districts
Pilsen is the cultural center for the Mexican community
Arts programming
Systemic support for Pilsen's creative citizens - their art is our story
Cultural zocalo on Blue Island/ 18th landmark
Pilsen youth mariachis are national champions
Continuation of cultural art programs
Art and Culture as point of public gathering (not entertainment).
Culture the way Dia De los Muertos was at the museum in 2015.
Cultural center that involves the community with activities, such as art, dance
Culturally competent artistically focused restaurant district
Art murals
Preserving art within our community
Pilsen Artist should collaborate to create an artistic Center

Art in restaurants
Mural Art
More art and music offered

Public Safety

Better community policing
Community/Police interaction
Police building trust with those in the community (workshops, etc.)
Safe communities
Police cameras in problem blocks
Pilsen is one of the safest neighborhoods in Chicago
Police presence especially around school
Police present at schools and parks
Better, faster police response
No gang violence in the community - safe neighborhood
Safety
Community involvement in public safety
Peace
More safety and vigilance
I believe most of the CPD is honest but it seems their hands are tied. Profiling can be a double - edged sword
More community policing
Better interaction with the police
Violence reduccion
Stop violence and more security
Security Cameras
Police outside of our schools and parks
I believe that the majority of the police officers are honest, but their hands are tight. Racial Profiling is a double adge sword
Police presence
More police

Beautification

Green planters on street corners where cars don't park
More trees
Bridge community involvement to citizens - change with beautification of community
Sidewalk benches

Appendix A: Ideas from Community Visioning Meeting

Beautification cont.

I see much concrete being poured, dead sidewalks,
 how about more trees
 More greenery/Plants on the corners of the streets
 Green areas in Pilsen
 I see more concrete than trees
 More plants on the corners and streets

Parks/Recreation

Repurpose coal factory properties into park community
 center
 Parks
 Additional links or connectivity to the proposed “Paseo
 Trail”
 Better maintenance for existing community buildings
 and spaces (Dvorak, Casa Aztlan)
 More green space (community garden)
 Parks Improvements
 Parks - Quality of facilities and quality programs
 Designated dog park
 Park district coordination and services
 Repair and maintain existing parks
 More of a connection with “El Paseo”
 Harrison Park - renovated parks
 Water taxi - river walk
 More green spaces
 Open the water front to river in Pilsen
 Clear the empty lots for a small park with a fountain
 A second community garden for planting vegetables
 and fruit trees
 Update our park and new parks
 cleaning after dogs
 Emphasis on community gardens/green space
 Bicycle lanes
 parks and school funding
 Prepare and maintain community parks
 More greenspace

Community Building

Family friendly community
 Elected officials are responsive to community

Politically active/voting community
 Politicians responsive to needs of Pilsen
 Community involved in Policy - % money for art, %
 affordable housing
 Community Power decision making
 Hold organizations to be accountable to what is
 relevant to the community
 Intentional collaboration between arts and non-arts
 organizations and institutions to utilize the arts to
 address systemic barriers/issues
 Keep public officials and leaders accountable
 Healthy communities of faith
 New community council
 high voter turnout in primaries/general elections
 Healthy church communities
 Keep Pilsen Mexican - Why is Pilsen gerrymandered
 Diverse community ethnically, racially, income, socially
 See results from this meeting - follow up on goals
 Residents reclaiming Pilsen
 That community organizations be more responsible to
 what is relevant to the community
 Why is this plan different from the plan in 2016?
 The Quality of life plan has been a failure. Pilsen
 is becoming too expensive, the school have
 not improved. Today the same organizations
 are making a new plan. Why are there only 4
 organizations?
 Make homeowners aware about the importance of
 conserving our culture

Health

Quality health facilities - Diverse income access
 Community mental health clinic
 Breastfeeding friendly community
 Public mental health clinic or at least community
 funded
 More locations where we are taught to lead healthy
 lifestyles
 More resources for diabetes and obesity classes for
 children
 More resources to fight infant obesity and places where
 they teach children what they should eat to be
 healthy

Education

Schools that receive equal funding and opportunities
 for all of our students
 All schools are at capacity
 True community schools (no charters) with resources,
 diverse staff, implementation of culturally relevant
 classes
 Teachers are not parents
 Develop schools with high quality dual language
 programs
 Quality schools - academically, physical plants
 More arts and culture offered in the schools
 All Pilsen residents enroll their children in Pilsen
 schools! Get involved in your neighborhood schools
 Schools with equitable resources and appropriate
 infrastructure
 Sustainable community programs for pre-k - 12
 students around the arts, health and nutrition,
 athletics, and job training
 Non-violence education
 That all of the school have full time music and arts staff
 Graduation (High school and college) rates are at all
 time high
 Language programs at all schools so our students are
 bilingual/trilingual
 Juarez is a top 10 school in Illinois
 Elected officials advocate for resources and programs
 for Pilsen schools
 Early childhood education
 Quality, affordable child care
 Every school has full-time music and arts teachers on
 staff
 More art and music offered at schools preservation
 and activation of Mexican culture through the arts
 (murals, cultural celebrations, etc.)
 Sustainable community schools
 More funding for public schools
 Better our schools in many aspects
 parks and school funding
 funding for after school programs

Appendix A: Ideas from Community Visioning Meeting

Education cont.

True community schools, resources, diversity, the implementation of an inclusive curriculum
 More after-school programs
 That our children have the right to an education without reservations
 That the schools, especially Cooper, are able to have, or have again, their art, computer, and library classes
 More afterschool programs about photography, developing, graffiti that are free or low cost.
 Afterschool programs for youth - sports
 Civic education

Housing

Affordable housing
 Stop predatory landlords or real-estate
 More affordable housing that is based on the Pilsen median income
 Subsidized local home ownership
 Renovate unused buildings for business/housing
 Affordable housing
 Rent control
 Education on housing co-ops
 Stop rent and property taxes from continuing to increase
 Pilsen is diverse and affordable
 Community benefits agreement to be implanted with every developer interested in Pilsen and/or Little Village
 More housing that accommodates multi-member families
 Stick to the mixed income housing percentage or raise the percentage for low-income residents in apartment buildings
 Affordable housing
 Housing that is accessible
 Affordable housing - homes not apartments for families
 New tax on zoning changes
 Keep the property taxes at level that is reasonable
 Rent caps
 Solution to slow gentrification so that displacement is stopped/minimized

Lower taxes - stop increasing taxes for housing. Do not over assess property taxes or freeze
 Property tax freeze
 Hold alderman accountable, what ordinances need to be developed, rent control, balancing development and community
 Help me finance fixing my roof
 Affordable housing renting vs. home ownership - barriers of entry
 Can CHA invest in more affordable housing for Pilsen?
 There is a shortage of affordable housing in our community
 Regarding Pilsen paseo, are there going to be provisions to freeze taxes around their path so homeowners don't lose their homes?
 Community research on gentrification, rent levels, affordability and building quality
 Educate the community on how to lower their taxes
 Lower property taxes for low income people
 Someone help me lower my taxes
 Help with fixing my roof
 stop gentrification
 Stop property taxes now
 Affordable housing
 An affordable cost of living for the residents
 Reduce taxes
 If taxes go much higher then that is the last nail in the coffin for me; someone help me
 Commit 75% of apartments to be affordable
 More assistance with affordable housing based on the median income of the residents of Pilsen
 That the properties of Pilsen not be overvalued because afterwards many people lose out for not having the proper value
 Stop the increase in taxes and housing prices that have already increased
 Offer opportunities to get houses with low or reasonable prices to prevent families from moving out, with them their children and with them the money for our schools

The apartments offered by the Resurrection Project are still very expensive
 Affordable housing and more homeownership

Youth Programs

Creative youth development in-school and out of school
 More after school programs
 More investment on youth programs
 Youth paid internships to address gang violence
 Engagement of community youth in beautification projects, including green space
 Youth employment/paid internships geared towards addressing gang violence. Also, geared towards youth involved in gangs, felons and those released from juvenile detention
 I must believe most young people are good, rowdy but good
 Summer jobs for youth
 youth and parent programming
 Enhance after school activities for our Pilsen CPS
 Funding (consistent, increasing) for youth programs
 Funding for after-school programs, especially in the arts, to help youth gain skills and confidence and have alternatives to gangs and criminal activity
 At risk youth rehabilitation center
 Activities for our youth
 Vocational training for our youth
 Sustainable community programs for youth job training
 More art programs for the youth
 I believe that the majority of the youth are good
 Job training for youth
 Community programs that support academic, creative and cultural development of our youth

Appendix A: Ideas from Community Visioning Meeting

Government Services/Maintenance/ Transportation

Defined parking spaces
Dog waste pickup
Increased garbage pickup
Recycle services and better city services
Too many pay car meters
Return CTA 24 hours on 18th street
Put benches at all bus stops
Get rid of no parking signs - there's way too many.
Snow removal and street cleaning
Keeping Pilsen clean
No meters on streets
Rat abatement
Less residential parking
More bike lanes
More street cleaning
Pick up dog poop
Clean alleys, parks, school, sidewalks, etc.
City garbage pick-up
Green renewable energy
Maintain Pilsen clean
cleaning of snow and streets
rats
Check to make sure handicapped parking is needed
Less lighting pollution - LED lights
Clean neighborhoods and repaired streets, alleys, and
sidewalks
Clean streets
Cleaning the street in the winter
Alderman services need to service the public
Clean alleys, parks,
Better trash collection
Clean up after dogs
Less garbage and contamination
More shelters at bus stops
More bike lanes
Attention of the politicians
Have public officials and leaders responsible for their
actions



