

Department of Community Development



You are here: [Home](#) > [Your Government](#) > [City Departments](#) > [Community Development](#) > Restaurants on the menu for Bronzeville site

[Department Home](#)

[About DCD](#)

[Commissions & Agendas](#)

[Foreclosure Information](#)

[News Archives](#)

[Programs & Services](#)

[Real Estate for Sale](#)

[TIF Information](#)



For Immediate Release
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Restaurants on the menu for Bronzeville site

Community Development Commission gives go-ahead for "Bronzeville Cooking" proposal

The City of Chicago is one step closer to satisfying Bronzeville's appetite for fresh produce, new restaurants and more than 100 new jobs. Thanks to steps taken today by the City's Community Development Commission (CDC), Bronzeville could soon become home to the "Bronzeville Cooking." This development will serve as a culinary incubator for four restaurants and one fresh produce provider. The two-phase development on the north side of 51st Street between Prairie and Calumet Avenues will occupy a 100-year old retail building, adjacent to the CTA Green Line 51st Street stop, and will also include office space to support the culinary venues and 16,000 square feet of parking.

"We are excited about this project, as it addresses two key issues in Bronzeville: the need for quality food and jobs," said Acting Department of Community Development Commissioner Chris Raguso. "Bronzeville Cooking is a unique concept that fosters these new eateries and celebrates the culinary history of people of African descent, all conveniently located near a CTA Elevated Train stop."

Urban Juncture, a Bronzeville-based corporation owned by Bernard Loyd, is the developer. Currently, the development's plans include the following restaurants: Cecelia's Southern Breakfast; Majani310 (a vegan restaurant); Bronzeville Fresh Produce; The Jerk Shack (specializing in Jamaican jerk chicken); and Bronzeville Smokehouse and Grill.

The plans include the sale of one City-owned parcel on Calumet Avenue for \$10,000, in order to extend the parking area and TIF assistance in the amount of \$3 million from the 47th/King Drive TIF. There will be a lump sum payment of \$1 million and a note in an equal amount upon completion of Phase I. Upon completion of Phase II, a lump sum payment of \$500,000 will be made with another note issued of equal amount at that time. The development will create more than 130 permanent full time jobs.

The CDC today recommended that the City Council grant the City's Department of Community Development (CDC) approval to enter into a negotiated sale with Urban Juncture Development, Inc. (UJD), for the disposition of property located at 5044-48 Calumet Avenue, and to request alternative proposals and to approve the sale of the property to UJD if no responsive alternative proposals are received. The Commission also recommended that Council give DCD the authority to negotiate a redevelopment agreement with UJD for redevelopment of City property and developer-owned property at 300-314 and 320 E. 51st Street, and to recommend to Council designation of UJD as the developer if no responsive alternative proposals are received.

