

For more information, contact:
Bernard Loyd at 773 285 5000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES CUISINE OF THE DIASPORA TIF GRANT

Chicago (May 12, 2010) - Urban Juncture, Inc. is pleased to announce that the Chicago City Council has passed an ordinance authorizing the City to provide \$3 million in Tax Increment Financing funds to support the Cuisine of the Diaspora project. The vote was taken today at the Council's May meeting.

The Cuisine of the Diaspora project is a \$9 million initiative that will create a culinary destination and incubator featuring four distinctive restaurants and a produce market. These venues, each of which celebrates a unique element of black cuisine, will be located in a 100-year-old building at 300-314 East 51st Street in the heart of the historic Bronzeville community, which will be rehabilitated to meet a LEED Gold standard. Urban Juncture is partnering with five teams of local restaurateurs, chefs, and business people to develop and operate the venues, which will be marketed collectively under the *Bronzeville Cookin*[™] umbrella. Over 140 jobs will be created.

The TIF funds will also be used to support development of a parking area at 320 East 51st Street which, together with the adjacent CTA Green Line station, will provide convenient access for community residents and visitors alike.

Urban Juncture and our partners offer sincere thanks to Alderman Pat Dowell (3rd) for her sponsorship of the project, to the members of the City Council for their support, and to the staff of the City's Department of Community Development for their hard work in guiding us through the TIF process.

The first venues are expected to open in Spring 2011.

Additional information about Cuisine of the Diaspora/*Bronzeville Cookin*[™] is available at www.urban-juncture.com.

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