



**One Howard Street Steering Committee
Meeting #1 Summary
March 8, 2023, 10-11:30am**

Attendance:

- Sal Becovic, Becovic Properties
- David Block, Evergreen/CJE SeniorLife
- Sheila Williams, Gale Elementary School
- Ann Hinterman, Family Matters
- India Mussell-McKay, Palmhouse + Peckish Pig
- Elizabeth Nachtwey, Legacy Barber College
- Lenice Levy, Good to Go
- David Brown, Harrington Brown
- Susan Lloyd, Evanston 8th Ward Resident
- Cindy Plante, RPBA
- Paul Zalmezak, City of Evanston
- Katie Boden, City of Evanston
- Kyle Ryan, Office of 49th Ward Alderwoman Maria Hadden
- Katharyn Hurd, City of Chicago DPD
- Brett Weidl, MKSK
- Courtney Kashima, MUSE Community + Design
- Ally Brisbin, MUSE Community + Design

Meeting Agenda

1. Project team introductions
2. Steering Committee introductions/icebreaker
3. Project Overview
4. Steering Committee Roles and Responsibilities
5. Engagement Plan review
6. Closing and Next Steps

Meeting Summary

Recent and ongoing community processes and initiatives:

- North of Howard Together is a “super group” of organizations based in Rogers Park north of Howard. The group meets regularly and is planning a cleanup event and a Juneteenth event
- RPBA’s Maker Studio is closing in March, there will be a closing event at the end of the month. There is a new tenant for the space.
- Evanston has contracted with Teska Associates to conduct an SSA feasibility study for the north side of Howard, west to Asbury.
- Evanston Thrives Retail Action Plan draft will be published later this month.
- Recommendation to address longstanding concerns and identify visible and early wins for the One Howard Street process. Ensure recommendations are within the control of RPBA, City of Chicago, City of Evanston to execute.
- CTA Red Purple Modernization (RPM) Next Phases Study is taking place. There is a public meeting next week.

Breaking down the corridor into nodes and hubs - observations from committee members:

- The corridor experience is inconsistent. Blocks that are active on the Evanston side are less active on the Chicago side, and vice versa. There is not a lot of foot traffic on Howard. The street does not lend itself to strolling and shopping - people go to a specific destination and then move on their way.
- Restaurants on the western end of the corridor are sit-down friendly, while restaurants closer to and east of the CTA tracks are more counter service, quick in-and-out. There is less landscaping and greenery on the eastern end of the corridor than the western end, giving a different view to those who are dining in a restaurant and looking out the window.
- Parking meters and addresses are inconsistent between Chicago and Evanston. This leads to confusion for visitors about which parking app to use, and sometimes causes issues with Uber/Lyft drop-offs.

What’s getting in the way of Howard’s potential?

- There hasn’t been a consistent voice for the corridor. This project and others will help with this issue.
- There is a negative public perception about Howard Street, particularly east of the CTA tracks. There is an idea that people who hang out outside don’t belong there. This process should recognize that they are our neighbors as well.

What should we consider when working together?

- Assume positive intent, and approach issues from a solution-focused perspective.
- Use discernment when sharing information outside of this group.

- Keep the goal in mind: this is about both sides of the street, the entire length of the corridor.
- Look for opportunities to include restorative justice principles in the process and plan recommendations.