

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR CHARACTER AND DIVERSITY



CHICAGO LANDMARK DISTRICT

Ukrainian Village



This well-preserved collection of workers cottages, single-family houses, Chicago-style flat buildings, and small apartments form a distinctive residential streetscape that tells the story of German, Polish, and, ultimately, Ukrainian immigrants who settled in the area throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

COMMISSION ON CHICAGO LANDMARKS
City of Chicago • Richard M. Daley, Mayor
www.cityofchicago.org/Landmarks



Photo Credit: Eric Formato

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR CHARACTER AND DIVERSITY

West Town is a vibrant community, rich with history and the artistic character of diverse neighborhoods like Ukrainian Village and East Humboldt Park. As our neighborhoods develop, so too should our commitment to preserving the very things that make West Town special: its people, character, and diversity.

Rapid development threatens to displace our neighbors and diminish the allure of our community and historic buildings. However, when we support local businesses, artists, community organizations, as well as recruit and educate small business owners, we can continue to reap the rewards of increased development. Together we can preserve West Town's identity and make sure our neighbors share these opportunities equally and more equitably.

RETAINING CHARACTER AND DIVERSITY

(PARTNERSHIPS: LOCAL ART GALLERIES, LOCAL ARTISTS, ENTERTAINMENT VENUES, CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, AND CREATIVE BUSINESSES)

Our first and most important recommendation is to retain ethnic heritage, culture, and businesses by supporting independently owned and operated businesses, as well as reinforcing the marketing of West Town's ethnic subcultures.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Support local family-owned ethnic businesses.
- Use social media to promote our culturally diverse community area.



WHAT WE CAN DO

- Produce West Town Chamber and West Town SSA programming materials in various languages.
- Celebrate heritage by highlighting cultural events in monthly newsletters and on social media.
- Host the Community Leader's Summit annually to bring together all community groups.
- Gather and record quarterly data detailing our progress in order to produce an annual report.
- Strengthen existing partnerships and foster new relationships with our diverse community groups and leaders.

PROMOTING THE WEST TOWN BRAND

(PARTNERSHIPS: LOCAL BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS)

Our second recommendation is to promote the branding efforts carried out by the Chamber to further highlight the West Town Community Area's unique neighborhoods.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Promote the West Town brand on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat, by using our hashtags and handles.
- Celebrate culturally significant holiday events in the district.

WHAT WE CAN DO

- Continue to document the history of the West Town Community Area.
- Help garner media coverage for culturally diverse initiatives in the neighborhood.





Photo Source: Eckhart Park Facebook Page

SPACES FOR SOCIALIZING, PLACES FOR COMMUNITY

(PARTNERSHIPS: COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS, ALDERMANIC OFFICES, AND THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT)

Our third recommendation is to increase the amount of physical gathering spaces for socializing and allow for pedestrians to linger longer on our commercial corridors. A key component of a vibrant community is allowing multiple opportunities for people to congregate, talk, and build relationships.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Create and rally around proposals for the creation of dog parks, farmers markets, people spots, and other public spaces.
- Utilize new and existing public spaces.
- Create, visit, and participate in online community group pages.
- Volunteering at local organizations is a great way to get involved and give back.

WHAT WE CAN DO

- Advocate for the creation of dog parks, farmers markets, people spots, and other pedestrian-friendly spaces.
- Leverage and promote existing festivals and local ethnic cultural events.
- Continue outreach for further community engagement and for larger media representation.
- Advocate for more physical spaces in which community organizations can gather.
- Catalog, monitor, and share information amongst community groups.
- Actively recruit the membership of ethnically diverse and women-owned businesses.



PRESERVING OUR HISTORY

(PARTNERSHIPS: CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, HISTORIC CENTERS AND MUSEUMS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS, AND ALDERMANIC OFFICES)

Our fourth recommendation is to encourage the preservation of our history by protecting historic buildings and local landmarks.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Identify historic buildings and advocate for their place in our communities.
- Utilize existing historic preservation programs to recoup expenses from rehabilitating older properties.

WHAT WE CAN DO

- Offer information on historic preservation programs available from nonprofit organizations, city, state, and federal programming.
- Advocate for design guidelines that ensure new developments complement our historic buildings.
- Establish a rebate program for assisting with historic preservation projects.
- Promote our existing Facade Improvement Rebate Program.
 - *Up to 50% of rehabilitation costs, for a maximum value of \$15,000*

WHAT THEY CAN DO

- Continue offering financial assistance to property owners interested in protecting historic properties.
- Expand facade rehabilitation funding and historic preservation incentives on commercial corridors to reinvigorate existing structures, instead of demolishing the buildings that give West Town its character.

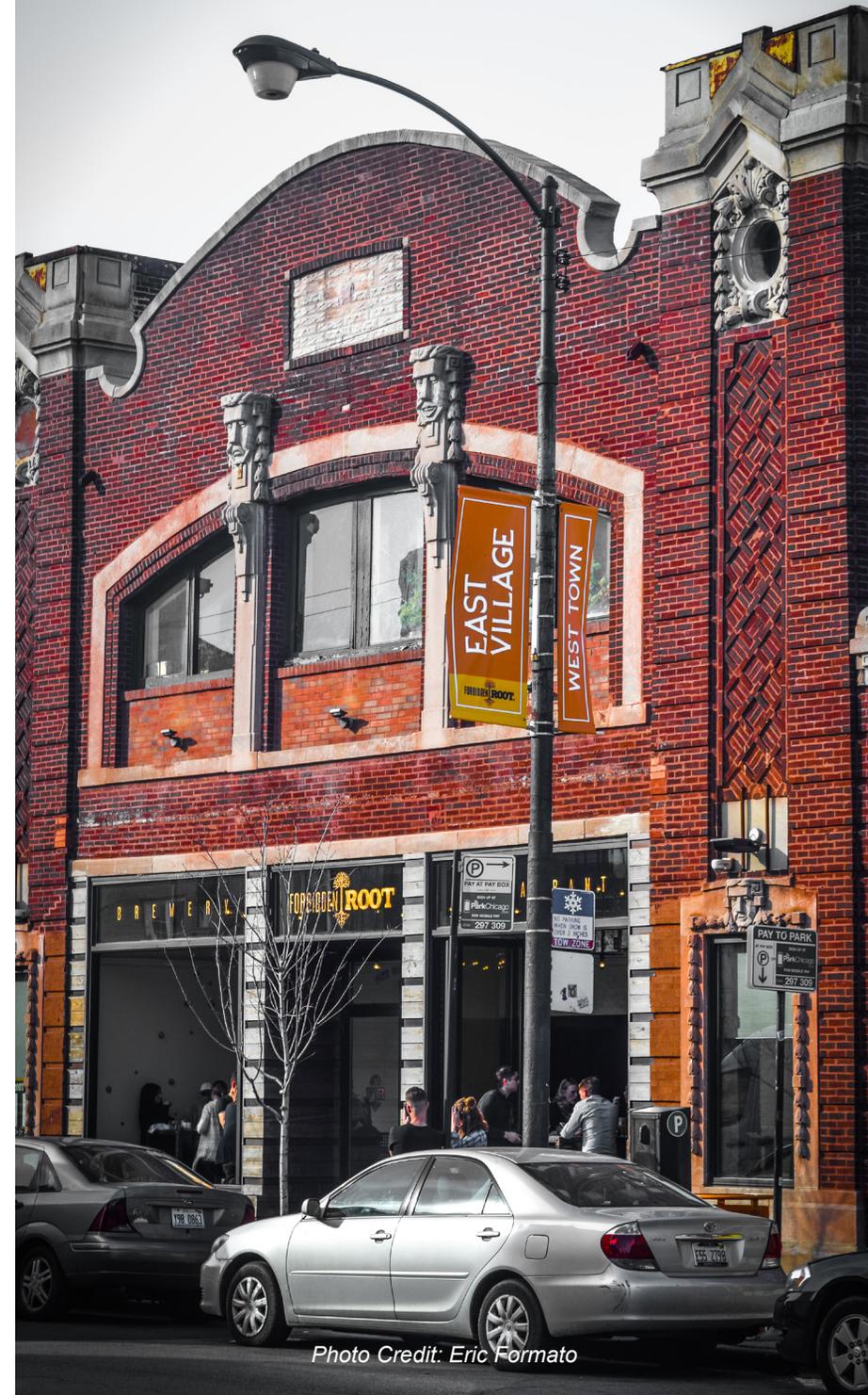




Photo Credit: Eric Formato



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The More You Know

Preserving the character of our neighborhoods begins with protecting our historic buildings. There are multiple programs available for rehabilitating residential and commercial buildings. For residential property owners, programs include a 12-year property tax freeze, one-time charitable federal income deduction, forgivable loans for rehabilitating greystones, and a 20% federal rehabilitation income tax credit. For non-residential properties, historic preservation incentives include a one-time charitable federal income tax donation, building permit fee waivers, a 10-year property tax reduction, rebates for facade rehabilitation projects, as well as 20% and 10% federal rehabilitation income tax credits. Property owners can also combine historic preservation incentives with sustainability incentives to protect historic buildings while also protecting the environment.



