

Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

Chapter 7: Vision Statement

Chapter 8: Impact Assessment

Draft

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Today, the Commission connects some, but not all, of the organizations that seek to understand and interpret the history of the Black Metropolis, those seeking to improve quality of life in the community, and those looking to promote the heritage area to visitors and prospective investors. The ultimate hope is that a coordinating entity will ensure that future developments in area are informed by the community's rich history and cultural legacy. A coordinating entity will also assist in preserving and enhancing the historical sites, neighborhoods, and cultural artifacts of Chicago's historic Black Belt, by teaching the area's history and reinforce the accomplishments of Chicago's African-American residents to all Americans. Thus the proposed NHA will serve as a living "show and tell" vehicle for the area's unique history and culture.

The coordinating entity's mission must be to:

"work with all levels of government, the private sector, and residents of the Black Metropolis to conserve the area's heritage while continuing to pursue compatible economic development opportunities; while assisting local organizations, businesses, institutions, and citizens in identifying, preserving, interpreting, and developing the historical, cultural, scenic, and natural resources of the Black Metropolis for the educational and inspirational benefit of current and future generations"

A part of the mission, the proposed local coordinating entity will be able to identify, interpret, preserve, develop, and commemorate the historical, cultural, economic, and political achievements of Chicago's African-American settlers, and the unique, economically independent community that they formed, their place in the Great Migration and national movements for racial equality; to present the Great Migration story and the struggles borne by African-Americans against discrimination; and to preserve the historic buildings, neighborhoods, and cultural artifacts of the Black Metropolis.

In accordance to the above mission statement, the community's vision is to create:

"A future where community inspired actions and a shared vision will strengthen the heritage area's natural, historic and cultural resources as well as the community fabric; instilling pride in its resources and reinforcing its identity."

The future Black Metropolis must be a place where the community understands the value of preservation and is fully committed to continued preservation and the interpretation of cultural heritage future generations. To fulfill this charge, the coordinating entity will collaborate with public, private and not-for-profit partners to improve greater Bronzeville's quality of life and economic vitality. NHA designation will help to establish partnerships and the infrastructure necessary to market Bronzeville to visitors, stimulate economic viability, and contribute to the quality and character of life for residents.



Chapter 8: Impact Assessment

This study does not seek to assess the impact of construction or other physical action as it does not commit the local coordinating entity to site-specific strategies or actions intended to result in physical changes.

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