

# Agency begins planning 2040

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Legendary City Planner Daniel Burnham admonished his peers and future generations to make no little plans as they have no magic to stir men's blood.

Next year Chicago celebrates the 100th anniversary of Burnham's visionary "Plan of Chicago" and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is helping to mark the occasion by asking residents of the seven-county area to imagine what the region will look like in 2040.

CMAP is leading the "Go to 2040" campaign in partnership with the Chicago Community Trust to develop a regional plan to accommodate the estimated 2.8 million new residents and 1.8 million new jobs that will crowd the Chicago-area in the next three decades. The plan will attempt to identify and prioritize the region's most critical issues and guide implementation of the solutions through 2040.

"The way region takes shape around us is directly related to planning or lack of planning," said Tom Garritano, communications director for CMAP. "(Today's) problems exist because we didn't have enough planning in the past."

CMAP is developing a regional vision — the first step toward completing the "Go to 2040" plan — that it hopes will describe the future of metropolitan Chicago. Sometime in the middle of next year, residents across the region will have the chance to

comment on several different scenarios for accommodating growth to best prepare the region to compete in the global marketplace. By 2010 the "Go To 2040" plan will be finalized and its implementation will begin.

Public involvement in the project is a crucial component in the plan's development, Garritano said. CMAP's Web site for the project, [www.goto2040.org](http://www.goto2040.org), offers the public an opportunity to give input to the planning process above and beyond next year's workshops. CMAP has even reached out to Chicago-area children with a "Bold Ideas" contest. Students from the elementary to the high school level in both the city and suburbs were challenged to imagine what life would look like in 2040.

The high school students proposed some interesting ideas, Garritano said, while elementary students were a little less practical.

"Younger kids tend to latch on to futuristic visions," he said. "We're interested in their ideas, though that doesn't mean we'll all be riding around on rocket-powered skateboards."

But dreaming up the future, making big plans, is important as is the push to involve children, Garritano said.

"Kids are an antidote for cynicism, and they're pretty inspiring," he said. "It's important to get them involved so they can understand planning for the future and how they can shape it."

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CMAP also hopes that using technology like photo and video sharing, on the campaign's website will reach more people.

"I think if Daniel Burnham were alive today he'd be using the latest technology to reach people, especially young people," Garritano said. "Because they are the future."

More information on

the "Go to 2040" campaign along with students' submissions and public comments are available on

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the [www.goto2040.org](http://www.goto2040.org) website.

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