



**City Council Study Session Agenda
January 27, 2025 - 6:00 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 3rd Floor,
1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL**

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- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Public Comment**
- 4. Presentations**
 - a. West End Revitalization Presentation Update
- 5. Adjourn**
 - a. Motion: Motion to adjourn.
VV Voice vote is needed.

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West End Revitalization

YEAR ONE

mlkcenter.org/westend

Key Impact Areas

Economic Vitality

Support, grow, and attract businesses and entrepreneurs.

Infrastructure & Visual Appeal

We envision a community that is both functional and beautiful.

Housing & Land

We envision safe, stable housing, and neighborhoods that are supportive of upward mobility.



Assets & Income

It is vital to increase wealth and reduce poverty rates among West End households.

Civic Capital

Enhance relationships, networks and skills that communities use to make decisions and solve problems.

Communications

- Meetings with community members, community-based orgs, government officials, school district officials, etc.
- Presentations
- Media coverage
- West End Revitalization yard signs
- Website updates

Building Relationships

- Augustana College
- Black Hawk College
- Rock Island Housing Authority/Community Home Partners
- Clean River Advisory Council
- RIMSD
- Project NOW
- MidAmerican Energy
- Ascentra Credit Union
- Prairie Rivers Network

Mid-American Pilot

- 30 single-family homes, 10 businesses, and 3 multi-family homes in the West End for energy-efficiency audits, repairs and upgrades
- Planted 56 trees throughout Rock Island and the West End to address tree equity

Youth Empowerment

- West End Revitalization Clubs at:
 - Rock Island High School (~50 members)
 - Thurgood Marshall Learning Center (~25 members)

Upcoming Pilots

- Ascentra Credit Union Financial Program
 - 9-Week Financial Empowerment Course
 - Financial Coach at the MLK Center
- Community Participatory Budgeting Process
 - West End Community – \$40,000
 - High School Clubs – \$10,000
- Both pilots are planned to launch in early 2025

Strengthening the Backbone

- Hiring a third West End Revitalization Coordinator (Q1)
- Hiring additional Resource Development staff (Q1)
- Internal capacity building - connecting to experts (ongoing)

Resource Development

- Total 2024 Revenues = \$194,000
- Confirmed for 2025
 - \$100,000 from QC Community Foundation
 - \$75,000 from a private foundation
 - \$20,000 Healing Illinois
- Pending:
 - Environmental Protection Agency Grant

EPA Community Change Grant

- Submitted a grant request for \$20 million on Nov. 21st
- Key Components:
 - Workforce Development/Multi-Use Facility
 - Service Corps
 - Primary Partner: Augustana College's Upper Mississippi Center
 - Other Partners – American Jobs Center, YouthBuild, Project NOW, Black Hawk College, & the QC Chamber

Reflections

- Finding assets where others may see deficits
- Youth are a wealth of knowledge and action
- Mental health appears different in impoverished areas
- We can only move at the pace of trust
- Availability (of programs, services, etc) is not the same as accessibility. Trust is essential for accessibility.
- This work is messy! North star keeps us on track.
- It's not just what you do, it's how you do it.

Next Steps

- Launch the Ascentra pilot
- Launch Participatory Budgeting processes
- Implement communications plan
- Research, with Augustana, establishing a Special Services Area (SSA)
- Form a visioning committee for a Community Development Corporation (CDC)
- Writing grant to better understand health and mental health needs of West End

Questions and Discussion