



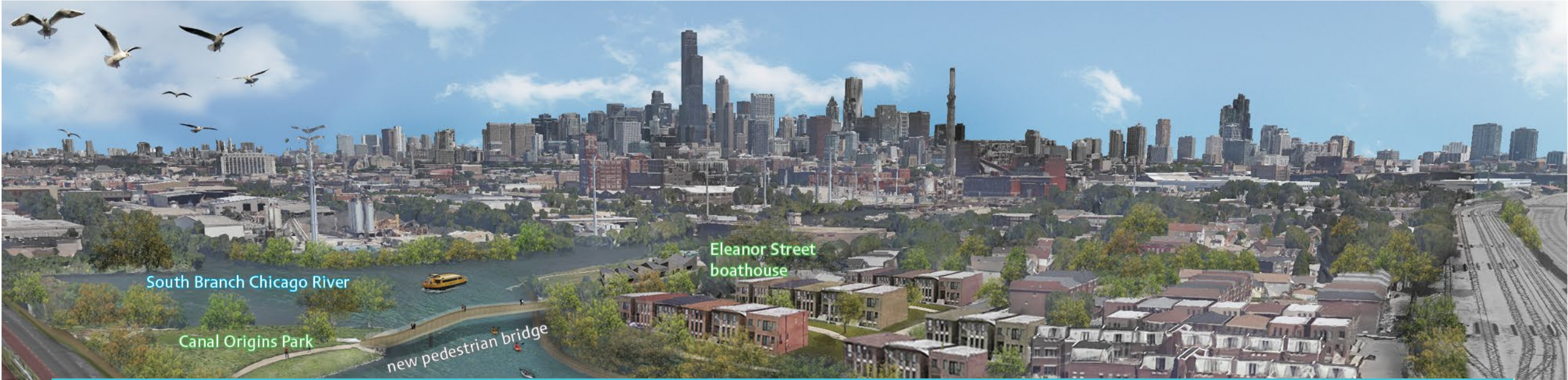
Our Great Rivers 2023 Funding Opportunity



THE CHICAGO
COMMUNITY TRUST

GREAT RIVERS CHICAGO





The Rivers, The Trust, and Neighborhood Investment

2016 – Great Rivers Chicago

2019 – Trust strategy to close the racial and ethnic wealth gap

2020 – Catalyzing Neighborhood Investment as key measure of the strategy

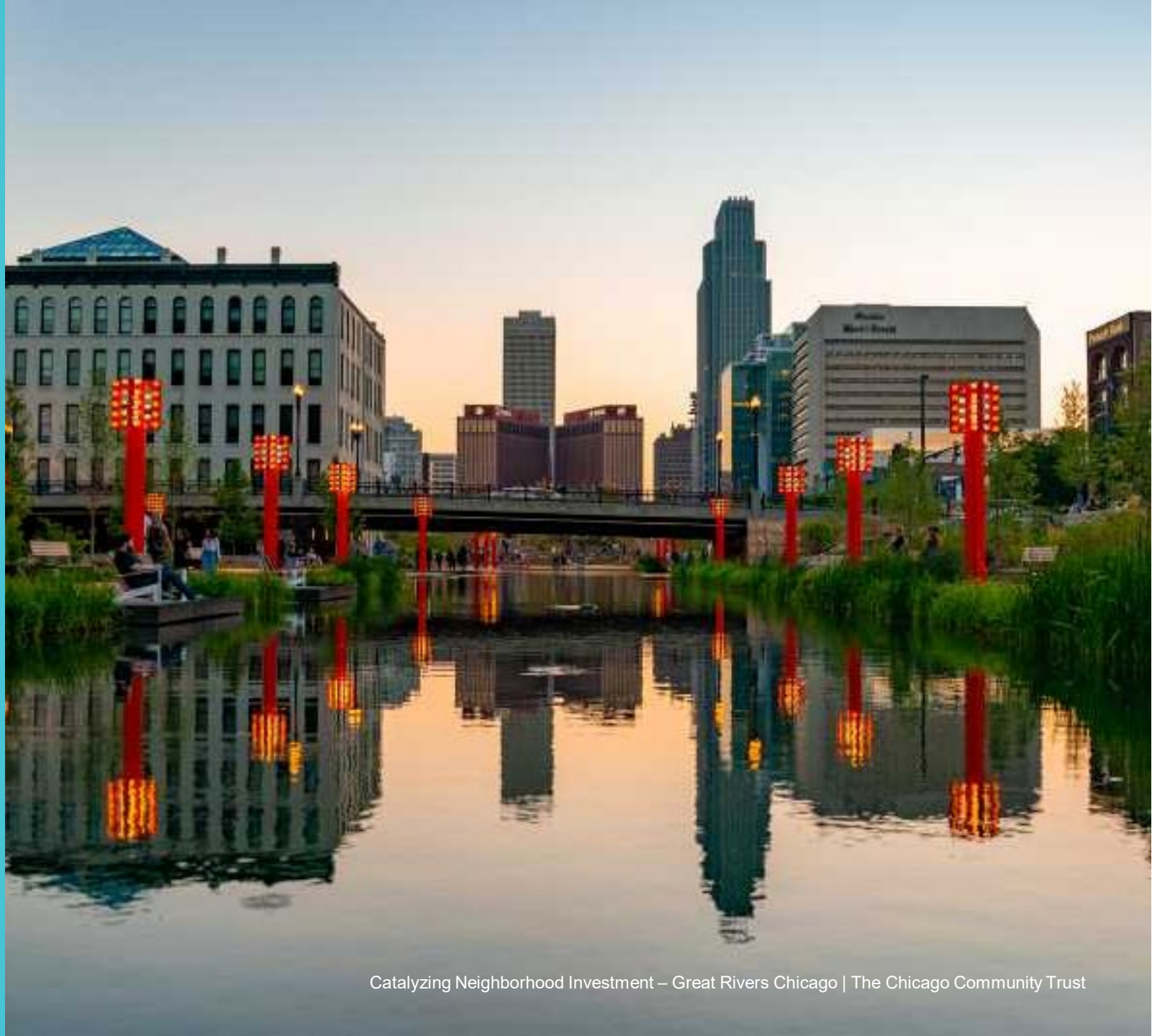
2023 – The river system as a neighborhood catalyst



Progress

- Four RFPs (2023 will be the fifth)
- 25 initiatives
- 140 partners
- Multi-sector task force
- Growing momentum
- Inspiration & models

OMAHA



HOUSTON



NASHVILLE



TULSA



DENVER



MINNEAPOLIS



10TH ARRONDISSEMENT, PARIS



SABARMATI, INDIA



Requirements for Funding

- Focus on/build capacity for a “River Site of Interest.”
 - The site itself
 - The immediately surrounding area as “gateway” to the site
- Advance the goals of the Living, Inviting or Productive themes of the Our Great Rivers vision.
- Position the rivers as catalysts for community-led neighborhood investment in disinvested communities of color and in communities blighted by pollution or lack of access to quality natural amenities.
- Majority Black and Latinx communities will receive priority.
- Collaborate across communities and sectors (i.e., public, private, nonprofit).
 - Proposals without robust partnerships will not receive funding.
 - Commitments from key partners, including elected officials and public agencies, must be confirmed through letters of support.
- Promote co-benefits across topic areas.
- Prepare communities to transition land to sustainable uses.
- Advance the goals and leverage the resources of existing community/municipal planning initiatives.

Eligible Activities

Physical planning

Placemaking, urban design

Public access/wayfinding

Public awareness/branding

Research/studies/analyses

Policy development

Advocacy/organizing

Economic development

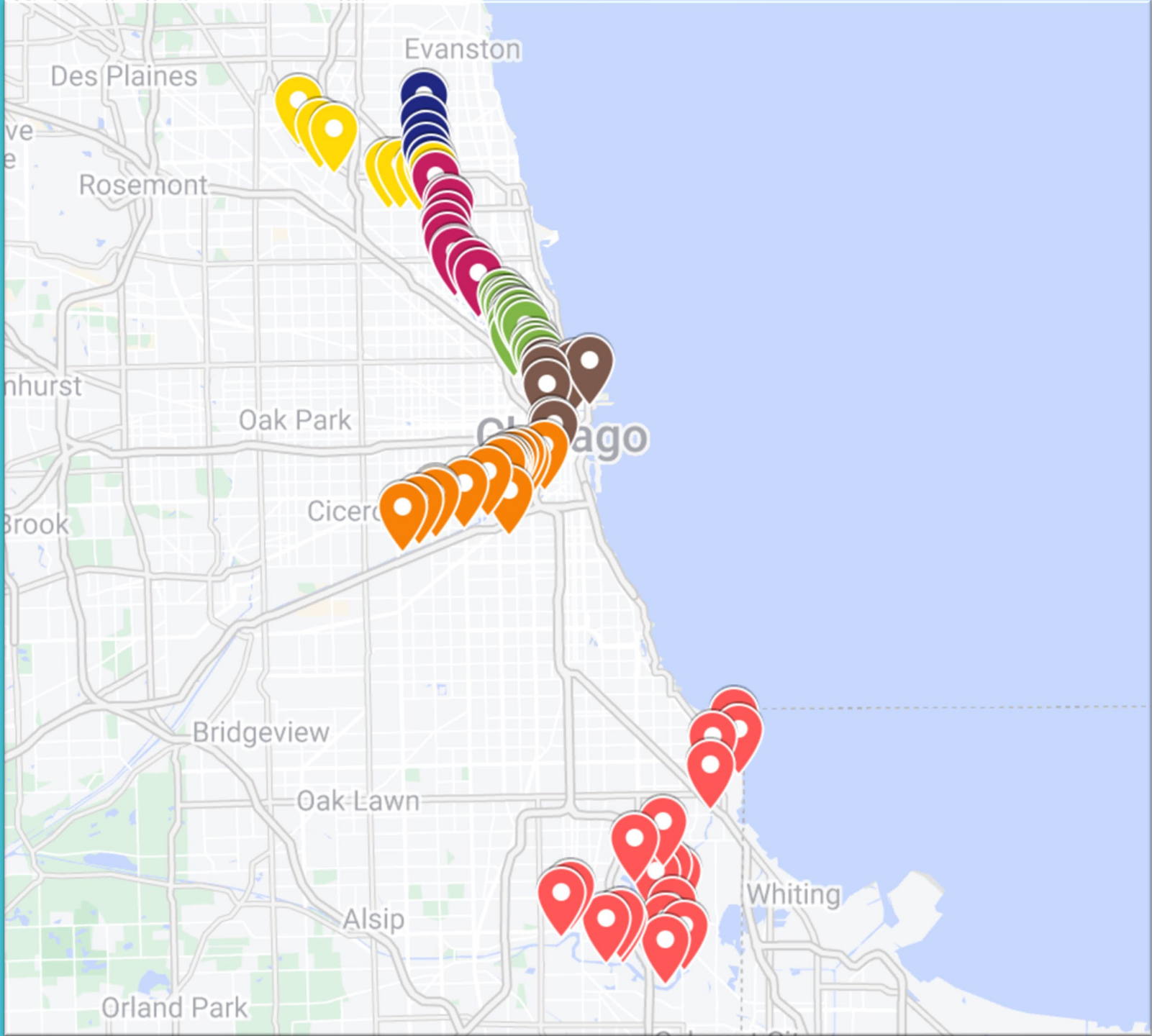
Brick-and-mortar pre-development

Geography

Primarily “Rivers Sites of Interest” identified during Rivers Task Force workshops in 2021.

A map of the sites is in the RFP.

A table listing sites and addresses is in the RFP.



Disqualifying Projects and Initiatives

- Proposals that do not reflect the project and geographic qualifications outlined above.
- Recreational programs (e.g., rowing, sailing clubs).
- Social and human services programs (e.g., youth, students, seniors, special needs populations).
- Flora and fauna purchases. Our Great Rivers funding should build capacity for habitat restoration from other funding sources (e.g., Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, government funding).
- Large capital expenses (e.g., motorized vehicles, infrastructure). Equipment and supplies are normal expense items.

Important

Our Great Rivers projects that are not focused on “Rivers Sites of Interest”, including previously funded projects and projects not previously funded, are eligible for funding, pending approval of Trust staff and the degree to which they competitively meet the qualifications of this RFP.



An aerial photograph of an industrial area in Chicago. The image shows several large industrial buildings, parking lots, and streets. A river, the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, flows through the area. A trail, the Collateral Channel, runs along the river. Other trails include El Paseo Trail and the New South Branch Riverfront Trail. A baseball park, La Villita Park, is visible in the upper right. Interstate 55 is shown at the bottom left. A north arrow is located in the center of the image.

Eligible Applicants

- Nonprofits
- Government agencies
- Coalitions, networks, collaboratives, consortia (via nonprofit fiscal sponsor)
- For-profits (via nonprofit fiscal sponsor)

Grant Amounts

- Two-phase process: LOI, then (if invited) full proposal
- Grant awards for this funding opportunity will range between \$50,000 and \$500,000.

IMPORTANT: Applicants are encouraged to submit for an amount that matches the true scale of the project rather than the funding maximum under this RFP.

Important Dates

Activity	Date
Request for Proposals release	January 13, 2023
Information session #1	January 25, 2023
Short application (i.e., LOI) due	February 10, 2023
Full proposal invitations sent	February 17, 2023
Information session #2	February 2023
Full proposals due	March 10, 2023
Notice of funding decision	April 2023
Release of funds	May 2023



Questions?

For More Information

Please visit the Our Great Rivers RFP webpage for the full RFP and access to the GrantCentral.

For content questions: Edwin Tobar at etobar@cct.org

For system and process questions: Hector Estrada at hestrada@cct.org

