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For which project type are you applying? (Choose one – You may apply for more than one type of assistance by completing a separate application form.) Transit Station Activation Project (pilot program)

Transit Station Activation Project

Describe your proposed activation project:

The Chamber is pleased to propose an event to be held on one of three possible sites adjoining the RTA Station located at 5th Avenue, one block south of Lake Street. The station is located in the heart of Maywood's Arts and Cultural District. It is steps away from the Maywood Public Library, West Town Museum of Cultural History, Maywood Fine Arts (a facility dedicated to teaching song and dance to local youth), and Maywood Park - which has three magnificent sculptures by renowned Black artists that speak to Black struggle and aspirations, including a piece by Richard Hunt). Less than two blocks from the train station is a stunning monument to a building that once stood there along the banks of the Des Plaines River and served as a "safe house on the Underground Railroad."

The Chamber is eager to host an event in June or August that celebrates Maywood's historical and cultural treasures and underscores their accessibility by RTA (Rail station and Bus Stop on Fifth and Lake Street). The proposed event will consist of three parts:

- Guided (walking or trolley-car tours around the various sites that span Maywood Park from First Avenue to Fifth Avenue. These tours will acquaint visitors and residents with the rich and unique historical offerings in and around Maywood Park.
- The event will allow each of the institutions named above to host an open house where residents and visitors can learn about their respective offerings. The Maywood Chamber of Commerce will be the host organization and use the occasion to promote its services and the goods and services of its members.
- The third and final aspect of the event will be a musical performance conducted by Working-In-Concert (WIC), a Chicago-based musical organization that promotes cultural education and diversity through musical performances. WIC has agreed to provide a two-hour concert that will align with the theme of taking rails to gain freedom and opportunity.

Where will the project take place? (State the name of the transit station or stop and the specific location where the activation project will take place. Please also note the name of the property owner if not on Service Board property.)

RTA Train Station located at 5th Avenue in Maywood, one block south of Lake Street.

How much funding are you requesting? Please detail the expenses (estimates are fine).

Summary of event expenses:

Maywood Chamber of Commerce - Event-related costs and administration	
- \$ 7,500	
Working-In-Concert - (6 Performers - 2-hour musical event)	\$ 5,000
Facilities, Tours, Licenses, Insurance and Security	\$ 7,500

\$20,000

What is the timeline for this activation? (i.e. What is your thinking about the time of day, day of the week, month, for your proposal) Summer 2024 - in either June or August, based on the performers' availability as well as the schedules of targeted civic and cultural entities in Maywood.

Will the project process include activities in which the general public will be invited to participate? If so, please describe: Yes, the public will be invited to attend the event with special marketing emphasis aimed at residents of Maywood, Bellwood, Melrose Park, Forest Park, and River Forest.

Is your organization currently in communication with the relevant transit agency and/or property owner? Do you anticipate needing assistance in making contact? The Maywood Chamber anticipates needing assistance in making contact.

Describe any experience you have with implementing something similar to your proposal: Dan Perkins, a cultural historian who has served as a member of the Maywood Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors since 2017, the year he successfully co-produced Maywood's Centennial Commemoration of America's Involvement in World War One, will coordinate and produce the event.

What resident or community support do you have or would like to gain for the proposed activation? Working in Concert
Maywood Public Library
West Town Museum
Maywood Fine Arts
Maywood Historical Society
NOMCO

Is there any additional information you want us to know? With funding approval for its proposed event, the Maywood Chamber would highlight the benefits of using the RTA Station in Maywood to access Chicago and the western suburbs. The Chamber would also emphasize the fact that the West Line of the RTA provides access to more great culture in Oak Park and downtown Chicago. Given the musical focus of the proposed event, the Chamber would encourage attendees to use the RTA to see performances at the Lyric Opera, where some members of the Working-In-Concert performed for several years.

Please upload a map of where specifically the activation will take place: <https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/16107653617>

Closing Questions

How did you find out about the call for projects? (Select all that apply) Other: Contact at CTA

What resources did you find helpful as you apply for the call? (Select all that apply)

Receiving assistance from CMAP or RTA staff

How difficult was it to fill out this application?

Somewhat easy