

## **Collection Guide: Chicago South Side Development**

### **Overview**

IIT's campus at 33<sup>rd</sup> and State St. is adjacent to the historically significant Bronzeville neighborhood, centered around 35<sup>th</sup> and State St on Chicago's South Side. Bronzeville reached its peak population during the Great Migration of the 1910s and 1920s, during which thousands of African Americans left the south to seek industrial jobs in Chicago. Through the 1920s, the neighborhood was a prominent center of African American business and culture, particularly notable for its influence on jazz, literature, and the civil rights movement. Through the 1930-60s, much of the area was cleared as part of Chicago's "urban renewal" efforts, and several large public housing projects were built, including the infamous Robert Taylor Homes. Despite the economic and social damage of urban renewal, the area has since continued to revitalize.

Because of its proximity, IIT has had a long association with the neighborhood. In the 19xxs IIT had input into the South Side Redevelopment through the South Side Planning Board along with Michael Reese Hospital, located nearby. Other nearby buildings of note include the Lake Meadows, Prairie Shores, and South Commons residential communities. IIT's expansion has impacted the surrounding area in various ways; one instance of particular interest is the acquisition of the Mecca Flats building.

The IIT Archives does not actively collect materials related to Bronzeville's past or current history, but the Archives' collections do include some materials which may be of interest to those interested in the area and the university's relationship with it. Students have also produced theses that relate to the neighborhood.

### **Materials in UASC**

#### ***Processed Collections***

- 1998.018*      *Office of the Treasurer Melvin Tracht*  
(This collection has not been fully processed. Michael Reese Nursing Program is referenced in this collection, but it is uncertain at present how extensive the material is. Some of this collection is confidential and restricted.)
- 1998.031*      *Institute of Design Records, 1937-1955*  
Academic and creative materials of The New Bauhaus (aka American School of Design), School of Design, the Institute of Design, ca. 1937 to ca. 1955. Includes academic catalogues, class and school activities announcements, biographical materials on faculty (including founder László Moholy-Nagy) and students. Photography projects may include Bronzeville images.
- 1998.035*      *South Side Community Center*  
Bulks with correspondence between Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago) treasurer R. J. Spaeth and Golden B. Darby (administrative director of Southside Community Committee, Inc.) concerning use of space at 3354 S.

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State St. as a community center (AKA Mecca Community Center), and circumstances concerning termination of the agreement. Also includes the original signed agreement and the President's Annual Report of the Southside Community Committee.

- 024.04.01      *Henry T. Heald Papers*  
The collection consists of correspondence, memos, reports, and other materials which constitute the administrative files of the of Henry T. Heald in his role as President of Armour Institute of Technology (Chicago), 1937-1940 and as President of Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago), 1940-1952.
- 1998.149      *Press (News) Releases*
- 1998.192      *Armour Research Foundation Photo Cards – Part 1*  
Negatives and contact prints of black and white images documenting scientists and research projects of Armour Research Foundation (later, IITRI). Includes some images of neighborhood buildings.
- 1998.199      *Unprocessed Photographs*  
Misc. Chicago images remain in this collection; images specific to South Side redevelopment were removed to Acc. No. 1998.287 in April 2009. See 1998.287 below.)
- 1998.268      *University History Collection*  
Glass slides – UET & Alumni Banquet
- 1998.287      *South Side Redevelopment Collection*  
Small collection including aerial photos and photos of plans and models concerning the post-World War II planned redevelopment of Chicago's South Side, the area around Illinois Institute of Technology centered at 33rd and State Sts. Photos were variously taken by: Hedrich-Blessing; Lowellyn Studios; Chicago Aerial Survey Co. (Chicago Aerial Industries, Inc.); Williams & Meyer Co. See item listing for description of specific images.
- 2000.013      *Harold Bretz Papers and 35 mm slides*  
Documents and photographs concerning Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago) created or collected by Harold Bretz. Includes photos of campus construction and some Bronzeville Buildings.
- 2001.021      *Perkins & Will Proposal, 1994;*  
Aug. 1950 issue of Architectural Forum
- 2001.032      *Institutional Chronologies Collection*  
Six typed chronologies containing timelines of institutional histories of Armour Institute of Technology (1892 – 1940), Lewis Institute (1896 – 1940) and Illinois Institute of Technology (1940 – present). Each covers a different

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time range and each was apparently compiled from different sources, though much of the information is repeated and consistent from one chronology to the next.

- 035.03.01*      *Bronzeville Collection materials*  
Materials from a variety of sources and dates documenting the past and present of the African-American neighborhood of Bronzeville, historically known as the Black Metropolis, located on the South Side of Chicago. This collection serve as a drop file of materials not otherwise accessioned and catalogued in the IIT Archives. Contains loose papers and soft cover books.
- 2004.003*      *Central South Area Plan Materials*  
Four items documenting “The Central South Area Plan” to redevelop Chicago’s South Side neighborhood (Bronzeville) adjacent to the Illinois Institute of Technology campus.
- 2004.058*      *South Central Association materials*  
"South Central Association Souvenir Twenty-third Street Viaduct Opening" publication, a 116-page booklet, dated 1925, published by the South Central [or Central South?] Association, a Chicago citizens’ membership organization.
- 2011.011*      *Robert Philip Gordon Papers*  
Materials related to Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization
- 008.01.02*      *Institute of Design Records, 1948-2001*  
See materials in boxes 49, 131, 163, & 366)
- ID Theses*      *Institute of Design thesis project:*  
Visual Design Relative to City Planning by Harry B. Smith (uncatalogued as of April 15, 2009)

***Press Releases***

- 4/23/1946      South Side Redevelopment Association holds first meeting
- 5/3/1946      Robert E. Garrigan appointed executive director of Central South Side Development Association
- 3/1949      IIT to breathe new life into Chicago’s historic (Ada S. McKinley) South Side Settlement House at 3201 South Wabash Avenue.
- 1/24/1950      Buildings razed and land cleared in IIT’s redevelopment of Chicago’s near south side
- 1/1952      Raymond J. Spaeth named chairman of the South Side Planning Board
- 5/1952      John T. Rettaliata addresses South Side Planning Board
- 5/12/1952      Raymond J. Spaeth re-elected chairman of South Side Planning Board
- 10/1952      South Side Planning Board issues brochure for industrial research laboratory facilities

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- 4/1953 Proposal for rebuilding of Chicago through industrial development of Central Southside presented in 32 page booklet at meeting of South Side Planning Board
- 5/1953 South Side Planning Board presents detailed proposal for encouraging light industry
- 4/1954 South Side re-development is one-third underway states Raymond Spaeth
- 5/1954 South Side agencies tour IIT as part of program dealing with redevelopment in area
- 5/1955 Henry T. Heald to be feature speaker at meeting of South Side Planning Board
- 7/1959 New designed boiler manufacturing plant will be dedicated on Chicago's South Side

***Books***

- Chicago Plan Commission. *Building New Neighborhoods; Subdivision Design and Standard*. Chicago, 1943. ARCHIVES.NA9127.C4A51943
- Chicago Plan Commission. *Calumet Area of Metropolitan Chicago [Interim Report]*. Chicago, 1956. 711.4C532CH
- Chicago Plan Commission. *Census Statistics on Housing for Chicago: 1950, 1940; a report to the Housing Redevelopment Coordinator and the Chicago Plan Commission*. Chicago, 1954. ARCHIVES.HB3527.C4C31954
- Chicago Plan Commission. *Central and North Filtration Plant: Proposed Sites*. Chicago, 1949. Call Number: ARCHIVES.TD225.C5C46x1949
- Chicago Plan Commission. *Chicago 1992 Comprehensive Plan: Goals and Policies and a Ten Year Capital Development Strategies, Draft for Discussion, October 1982*. Chicago, 1982.
- Chicago Plan Commission. *Chicago Industrial Study, Summary Report*. Chicago, 1952. ARCHIVES.HC108.C4A521952
- Chicago Plan Commission. *Chicago Looks Ahead: Design for Public Improvement*. Chicago, 1945. HD4606.C5A51945
- Chicago Plan Commission. *Chicago's World-Wide Influence in City Planning*. Chicago, 1914. ARCHIVES.NA9108.C4C4
- Chicago Plan Commission. *Creating a World Famous Street: Argument of Charles H Wacker, chairman of the Chicago Plan Commissions, in behalf of widening and extending Michigan Avenue to properly the north and south sides of Chicago: with ordinance for same, detailed drawings*. Chicago, 1913. Call Number: ARCHIVES.TE25.C5A51913

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Chicago Plan Commission. *Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Population of the City of Chicago and of the Suburbs and Urban Fringe*. Chicago, 1954.  
Call Number: ARCHIVES.HB3527.C4C4x1950

Chicago Plan Commission. *Forty-Four Cities in the City of Chicago*. Chicago, 1942  
Call Number: ARCHIVES.F548.5.C5171942

Chicago Plan Commission. *Housing Goals for Chicago*. Chicago, 1946.  
Call Number: ARCHIVES.HD7304.C5C51946

Chicago Plan Commission. *Index of Sources of Data for the Chicago Metropolitan Area. Prepared by the Chicago Community Inventory, University of Chicago, for the Chicago Plan Commission and the Office of the Housing and Redevelopment Coordinator*. Chicago, 1954.  
Call Number: ARCHIVES.F548.3.I53x1954

Chicago Plan Commission. *Industrial and Commercial Background for Planning Chicago*. Chicago, 1942.  
ARCHIVES.HC108.C4A51942d

Chicago Plan Commission. *Master Plan of Residential Land Use of Chicago*. Chicago, 1943.  
Call Number: ARCHIVES.HD268.C4A321943

Illinois Institute of Technology. *Opportunity for Private and Public Investment in Rebuilding Chicago*. Chicago, 1947.  
Call Number: ARCHIVES.HT168.C5O66x1947

Chicago Plan Commission. *Outer Drive Along the Lake Front*. Chicago, 1929.  
Call Number: ARCHIVES.NA9127.C4C44X1929

Chicago Plan Commission. *Plan of Chicago in 1925, a report to the citizens of Chicago setting forth what has been accomplished by united civic effort during the past fifteen years*. Chicago, 1925.  
ARCHIVES.NA9127.C4A51925

Chicago Plan Commission. *Population Facts for Planning Chicago*. Chicago, 1942.  
Call Number: 711.4C532MNO.7

Chicago Plan Commission. *Population Facts for Planning Chicago*. Chicago, 1942.  
CLOSTX.HA730.C5C54x1942

Chicago Plan Commission, in collaboration with Woodlawn Planning Committee. *Program for Community Conservation in Chicago and an Example "The Woodlawn Plan."* Chicago, 1946.  
ARCHIVES.HT168.C5C54x1946

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Gropius, Walter. *Rebuilding Our Communities*. Chicago, 1945.  
ARCHIVES.NA9030.G7

Chicago Plan Commission and Works Project Administration. *Report of the Chicago Land Use Survey*. Chicago, 1942.  
ARCHIVES.TD167.C4X1942

Chicago Community Inventory, University of Chicago. *Some Facts About Metropolitan Chicago's Population Aged 65 and Over: A Report*. Chicago, 1956.

Chicago Plan Commission. *South Side Consolidated Railroad Passenger Terminal for Chicago*. Chicago, 1953.  
ARCHIVES.TF308.C4A54

Chicago Plan Commission. *Ten Square Miles of Chicago: Basic Facts, a Report to the Chicago Land Clearance Commission*. Chicago, 1948.  
ARCHIVES.HT168.C4C45x1948

Moody, Walter D. *Wacker's Manual of the Plan of Chicago: Municipal Economy, especially prepared for study in the schools of Chicago*. Chicago, 1912.  
CLOSTX.NA9127.C4M5x1912

Moody, Walter D. *Wacker's Manual of the Plan of Chicago: Municipal Economy, especially prepared for study in the schools of Chicago*. Chicago, 1924.  
CLOSTX.NA9127.C4M5x1924

***Theses***

Windhorst, John Edward. *A Redevelopment Plan For Chicago's Lake Meadows*, 1993.  
Thesis.ST3E60

Gordon, Robert Phillip [Philip]. *Chicago: Southside Replanned*, 1967.  
Thesis.ST3404

Schuessler, Joachim. *Proposals for the Development of the Near South Side and Douglas Community in Chicago*, 1993.  
Thesis.ST3f209

**Additional External Material**

*University of Illinois Library*  
Draper and Kramer, *A Redevelopment Proposal for the Central South Side*, 1951.

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