



WINTHROP FAMILY HISTORICAL GARDEN

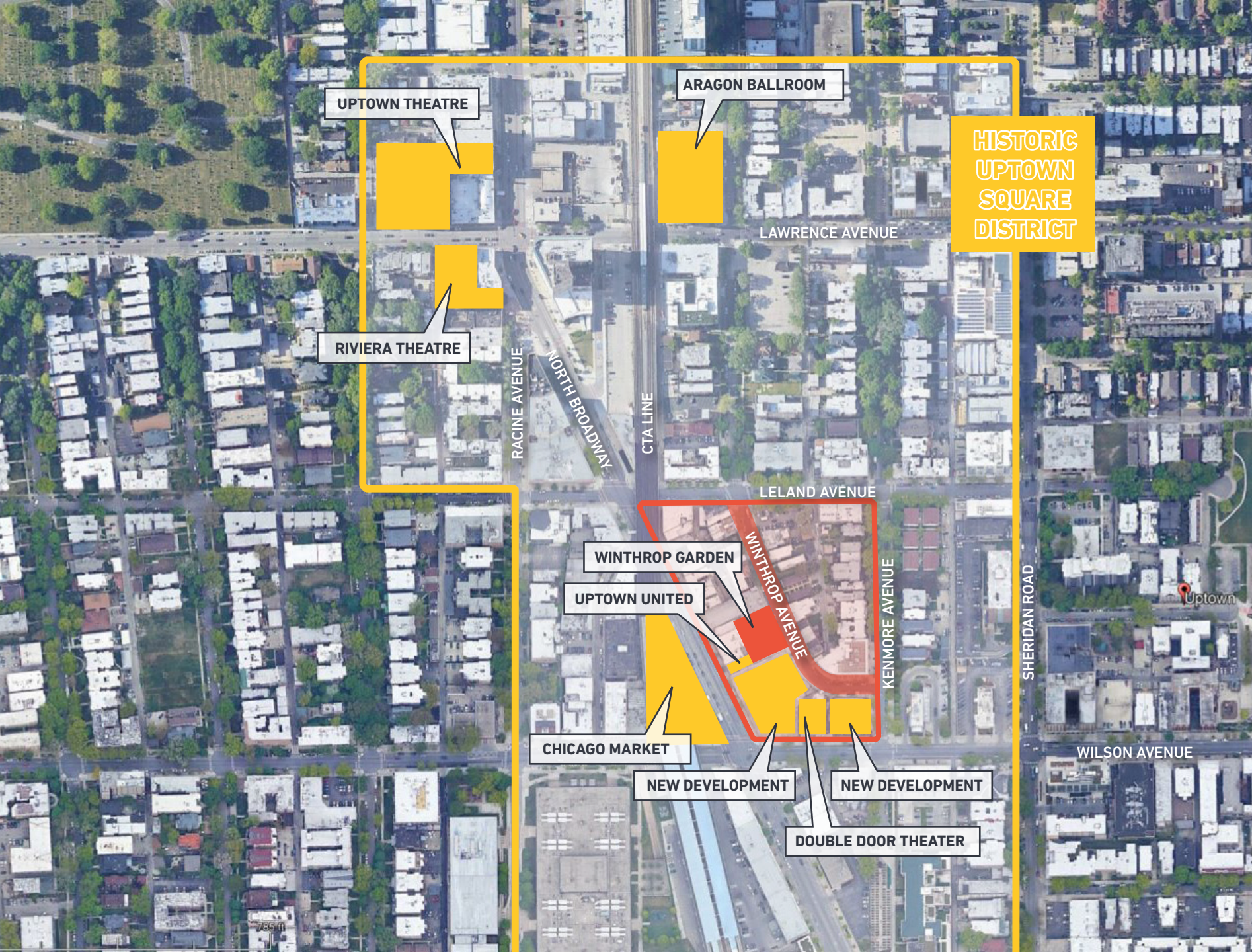
A VIBRANT COMMUNITY
GARDEN AND GATHERING
SPACE CELEBRATING THE
RICH HISTORY OF THE
FAMILIES WHO LIVED ALONG
WINTHROP AVENUE.

MKSK

UP Uptown
United

 **neighborspace**
community-managed open space

WINTHROP AVENUE



CELEBRATING A HISTORIC DISTRICT'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

- 6 MILES NORTH OF DOWNTOWN CHICAGO
- UPTOWN SQUARE IS A CHICAGO LANDMARK DESIGNATED DISTRICT
- RESTRICTIVE LAND COVENANTS IN UPTOWN REQUIRED BLACK FAMILIES TO LIVE ALONG THE 4600 BLOCK OF WINTHROP AVE IN THE EARLY 1900'S
- BLACK WORKERS SERVED THE VIBRANT THEATRE DISTRICT OF UPTOWN
- THIS LEGACY ALLOWED CULTURAL DIVERSITY TO GAIN A FOOHOLD AND FLOURISH OVER TIME IN THE COMMUNITY OF UPTOWN
- TODAY, A WAVE OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT IS OCCURING
- HUNDREDS OF HOUSING UNITS WILL BE ADDED TO THE AREA
- THE POST-PANDEMIC ERA HAS GIVEN WAY TO THE RECOGNITION, VALUE AND NEED FOR PUBLIC GREEN SPACE
- THE RE-IMAGINING OF THE WINTHROP GARDEN PROVIDES THIS GROWING COMMUNITY A HUB FOR OUTDOOR CONNECTIVITY, LEARNING AND RECREATION WHILE CELEBRATING THE COMMUNITY'S HERITAGE

REINVIGORATING AN EXISTING COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACE

Following the pandemic in 2022, an increased demand for communal green space and access to locally grown foods became apparent in Uptown. The existing Winthrop Garden had become overgrown, underutilized, and was no longer serving the community's needs. More garden plots were needed to accommodate an increased interest in local and sustainable food production, additional open community space was needed to bring neighbors together again, and the untold story of Winthrop Avenue needed to be shared. These demands created a unique opportunity to provide new amenities for the community while honoring and commemorating the history of the neighborhood. 20 years after the original garden was constructed, the garden was re-dedicated following a renovation made possible through the City of Chicago Public Outdoor Plaza (POP!) Grant.

BEFORE



AFTER



A COLORFUL BACKDROP

A façade mural by artist Mauricio Ramirez celebrates the heritage of the Winthrop community. The mural is translated onto the groundplane in an array of woven bands, knitting together the site.

ILLUMINATION

String lighting offers a festive atmosphere while complimenting and adding vibrancy to a community gathering space.

"BAR" & STORAGE

A reclaimed shipping container houses food service infrastructure and secure storage space for the community garden and Chamber of Commerce.

COMMUNAL KNOWLEDGE

The renovated space provides a venue for communal workshops and gardening demonstrations.

RECLAIMING THE STORY

Interpretive signage greets visitors, sharing the story of the families who once lived along Winthrop Avenue.

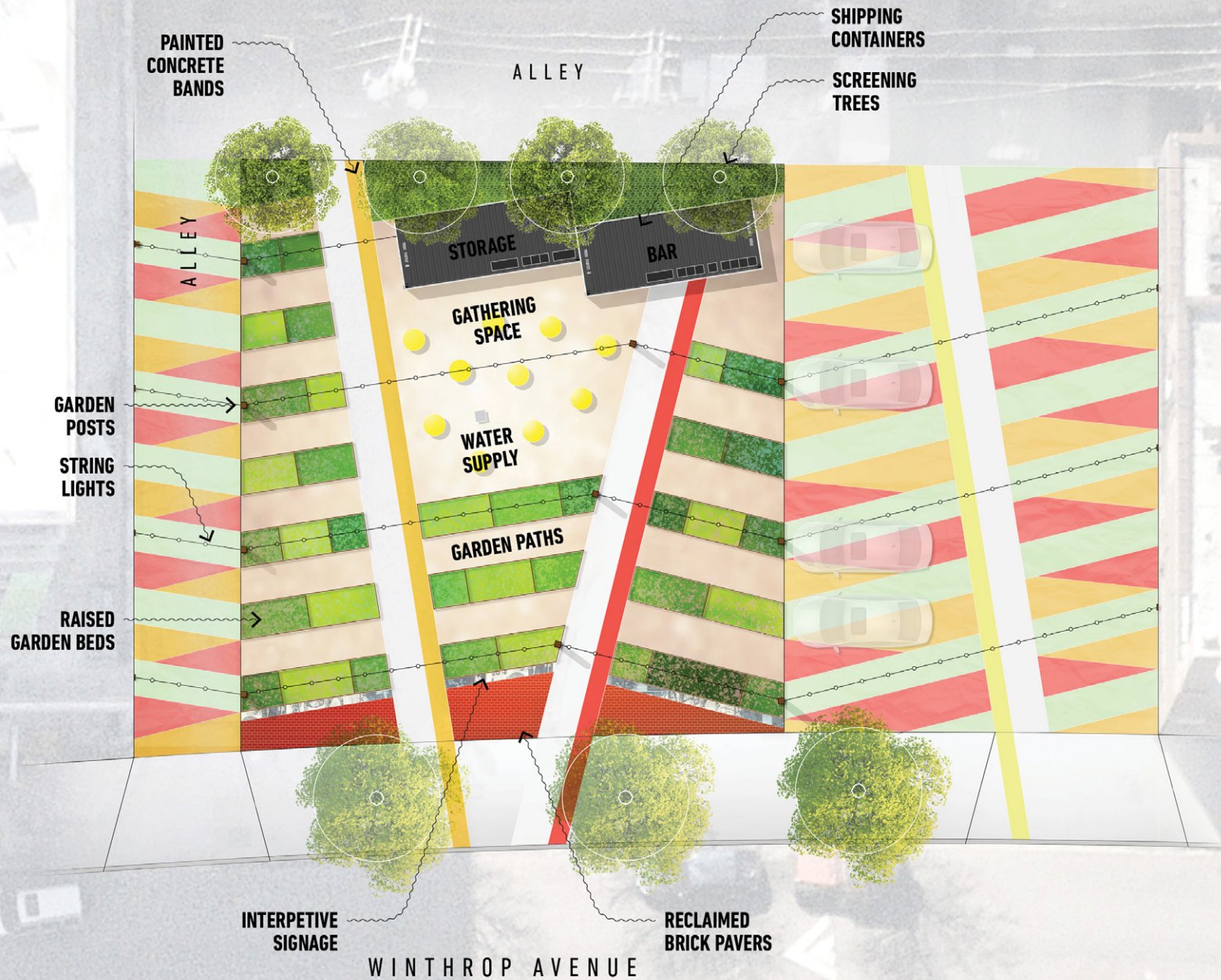
A SPACE FOR SHARING

An open flex-space offers a place for the community to gather and enjoy harvested produce, food from local vendors, markets, performances, and other neighborhood events.

WINTHROP AVENUE

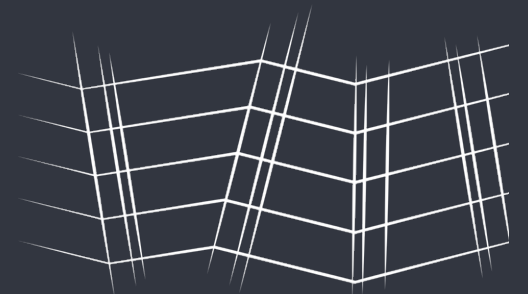


UPTOWN
UNITED OFFICE



WEAVING TOGETHER THE NARRATIVE OF A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

The community garden design represents the colorful and diverse tapestry of the residents of Winthrop Avenue, woven together to create a strengthened community. Though black families were mandated to live along this corridor, families of different backgrounds grew together as one unified Winthrop family. As such, the garden plan represents the intersecting lives that came together. The plan serves to develop a new gathering space; a public space for future generations coming together in connection and community.



Welcoming and inviting, the Winthrop Garden utilizes an existing collection of angled pathways to foster an inclusive and equitable common ground for community and family to gather together; for music, for gardening, for food, and festivities.



WINTHROP

GARDEN

community since 1920
WINTHROP

FAMILY GARDEN

Community
Resilience
Despite Resistance

As one social class grew, along with the construction of new housing, the community of Winthrop, North Carolina, emerged in 1920. The community on Winthrop Avenue has a long history of resilience in their presence in Uptown.

Legacy
World War II,
Onward
Uptown Strong

The legacy of the Winthrop Avenue building stretches beyond the boundaries of an urban project. It is a legacy of resilience, of a community that has thrived through the challenges of World War II, the Great Depression, and the modern era, standing strong in the heart of Uptown.



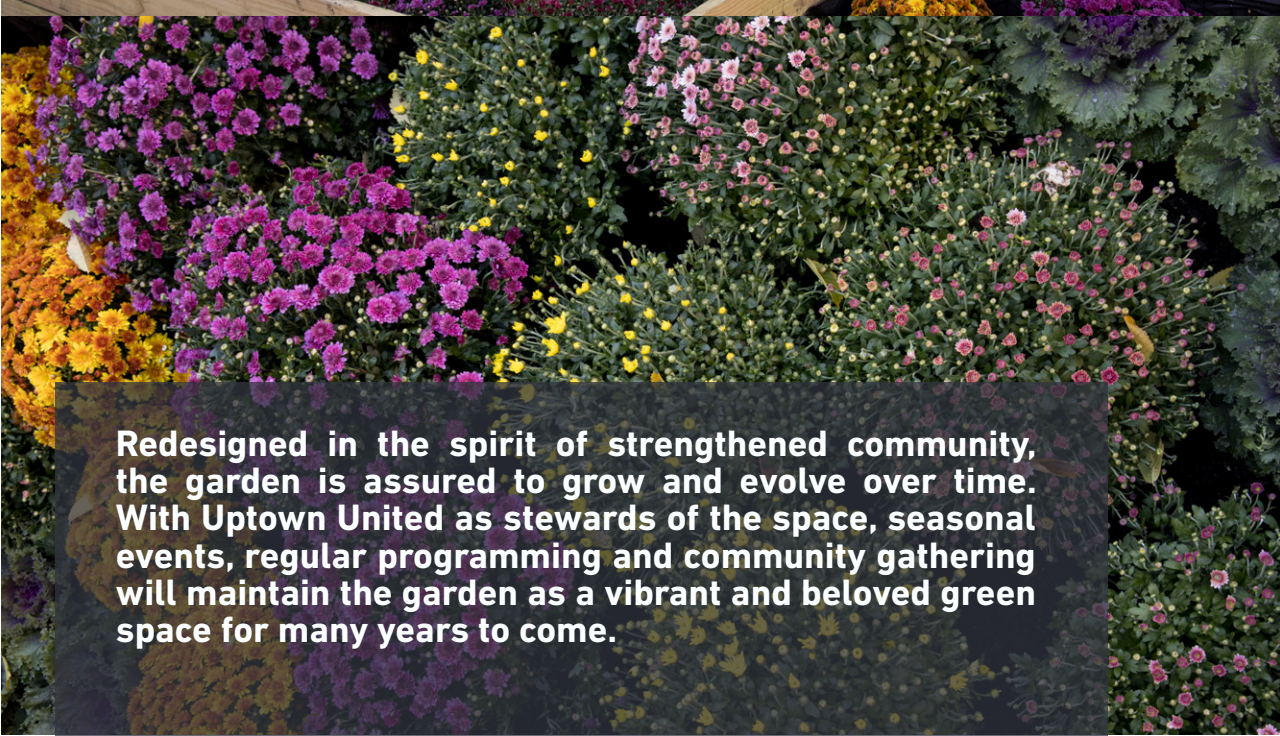
City of Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Planning & Development Commissioner Maurice Cox, Alderman James Cappleman, Uptown United Executive Director Sarah Wilson, and members of the original Winthrop family cut the ribbon on October 15th, 2022.



Sharing old memories and stories together, members of the original Winthrop Avenue family gather to celebrate the re-opening of the Winthrop Family Historical Garden. While few members of the original Winthrop family remain, their legacy and impact on the community of Uptown will be remembered through the garden dedicated in their name.



Black Ensemble Theatre
Founded, 1976



Redesigned in the spirit of strengthened community, the garden is assured to grow and evolve over time. With Uptown United as stewards of the space, seasonal events, regular programming and community gathering will maintain the garden as a vibrant and beloved green space for many years to come.

