

NORTH LAKEFRONT

The north side communities of Uptown, Edgewater and Rogers Park are the most racially and economically diverse communities in Chicago. Plans in the North Lakefront district often focus on improving retail options, managing parking pressures, preserving affordable housing and combating crime. Perhaps unique to these areas is the prevalence of micro-concentrations of ethnically-similar businesses, such as Argyle Street (Vietnamese), Clark Street (Mexican) and Howard Street (Afro-Caribbean).

The first plan to address some of these issues was the 2005 Andersonville Technical Assistance Panel's *Preserving, Supporting and Extending Local Retail*. The panel's recommendations focused on parking management, redevelopment of the Edgewater Medical Center and the Broadway Antique Mall, in addition to calling for gateway improvements along Ridge Avenue to create a greater sense of place and pedestrian friendliness. Many of these recommendations remain on the to-do list, with one notable exception: with the LAZ parking agreement, rates increased, as did the availability of on-street parking for business patrons. Rogers Park followed in 2006 with its Commercial Corridor Plan for Howard Street & Morse Avenue, and plan recommendations focused on increasing density, creating cultural destinations through district branding, and improving retail offerings. While much has been accomplished from that plan, the vacant lot at Howard Street and Ashland Avenue persists, despite the issuance of several RFPs.

The second Technical Assistance Panel in the submarket, *Discover Asia on Argyle* (2008), has resulted in new district branding and signage, as well as a popular Thursday night market geared toward highlighting the unique businesses on Argyle. The redevelopment of a parking lot at 5013-5037 N. Winthrop Avenue, updating signage and facades and creating clean and inviting stores remain important projects prioritized in this plan that have not been completed.

The *Edgewater Environmental Sustainability Project* plan, released in 2009, aims to make Edgewater a model green community in Chicago by 2020, by decreasing energy use and pollution, advocating for renewable energy, expanding green space and community involvement and improving recycling and waste disposal. Regular progress toward meeting these goals is tracked on the project's website, and much of what was planned is coming to fruition, with an all-volunteer base. The finalization and public issuance of a 48th Ward Master Plan, which has been in process for several years, would nearly complete this plan's list of priority projects.

The last plan to be completed in the district is the 46th *Ward Master Plan* (2013), conducted by Alderman Cappleman and five organizations that serve the business community. The plan is specific to his office and the services that he can provide as alderman, and indicates that these organizations will work cooperatively with each other and his office to continue to improve the ward for all.