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Influencer Map

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Influencer Project

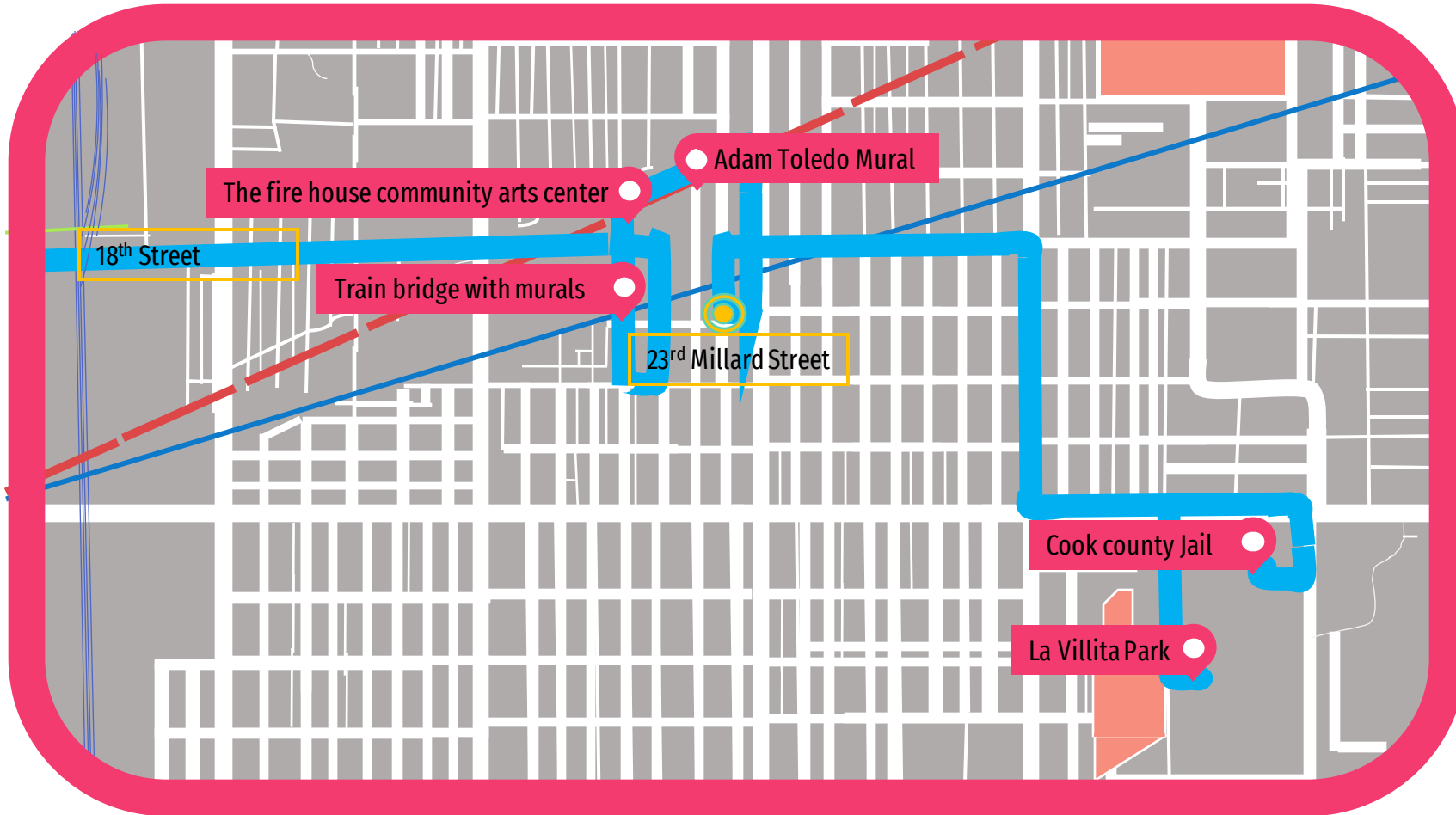
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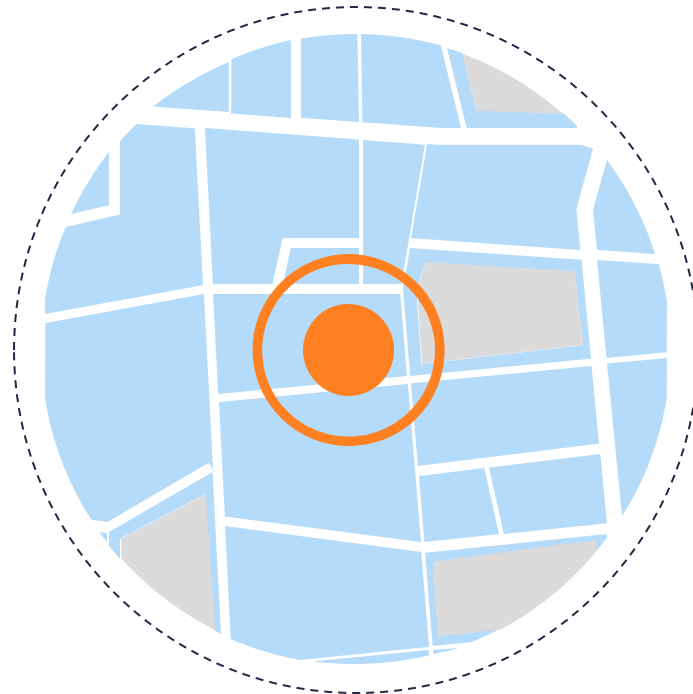
The Firehouse Community Arts Center

Welcome! Our first stop of the tour will be the Firehouse Community Arts Center!

First opening in 2006, the Firehouse Community Arts Center has become a staple for the movement of change in North Lawndale.

The mission of the center is to end the cycle of violence by encouraging and inspiring citizens through the power of art.

Pastor Phil Jackson works with a staff of committed individuals to promote inclusion and desegregation within his and surrounding neighborhoods. To do this, the Firehouse puts on numerous programs and events. These programs include both "Spark Arts" and "V.I.P.". Spark arts focuses on violence prevention through the arts with clubs and a variety of classes for kids of all ages. VIP, on the other hand, focuses on outreach to mostly older males. The men are able to open up through the use of therapy techniques in order to face their trauma and later work toward finding a job with the help of the amazing staff.



Train + Bridge (with murals)

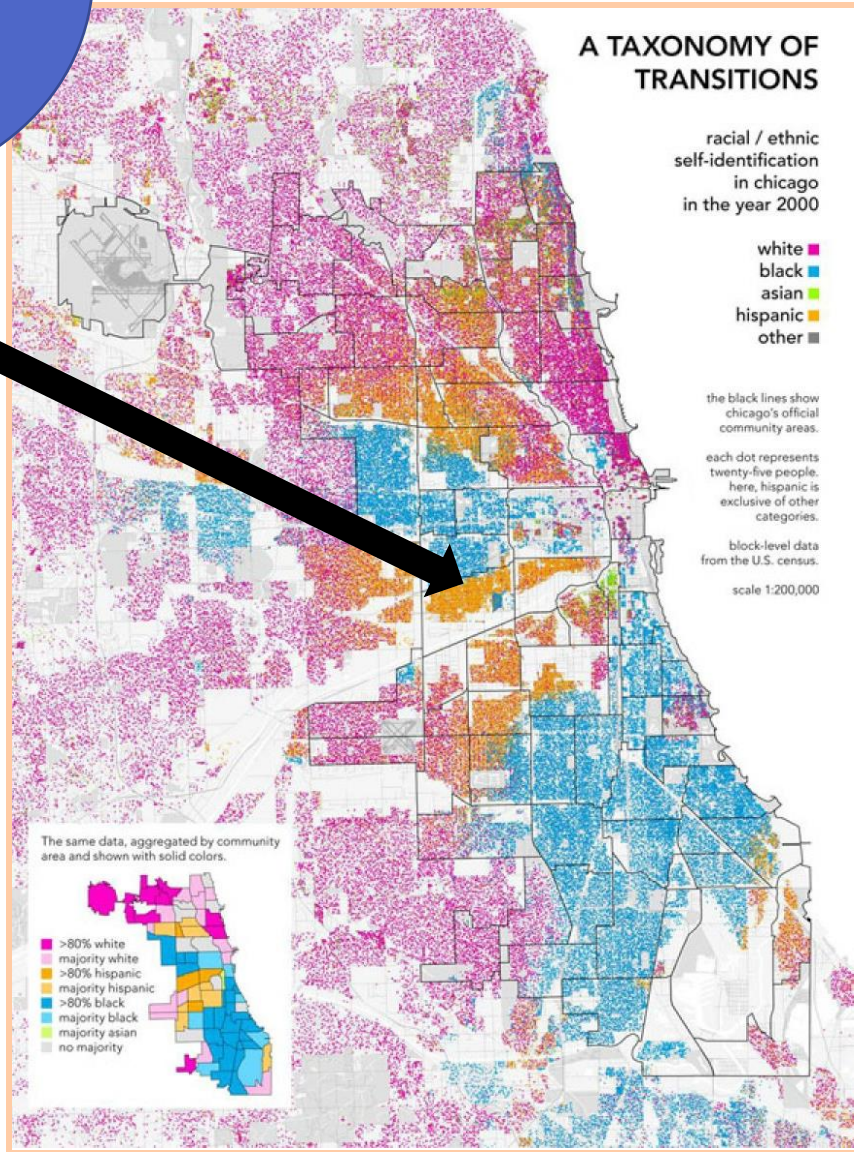


This will be our next stop, the Central Park Pink Line Station. This station does not look like much. In fact on the outside it looks like just another train station, but to the community this train station holds much more significance. The station opened on December 9, 1951 as a replacement for the closing of three other stations provided to the Lawndale community.

This station, represents the physical divide between the Black and Brown communities living in Lawndale. On the side North of the station live mostly Black families while on the South live Brown families. This divide caused the creation of North Lawndale and Little Village, terms given to the separate communities.

The One Lawndale community project was created in 2020 after a series of violent events occurred throughout Lawndale. One Lawndale aims to unite these separated parts of Lawndale through outreach and activities provided by and for the community.





The map represents the racial divisions of Chicago. Right where the pointer is represents the Central Park Station, and you can obviously see the division of orange and blue dots marked by it. Orange representing majority Hispanic and blue representing majority black.

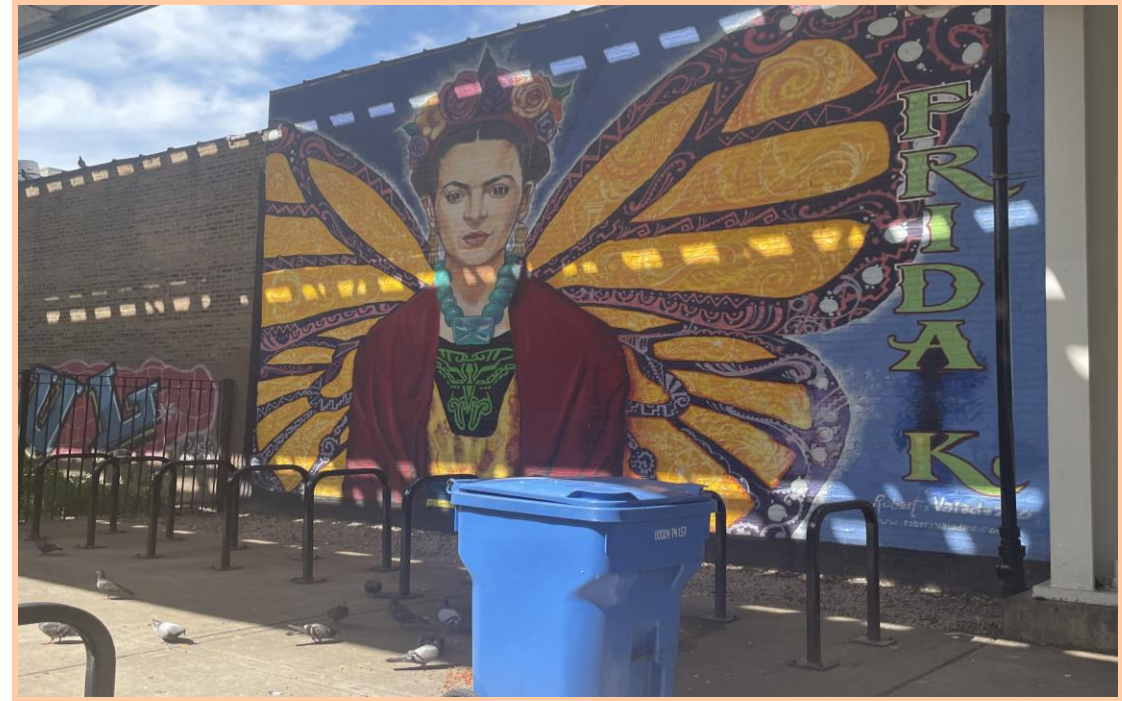
Source: [Mapping Chicago's racial divisions | WBEZ Chicago](#)

Train + Bridge (with murals) pt.2



Right next to this bridge we have a series of very important murals. Galleries of Pilsen Murals distinguish the neighborhood as a not only a center of Latino culture but also African American culture as well.

What happened in the late 60s as efforts of Mario Castillo, Ray Patlan, and Marcos Raya to oppose the Vietnam War and Unify, inspire and educate Mexican – Americans about their heritage has become well known as a new line of businesses and a canvas for regional artists commissioned works.

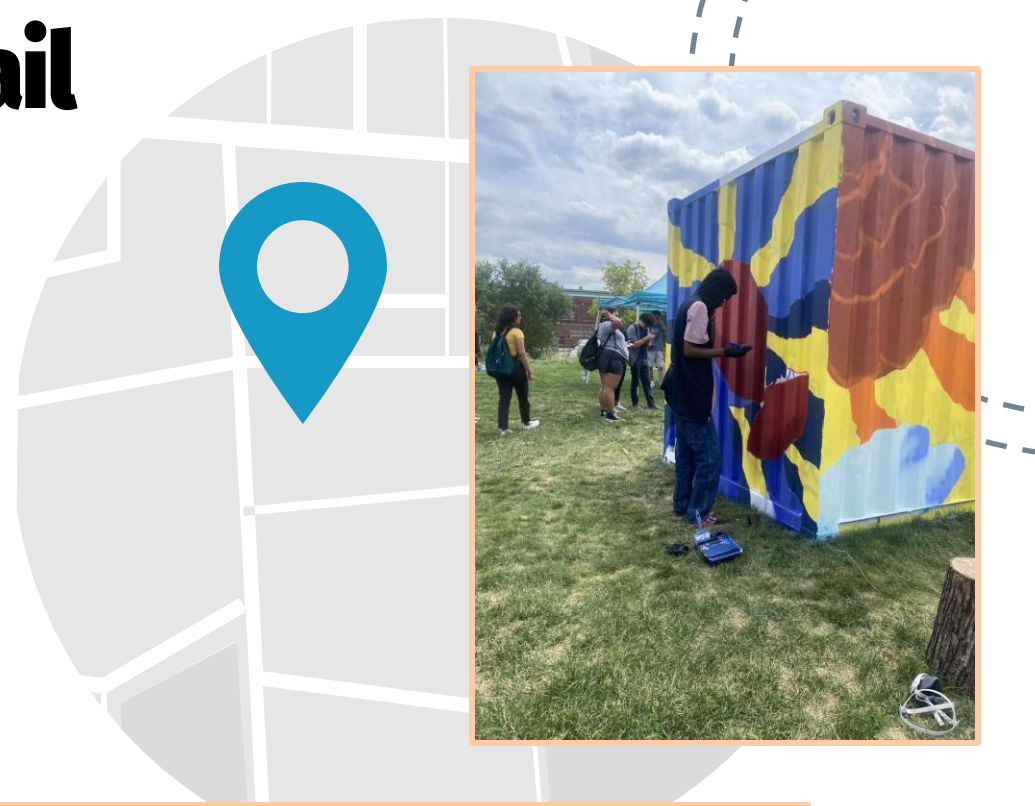


Cook County Jail

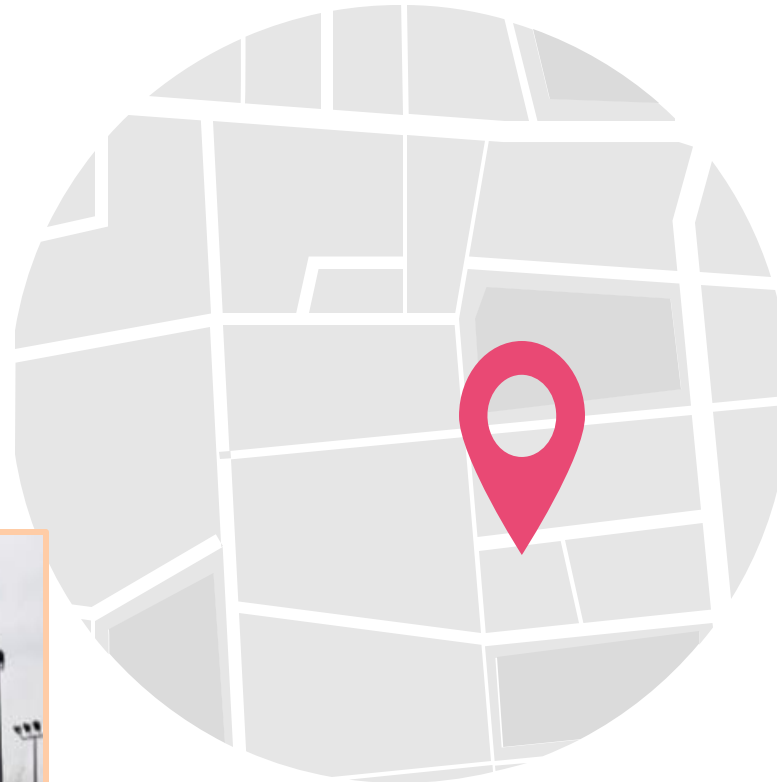
The next stop on our tour is Cook County Jail, a 96-acre fortress home to predominantly Black and Latino inmates.

Cook County Jail first opened in 1831 and was home to a mere 60 inmates, but the rise in population was quick and steady. The construction of a corrupt system which targets minorities and entraps inmates makes it impossible for some to avoid incarceration. Residents of South Lawndale, specifically, have been negatively impacted by their proximity to Cook County Jail. It has been normalized for them to experience injustices and their schooling and work systems act as filters.

Though they never actually went to prison, they got used to the idea of it and were forced to understand that it might be where they, or their loved ones, spend the entirety of their future. Cook County Jail also serves as the inspiration for protests, art, and demands for equality and is a symbol of the injustices facing minorities.



La Villita Park



La Villita Park is the newest park in the South Lawndale community. It occupies a former Brownfield Industrial complex that caused pollution and degraded the site. Designated by the Superfund site, the property went through remediation. The cleanup process was completed in 2009 and the Chicago Park District acquired the site in 2012. The park is a very significant to the surrounding Little Village neighborhood.

Adam Toledo Mural

On March 29, 2021, 13-year-old Adam Toledo was shot by a police officer in a Little Village neighborhood around 2 am in morning. After getting hit in the chest, Toledo died on the scene. People in the Little Village neighborhood painted a mural that portrays Toledo with angel wings in order to be remembered by his loved one; on the other side of the wood fence a mural can be seen reading "We need each other". After Toledo's tragic death, many critics came to Toledo's family, especially his mother, for the tragedy of Adam's death. When Toledo's death became known to the public, the people of Chicago went out to protest after footage of Toledo's death was published.

Now, Toledo is remembered in the neighborhood with his mural adorned with objects (like stuffed animals, vases, or aluminum flowers) and several flowers. People at the Little Village have learned to have each other's back and stay strong for one another, each mural a strong representation that Toledo is not alone. Today, the high school craggy soccer turf right in front of the scene will finally have a real soccer field built.



Sounds that Reflect the neighborhoods and city of Chicago

Walking around the neighborhoods of Pilsen, Little Village, and South Lawndale you could hear cars passing by, the sound of trains passing by through the train tracks and also a group of us talking as well about the backgrounds of the murals itself.

