In December, Bickerdike hosted its Annual Membership Meeting. The meeting opened with a beautiful performance by Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council’s Ballet Folklórico.

Our Work
We were reminded about the importance of our work by Lisa Andujar and Raquel Torres, who shared their thoughts and personal experience as members, staff, and residents.

Our Mission
Alex Aponte-Morales and Santiago Sanchez reminded us how our mission has guided our work since 1967, by helping us see the Bickerdike mission through the eyes of our first executive director, George Knight, and our namesake, George Bickerdike.

Our Board
Members had the opportunity to vote for and elect incumbents Board Directors, Brenette Coleman, Tania Kadakia, Jerry Lumpkins, and Raul Morales, as well as new Board Director, Andrea Ruiz to the Board of Directors.

Our Staff
Four dedicated staff members were honored for their years of service. Clorinda Garcia, Raymond Ramos, and Shadonna Ware celebrated 20 years, while Antonio Santiago-Cruz celebrated 30 years.

We thank everyone who attended and helped support our mission, and give a special thanks to our sponsors:

- Linn-Mathes Inc.
- Mr. Brick Chicago
- RubinBrown LLP
- Jesus Lozada
- A-Arrow Sewage Corporation
- Bittner Construction
- Community Savings Bank
- Destiny Services Inc.
- Framework CareFree IT
- Halsted Law Group, LLC
- Matthews Roofing
- Mendez Cleaning Services Corporation
- Supreme Laundry Service, LLC
- Supreme Laundry Service, LLC

Did you attend and take a photo at the Step N Repeat? You can view and download photos at www.flickr.com/BickerdikeRC.
Hattie P. Foster was a retired mother of three adult children. She lived in the community for over 25 years, and worked in the community for 18 years until her retirement in 2004.

Ms. Foster was actively involved in our community through serving on the Local School Council, working with Circle Family Health Care Network through the Women of Vision, and serving on the 600 N. Drake block club.

She became involved with Bickerdike over 9 years ago, when she was invited to serve on the Tenant Selection Committee. She was proud to serve on this committee because she felt it represents Bickerdike’s commitment to fairness and community involvement in every aspect of its work. She was delighted to be nominated to the Bickerdike Board of Directors in 2011, and served faithfully until her passing.

Beloved by her fellow board members, as well as residents and staff, Ms. Hattie, as she was lovingly known, will be missed by all.

PRESERVING VICTORY APARTMENTS

Bickerdike is working on our newest preservation project, Victory Apartments, a Project-Based Section 8 development consisting of 107 affordable units in 9 vintage, multi-family buildings in the Humboldt Park and West Town communities. In 1990, Bickerdike completed the initial rehabilitation of the buildings. The project was the culmination of an intensive organizing campaign to push the State of Illinois to fund its first affordable housing development in our community and it is named for the Victory of that campaign.

In late 2016, we purchased our two for-profit partners’ interests in this development and are now working on assembling financing to achieve our long term goal of preserving Victory Apartments as high quality, affordable housing for the foreseeable future.

The project will require the relocation of current residents for the duration of the rehab of their unit. In early 2019, we facilitated meetings with these residents to ensure that they are informed, prepared and engaged in the process from beginning to end.

The rehab will include the replacement of windows and doors, plumbing repair, replacement of HVAC systems to include central air and improved efficiency, and more. We hope to begin construction in early 2019.
ADDRESSING THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS

There is an affordable housing crisis in states all across the country. Nationwide, there are just 35 affordable and available rental homes for every 100 extremely low-income families—those who either live in poverty or earn less than 30 percent of the median income in their area. Nearly half of renters spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing.

Those numbers were reported in the National Low Income Housing Coalition’s 2018 Gap Report, which also states “Across Illinois, there is a shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low income households whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income (AMI). Many of these households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. Severely cost-burdened, poor households are more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and healthcare to pay the rent, and to experience unstable housing situations like evictions.”

Bickerdike understands these issues. They are a daily reality in Chicago and they disproportionately affect minorities.

According to U.S. Census data, in the past 16 years, Logan Square, one of the communities we serve, has lost more Latino residents than any of the city’s 77 community areas. About 19,200 Latino residents moved out of Logan Square between 2000 and 2014, a 35.6% decrease. In 2000, Latino residents accounted for 65 percent of the neighborhood’s 82,715 residents. By 2014, Latinos made up just 46.8 percent of the neighborhood. But it’s not just the Latino residents who have been affected. The number of black residents in Logan Square also dropped in the same time period. In 2014, the number of black residents had decreased 8.2% since 2000.

Bickerdike is addressing these challenges head on in our work every day. We are preserving our current housing stock with recapitalization and rehabilitation projects such as the West Town Housing Preservation, and working on new construction developments such as the Emmet Street Logan Square TOD. Additionally, we are engaged in promoting equitable housing and balanced development policy initiatives both through advocacy and organizing efforts.

Since 1967 we have carried out our mission by providing high quality affordable housing, struggling against gentrification and displacement, promoting economic development by creating and preserving jobs, and advocating for additional resources. With all of our apartments affordable, many to the most vulnerable residents. We are committed to redoubling our efforts in 2019 and beyond to ensure that Chicago remains a city for all of its diverse residents, and that all of its residents can depend on an array of housing options within their reach that they can call home.

Stay tuned in the coming year as we continue to discuss and share information about issues affecting affordable housing, the steps that Bickerdike is taking to address them, and how you can be a part of the solution.

Join us on our mission by renewing your membership, making a donation, and sharing this information with your neighbors by visiting our website at www.bickerdike.org.
Leaders met with 4th District State Rep Delia Ramirez to discuss affordable housing issues.

Residents, staff & community partners at the One Chicago for All Mayoral Forum.

We collected toys that were donated to the 014th District.

“George Knight” & “George Bickedike” talk about the mission of the organization.

New Board members & staff learn about Bickerdike at the Board Orientation.

SNAPSHOTS