A SUNNY DAY FOR OUR 4TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BBQ

It was a beautiful Saturday in mid-September as Bickerdike staff welcomed members, residents and neighbors to the 4th Annual End of Summer Membership BBQ.

We're thankful to the over 60 attendees who joined us for food, bingo, music, face painting, crafts and the very popular new addition: the bouncy house!

A special thank you goes out to Erie Neighborhood House for staffing a table and distributing information on their workforce, to Home Depot for donating crafts, and to Linn-Mathes Inc. for providing the tools for the craft!

Through our membership program, Bickerdike engages community members with important issues. This is accomplished not only by keeping them updated on what is happening in their surrounding neighborhoods, but by giving them an opportunity to vote on and run for Bickerdike's Board of Directors at the Annual Membership Meeting each December. This year's meeting will be held on Saturday, December 1 at North-Grand High School. If you're interested in learning more, visit Bickerdike's website where you can learn about our history, our latest projects and much more.
Thank you to all of you who supported our 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration earlier this year by purchasing tickets, becoming a sponsor, or by simply sending in a donation to us. Over 350 people attended the event, which was held on May 17, 2018 at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel. We were so honored to see people there who have contributed to the field of community development in Chicago over the past several decades; it meant so much to us that they took them time to mark our anniversary and raise a glass to toast our hard work and longevity.

While, of course, we wanted to host a party to celebrate turning 50 (a milestone reached by only a few community development organizations in the country), the Gala's true purpose was to raise much needed private support so that we can continue our work for years to come.

Because of your generous support, we will be able to do the following:

- **Safeguard and acquire affordable housing:** Bickerdike is doubling down on its efforts to protect and preserve family-friendly affordable housing in Humboldt Park, West Town and Logan Square while preparing to launch new projects in Avondale, Hermosa and beyond.
- **Grow our expert staff:** Bickerdike is staffing up to manage several huge housing preservation and new construction projects planned for the next 3-5 years. We need specialized accounting expertise, visionary and detail-oriented housing developers, and compliance-savvy asset managers, who can all stay abreast of the ever-changing and complex obligations of our funding sources.
- **Build vibrant communities:** An engaged community is a proud community; it’s one where residents work hard to make their neighborhood safe, inclusive, and thriving - the kind of community we all deserve to live in. Building resident and community engagement is a time-intensive job that requires skilled, passionate individuals who are committed to developing local leaders. Bickerdike stretches to serve more than 3,200 residents; your donations will fund more staff to nurture, educate, and engage residents - and their neighbors - in the communities we serve.
- **Make vital renovations:** Now and over the next 12 months, more than 300 of our apartments – fully one-quarter of our housing inventory – will continue to receive for wear-and-tear renovations and updates.

We thank you wholeheartedly for your commitment to our work. Having an active, engaged membership base is so important to us so we appreciate the extra effort and financial support you have given us this year.
Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation (Bickerdike) was founded as a membership organization in 1967 by residents of Chicago’s near northwest side and representatives of local community groups who joined forces to fight widespread housing deterioration, abandonment and arson. Alarmed area residents and community organizations came together and formed Bickerdike to reverse the disinvestment and community decline.

In the last 50 years efforts to engage more people in our work have consisted of the addition of an individual membership option and the expansion of our service area to include the Hermosa and Avondale neighborhoods.

While the number of people given a voice has increased in the last 50 years, what has remained a constant is that Bickerdike’s membership is the cornerstone of our work. It is how individuals in the communities we serve are connected to the work we do.

Our members still make up our largest decision-making body. At our Annual Membership Meeting, you will have the opportunity to be involved and engaged in guiding our direction. You will also be able to participate in the election of the open term seats for the Board of Directors, vote on Advisory Resolutions, and be updated on our current and future work.

You should have received an invitation and information on our 2018 Nominees for Board of Directors. We hope that you will take a minute to get to know them and join us on Saturday, December 1, 2018 at North-Grand High School to cast your vote and be part of the democratic process that is core to our mission.

“Being a member of Bickerdike has given me more opportunities than I could ever dream of. Over the years Bickerdike empowered me to use my voice to bring about change in our community and to take part in voting and decision making. Last but not least, membership has always given me a sense of community.”

~Margo Timberlake-Silva speaks at the 2017 Annual Membership Meeting

**5 MORE Reasons You Should Attend:**

1. Be a part of electing our Board of Directors
2. Meet and get to know other members
3. Learn about what we accomplished together in 2018
4. Hear about what we have planned for 2019
5. Enjoy a warm breakfast with fellow members catered by Nellie’s Restaurant
WHY VOTE?

Vote because...

• Casting a vote feels great
• We build our nation with votes. Vote local.
• To set a good example for younger generations.
• Because you have researched your candidate and can make an informed vote.
• Because “Your silence gives consent.” ~ Plato
• Voting changes communities.
• Voting honors history.
• Our children are counting on us to represent their voices too!

VOTE BECAUSE YOU CAN!
(Next election will be February 26, 2019)

SNAPSHOTS

CEO, Joy Aruguete honored as Outstanding Community Leader Award

Community Members discuss a variety of issues at On the Table

Kids’ Crafts table at The 606 Block Party

Discussing affordable housing issues at the 2018 Housing Summit

Community Collaboration at Night of Faith & Action

Kids get a visit from Miguel at Movies in the Garden