

**ULI Chicago 8th Annual Vision Awards
July 10, 2019**



Project Finalist: City Gardens

Project Team:

Developer: Brinshore Development – The Michaels Organization

Architecture Firm: Landon Bone Baker Architects

Project Description:

Chicago's once beautiful Near West Side has been a challenging neighborhood since 1968 when much of the area was destroyed during the King riots. As with other such

areas there continues to be a critical need for safe family housing that offers choice and a sense of place and community identity so children and families will have the opportunity to grow and flourish. City Gardens is a full block, 76 unit mixed-income redevelopment designed with strong community collaboration to address those needs.

The design of the buildings has two considerations: The three exterior street frontages suggest a strong shoulder-to-shoulder line-up of buildings encircling the interior court. The buildings are not soldiers lined up to keep everyone out, however the buildings do give containment to the interior of the block and make it a safe haven for the families who live there. Additionally, the central core anchors the development and offers natural landscaping and shared space with environmentally-focused amenities such as community the gardens, grill stations, recycling center, shared play space, and a full teaching kitchen with ample gathering and cooking space inside the community building. The slow-moving interior car traffic transforms the entire courtyard into a shared pedestrian space. The hope is for the residents to take ownership of the "gardens" and use them as their own backyard where they grow, cook and eat healthy food together. City Gardens is close to transportation, schools, and has a beautiful new city park directly to the north.