

**ULI Chicago 9th Annual Vision Awards
July 11, 2024**



Frontrunner Finalist:

VIC HOWELL
Senior Development Manager
FOCUS

Vic's life and professional career have been guided by the transformative power of the built environment on people's lives. It was clear to him at an early age that the spaces we inhabit shape our perspectives and experiences and his desire to use his expertise to make this impact positive. This has become his north star, perfectly aligning with ULI's mission as he strives to engage in initiatives that promote social and economic growth.

Vic's background as an architect gives him the ability in his current role as a development manager to envision thoughtful and intentional solutions for optimizing land use. The most recent developments he has committed himself to involve the revitalization of declining shopping centers. He looks to harness the potential of the location of these properties in their communities and bring to life a reimagination of the town center, calling back to the days when these spaces were just that. The goals of each development are to create a walkable community with a vibrant mix of uses that members of the community can utilize for an assortment of "third spaces", converting empty anchor stores and parking fields into a sustainable community hub.

His time in development has afforded him opportunities to engage in initiatives with the City of Chicago, ULI, and others that aim to address issues surrounding housing affordability and equitable development. Chicago faces many challenges and he aims to engage with the local government and community stakeholders to advocate for fresh solutions in these areas. His involvement in the City's study of Accessory Dwelling Units, RFP process for Invest South/West, and work with ULI Chicago on the Resilience Initiative and co-chairing the Commercial to Residential Conversions White Paper are examples of his continued efforts in civic engagement. He believes one critical way to drive change in underserved communities and bring more representation to the design and real estate communities is through youth engagement. He does this by taking steps to expose young people, particularly those of color, to a positive role model that shares their experiences and an industry that they may not be familiar with.

Vic currently sits on the Executive Board of Territory NFP, a youth empowerment organization providing

exposure to design and urban planning for teens in the Austin neighborhood. This along with past involvement with AIA's Architects in Schools, AIA's Tiny Homes Competition to address youth homelessness, and speaking engagements with CPS, NAACP, and other youth groups provides him the opportunity to impact local communities in ways beyond the creation of spaces. In pursuit of his personal and professional goals, he has created a multi-faceted approach to impacting the local market. Whether it is through direct interventions that tangibly improve communities and spur economic growth or through initiatives promoting economic development and social empowerment, his efforts are unified by the singular goal of enhancing lives through the built environment. It is this steadfast commitment that makes him a deserving candidate for the Frontrunner Award.