



West Englewood, a community on the southside of Chicago, has suffered different levels of trauma for generations. From gang violence and home foreclosures, to food deserts, police brutality, and even a lack of job opportunities, West Englewood has seen long term disenfranchisement and underinvestment. Though there is no deficit of love, imagination and community, West Englewood is littered with vacancies like abandoned lots, empty foreclosed homes, and long shuttered commercial spaces. Many community members who have been impacted by the lack of resources, systematic racism and trauma are even more vulnerable due to the economic disinvestment of the community and effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. This current situation will result in even further worsening and compounding of issues for community members of West Englewood.

In response to this, and the rioting in the aftermath of the George Floyd murder, a result of historic police brutality upon the black community, Goodkids MadCity Englewood has created a GofundMe campaign to help rebuild black business in the West Englewood area that were most affected.

Goodkids Madcity Englewood's **W.E. Got This** campaign is composed of the following scaffold plan:

- Coalition creation: Create a coalition of individuals in the West Englewood community who have plans to create a business but lack the funds to pay the legal fees of filing for a business. These will be small startup grants, as well as assistance in applying for the LLC.
- Reinvestment agreement: This coalition will then help to drive the campaign of building our own utopia in the West Englewood community, with the agreement that they will help to give back to the community and help to rebuild and grow it.
- Development of West Englewood Plaza: With current access to a large acre of land, GKMC will use boxcars to build out these businesses all together on this plot of land. These will be businesses compiled of a coffee shop, barber/beautician, youth meeting space, mental/healthcare clinic, bikeshop, community garden, restaurants. The possibilities are endless. These services provided will also give resources to the

community without needing to leave it, as well as having the ability to bring in attention and revenue from others outside of the community.

- This West Englewood Plaza will help to revitalize the entire community, and the effects have the potential to ripple throughout the south side. For too long West Englewood has been an afterthought for funding opportunities and development, and it has been families that live there that suffer these consequences. Now we have the opportunity to get something that we have never been given a fair shot at: a chance to live in a thriving community filled with black owned businesses that represent us, that pour back into us.

We are actively campaigning to raise more funds to allow for construction and materials to make this happen. Our goal to start construction of the West Englewood Plaza is \$150,000. If you would like to donate or need more information please reach out to the organization.

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