



experimental station

building independent cultural infrastructure

Public Resources Guide

First Edition, Summer 2019

The Experimental Station is working to build independent cultural infrastructure on the South Side of Chicago. We do this by fostering a dynamic ecology of innovative educational and cultural programs, small business enterprises and community initiatives. Since 2006, we have both built our own programming to address a variety of identified local needs and have fostered, hosted, and sponsored numerous other initiatives.

This guide gathers the wide range of publicly accessible resources currently provided through Experimental Station. Be on the lookout for expanded editions in the future!

Please reach out about community needs we may be able to meet or potential collaborations to generate new resources and cultural contributions.

Visit experimentalstation.org and sign up for our mailing list

Call **773.241.6044**

Email info@experimentalstation.org

Send mail to **6100 S. Blackstone Ave., Chicago, IL 60637**

Building tours and **speaking engagements** offered based on availability

Blackstone Bicycle Works

(ES program, on-site)

Blackstone Bicycle Works (BBW) is an educational youth program and community bike shop.

Blackstone Bicycle Works is a full-service bike shop that specializes in quality, affordable repairs and tune up services. All profits from sales and services along with tax-deductible donations support the BBW youth program.

- **On The Spot or "Short" Repairs** (up to 20 min.)
 - Tube/Tire Install—labor \$10, tube \$5 + tax, tire prices vary
 - Brake Adjustment (Front or Rear)—\$13 + materials
 - Minor Brake Adjustment (Front or Rear)—\$5
 - Derailleur Adjustments (Front or Rear)—\$10 + materials
 - Install new chain—labor \$10, chain prices vary
- **Scheduled Repairs** (over 20 min.)—have longer wait periods, up to 2-3 weeks in busy season
 - Basic Tune Up:
 - (Level 1)—\$35 (brakes/safety check/test ride)
 - (Level 2)—\$45 (Level 1 + F/R derailleur adjustments)
 - Full Tune Up—\$75 (Levels 1/2 + bearings adjustments, truing both wheels, drivetrain cleaning, and full bike wipe-down)

Bicycle Sales—Saturdays only from 12–5pm, generally priced from \$100 to \$300

Used Parts available for repairs and for sale upon request

New Parts and Accessories can be ordered from the industry's leading distributors

Business hours: Tuesday–Friday, 1–6PM; Saturdays 12–5PM (note: closed 4-weeks per year)

Visit during open hours, email shop@experimentalstation.org, or call **773.241.5458**

The BBW Youth Program uses bicycle advocacy, mechanics, cycling, and business operations to create an inclusive community centering around Black youth from Woodlawn and surrounding neighborhoods on Chicago's South Side. All of our classes and workshops are free and for youth ages 8–18.

- **8–12 Week Classes** in cycling, safety, mechanical, and job readiness skills, that allow youths to earn and build their own bikes. Space is limited. Apply online at exp.st/bbwprograms
- **Community Workshops** facilitated for community organizations and schools on a variety of cycling topics including Learn How to Ride, Bike Safety, How to Fix a Flat, and Physics of Bikes
- **Volunteering Opportunities**—volunteers with mechanical skills are especially needed
- **Ride Marshalling** for hire for group rides

Contact rebecca@experimentalstation.org or **773.241.6044**

Experimental Station Arts and Cultural Programming and Private Rentals (ES program, on-site)

Experimental Station has a long history of engaging and supporting artists, in turn generating free, public events for the community. We develop inclusive programming with a focus on supporting local emerging Black artists. Funds generated from rentals of the space go back into support these efforts.

- **Rentals** of “Big Room” space (120 max), Kitchen (60 max), and additional flexible indoor and outdoor spaces. Non-profit, for-profit, and private-use hourly and day rates.
- **Free Public Events** offered throughout the year: theater, dance, and music performances; film screenings; public conversations; and workshops.
- **Visual Art Exhibitions and Installations** with A/V capabilities
- **Artist and Arts Non-profits Support**—collaborative project development, space use, residencies

Contact matthew@experimentalstation.org or **773.241.6044**

61st Street Farmers Market

(ES program, on-site)

The 61st Street Farmers Market is the premier farmers market on Chicago's South Side, straddling the Hyde Park and Woodlawn neighborhoods, offering the freshest produce, meat, eggs, cheeses and prepared foods from local and regional farms.

- **Accepts Senior Coupons** and **SNAP** (Link Dollars); **Offers Link Match** (matching Link up to \$25)
- **ADA-accessible Shuttle** available for pickup and drop-off at Jackson Park Terrace, St. Edmund's Haven, and Park Shore East
- **Chef demonstrations with tastings** using local produce every Market at 10:30
- **Free Market School food-related activities, South Side Diabetes Prevention tours, and yoga** (weather permitting)
- **Vending Opportunities** for local farmers and producers
- **Volunteering Opportunities** for local cooks, food-related organizations. Assistance is also needed for market set-up, tear-down, and customer service.

Market Schedule: Saturdays, 9AM–2PM; weekly May–October outside on 61st Street; weekly November–December and monthly January through April inside Experimental Station

Contact wendy@experimentalstation.org or **773.241.6044**

Link Up Illinois / City EBT

(ES program, on-site)

Making healthy farm-fresh foods more affordable by doubling the value of LINK card purchases at farmers markets across Chicago and Illinois.

- **Accept SNAP** (Link Dollars) and **offers Link Match** (matching Link up to \$25) at City of Chicago farmers markets and IL markets
- **Free Consulting for Farmers Markets** to offer SNAP
- **Grants for IL Farmers Markets, Co-ops, and Farmers** to offer Link Match incentives

Contact corey@experimentalstation.org or **773.241.6044**

South Side Weekly

(fiscal sponsee, on-site)

The South Side Weekly is a nonprofit newsprint magazine and radio show dedicated to supporting cultural and civic engagement on the South Side, and to providing educational opportunities for developing journalists, writers, and artists.

- **Contact with Story Tips**
- **Become a Contributor** by filling out online form: southsideweekly.com/contribute
- **Free Workshop Series** offering hands-on sessions in journalism basics. Visit workshops.southsideweekly.com
- **Advertising and Event Listings**

Visit southsideweekly.com, call **773.234.5388**, email editor@southsideweekly.com, or mail attn: **South Side Weekly, Experimental Station, 6100 S. Blackstone Ave., Chicago, IL 60637**

Build Coffee

(on-site)

Build Coffee is a coffee shop and bookstore designed as a hub of great coffee and radical collaboration.

- **Food/Drink**—coffee, tea, italian sodas, and espresso drinks; soup, salads, pastries, and sandwiches
- **Catering**—hot drinks, breakfasts/sweets, veggie/meat platters, and more
- **Bookstore**—consignment sales of books, zines, comics, and chapbooks by artists and small presses; used books for sale
- **Space rental** for public and private events, acting as a small venue for performances, workshops, gallery shows, book groups, game nights, and more
- **Meal-based Residency Program**, a gallery show and residency aiming to nourish and sustain local art and artists

Business Hours: Monday-Saturday 8am–5:30pm, Sunday 8am–3pm (hours change seasonally)

Visit buildcoffee.org or email info@buildcoffee.org

Invisible Institute

(on-site)

The Invisible Institute is a journalism production company on the South Side of Chicago. Our mission is to enhance the capacity of citizens to hold public institutions accountable. Among the tactics we employ are human rights documentation, investigative reporting, civil rights litigation, the curating of public information, conceptual art projects, and the orchestration of difficult public conversations.

- **Story Tip Line**—info@invisibleinstitute.com; or go to invisible.institute/contact for more secure/anonymous tips
- **Invite Invisible Institute for Public Speaking Opportunities**—media@invisibleinstitute.com
- **Hyde Park Academy Students** can become involved through the Youth Police Project

Visit invisible.institute or email info@invisibleinstitute.com

City Bureau

(on-site)

City Bureau is a nonprofit civic journalism lab based on the South Side of Chicago. We produce local journalism about the South and West Sides of the city and facilitate free trainings and workshops where anyone can participate in the process of local media.

- **Public Newsroom** free weekly workshop, Thursdays, 6–8PM—journalists and the public gather to discuss local issues, share resources and knowledge, and learn to report and investigate stories.
- **Documenters Program** recruits, trains and pays this group of highly engaged citizens to monitor local government and contribute to a communal pool of knowledge. Sign up for free trainings and paid assignments at documenters.org.
- **Civic Reporting Fellowship** is a 10-week paid community journalism training program. Read coverage and apply at citybureau.org.

Visit citybureau.org or email info@citybureau.org

Civic Projects

(on-site)

Civic Projects is an architecture practice with a focus on quality design and long-term strategic thinking. Their work includes residential, commercial and community-based projects. Their approach is participatory, and rooted in an understanding of each project's unique context and needs.

- **Engage**—Provide services such as community workshops, toolkit building, design charrettes, strategic planning, grant writing, or production of fundraising imagery.
- **Design**—Current / past work includes exhibit design, academic spaces, cultural institutions, business accelerators, commercial spaces, multi-family residences, temporary activation, product design, and graphic design.
- **Build**—Work collaboratively with local fabricators and contractors.

Visit civic-projects.com or contact info@civic-projects.com

90 Days, 90 Voices

(fiscal sponsee, off-site)

90 Days, 90 Voices NFP is a nonprofit news outlet reimagining immigration journalism for a more just and equitable future. We educate the public about those seeking a home in the United States during an age of migration through reported stories, personal narratives, and events.

- **We Publish Our Stories** on www.90days90voices.com and in partner media outlets across the country.
- **We Work with People in Immigrant Communities** to produce civic journalism and tell community stories through oral history-style interviews and reported stories.
- **We Train Journalists** how to do better, more ethical reporting on immigration. To request a training in your news outlet or town, please email nissa@90days90voices.com.

Visit 90days90voices.com or email info@90days90voices.com

Community Bread Bakes

(on-site)

Our Executive Director Connie hosts **community bread bakes** several times each year. To join the bread bake mailing list, email Connie at connie@experimentalstation.org.

Dan Peterman / Peterman Studios

(co-founder, on-site)

Since the mid 1980's, artist and Experimental Station co-founder, Dan Peterman, has combined innovative strategies of local engagement and activism with national and international art projects, exhibitions and installations. Dan's work can be seen in public spaces in Chicago at Dance Fest in Grant Park (custom dance floor of recycled plastic) and the plaza of Museum of Contemporary Art ("Accessories to an Event" modular furniture).

Visit danpeterman.com

Mr Wong

(on-site since 1973)

Renowned South Side VW mechanic and four-plus-decade tenant of the building.

- **Free information about car issues and limited auto repair**

Business Hours: By appointment, Monday–Saturday, 9AM–4:30PM

Call **Wong Lee** at **773-612-7789**