

SCITOPIA®Chicago



Science Engagement for the 21st Century

OVERVIEW



Scitopia Chicago is overseen by the Scitopia Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not for profit educational organization.

MISSION

The mission of *Scitopia Chicago* is teen self-realization in science through innovative hands-on learning & community revitalization inspired by a free, resource-rich public destination.

VISION

The vision of *Scitopia Chicago* is for youth on Chicago's southwest side to discover the wonder and excitement of science & for Washington Park to return to the spotlight as a vibrant neighborhood destination.

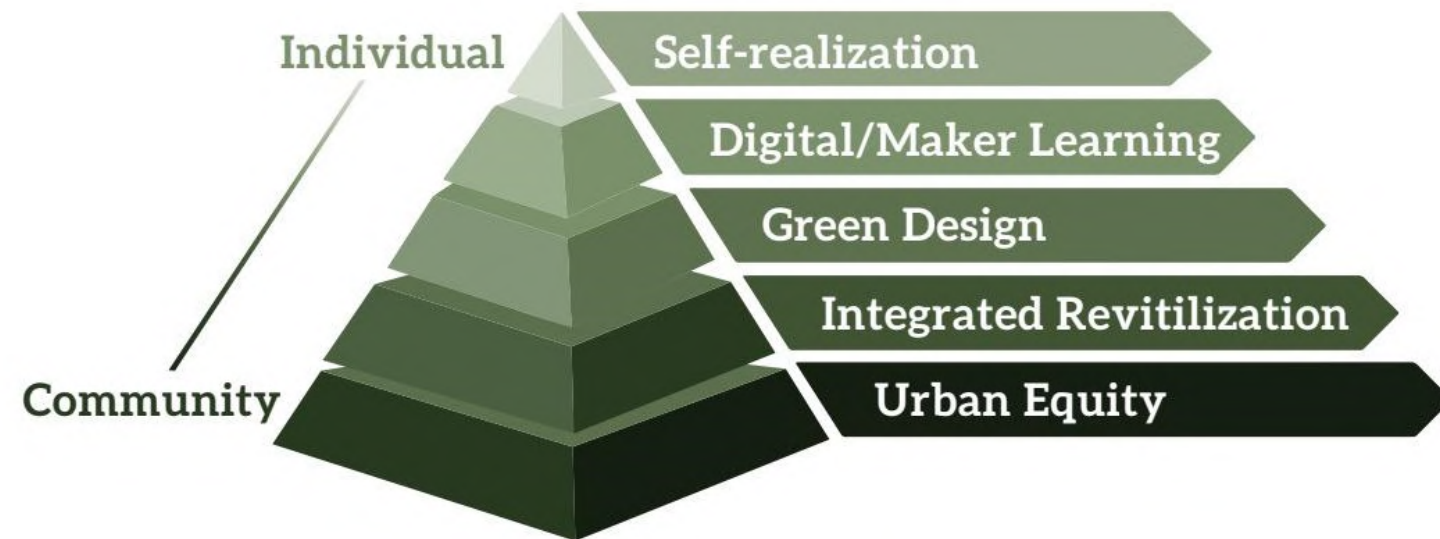


Architecture for Public Benefit
Design, illustrations & renderings
apbdesign.org

AIMS

Learning in Community

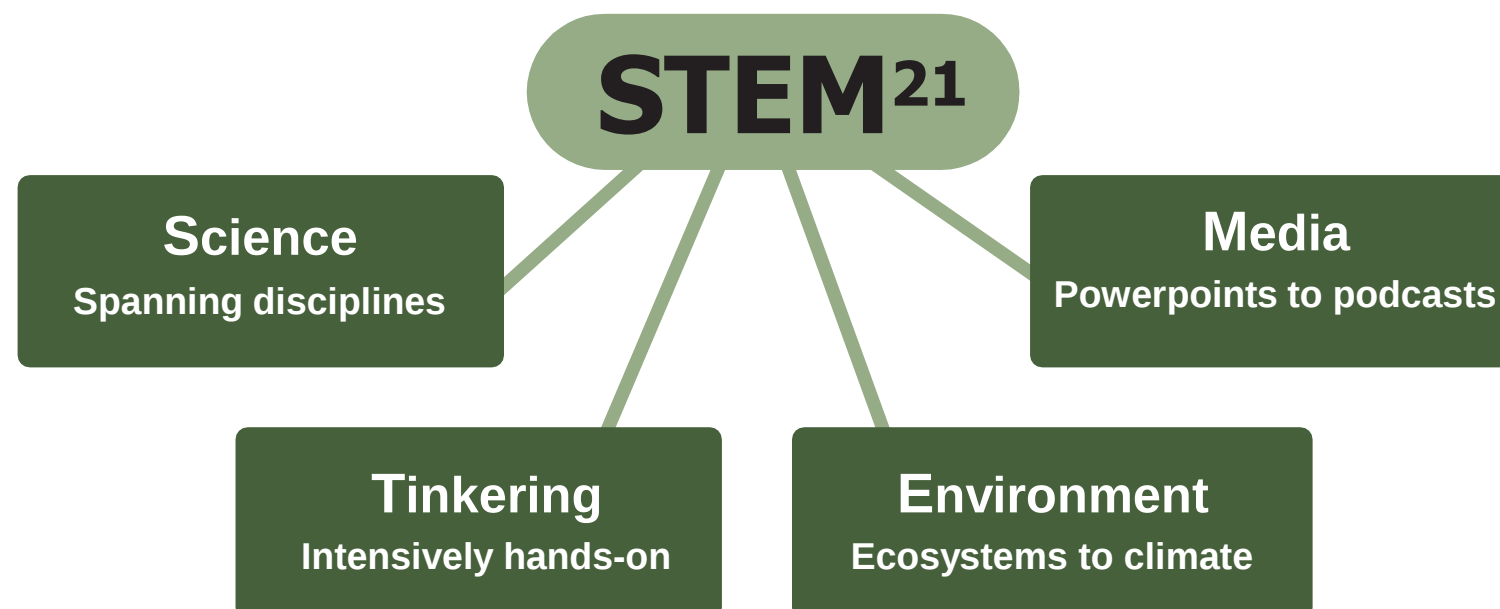
Scitopia Chicago's overarching model is “learning in community.”



EcoLab teens waded in to investigate the health of Washington Park's lagoon.

STEM Redux

Scitopia Chicago redefines “STEM for the 21st Century” placing the focus on with hands-on learning, environment and climate, and today's media landscape.



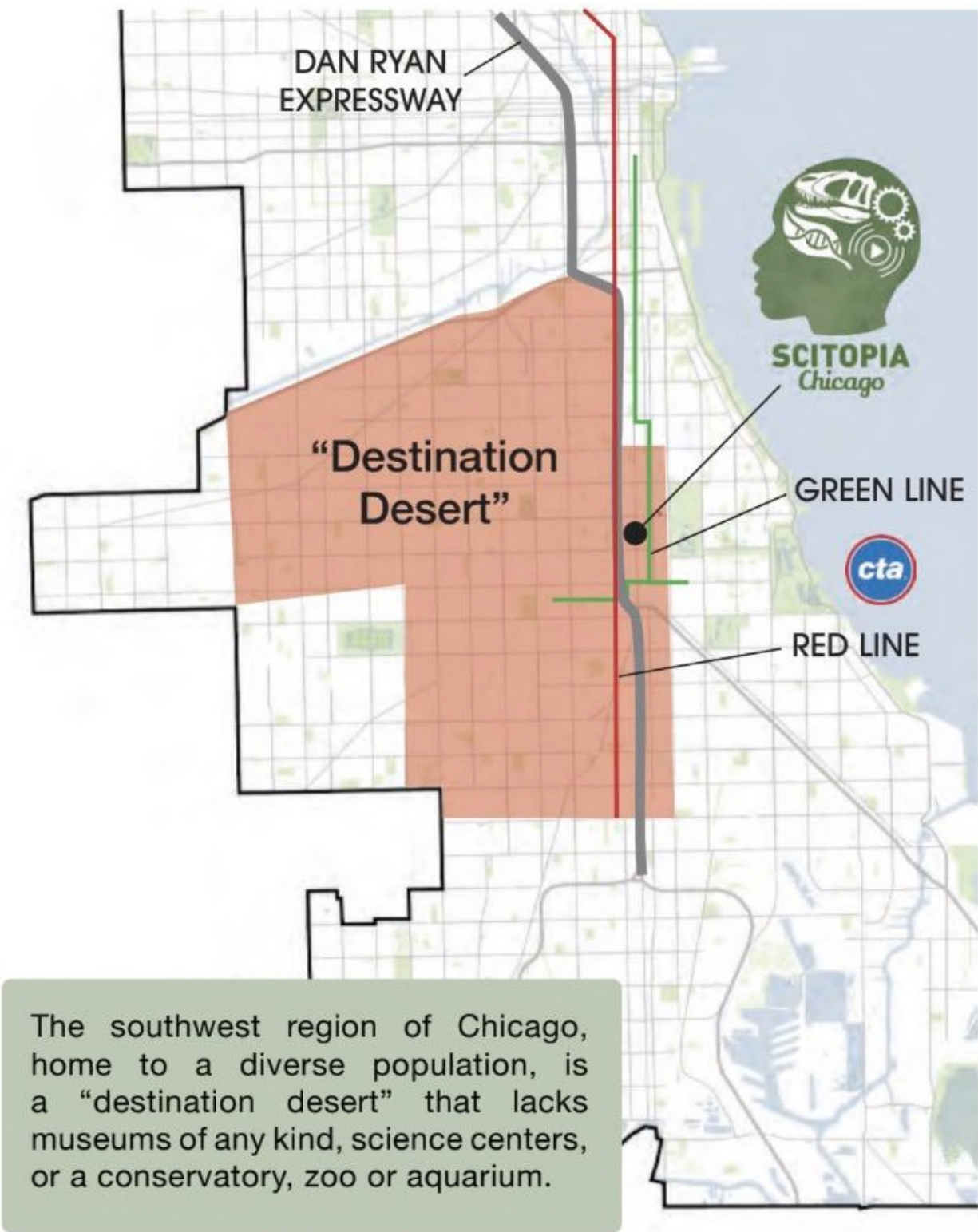
Public announcement and launch of *Scitopia Chicago*

Left to right: Carla Rogers, Senator Hunter's Office; Ald. Pat Dowell, Ward 3; Prof. Paul Sereno, Scitopia Chicago; Cecilia Butler, WP Residents' Advocacy Council; Principal Lauren Norwood, Burke Elementary; Rev. Jesse Knox Church of the Good Shepherd

LOCATION

CITY VIEW

Scitopia Chicago lies within a transit corridor including two CTA rail lines, an expressway, major avenues and a boulevard corridor.



NEIGHBORHOOD VIEW



Scitopia Chicago, located in the heart of the Washington Park neighborhood, lies at the center of one of Chicago’s envisioned transit hubs (eTOD), with some 5 million passengers passing by annually along Garfield Boulevard or the CTA’s Green Line.

DESIGN

LAYOUT & FUNCTION

World's first carbon-neutral, net-zero-energy (LEED Platinum) public science destination



Visions: exhibition and event space showcasing the neighborhood's 1950s jazz scene

Lost World: unique Africa-themed museum-conservatory-vivarium

Golden Lily Café, a place to relax, connect or seek library resources.

Imaginarium: Teen protected work and hangout areas and project resources.

MakerPlace: event space with **MakerLabs**, a **Solarium** to engage horticulture activities, and canopy views of the **Lost World Skyway**.



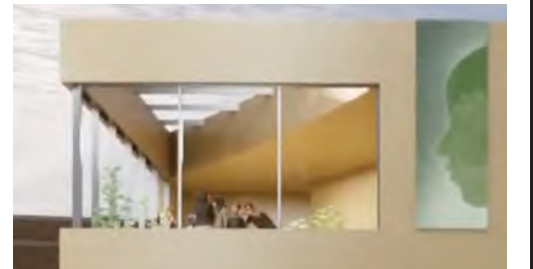
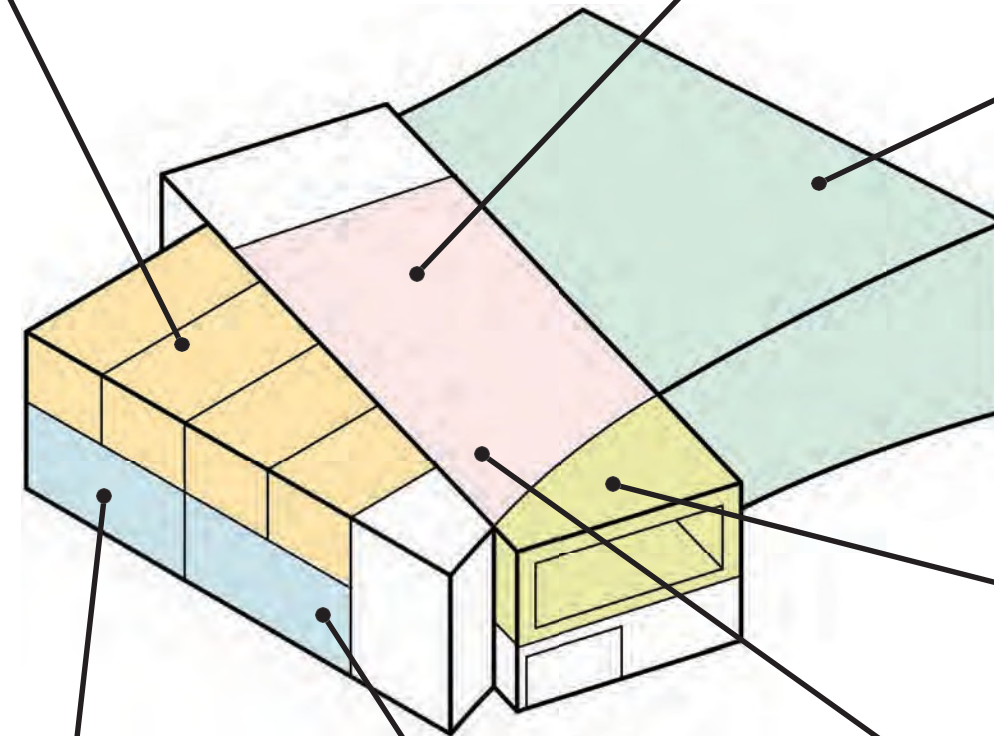
MakerLabs



MakerPlace



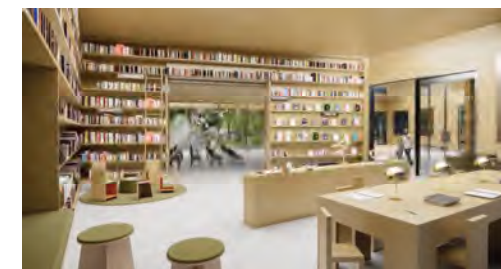
Lost World



Solarium



Golden Lily Cafe



Imaginarium



Visions

Lost World

This student-tended wonderland is a unique conservatory-vivarium-museum that for the first time brings together West Africa's iconic living and extinct species.



African Plants

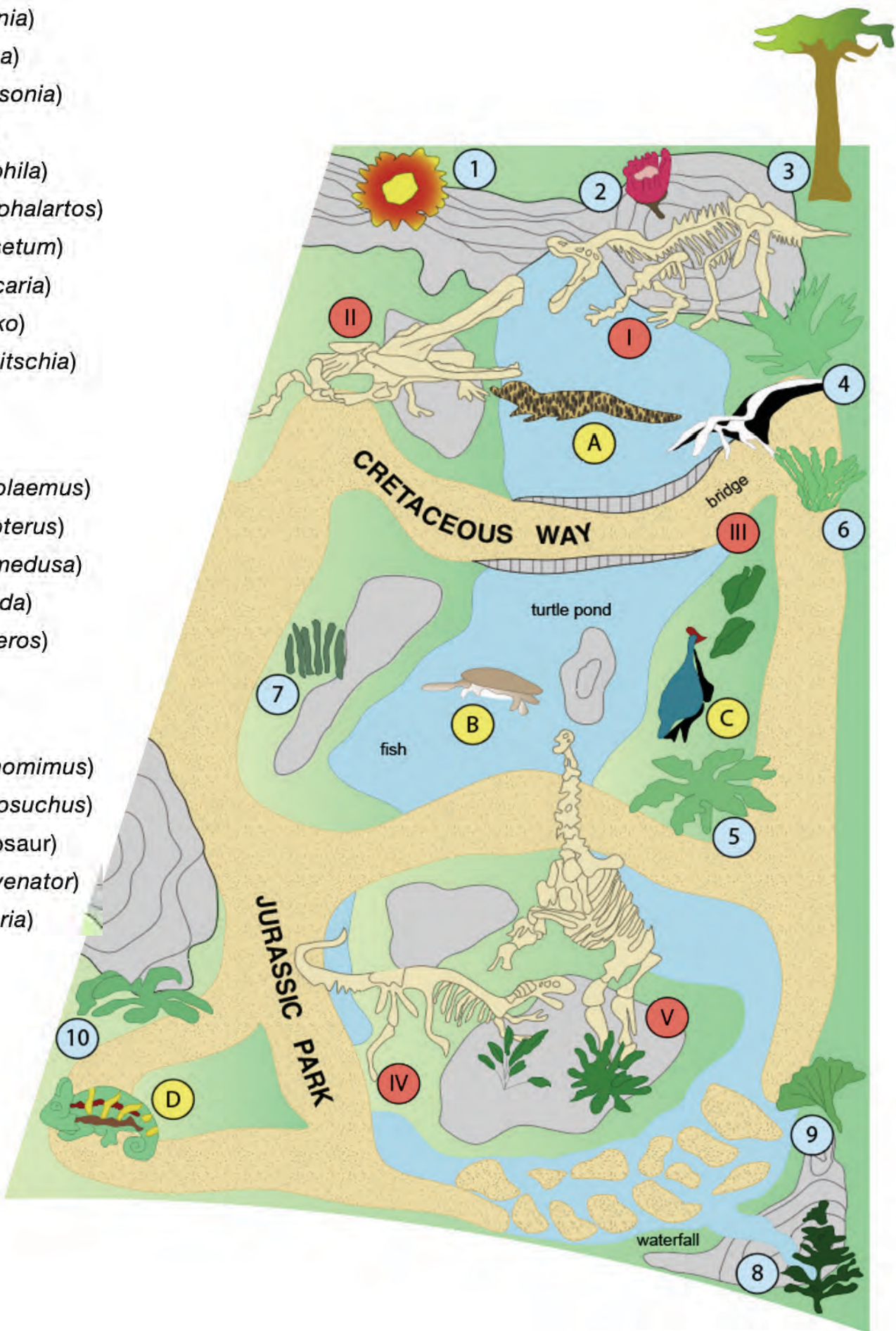
- ① Golden flame (*Gazania*)
- ② Protea (*Protea*)
- ③ Baobag (*Adansonia*)
- ④ Aloe (*Aloe*)
- ⑤ African Tree fern (*Alsophila*)
- ⑥ African cycad (*Encephalartos*)
- ⑦ Snake grass (*Equisetum*)
- ⑧ Araucaria (*Araucaria*)
- ⑨ Gingko (*Gingko*)
- ⑩ Welwitschia (*Welwitschia*)

African Animals

- (A) Dwarf crocodile (*Osteolaemus*)
- (B) Birchir (*Polypterus*)
- Crocodile turtle (*Pelomedusa*)
- (C) Guinea fowl (*Numida*)
- (D) Crested chameleon (*Trioceros*)

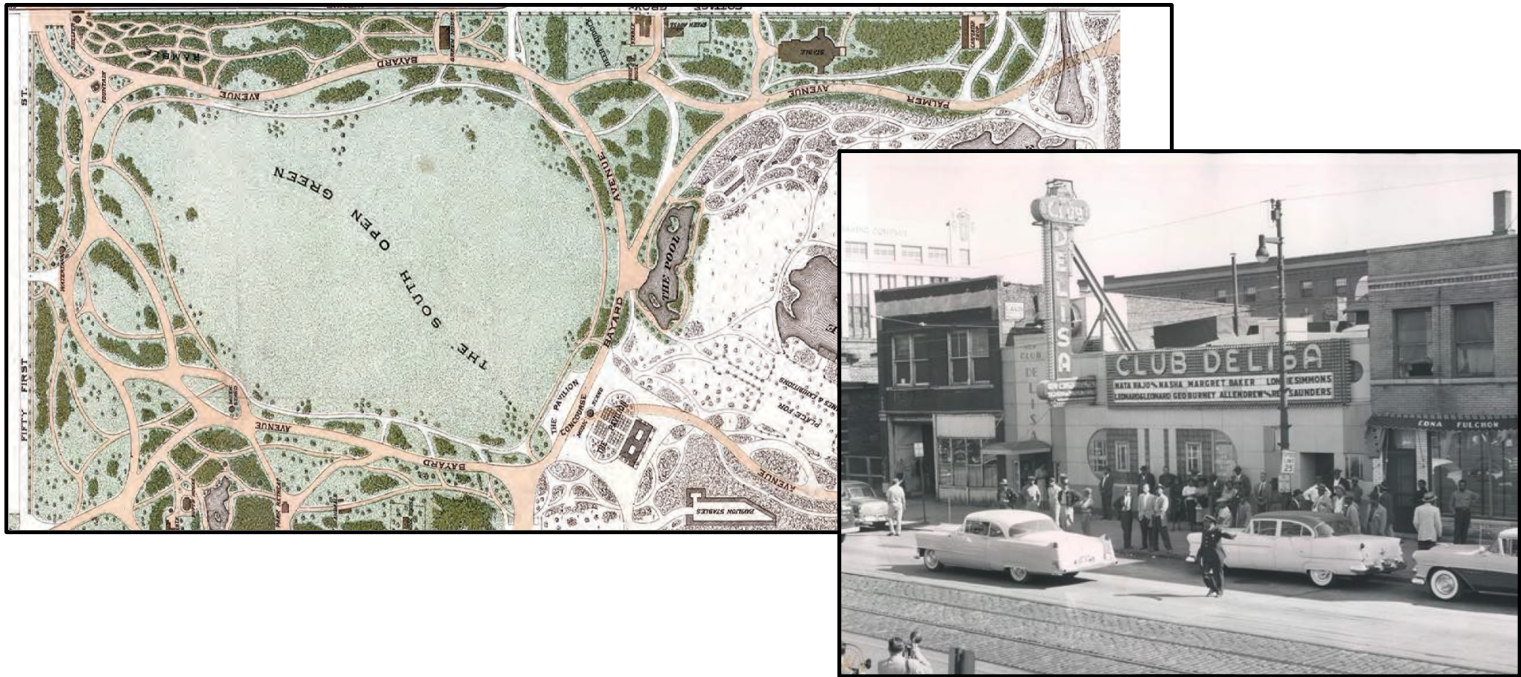
African Dinosaurs

- (I) Spinosaurid (*Suchomimus*)
- (II) SuperCroc (*Sarcosuchus*)
- (III) Flying reptile (pterosaur)
- (IV) Meat eater (*Afrovenator*)
- (V) Plant eater (*Jobaria*)



Visions

A look back at the neighborhood’s history featuring Washington Park & Black Jazz scene in the 1950’s

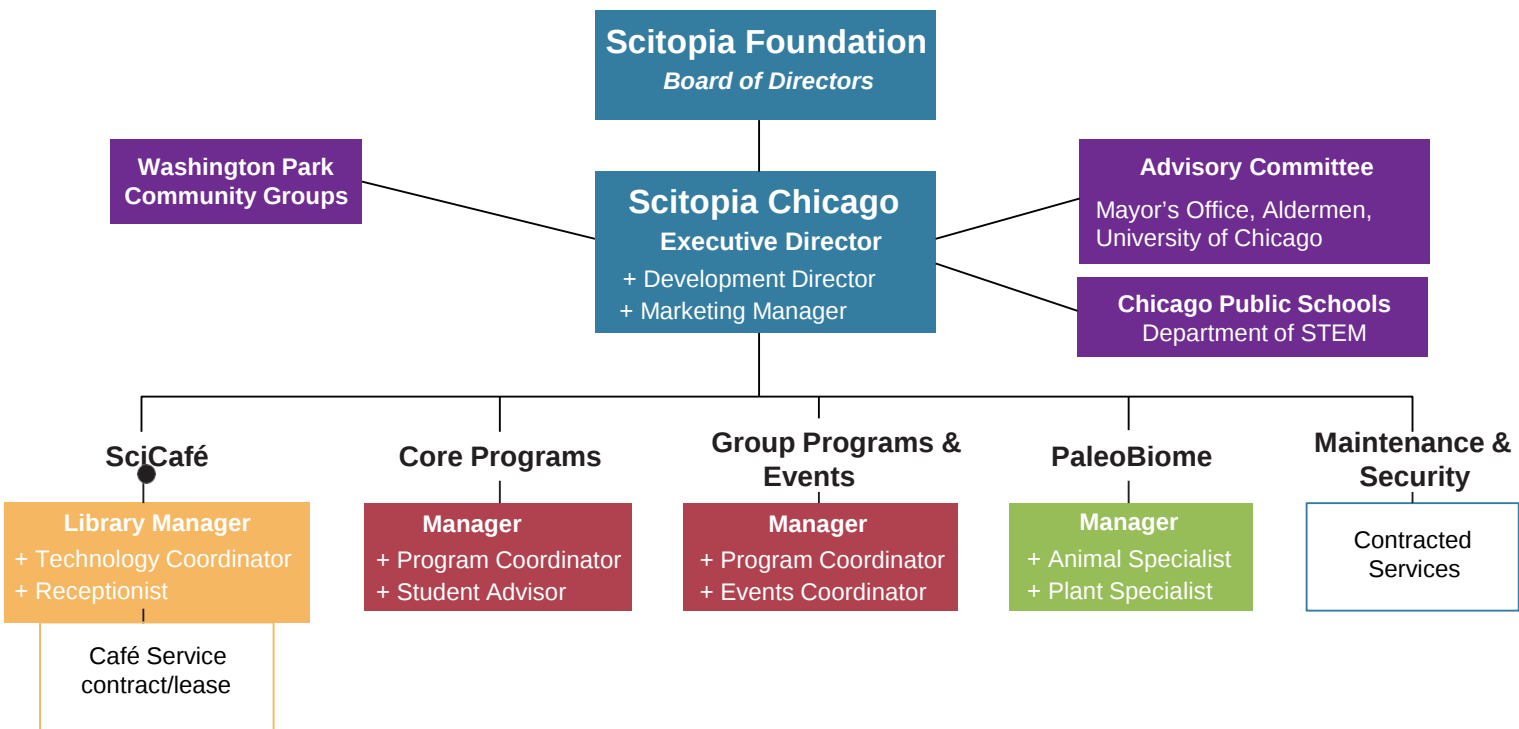


PaleoLab

Flexible teaching spaces for paleontology to cosmology with tools and equipment and a counter for interactive demonstrations



Organization



Corridor Partners



Investing in the future of Chicago's youth

- Education increases earning potential & economic mobility
- 31% WPN residents have school-age children
- 25% WPN residents have a child <18 years of age
- WPN ranks 43rd among Chicago's 77 neighborhoods in high school graduation rate
- WPN is in need of science-focused extracurricular programming
- WPN has no library, e-café or family destination

WPN = Washington Park Neighborhood



Community Benefits

Teens

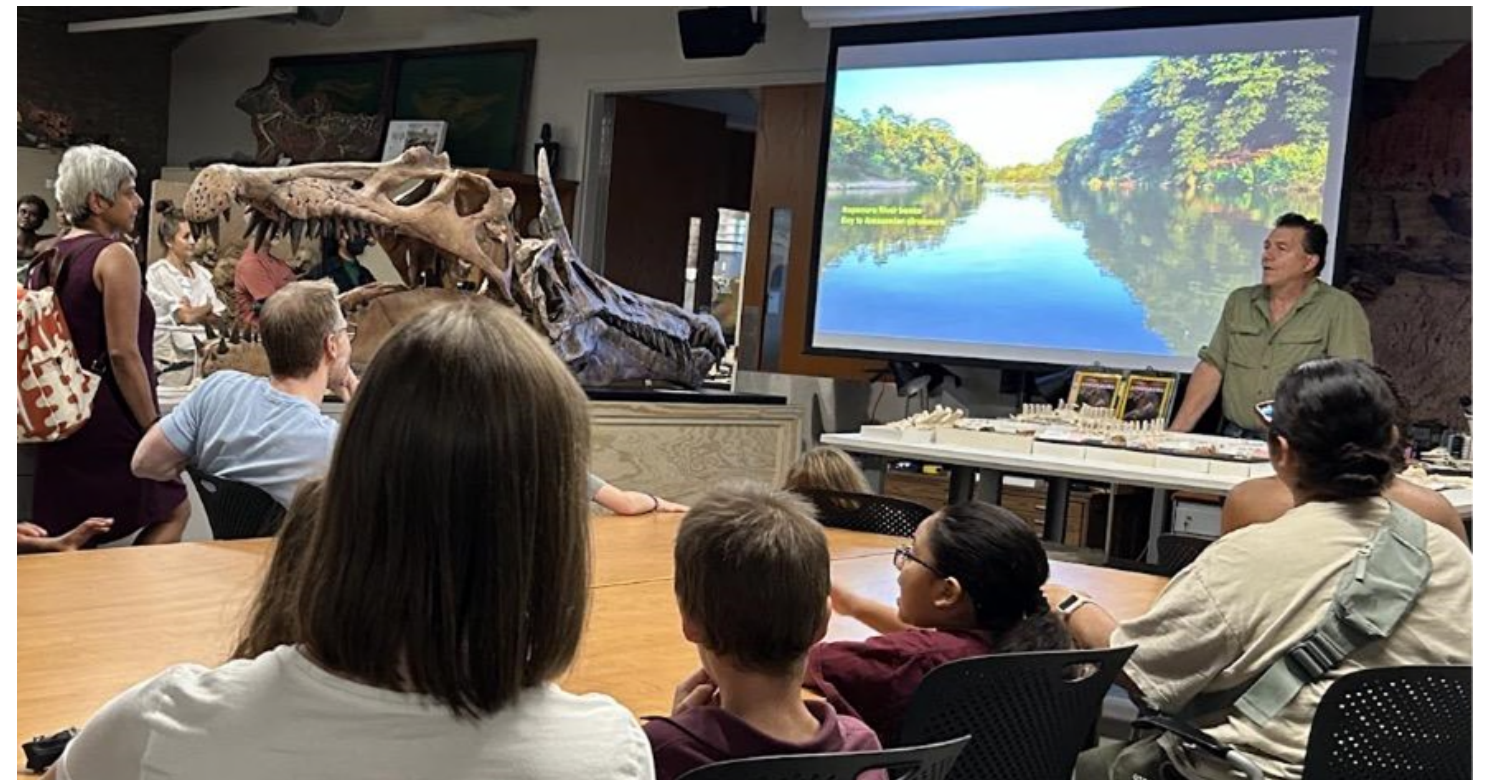
- Science programs/library/makerspaces
- Imaginarium safe, healthy hang-out space
- Internship & job opportunities
- Personalized recommendations
- Field trip & park excursions

Adults

- Online resources
- Meeting room
- Adult education lecture series
- New jobs (admin, operations & program staff)

Families

- Exciting free destination with dinosaurs
- Africa-themed *Lost World* conservatory & vivarium
- Informal, experiential science learning



Community Benefits

WP Schools

- Class visitation
- Internships & teacher training in STEM subjects
- School partnerships

WP Neighborhood

- Anchor for outside visitors/revenue
- Neighborhood museum featuring the WP's 1950's jazz scene, WP sights, WP parkland landscape
- Indoor Greenspace for year-round visitation featuring West Africa through deep time
- After hours earned revenue event space
- Construction contract work with neighborhood focus

