Network and Program Description

Updated May 19, 2022
CMRC History

• In 2001, MR published a report on *Creating a Manufacturing Career Path System in Cook County* which detailed the gaps in the workforce development and education system as it related to the manufacturing industry.

• In 2003, as a result of reading the 2001 report, the Illinois Manufacturers Association (IMA) commissioned MR to research and report on the *State of Illinois Manufacturing* which articulated the importance of manufacturing industry partnering with government and labor to increase the investment in training and educational infrastructure and other technical assistance programs that broadly support manufacturing as sector across the State.

• In 2004, began a year-long negotiated process, MR facilitated the creation of a first-of-its-kind coalition between a major labor organization (Chicago Federation of Labor) and a major industrial association (IMA) to work together to broadly support the manufacturing sector development inclusive of unionized and non-unionized companies.

• In 2005, this new partnership established the Chicagoland Manufacturing Renaissance Council (CMRC) as a program of Manufacturing Renaissance to allow the coalition to operate neutrally and with flexibility in a dynamic, political landscape. The CMRC grew into a multi-sector coalition of government, labor, business, education and community leaders committed to making Chicago a global leader in advanced manufacturing.
CMRC History

- In 2005, in the process of recruiting Chicago Public Schools to join the CMRC, then Chief of Schools Arne Duncan invited the CMRC to submit a high school design that could help CPS rebuild the link between schools and careers in manufacturing. MR, on behalf of the CMRC, convened the design team including educators, manufacturers, the Chicago Teachers Union, and community advocates.

- In 2007, the result of that work led to the establishment of Austin Polytechnical Academy, a public high school on the Westside of Chicago with an explicit mission to educate the next generation of leaders in all aspects of advanced manufacturing.

- Between 2010 - 2018, the CMRC anchored by the partnership between MR and CFL led to millions of dollars of investment from the City of Chicago into public education and economic development projects to support manufacturing in the Chicagoland area. In 2012, the CMRC was cited as promising initiative in the City of Chicago’s A Plan for Economic Development Growth and Jobs, March 2012.

- Since 2019, the CMRC Leadership has organized and hosted several meetings, conferences and events broadly around the theme of Inclusion & Industry 4.0, including: conference on learning the Basque model of Career and Technical Education; local elected officials sharing their updates on policies and programs that support manufacturing, Ministers for Manufacturing committee meetings, a recent panel lead by the Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves and Cook County Board President Preckwinkle. Events and meetings are attended by a diverse audience interested in learning more how to strengthen our regional manufacturing sector, while increasing social inclusion and the strength of communities.
What is the CMRC today?

The Chicagoland Manufacturing Renaissance Council is a regional coalition with the mission to:

Promote manufacturing as a tool for social inclusion and community development.
CMRC Principles

1. Advanced manufacturing can expand the middle class, increase inclusion and equity in disenfranchised communities.

2. Employers, workers and communities need strong education and workforce development systems.

3. We need to prioritize manufacturing in strategies for sustainable development.

4. We need a broad, racially and socially diverse coalition of people, leaders, organizations and businesses who believe manufacturing builds communities. Our coalition must include the following stakeholders:
   • Manufacturers and their associations
   • Organized labor and their associations
   • Educators and educational institutions
   • Social service providers
   • Community and faith leaders
   • Youth and youth advocates
   • Business owners and leaders
   • Government officials
CMRC Leadership Committee

1. Colin Cosgrove, Vice President of Fabrications, S&C Electric—Co-chair
2. Mollie Dowling, Executive Director, OAI, Inc. - Co-chair
3. Craig Freedman, President, Freedman Seating
4. Reggie Greenwood, Executive Director of the Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation and the Supply Chain Innovation Center and Business Incubator
5. Rev. Anthony Haynes, Ministers for Manufacturing Committee Chairman
6. Michael Moriarty, Career Pathways Coordinator, Chicago Teachers Union Foundation
7. Dr. Alice Palmer, Former Illinois State Senator (13th District)
8. Jim Piper, President, Matot, Inc.
9. Irene Sherr, Deputy Bureau Chief, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development
10. Paola Velasquez, Director of Diversity in Manufacturing, IMEC
11. Don Villar, Secretary-Treasurer, Chicago Federation of Labor
12. Erica Staley, Executive Director, Manufacturing Renaissance with support from the MR Team: Dan Swinney (Founder/Senior Advisor), David Robinson (Director of External Relations), Joyce Weston (Career Pathway Services Program Director)
While MR works with a wide variety of employers, partners and collaborators, this year our goal is to consolidate as many of our collaborative partnerships under the CMRC banner as possible to amplify our collective voice of diverse stakeholders who support this approach to inclusion, community and economic development through manufacturing.

**Organizations & Companies**

Bronzeville Partners, LLC  
Business And Career Services, Inc.  
Chicago Federation of Labor  
Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation  
Chicago Teachers Union Foundation  
Columbia Metal Spinning  
Cook County Bureau of Economic Development  
Damron Corp.  
EAM Ventures  
Freedman Seating  
Greater Chatham Initiative  
Gritstone Professional Services  
Helium Foot Software  
Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center  
Independent Voters of Illinois - Independent Precinct Organization  
InsightFueled, LLC  
Jane Addams Resource Corp.  
Janler Corporation  
Jubilee Church  
Koval Distillery  
Laystrom Manufacturing  
Matot  
Mi-Jack Products  
MxD USA  
North Branch Works  
OAI, Inc.  
Revolution Institute  
Richard J. Daley College  
Prairie State College  
Progressive West Rockford Community Development Corporation  
Purpose Workforce Solutions  
Signature Bank  
Sloan Manufacturing  
Sonoco  
St. John Missionary Baptist Church (Joliet)  
Teamsters Local Union #777  
Technology and Manufacturers Association  
The Invert Chicago  
Westside Ministers’ Coalition
CMRC Members

Continued

**Individuals**

Mr. Alex Zahorodnyj
Dr. Alice Palmer
Mr. Allan Beek
Rev. Anthony Haynes
Mr. Bill Urban
Mr. Charles Orlowek
Mr. Chris Myers
Mr. DeJuan M. Lever
Ms. Ellen Lindsey
Mrs. Grace Chan McKibben

Mr. Gregory McDonnell
Mr. Jean Baptiste Tuyishime
Ms. Lucy Minturn
Mr. Martin Hare
Mr. Norwin Merens
Ms. Petula Sankarsingh
Mr. Steven Olson
Mrs. Venida Duncan
Mr. William Shortell
MR’s Organizational Chart

The CMRC is a program of MR and represents a key strategy for how we engage a diverse mix of policy, community and economic development stakeholders. This year, we’ve made the distinction between the CMRC General Membership Network and the CMRC Leadership Committee which serves as advisory board that supports all MR’s major programs given the overlapping nature MR’s programs have with the advancing CMRC goals.
CMRC Program Structure

Guided by the Leadership Committee, the CMRC organizes a calendar of quarterly meetings and events to highlight issues and opportunities that affect the manufacturing ecosystem in the Chicagoland area. Recent meetings include panels on federal policies that support manufacturing development, international best-practices in career and technical education, and shining a light on important work being done by CMRC members and collaborators.

CMRC committees develop in response to needs and interests of members. We welcome suggestions for new committees.
CMRC Goals for 2022

1. Advocate for manufacturing as a tool for community development among key coalition stakeholders (see Principle #4).
2. Support and advocate for expansion of workforce development and related education programs.
3. Expand the CMRC membership.
4. Increase influence as a network.
5. Increase dedicated funding for CMRC.
Join Us!

• Complete a CMRC Membership Agreement Form
• Pay an annual membership fee
  • Sliding scale for both individuals and organizations
• Participate!
  • Through quarterly meetings and events and a variety of programmatic initiatives with MR and other CMRC members.
  • Let’s talk about where our interests overlap to support one another in how we expand the manufacturing ecosystem in the Chicagoland area.