Network Description

Updated July 2023

A coalition building initiative of
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
1. Colin Cosgrove, Vice President of Fabrications, S&C Electric
2. Craig Freedman, President, Freedman Seating
3. Reggie Greenwood, Executive Director of the Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation and the Supply Chain Innovation Center and Business Incubator
4. Rev. Anthony Haynes, Ministers for Manufacturing Committee Chairman
5. *Michael Moriarty, Career Pathways Coordinator, Chicago Teachers Union Foundation
6. *Jim Piper, President, Matot, Inc.
7. Irene Sherr, Deputy Bureau Chief, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development
8. Jonathan Snyder, Executive Director, North Branch Works
9. Paola Velasquez, Director of Diversity in Manufacturing, IMEC
10. Don Villar, Secretary-Treasurer, Chicago Federation of Labor
11. Erica Staley, Executive Director, Manufacturing Renaissance with support from the MR Team: Dan Swinney (Founder/Senior Advisor), David Robinson (Director of External Relations), Sarah Mercado (Career Pathway Services Program Director), DeeDee Jones (Industry Coordinator)

*CMRC Co-Chair
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.
CMRC Members

Continued

*Individuals*
Mr. Alex Zahorodyj
Dr. Alice Palmer
Rev. Anthony Haynes
Mr. Bill Urban
Mr. Charles Orlowek
Mr. Chris Myers
Mr. DeJuan M. Lever
Dr. Edward Gordon
Dr. Edward Hamburg
Mrs. Grace Chan McKibben

Mr. Gregory McDonnell
Mr. Gus Redmond
Ms. Lucy Minturn
Mr. Martin Hare
Mr. Norwin Merens
Ms. Petula Sankarsingh
Dr. Stephen A. Laser
Mrs. Venida Duncan
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
Network Structure

Guided by the Leadership Committee and staffed by MR, the CMRC organizes a calendar of meetings and events to highlight issues and opportunities that highlight the needs and impact of the manufacturing ecosystem in the Chicagoland area.

CMRC members are also regularly outreaching to a diversity of stakeholders to raise awareness about the opportunities in manufacturing and to find a variety of ways for communities to find common cause with manufacturing ecosystem development.

Committees are developed based on need and opportunity to further engage strategic groups of stakeholders.
CMRC Results
2022

1. Organized over 166 community engagement meetings related to opportunities in manufacturing and initiatives to advocate for manufacturing as a tool for community development. Activities included:
   1. Advocacy Day in Springfield, IL
   2. Ministers for Manufacturing committee meetings
   3. Presentations to educator, corporate, community-based organizations
   4. Meetings with manufacturers
   5. Meetings with elected and government officials including effort that led to the introduction of a resolution in City Council
   6. Participated or presented at other member or Chicagoland area manufacturing events

2. Organized or supported 30 manufacturing workforce development and related career education activities. Activities included:
   1. MR youth career pathways program activities at local high schools, coordinating with Chicago Public Schools and social service agencies
   2. OAI Southland Robotics competition
   3. Attended or organized activities hosted by Daley College

3. 16 new members joined the CMRC.
CMRC Goals for 2023

1. Strengthen and expand connectivity and networking among CMRC members and stakeholders.
2. Support and advocate for expansion of workforce development and related education programs.
3. Increase support among government officials, institutional and organizational leaders for CMRC-related activities, programs and policies.
Join Us!

• Complete a CMRC Membership Agreement Form
• Pay annual membership dues
  • Sliding scale for both individuals and organizations
  • Pay dues conveniently through MR’s website
• Participate!
  • Through committee meetings and a variety of events organized by CMRC members across the Chicagoland area.
  • Let’s talk about where our interests overlap to support one another in how we expand a more inclusive manufacturing ecosystem in the Chicagoland area.
  • Contact David Robinson, drobinson@mfgren.org, for more information