

Google

Deepening Google's Commitment to Illinois





The iconic Thompson Center will establish Google's presence in Chicago's Loop district
(Photo credit: Courtesy of Jahn)

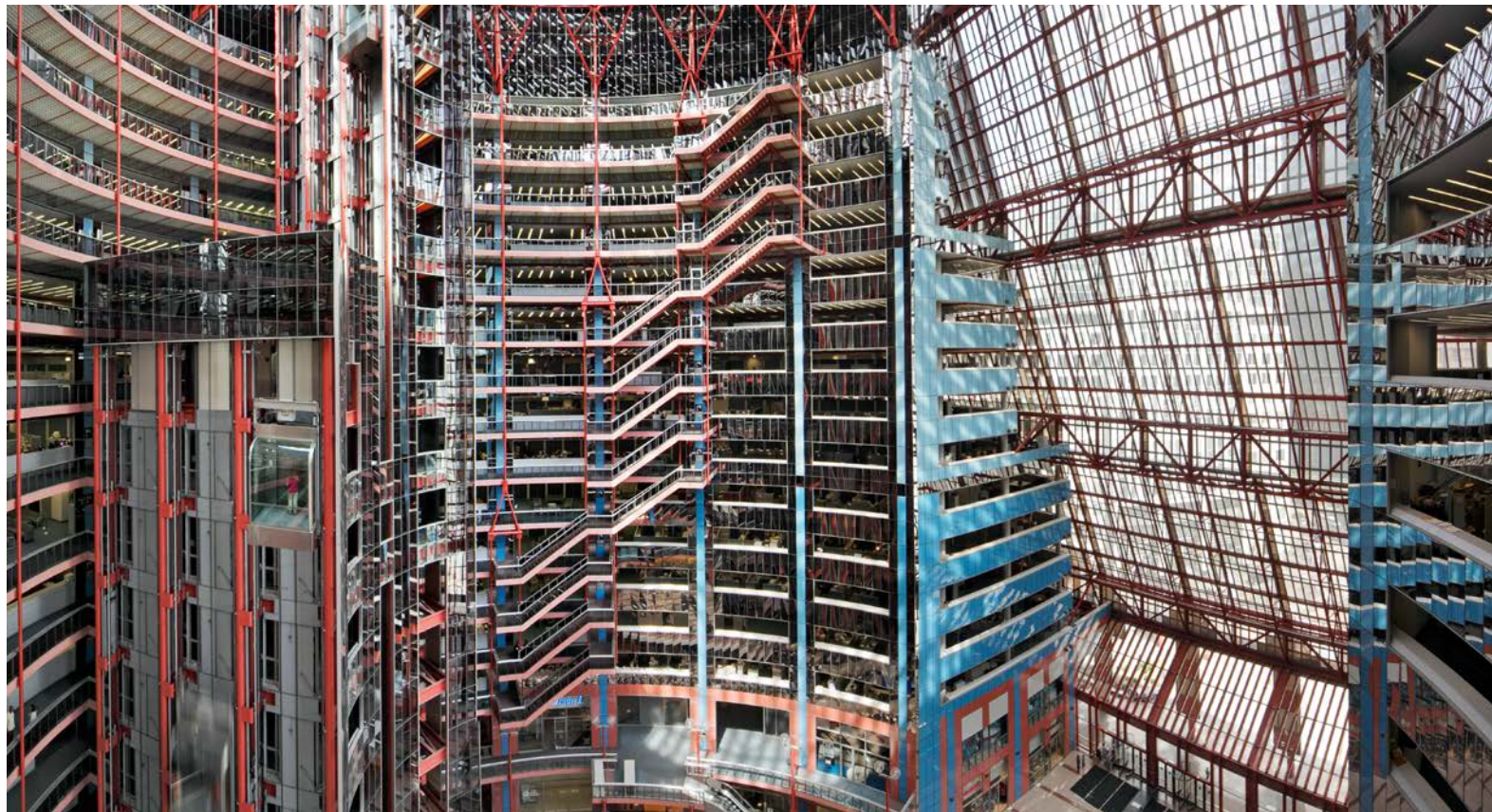
Karen Sauder,
Google Chicago Site Lead and Global Clients and Agency Solutions President

Bringing Google to Chicago's Thompson Center

In 2000, Google's Chicago office consisted of two people in River North. And today, we're announcing we intend to buy the iconic James R. Thompson Center building in Chicago's Loop upon future renovation, which deepens our commitment to Google's long-term presence in the city. The cost of the existing unrenovated building is \$105 million.

This will support engineering work in Chicago and helps advance the growth of Google's partners and customers across the Midwest and nationally. It also helps us meet the future needs of our [flexible hybrid workforce](#). By establishing a presence in Chicago's central business district, we will be getting in on the ground floor of a broader revitalization of the Loop.

The Thompson Center will provide employees with unparalleled public transit access as the only building in the city where six L stops converge, easily connecting Chicago's South, West and North sides.



Google will occupy the Thompson Center once renovations are completed.
(Photo credit: Courtesy of Jahn)

The tech sector's economic impact in Chicago has been significant. The city has become a global tech hub generating new jobs and top talent. A recent [economic impact study](#) shows creating one high-tech job generates another 4.4 jobs in the local economy. In 2020, Google's employees in Chicago supported over 4,600 indirect jobs in Illinois, for a total economic impact of \$2 billion.

[Office Spotlight: Chicago](#)

We love being part of Chicago's diverse and vibrant community. It's important to us to be good neighbors and continue to focus on helping local communities, organizations and people emerge stronger from the pandemic:

- [Since 2007](#), Google.org has awarded over \$18 million in grants to a wide range of nonprofits and organizations based in Illinois, including grants that help place jobseekers from under-resourced Chicago communities into in-demand careers.
- [Grow with Google](#) has trained more than 358,000 people across Illinois in digital skills.
- [Google for Startups](#) partners with leading startups that support the state's technology entrepreneurs, like 1871 and Bunker Labs. For example, as part of our inaugural [Google for Startups Latino Founders Fund](#), five Chicago startups founded by Latino entrepreneurs each [recently received](#) \$100,000 in cash awards to help fuel their businesses. And over the past two years, the [Google for Startups Black Founders Fund](#) has provided cash awards and support to promising entrepreneurs across the country, including to Chicago-based companies A.M Money, Five to Nine, 4Degrees, LifeWeb 360, Cyber Pop-Up and GoLogic.

We look forward to continuing to be an active part of Chicago's community for many years to come.

[View this post on Google's Keyword blog here.](#)

Creating economic opportunity in Illinois

Google is proud to call Illinois home

Creating economic opportunity in the Land of Lincoln

2+ decades in Illinois

Google has proudly called Illinois home for more than two decades with two offices in Chicago.

1,800+ employed full-time

More than 1,800 Illinoisans are employed full-time by Google.

\$24.48B of economic activity

In 2021, Google helped provide \$24.48B of economic activity for hundreds of thousands of Illinois businesses, nonprofits, publishers, creators, and developers.

763,000+ Illinois businesses

More than 763,000 Illinois businesses received requests for directions, phone calls, bookings, reviews, and other direct connections to their customers from Google in 2021.

Helping Illinois businesses and job seekers

Technology provides economic opportunity for Americans—it helps business owners find new customers online (87% of businesses said that using digital tools to find customers was important) and workers develop skills for new career opportunities. Google is helping people learn digital skills so they can reach new customers and find new job opportunities. In Illinois, Grow with Google has partnered with 348 organizations to train more than 358,000 Illinoisans on digital skills, including public libraries, chambers of commerce, and organizations like **Step Up For Mental Health** and **IL SBDC for the Metro East**.

70,000

Google Career Certificate graduates in the U.S. 75% report a positive career impact within six months

The Google Career Certificates program provides online job training, available in English and with Spanish-language support, and prepares job seekers for careers in high-growth fields like data analytics and IT Support—with no degree or experience required. To help more people access this program, we've announced a new \$100M Google Career Certificates Fund which will enable nonprofits to support tens of thousands of American workers. The Google Career Certificates are also free to all community colleges and career and technical education (CTE) high schools to add to their curriculum. There are 70,000 graduates in the U.S., with 75% reporting a positive career impact within six months of completion and 55% identifying as Asian, Black, or Latino.* Graduates can connect with over 150 employers through our employer consortium and receive career support resources like resume templates, interview prep, and coaching.

\$100M

to support economic mobility for American workers

The \$100M Google Career Certificates Fund is a combination of Google.org grants and Google loans that aims to drive over \$1B in aggregate wage gains by enabling nonprofit, Social Finance, to support economic mobility for tens of thousands of underserved American workers.



“The insights and resources provided by Google tools made a huge impact on our ability to better serve our audience and grow our business, all at once.”

Elisa Schmitz
 Founder & CEO of 30Seconds.com
 Glencoe, Illinois

\$185M

to support small business resilience

Google's commitment of **\$185M** enabled Opportunity Finance Network (OFN) to establish the [Grow with Google Small Business Fund](#) and [OFN's Grant Program](#) funded by Google.org. The fund delivered low-interest loans to over 50 community development financial institutions (CDFIs) including **Allies for Community Business** based in Chicago, as well as others that serve the state of Illinois, who in turn provided loans to tens of thousands of underserved small businesses. Over the last two years, the loans and grants were disbursed to OFN-member CDFIs, including **\$50M** to support Black-owned businesses.

7,800+

underrepresented business owners trained in Illinois by local digital coach

In 2017, Google launched the [Grow with Google Digital Coaches program](#) in Chicago. Now available statewide, the program provides free hands-on coaching and digital skills training to help Black and Latino small businesses reach new customers, thrive online, and grow. Our Illinois Digital Coach has helped train **more than 7,800 small business owners** through **110+ digital skills workshops**.

\$75M+

in venture capital raised by underrepresented startup founders

[Google for Startups](#) partners with leading Illinois startup organizations that support the state's technology entrepreneurs, like **187 Bunker Labs**. Over the past two years, the [Google for Startups Black Founders Fund](#) has provided \$10M in cash awards and support to promising entrepreneurs including companies like A.M Money and Five to Nine in Chicago. **The investments have created a halo effect by helping these founders raise over \$75M in venture capital**. Additionally, Google for Startups announced a [\\$7M commitment](#) to the Latino startup community to help founders get access to capital needed to scale, and to support organizations working to grow a robust community of Latino founders this year. Additionally, in partnership with **American Underground**, Google for Startups concluded its sixth annual [Black Founders Exchange](#) program last year. Since the program began, founders have collectively grown their revenues 36X, including **TinyDocs** in Chicago.

Supporting Illinois nonprofits and local organizations

We know that organizations are already doing great work in Illinois. That's why Google has partnered with trusted community institutions across the state to bring digital skills training, grant funding, and other resources to more Illinoisans.

\$18M+

in grants to nonprofits and organizations based in Illinois

Since 2007, Google.org has awarded over **\$18M in grants** to nonprofits and organizations based in Illinois. This funding has helped organizations like the **Obama Foundation** and **Community Based Organization Collective** drive workforce development to help employ Chicagoans.

Since 2004, our employees based in Illinois—including matching contributions from Google—have donated over **\$20M in charitable giving** to nonprofits. Our employees also served over **32,000+ hours of volunteer work** with nonprofits and schools in areas we're passionate about, including STEM education, economic opportunity, and access to the internet.

\$28.58M

in free search advertising to Illinois nonprofits

Since 2011, [Google for Nonprofits](#) has supported more than **8,500 nonprofits in Illinois**. In 2020, Google.org provided over **\$28.58M in free search advertising** to Illinois nonprofits through the [Google Ad Grants](#) program.

Since 2014, [Google Fiber Webpass](#) has **provided high-speed, high bandwidth internet service** to condominium and apartment communities in Chicago.

In 2021, Google helped **teach more than 24,000 K-12 students in Illinois on computer science skills** using CS First, our introductory curriculum that makes coding easy to teach and fun to learn.

Supporting Chicago's economy

CHICAGO TECH EFFECT

With the lines between tech and non-tech continually blurred, the success of the Chicago technology sector is a key part of the success of our overall economy, as we see in the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce's Chicago Tech Effect study.

The study, conducted by the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and HR&A Advisors with the support of our member Google, represents the most comprehensive analysis of the impact of the Chicago tech ecosystem to-date, establishing several key economic indicators that point to the overall growth of the city's tech sector. **Key trends uncovered by the study include:**

Chicago has become a leading tech hub in the US as the tech ecosystem has grown by 18% in the last decades. It directly employs 106K Chicagoans and supports an additional 147K jobs across other industries. In total, those 253K total jobs represent 18% of Chicago's workforce, make a \$74B economic impact and generate \$651M in tax revenue for state and local governments.

This widespread tech growth in Chicago is fueling upward mobility and greater economic equality. Median wages are 1.5X higher in the tech ecosystem compared to the overall economy. Half of the top 10 tech occupations are accessible to those without a college degree. People without a bachelor's degree can earn 34% more working in the tech ecosystem.

Chicago outperforms national averages for diversity in tech. Chicago exceeds the national average of Black and Latino employment in the tech ecosystem by over 50%. 34% of startups were founded by women, the highest share among global tech hubs.

Read the full study at ChicagolandChamber.org/TechEffect

Click the links below to access the Chicago Tech Effect report, video, and social graphic.



➤ [View Report](#)



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