Corridor Introduction
Chicago’s South Lawndale Neighborhood, also known as Little Village, is the largest center of Mexican commerce and culture in the city. Little Village, or “la Villa” is characterized by its rich heritage and cultural significance as exemplified on 26th Street, the community’s main commercial corridor. The 26th Street corridor attracts visitors from all over the region and is celebrated as the second highest-grossing commercial corridor in Chicago, after the Magnificent Mile on Michigan Ave. Dubbed the “Mexico of the Midwest,” Little Village is considered a Downtown of Mexican Chicago with its numerous storefronts and restaurants along 26th Street and Cermak Road. The Mexican Independence Day Parade that takes place along 26th Street is a major annual attraction for people all over the region.

Little Village Community

Guiding Principles

1. FOCUS THE VITALITY OF THIS PART OF 26TH STREET IN A NEW CONTEXT
2. EMBRACE THE PEDESTRIAN ENVIRONMENT
3. CONSTRUCT THE MEXICAN CULTURAL REALM: NEXT GENERATION
4. COMPLETE THE URBAN CORRIDOR: COMPLETE THE URBAN CORRIDOR

Corridor Issues

- Lack of Parking, Traffic Congestion, and Easy Access
- Perceived Safety Issues
- Lack of Multi-generational Venues and Entertainment
- High Rents that Instigate Vacancies
- Poor Streetscape Conditions

Strategies for Transformation

- Streetscape
- Placitas
- Parklets

Project Study Area

By converting the existing area to BEACHESIDE, GREENSPACE, and PLACITAS, a streetscape and open space component of cultural experiences can be formed into unique projects.

Central Placita

- A large open space in the heart of the corridor, providing a space for community gatherings, cultural events, and economic activities.

Placitas

- Small open spaces that enhance the pedestrian environment, providing opportunities for social interaction and commerce.

Parklets

- Small seating areas that add greenery and seating to the streetscape, creating a more pedestrian-friendly environment.

Corridor Issues

- Lack of Parking, Traffic Congestion, and Easy Access
- Perceived Safety Issues
- Lack of Multi-generational Venues and Entertainment
- High Rents that Instigate Vacancies
- Poor Streetscape Conditions

Guiding Principles

1. Focus the Vitality of This Part of 26th Street in a New Context
2. Embrace the Pedestrian Environment
3. Construct the Mexican Cultural Realm: Next Generation
4. Complete the Urban Corridor: Complete the Urban Corridor

Strategies for Transformation

- Streetscape
- Placitas
- Parklets

Project Study Area

By converting the existing area to Beacheside, GreenSpace, and Placitas, a streetscape and open space component of cultural experiences can be formed into unique projects.