Project Forward is a community and economic development consultancy and real estate developer. We've helped clients secure over $35M in 5 years and has engaged nearly 10,000 small businesses and anchor institutions in Chicago, Detroit, Seattle, Milwaukee, Austin.

Project Forward is tech enabled, and Black woman owned. The founder and Chief Solutionist has lead community development with programming, technical assistance and capacity building for community anchor institutions, business improvement districts and neighborhood focused real estate developers.

Christyn is currently supporting policy for community investment vehicles at the County and City level, so projects that she works on have a lowered barrier to community equity. She is the co-founder of the Economic Justice League, a group of super heroes committed to closing the racial wealth gap and build wealth for communities.
Project Forward Goals - Strengthen the Ecosystem

- Provide needed back office support to local developers for projects under $10M
- Teach commercial development in commercial corridors
- Build capacity for neighborhood developers to pursue access to capital for commercial real estate development
- Build entrepreneurial base for disinvested neighborhoods
- Support development of trusted networks for disinvested neighborhoods
- Increase $ circulation within disinvested communities
Ecosystem Members

Economic Development Practitioners

Acknowledge systemic disparity for BIPOC for economic mobility and wealth building

Committed to social and institutional equity

Social Impact Minded

Willing to share data cross sector

Economic Development Practitioner Archetypes

cross sector EDPs descriptions

**ED Entrepreneur**
Entrepreneurs who create businesses that have some component of social concern or consideration: they may have informal programming around hiring hard to employee individuals, like returning citizens or single mothers; they likely did not select their business not only because they wanted to make money, but to fill a social or cultural need in their community.

**ED Professional**
EDP who may work for an EDO or as a consultant, they have a mission to bridge the racial wealth gap as identified by projects and work over the last 5 years. They will typically be engaged with a non profit or social enterprise.

**ED Organization**
Economic development organization that has a reach over a specific geography, employs multiple EDPs or funds economic development initiatives

**EDP Advocate**
Someone who is not directly in the economic development field, but may have some interest in fighting the racial wealth gap. This maybe an architect, real estate agent
Integrated Access to Capital - FISSHD Capital

Financial Capital
Site Acquisition and Renovation Grants

Intellectual Capital
Politics/politics

Social Capital
BIPOC Founder Network Municipal connections

Spiritual Capital
Healing Arts

Human Capital
Authentic connections Cross-disciplinary talent

Digital Capital
EMERGING NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPER ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

A cohort based training program to support neighborhood based developers for real estate renovations and acquisitions for $500,000 to $10M

FWD CAPITAL CAMPS

A series of intensive virtual and live sessions that pair recreational activities, along with an intensive, immersive of how to pursue capital for real estate development, especially focused on emerging markets and emerging neighborhood developers. The camp will be a source of recruitment for ENDAP

THE K

A multi use business incubator/accelerator hybrid that is being developed in West Garfield Park. The space will feature a cafe, office, retail and event space. Members, tenants and service partners are in development. Phase 1 is planned to launch in Q4 of 2023. Part of the Winning Team for the 2022 Chicago Prize.
Christyn S. Freemon
Chief Solutionist
Christyn@yourprojectforward.com
708-829-1900