



November 20, 2024

Dear City of Chicago Plan Commission,

I am writing this letter to express my enthusiastic support for the Quantum Park Project at the former USX Southworks location, an initiative that I believe will have a transformative impact on both the local community, the city of Chicago, the State of Illinois and the broader field of quantum technology. As a former resident of the South Chicago area and advocate for the state's business community, I have a deep appreciation for the incredible potential that this project holds for advancing innovation, fostering economic development, and creating new opportunities for skilled professionals in the region. The impact will be transformational for an area of the city that has struggled to recover since my father lost his 41-year job in 1993 to the push by big labor on the globalization of the U.S steel industry. Since then, 18,000 jobs evaporated, businesses struggled, and the entire Southside has struggled to regain its once proud footing.

The Southworks Quantum Park Project represents a bold and visionary step forward in the integration of cutting-edge quantum research with real-world applications. The park's focus on creating a state-of-the-art research and development hub for quantum technologies aligns perfectly with global trends toward more sustainable, efficient, and impactful technological advancements. By bringing together top-tier academic researchers, industry experts, and leading-edge companies, the project has the potential to position our region as a global leader in quantum computing, materials science, and related fields.

Beyond the technological and economic advancements, I am most particularly excited about the project's potential to create high-quality jobs, foster collaboration among public and private sectors, and serve as an anchor for long-term prosperity in the area. The Southworks Quantum Park is not just a concept, it's a catalyst for innovation that will drive meaningful change across multiple industries, from healthcare and manufacturing to energy and communications.

I love to say that individuals like me have been successful *because* of where we grew up, *not despite* where we grew up, because the tenacity, grit and resilience seen by my father and the community in our youth, showed us that anything is possible with a little hard work. My mother still lives in my childhood home, just a block from the former 79th street entrance to the mill. Many like me who grew up in humble middle-class homes have pride in our old community. So much that I serve on the board of trustees of Epic Academy – a STEM focused single Site Charter on 82nd/Houston just blocks from the site. I give back because I believe that the children of South Chicago deserve the same mentoring and career options that I had when I pursued my degree in the Sciences. While my career has taken me far from South Chicago, I hold that passion, resolve and grit that my father and his generation instilled in me, that our community instilled in me, and I know that with this project it will transform lives for generations. *Please* give them that opportunity.



Presidents Letter in Support of the Southworks Quantum Project

I fully support this initiative and encourage all stakeholders to join together to ensure its successful realization.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to the continued progress of this exciting project and to the many opportunities it will bring to our region.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lou Sandoval". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "S".

Lou Sandoval
President and CEO
Illinois Chamber of Commerce