South Works deal falls through:
Coalition Calls on U.S. Steel to Come Back to the Table & Work with the Community on a Healthy, Successful Development with a Community minded developer

CHICAGO, IL-On Thursday, May 24, 2018, Emerald Living and U.S. Steel terminated their purchase and sale agreement for the South Works site.

The Coalition for a South Works CBA is very disappointed that the deal fell through. Generations of families have built and anchored this community. Many families worked in the steel mills, which made the steel that built the skyscrapers in Chicago’s downtown. The success of this development will greatly impact the whole southeast region.

We call on U.S. Steel to come back to the table and do everything in their power to ensure the development benefits the community and the site is properly remediated and healthy for families living in and around the development. U.S. Steel and future developers should also respect the historical significance, contributions, and sacrifices of the 10th ward. The Memorial Day massacre of 1937 took place, where 10 men and women were killed, protesting to form the first Steel workers union.

We were excited to work with Emerald Living. They were willing to work with our coalition on priorities identified by the community, including jobs and job readiness programs, affordable housing, environmental sustainability, and a central place for family-oriented activities.

We expect to work with U.S. Steel, our public officials, the mayor’s office and Dept. of Planning and Development, and the developer to make certain that the development happens in a way that is transparent and involves the existing, impacted communities.

About South Works:
South Works is the last undeveloped lakefront property in Chicago. This is one of the largest developments in the Midwest and will be the largest local source of jobs. Depending on type of development, it could create an estimated 100,000 jobs. It is more than twice the size of the Loop. So far, the South Works site has received $184+ million in public funds.

About the Coalition:
The Coalition for a South Works CBA consists of local residents and 40+ community organizations- including churches, schools, non-profits, businesses, and block clubs from the southeast side. The Coalition is focused on securing a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA), a written agreement with the developer/s of South Works, to ensure transparency, community input, and that the development benefits the existing, local communities by:
- Prioritizing jobs, training, & education opportunities for local families
- Offering affordable housing, environmental protections, and community-oriented transportation plan that limits displacement, and
- Supporting tax relief for long-time residents.