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**STATEMENT FROM LEADERSHIP OF THE GARFIELD PARK RITE TO WELLNESS COLLABORATIVE AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE PRITZKER TRAUBERT FAMILY FOUNDATION HAS AWARDED THE \$10 MILLION CHICAGO PRIZE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE SANKOFA WELLNESS VILLAGE IN WEST GARFIELD PARK**

(This response can be attributed to Ayesha Jaco, Executive Director, West Side United; Kemena Brooks, Director of Development, The Community Builders, Inc.; and Marshall Hatch, Jr., Co-Founder and Executive Director, The MAAFA Redemption Project—representing the Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative)

“We speak for the entire West Garfield Park community in saying we are overwhelmed and gratified upon learning that the Sankofa Wellness Village has won the Pritzker Traubert Family Foundation 2022 Chicago Prize. And please let us be clear: It is the community, supported by wonderful partners, who have made this moment possible—their vision, engagement, input and commitment have powered this effort. We thank each and every one of you. And, on behalf of the community, we thank Penny Pritzker, Bryan Traubert and the rest of the Pritzker Traubert Family Foundation team for the Chicago Prize, which will most decidedly enhance the quality of life for so many West Side families.

“It is important to acknowledge the other projects that were finalists for the Chicago Prize—all well-conceived and all worthy. It is our hope that they will all secure the funding they need to proceed.

“Some may want to call this “a miracle.” Well, while we do believe in miracles, this outcome was truly the result of a vision, a wonderful collaboration and the hard work necessary to make any vision a reality. And so, in addition to community members, we want to thank all of the partners who have committed their time, energy, experience and resources to mold the vision into a plan: New Mount Pilgrim M.B. Church, Rush University Medical Center, the MAAFA Redemption Project, West Side United, The Community Builders, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Erie Family Health Centers, Project Forward, TRUDelta, the Leaders Network and Bureau Gemmell. We also want to thank the hundreds of individuals who helped refine and

bring the community vision to life over the past three years. All of them, and so many more, worked together as part of the Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative to make this day—and Sankofa Wellness Village—possible.

“Sankofa is an ancient Ghanaian Akan concept, meaning that “to move forward, we must first go back and recover the valuable things we lost.” That includes thirteen lost years of life—the average life expectancy gap between those living in Garfield Park versus those residing in the Loop. The Sankofa Wellness Village is committed to addressing the root causes of that life expectancy gap. But, there is also an economic gap and a resources gap; and so, a holistic approach is the only way to move forward in a way that will be impactful and sustainable. Quick fixes will not get the job done.

“The Sankofa Wellness Village is a series of interconnected capital projects and social enterprises along the Madison- Pulaski commercial corridor that will create trusted, safe, comfortable, community -informed and owned, culturally-empowering spaces and services aimed at improving community well-being, wealth and, over time, elevating life expectancy. The four main components of Sankofa Wellness Village will be:

- **The Sankofa Village Wellness Center**, an approximately 60,000 square foot facility housing a Federally Qualified Health Center, a gymnasium and fitness facility, onsite drop-in childcare, before/after school and summer programs, a community credit union, and trauma informed behavioral care and other services. It is projected that, at the Wellness Center, Erie Family Health Centers will provide care for 6,000 patients annually; Rush University Medical Center will provide care for 1,500 patients annually; and the Leaders Network, YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago and West Side United combined will provide services to more than 17,000 residents in West Garfield Park.
- **The MAAFA Center for Arts & Activism (The MAC)**, the heart and headquarters of the MAAFA Redemption Project, an institute for emerging adult men of color; and an intergenerational arts hub for the community.
- **The K Entrepreneurship Development Hub**, a business incubator and real estate accelerator.
- **The Community Grocer Initiative**, a community-led effort to bring new grocers and healthy food to the community.

“We are pleased to announce that, thanks to the Chicago Prize, we anticipate breaking ground on the first phase of the Village, including the Wellness Center, by the end of 2023, with doors opening in 2025, perhaps sooner for some components. And, as vital as the Chicago Prize is for allowing us to move forward confidently with the Wellness Center, we know that we will need to keep our foot to the pedal to raise an additional \$25 million by 2025 to continue to advance the Madison-Pulaski Corridor Plan in West Garfield Park.

“But, today, let’s take a few hours to express gratitude and celebrate the confidence that the Pritzker Traubert Foundation has placed in our community-informed vision.”