



## Archeworks Community Design Projects 2011-12

### **SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND DESIGN**

**Partner: Growing Power, Iron Street Farm**

Continuing our focus on the physical, social, and environmental health of cities, Archeworks is collaborating with Growing Power, a nationally recognized pioneer in grassroots urban food systems work. Our multi-year design initiative will focus on how urban communities feed themselves and explore relationships to healthy food.

In 2011-12, an Archeworks design team will undertake an exciting design challenge to repurpose shipping containers and other small structures to create a modular green market and café. An innovative model for a community-managed enterprise and a new food access resource, the new market will serve as the gateway to Iron Street Farm, Growing Power's new 14-acre commercial farm and educational campus in Bridgeport (formerly an abandoned trucking depot). The team will also address the need for new street infrastructure and safe pedestrian access along several blocks of Iron Street that lead to the entrance of Growing Power's farm campus. As part of our participatory process, Archeworks will facilitate design workshops with youth who participate in Growing Power's after-school programs.

### **CERMAK CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DISTRICT**

**Partner: Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, City of Chicago**

Archeworks will lead a multi-year initiative that complements and supports a City-led effort to transform an isolated industrial corridor into a new district for the creative industries. The Cermak Creative Industries District, which borders the communities of Chinatown and Pilsen, will provide a mix of work spaces and collaborative opportunities for diverse enterprises that are part of Chicago's expanding creative industries sector. We will focus on a series of design challenges that lay important groundwork during the District's predevelopment phase, and undertake this project in close consultation with the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Our goal is to inspire new thinking and to help the City set a new standard for a world class creative business hub that attracts and spawns businesses across the creative sectors. This Archeworks initiative is also closely aligned with the City's long-range goal of building the capacity of cultural districts as a city-wide economic engine and developing new models for cultural economic development that strengthen neighborhood economies.

Drawing from local field research as well as best practices and ideas from around the world, the Archeworks design team will focus on two topics in 2011-12: 1) new approaches to physical design and program development for an interdisciplinary creative industry incubator; and 2) design concepts and approaches related to the broad theme of expanding access and connectivity across the new District. The team will specifically focus on developing a series of proposals for improved connectivity with the riverfront and integrated approaches to access that set a new standard for a barrier-free District. Additionally, the Archeworks team will explore a range of possibilities for integrating accessible design into targeted creative industries, including ideas for influencing the design and delivery of firms' creative services, product lines, and workplaces.