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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



From School to Supportive Housing: Historic Earle School Begins New Chapter as Affordable Housing

CHICAGO, Ill. (Aug. 26, 2026) – Gorman & Company, in partnership with The Phoenix Foundation and the City of Chicago, **proudly announces the grand opening of Earle Residences, the adaptive reuse of the historic Charles Warrington Earle School in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood.** The celebration took place on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026, at 1711 W. 61st St. and included a ribbon-cutting and property tours.

Originally constructed in 1897 and closed by Chicago Public Schools in 2014, **the former school has been thoughtfully transformed into 50 affordable, supportive apartment homes.** The redevelopment preserves the building's historic character while giving the long-vacant property a new purpose as a place residents can call home.

“Chicago has a responsibility to make sure the buildings that once served our communities can continue to serve them for generations to come,” said Mayor Brandon Johnson. “The transformation of Earle School shows what it means to reinvest in a community — bringing a former public school back into use as 50 affordable homes, including permanent supportive housing for individuals and families at risk of homelessness. We are proud to help turn a history of disinvestment into a future of opportunity for Englewood and neighborhoods across Chicago.”

Located on 61st Street between Paulina and Hermitage, Earle Residences offers essential services to residents through a partnership between The Phoenix Foundation and Phoenix Recovery Services. These services support unique resident housing needs, contributing to the overall well-being and stability of the community.

“Earle Residences reflects what is possible when preservation, partnership, and community needs come together,” said Matt Burbach, Director of Development for Gorman & Company’s Illinois market. **“This building has been part of the fabric of Englewood for more than a century.** We are grateful to the many partners who helped carry it into its next chapter as quality affordable housing with services that support resident stability. As we celebrate this milestone, we also look ahead to community-led projects like The Regenerator that will continue supporting Englewood’s growth.”

Earle Residences proudly features energy-efficient HVAC technology along with high-efficiency heat pumps, lighting, and other energy-efficient measures. New energy efficient technologies **save the building a total of 816,000 kilowatt-hours, helping avoid 600,000 pounds of carbon emissions from being released into the atmosphere**, the equivalent of planting nearly 325 acres of trees.

Incentivizing projects that help reduce energy consumption while lowering carbon emissions is a hallmark of the [award-winning](#) ComEd Energy Efficiency Program which **has saved families and businesses a total of \$9 billion on their electric bills since 2008.**

Earle Residences is financed and supported by the following additional partners: The Phoenix Foundation, Alderman Raymond Lopez, the City of Chicago, the Illinois Housing Development Authority, the City of Chicago Department of Housing, Alder Stephanie Coleman, Beehyve, ComEd, E.G. Woode, R.A.G.E., Burling Builders, FHLBank Chicago, Merchants Bank of Indiana, Merchants Capital, Greater Illinois Title Company, Gorman Architecture, and Gorman Property Management.

About Gorman & Company

Gorman & Company is a leader in community revitalization through a steadfast dedication to high-quality affordable, workforce, public, and senior housing nationwide. Their fully integrated platform, led by a team of industry leaders in development, design, construction, and property management, provides the highest level of customer care to their partners. At the heart of Gorman's philosophy is a commitment to collaboratively build strong, inclusive neighborhoods alongside municipalities, governmental organizations, and nonprofits. Headquartered in Wisconsin, Gorman has been recognized as one of the nation's top "Affordable Housing Developers" by Affordable Housing Finance magazine for more than a decade. **Its name is stylized with an ampersand and no abbreviation: Gorman & Company.** Learn more about their diverse portfolio of national projects on [their website](#).

Photos:





Rendering of Earle School

Resource Links:

- [Gorman & Company](#)
- [Gorman & Company Illinois Market](#)
- [Earle School Apartments: Announcement Press Release](#)
- [Chicago Department of Housing](#)
- [The Phoenix Foundation](#)

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