



**Nov 29, 2022**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Teresa Meza, store: 773.666.5997, [teresa@thewasteshed.com](mailto:teresa@thewasteshed.com)

**Non-Profit Creative Reuse Center relocating headquarters next to “Kimball Park”**

The WasteShed will bring art supplies thrift, workshops to the 606 trail

**Chicago, IL** - The WasteShed, Chicago’s reuse resource for sustainable art, crafts and teaching supplies, have announced their new location in Humboldt Park. Three storefronts at 1756 N Kimball will now house the expanded non-profit retail space, and new workshop space for creative programs.

The retail-based nonprofit has served all of Chicagoland for 8 years. The WasteShed opened in 2014 at 914 N. California, originally sharing a small storefront space with The Read/ Write Library. The art thrift store then expanded in 2017 to a larger location at 2842 W Chicago Ave due to overwhelming supply of (and demand for) gently used creative and educational materials. . In late 2022, The WasteShed was notified that their building was being redeveloped into condos, and a new location hunt and fundraising campaign was launched.

The budget for this expansion, including an anticipated increase in rent, 1st and last month’s rent, new store fixtures and additional help from movers is estimated to be \$17,000. They have raised over \$10,000 to date, and hope to reach their goal by Dec 1st. The non-profit has been accepting in-store cash or credit card donations or contributions via their Donorbox or Paypal listed on their website, [thewasteshed.com](http://thewasteshed.com).

The new location will essentially double the non-profit’s headquarters, which will mean more supplies that can be diverted from the landfill and made available to artists, crafters and the area’s many educators. Stowe Elementary School is located immediately to the west, and The WasteShed is excited to welcome their students to source their back-to-school supplies, and to offer teachers free materials. The WasteShed is looking to partner with nearby schools as they look to expand their educational programming related to sustainability and art.

The new building is part of a 50,160 SF loft industrial building built in 1934 that originally housed a wire manufacturing business and is currently being redeveloped into creative retail, office and flex space. . Only yards away from the 606 Spaulding Ave trail, it is accessible via multiple routes on public transit, including the Kimball/Homan bus route, and the North Ave. bus.

**About The WasteShed:** Est. 2014 by Founder and Executive Director Eleanor Ray. The WasteShed provides Chicago with an affordable resource for repurposed arts, crafts and school

materials. While sustainability is the ultimate goal, creative reuse emphasizes fun hands-on activities as points of entry into larger discussions about the things we own and the way we live.

The WasteShed welcomed hundreds of visitors during Open House Chicago in October this year, as their current location was designated a place of cultural significance by the Chicago Architecture Center.

Since opening, The WasteShed has processed over 110 tons of donated materials and supplied educators with thousands of dollars of free materials, totaling over \$10,000 so far in 2022. The WasteShed maintained staff at full salary during Covid19 store closures despite financial strain and uncertainty. Teachers from over 260 schools in the Chicagoland area rely on the store for materials, and in Nov 2021, the nonprofit expanded to a second location in Evanston, IL to meet demand. The WasteShed has more than doubled their staff in the last 2 years.

#####