

THE  
**SOUTHWEST  
COLLECTIVE**



## **AT A GLANCE**

### **History & Mission:**

Founded in March 2019, The Southwest Collective is a collection of local volunteers & nonprofit groups dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Midway area.

### **Achievements:**

- Place Little Free Libraries in 6 parks (and counting!) on the SW Side
- Established a regional Chamber of Commerce in the Midway area
- Created Freebies for Families, a safe space for parents to trade and donate childrens' clothing & items

### **Current Goals:**

- Demand improvements and upgrades for Curie Park
- Fight for a community center
- Improve voter turnout by registering youth on high school campuses

### **Inquiries:**

Jaime Groth Searle, President & Founder  
630-854-9907

## **GET IN TOUCH**

 [swcollective.org](http://swcollective.org)  
 [info@swcollective.org](mailto:info@swcollective.org)

 [@theswcollective](https://www.facebook.com/theswcollective)  
 [@swcollectivechi](https://www.instagram.com/swcollectivechi)



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## MISSION

The Southwest Collective is an organization that moves past exclusionary politics to focus on the many needs of our diverse population.

The Southwest Side of Chicago is overdue for change. And it starts with us.

We are underserved in so many areas: after school programming, green spaces, bilingual resources, parenting connections, public safety, small business support, assistance for seniors...the list goes on.

The Collective's unique structure allows us to tackle several issues at once while avoiding burnout, and making it easy for busy people to stay engaged—and for neighborhoods to stay connected.

After all, perseverance is the key to creating change that lasts.

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jaime Groth Searle  
President



Enrique Mendoza  
Vice President



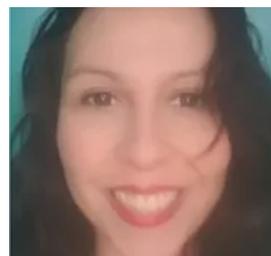
Adriana Vargas  
Treasurer



Onitze Contreras  
Operations



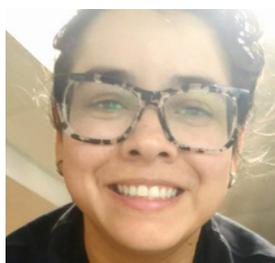
Rolando Favela  
Green Spaces



Michelle Valdez  
Civic Engagement



Dixon Galvez-Searle  
Cycling Advocacy



Ari Favela  
Board Member



José Torrez  
Gov't & Policy



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## HOW WE WORK

The Southwest Collective consists of several breakout groups that focus on specific issues:

- Small Business Support
- Family Support
- Civic Engagement
- Green Spaces
- Cycling Advocacy
- Advisory Board

Each group has a point person that provides a monthly progress update to the full Collective; the Advisory Board provides additional guidance to the Board of Directors on subjects and issues specific to the community.

The Collective meets virtually on the second Saturday of the month from 2-3pm. Those interested in attending can reach out to [info@swcollective.org](mailto:info@swcollective.org) to receive the dial-in credentials.

At this monthly meeting, we provide updates by group, vote on new business and address any new concerns or initiatives.

We also use this time to determine where we should apply our "people power" to support a grassroots movement.



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## FAQ

### **Who can get involved?**

Anyone who lives, works or owns property in the Midway area, and wants to see improvements.

### **Is this group affiliated with any political org?**

No. We are nonpartisan. While we may work with current pols or candidates on an issue, we do not endorse anyone or allow solicitation at our meetings.

### **How long has this group been established?**

We were founded in March of 2019.

### **Is there a board?**

Yes. There is a nine-person board that meets monthly, prior to the general meeting that's open to the public.

### **Is the group bilingual?**

Yes. Several members are bilingual in English/Spanish, and are happy to help translate.

### **Are there membership fees or donations required?**

Right now, no. We don't need much in terms of funding. However, this may change as we incur costs for community events such as Freebies for Families. Currently, the board covers any costs out of their own pockets, as an investment in the community. You may make a tax-deductible donation any time at [swcollective.org](http://swcollective.org).