

**Position:**

Chief Strategy Officer

Vision and Mission:

Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA) leads the community by creating and supporting inclusive programs that attract people and investment to the Loop. CLA secures this vision through planning & advocacy, enhanced services, activation of public spaces, and economic development. Learn more at LoopChicago.com.

Reports to:

President & Chief Executive Officer

The Opportunity:

The Chief Strategy Officer (CSO) is a newly created senior leadership role that will provide specialized focus on the future growth and expansion of Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA) – aligning the organization's priorities while envisioning a clear path forward. Partnering with the President & CEO, the CSO will serve as strategic architect — layering strategy with vision, accelerating mission; laying the foundation for deepened relationships with government, corporate, and civic stakeholders while positioning the Loop as a preeminent destination.

Organizational strategy will focus on shaping culture, climate and mutually benefiting alliances for transformative success. This opportunity is for an innovative, results-oriented leader deeply anchored in Chicago's civic, corporate, and public-sector communities to help define and expand the future of downtown Chicago.

Assignment Competencies

Connected Leadership Empowers staff and elevates the performance of the whole team.	Relationship Intelligence Employs diplomacy; builds trust-based, durable relationships across diverse stakeholder groups.
Grit + Drive Identifies and pursues new revenue, partnership, and programming opportunities.	Mission Alignment Deeply committed to an inclusive, economically vibrant downtown Chicago.
Strategic Vision Sees the big picture and connection to long-term organizational goals, creating conscious, integrated systems.	

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

In collaboration and guidance from the CEO:

1) Organizational Strategy

- Develop and implement a comprehensive, multi-year strategic plan.
- Align broader business objectives with mission - transforming vision statements into actionable strategies:
 - Design and implement an annual plan that drives progressive, systematic impact; scales productivity; enhances brand integrity; and fuels ongoing growth.
 - Develop and implement sustainable tactics that increase brand exposure and partner engagement.
 - Employ partnership and social impact campaigns to fuel development initiatives, strengthen messaging, and demonstrate mutual benefits for current and potential stakeholders.
 - Identify remedies for process and service gaps to ensure organizational outcomes are achieved.
 - Work collaboratively with stakeholders to foster goals and mission alignment.
 - Lead, mentor, and develop staff across the government affairs, membership, and development functions.
 - Contribute to the development and monitoring of CLA's strategic plan, ensuring alignment across all programmatic and operational priorities.

2) Membership & Board Development

- Lead strategy for recruiting, retaining, and elevating CLA's member base across corporate, retail, hospitality, real estate, and cultural sectors.
- Develop tiered membership structures, value propositions, and engagement programming that deepen member participation and satisfaction.
- Partner with the CEO and Board Chair on board recruitment, governance best practices, and committee alignment to strengthen CLA's leadership pipeline.
- Identify and cultivate prospective board members who represent the Loop's evolving economic and demographic landscape.

3) Government Affairs & Advocacy

- Cultivate and manage relationships with elected officials, city departments, and regulatory agencies at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Develop and execute a proactive government affairs agenda that advances policies supporting the Loop's economic vitality, public safety, transit access, and quality of life.
- Represent CLA in city planning processes, budget hearings, and legislative forums with a unified voice for Loop stakeholders.
- Monitor and respond to emerging policy developments that affect the downtown business environment and CLA's programmatic work.

4) Corporate Partnerships

- Identify, cultivate, and steward a portfolio of high-value corporate partners aligned

with CLA's mission and key initiatives — including Sundays on State, the Loop Ambassador Program, and research publications.

- Maximize existing corporate, community and governmental relationships, boosting partner currency.
- Design and execute a diversified revenue strategy encompassing membership growth, corporate partner and sponsorships, grants (where appropriate) and earned income from programming and events.

5) Strategic Relationship Building

- Be forward-facing and grounded in Chicago's civic, philanthropic, real estate, tourism, and business communities.
 - Build a strong coalition of cross-industry support.
- Build and maintain relationships with peer downtown management organizations, regional planning bodies, and national urban district networks.
- Represent CLA on coalitions, task forces, and public forums that shape downtown Chicago's future.
- Support the CEO in high-level stakeholder engagement, including board cultivation, funder stewardship, and civic diplomacy.

6) Placemaking, Programming & Promotions Strategy

- Provide strategic insight and partnership development support for CLA's signature programming, including Sundays on State.
- Create framework for new programming and hallmark Loop initiatives.
 - Where appropriate, lead complex, multi-disciplinary projects from start to finish — working with cross-functional teams and stakeholders to plan, manage project schedules, identify challenges and mitigate risks.
- Ensure that CLA's placemaking and marketing activities align with the organization's advocacy goals and member interests.
- Champion the Loop as a premier destination for business, culture, and tourism — working with regional and national media, tourism boards, and economic development entities.
- Leverage CLA research assets — including the State of the Loop report — to inform programming decisions and tell a compelling story about downtown recovery and vitality.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE – YEAR 1

- CLA's board pipeline is strengthened, with new prospects identified and cultivation underway.
- Membership base has grown and retention rates have improved through a clearly articulated value proposition and strengthened member engagement strategy.
- At least two significant new corporate partnerships or sponsorships are secured, directly supporting CLA programming and financial sustainability.
- A government affairs agenda is in place, with active relationships across City Hall, Springfield, and relevant federal offices.

- The CEO has become a recognized local and national voice in arenas of downtown economic recovery and civic leadership topography.
 - Convene organizations and community leaders.
 - Identify opportunities to participate in cohorts, panels, working groups, and committees that position the brand and reinforce support, commitment and investment (voice/vision).

Benefits: Medical, dental, vision, and life insurance; holidays, vacation, sick, and personal time; employer contributed 401(K); transit benefit program; partial cell phone plan reimbursement; and annual Divvy membership available

Close Date: July 17, 2026

Contact: Please send your cover letter and resume with the subject line “CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER” to resumes@chicagoloopalliance.com. Include how and where you learned of this position in your cover letter.