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## 3 charter schools find home in Archer Heights

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Three charter schools will fill vacant warehouse space in the Archer Heights neighborhood.

UNO Charter School Network Inc., a non-profit charter-school developer, will convert the warehouse at 4615 S. Kildare Ave. and at 4248 W. 47th St., into two elementary schools and one high school to serve Archer Heights and West Elsdon.

The **United Neighborhood Organization** owns the 2.85-acre industrial site, a three-story former bakery.

Moments before the Chicago Plan Commission approved the conversion as a planned institutional development last month, commissioners questioned having two elementary schools in the same building.

"We focus on an overcrowded neighborhood," Juan Rangel, UNO's chief executive, told commissioners. "We want to keep the small-school concept in place, but the curriculum [in both schools] will be the same."

The neighborhood's Richard Edwards Elementary School, at 4815 S. Karlov Ave., is severely overcrowded, Rangel told commissioners, with several hundred students bused out of the neighborhood daily. UNO has received more than 900 applications for the 500 spaces in the new schools.

West Elsdon is booming with several residential projects going up on former industrial land.

All three schools will open in fall 2008.

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