

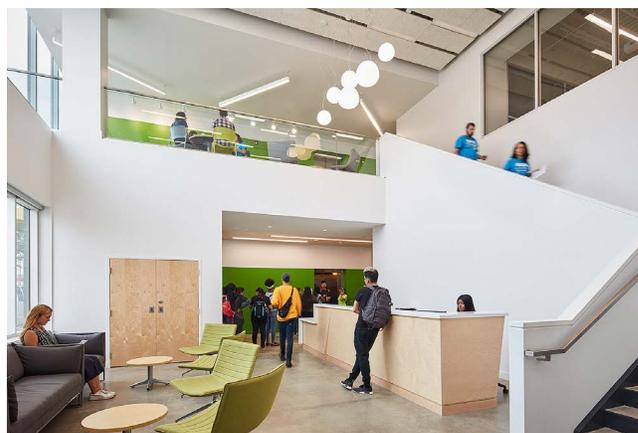
# LA CASA NORTE

<b>CITY AREA</b>	West Side
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD</b>	Humboldt Park
<b>DEVELOPER</b>	La Casa Norte
<b>ARCHITECT</b>	Landon Bone Baker Architects
<b>PROJECT TYPE</b>	Institutional
<b>PROJECT STATUS</b>	Completed, February 2019

This new community center in Humboldt Park, designed by Chicago-based [Landon Bone Baker Architects](#), is home to non-profit housing provider La Casa Norte. On-site services include a homeless youth drop-in center, healthcare center, teaching kitchen and food pantry, and Pierce House with 25 units of permanent supportive housing. The apartments are affordable to households earning no more than 30% of the area median income.

The project design blends highly social spaces at the front of the building with more discrete areas that meet a need for confidentiality, including the residences surrounding a private courtyard. Surpassing the LEED-Silver environmental standard, the building is an innovative and eco-friendly home for the residents and community at large. Green features include a tightly sealed building envelope, use of recycled construction materials, a high-efficiency mechanical system, a green roof and water conservation measures. The project respects the existing neighborhood fabric, fitting snugly into the low-rise urban context, and its brightly lit ground-floor lobby and colorful façade are welcoming gestures to passerby. Such meaningful investment has been absent from this stretch of North Avenue for decades.

The emergency housing and wraparound services provided at La Casa Norte are in short supply in Humboldt Park's predominately low-income Latinx community. In a way, the project anticipates an even greater need brought about by encroaching gentrification and rising rents near the 606 trail. Fortunately, it is [not alone](#) in addressing housing affordability in the area.



Courtesy of Landon Bone Baker Architects

#### Further reading:

[Inside La Casa Norte's new \\$20 million homeless center.](#)

Mina Bloom, Block Club Chicago, February 18, 2019.

[Ambitious homeless center opens in former screw factory.](#)

Ariel Parrella-Aureli, Curbed Chicago, February 14, 2019.

[La Casa Norte.](#) Landon Bone Baker Architects.

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