

# UPTOWN SPECIAL SERVICE AREA #34

---

## WHAT IS A SPECIAL SERVICE AREA (SSA)?

Often known as Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in other cities, SSAs provide a reliable means to create, maintain, and manage commercial and mixed-use districts - keeping them clean, attractive, and competitive. There are over 50 active SSAs in Chicago, which provide services for most major shopping, dining, and mixed-use corridors. SSA services are only provided to businesses and properties located within the specific boundary (see map below). SSAs fund services that are not provided by the City of Chicago or are in addition to City services. An appointed Commission of local business and property owners governs each SSA, and the Chicago Department of Planning and Development oversees the program.

Each SSA Commission determines the services and budget for the district. Uptown United acts as the service provider for Uptown SSA #34, developing programs, coordinating services, and managing subcontractors as directed by the Commission.

For more information on Uptown SSA #34, visit [www.exploreuptown.org](http://www.exploreuptown.org) or call (773) 878-1064.



Uptown SSA #34 Boundary Map

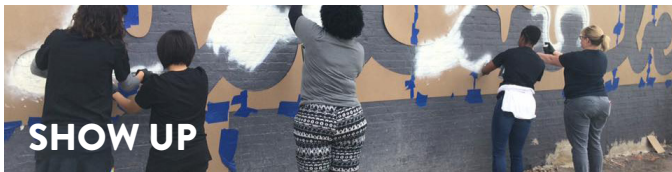
# UPTOWN SPECIAL SERVICE AREA #34



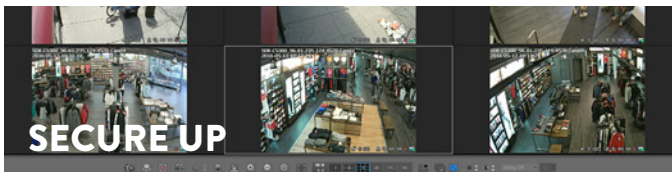
A considerable portion of the SSA's budget is invested in making Uptown cleaner by funding work to remove snow, litter, and graffiti. "Clean Up" is the initiative that funds crews from Cleanslate Chicago to perform litter removal and/or snow removal seven days a week, and graffiti abatement once a week.



Each year, Uptown's SSA sponsors several community events throughout the neighborhood. The **Community Events Grant Program** funds events that can demonstrate a measurable benefit to fostering the community's growth and development. Any business, organization, or individual that will be hosting a public event within the SSA boundary is eligible to apply, with preference given to those that reside within the district.



The Uptown SSA funds a **Public Art Grant Program** in order to capture and convey Uptown's unique identity and sense of place. Applicants are eligible to receive a grant of up to \$5,000 for public art projects.



The **Security Rebate Program** allows business and building owners located within the Uptown SSA to apply for a rebate of up to \$5,000 for security enhancements to their property. The goal is to improve the security and safety of not only local businesses but the public areas of Uptown also.



To improve the look and feel of Uptown, the SSA funds the installation and maintenance of landscaping for streetscape planters throughout the neighborhood. Plants are watered, trimmed, and replaced seasonally to help enliven the streetscape along Uptown's key commercial corridors.



The Uptown SSA funds a **Curb Appeal Rebate Program** offered to local business and property owners who make exterior improvements to their property. The program is intended for owners who may be limited in their funding with the goal to help upgrade, preserve, or restore storefronts and windows or install creative new signage. Rebates of up to \$5,000 are available for projects that meet the neighborhood's design guidelines.



The Uptown SSA promotes sustainability and alternative modes of transportation by funding bicycle enhancements such as branded bike racks and bicycle valet services at community events.



The Uptown SSA funds the installation of decorative banners on street lights throughout Uptown, including seasonal banners for Pride, Holidays, and Lunar New Year. Additional Uptown-branded street pole banners are funded through sponsorship by local businesses and organizations.