



Join us for our September meeting of the

# Cook County Commission on Social Innovation

September 1, 2022 | 4 PM - *Via Facebook Live* -

## FEATURING



**AMEYA PAWAR**

Senior Advisor  
Chicago Director for  
the First Midwest  
Group [FMG]

Ameya Pawar is a Senior Advisor and Chicago Director for the First Midwest Group (FMG), a commercial real estate development firm. At FMG, Ameya advises the CEO and COO on FMG's cannabis interests and real estate strategy in the Chicago metropolitan region. In addition, Ameya is a senior advisor to the Academy Group and Amplify-Chicago, where he works with the CEO on the real estate development on Chicago's South and West sides. He also teaches at the University of Chicago's Crown School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, advises the UChicago Inclusive Economy Lab, and is a senior fellow with the Economic Security Project. In July of 2022, Governor JB Pritzker appointed Ameya to the Illinois Finance Authority. Ameya was a 2020 Leadership in Government Fellow with the Open Society Foundations (OSF), a fellowship awarded to senior-level government officials. Through this fellowship, Ameya became a leading voice in the nation to reimagine public finance to drive investment into critical infrastructure, affordable housing, and small businesses. In July 2020, Ameya testified before Congress in the House Financial Services Committee in a hearing on financial inclusion, the racial wealth gap, and small business financing. Before that, Ameya was alderman of Chicago's 47th Ward and the first Asian and Indian American elected to the Chicago City Council. While in office, Ameya focused legislative efforts on social justice, worker rights, and economic justice. To this end, Ameya led most all labor policy and worker rights legislation passed in Chicago between 2011-2019, including raising the minimum wage, guaranteeing paid sick leave, creating the Office for Labor Standards, combating wage theft, and preserving housing for Chicago's most vulnerable. Ameya also chaired the Chicago Resilient Families Task Force before leaving office, the nation's first city-led effort to study guaranteed income, the expansion of the earned income tax credit, and the future of work. Ameya holds graduate degrees from the University of Chicago and the Illinois Institute of Technology. His work has been published in MarketWatch, Crain's Chicago Business, the Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Tribune, the Boston Globe, and several other publications locally and nationally. In addition, he is a US State Department Critical Language Program alum, a 2012 University of Illinois Edgar Fellow, and was named to Crain's Chicago 40 under 40 in 2011. In 2018, he was named a McCormick Foundation Executive Fellow and a Pritzker Fellow at the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics.



**PAUL WILLIAMS**

Founder &  
Executive Director  
of Center for Public  
Enterprise

Paul is the founder and executive director of Center for Public Enterprise. He founded CPE because he believes our public sector must be revitalized to overcome constraints in today's economy, and provide high quality public goods and services. He formerly worked for the Jain Family Institute in New York, the City of Chicago's Department of Housing, and the Economic Opportunity Institute in Seattle. He holds an MA in economics from John Jay College at CUNY and a BA in mathematics from The Evergreen State College.