

# SAVE STEELWORKERS PARK

## NO KILLER QUANTUM STOP TECH CITY

The large influx of federal and state dollars into this project could lead to displacement. Related Midwest, the project's real estate developer, is already researching the housing market around the site (Duncan 2024). Related Midwest claims to be interested in building "affordably priced housing" near the development (Duncan 2024). Affordably Priced housing practically means nothing without further specifications of how much the housing will cost compared to local median income or how it might impact neighboring property values. While the development promises 150 jobs (Duncan 2024), South Chicago residents most likely will not be qualified for these highly technical jobs. Only 20 percent of South Chicagoans have a bachelor's degree compared to the city wide rate of 42 percent (Maxwell 2024). So far, there are no plans to prevent displacement, not even a community benefits agreement attached to the project.

A major partner in the Quantum Campus is the Department of Defense's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) ("Moving Quantum Computing From Hype to Prototype" 2024). This should give pause to every Chicagoan, why is the military developing on our lakefront? This would be the DOD's first quantum computer, part of the proposal is a "proving ground" to be constructed to test the feasibility of this experimental technology for military application. It needs to be said that this will accelerate the world deeper into a cyberwar arms race, compelling other countries to develop their own quantum-tech to defend against attacks and perform attacks themselves.

While the benefits of quantum computing for regular people are unclear, there are two clear aspirations in terms of military applications- decryption and drone warfare. Essentially what that would mean, should this project actually succeed in building a commercially viable quantum computer, is that the United States military would possess the means to decrypt any and all encrypted information- used by everyone from whistleblowers and journalists to international communications. Only the American Government would be able to use this computer, creating a power imbalance and potential for asymmetrical warfare like that of the first atom bomb. In fact, the movers and shakers of this whole project see this precisely as such, when director and CEO of the Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park, Harley Johnson, offers his view, "The potential for our work in the park to change the world is drawing comparisons to historic tech initiatives like the Manhattan Project or the development of Silicon Valley," (McCopin 2024). Those chilling comparisons call into question if we really need a quantum campus at all, if it will irreversibly usher the world into another unfathomably dangerous game of mutually-assured destruction.

When we look closer at any of the information we have about the Quantum Campus, it becomes clear just how many potential negative effects will come out of this new technology, with very few real benefits for south sides, much less the world. City officials and Quantum leaders are doing little to address concerns or secure real benefits as they rush through the community engagement process. We propose that the Quantum Campus not be built at all, anywhere in the world. The last thing humanity needs to deal with are the affects of yet another Manhattan Project.

The proposed quantum computing research campus at the Southworks site must never be built; it must be fought tooth & nail, with all we've got & all we can imagine. As bragged by governor Pritzker and mayor Johnson, this tech will be "history altering"- it will open doors to new dystopias, doors which once opened will prove difficult if not impossible to ever close. A tech race between nation states is already underway & this is a ground zero at the forefront of struggle against imperial technologies. Quantum computing will be used to improve AI military capability, increase mass surveillance & policing wherever possible. It will render all current forms of encryption obsolete, and functionally eliminate digital privacy (no more secrets). It will be used as a weapon in cyberwar & exponentially increase the digital divide. It will advance the consolidation of fake money into the hands of crypto-capitalists bros & their useless cryptocurrencies. This killer computer will consume staggering amounts of energy & accelerate the clock towards apocalyptic climate collapse.

Historical advances in state-backed technology have only ever increased the precariousness of life on earth. This machine will be used to target the opponents of U.S. imperialism in an ever increasing streamlined

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fashion. Quantum AI drones will create such an asymmetry in warfare that it will advance the speed & ease of genocides. Do we want something that makes it more effortless to kill, say, Palestinian children in our backyard? Do we want it taking the place of the warbler habitat? And while quantum will make war effortless for us, that quantum "energy" had to come from somewhere. Energy for its 700,000 CPUs isn't going to be free, no matter how green they claim it to be.

City and state leaders want to establish Chicago & Illinois as the "Silicon Valley of quantum computing research." But is that really what the people want? The tech industry ravaged The Bay Area, spreading wealth inequality so thick you can taste it. Everyday people can no longer afford to thrive there. We already know that the people who will benefit from this project are not going to be the people of South Chicago. Instead, it will further militarize the South Chicago area & fill it up with too many cars. The 150 jobs they say will be created will go to specialists in the field from all over the country, in an eager competition.

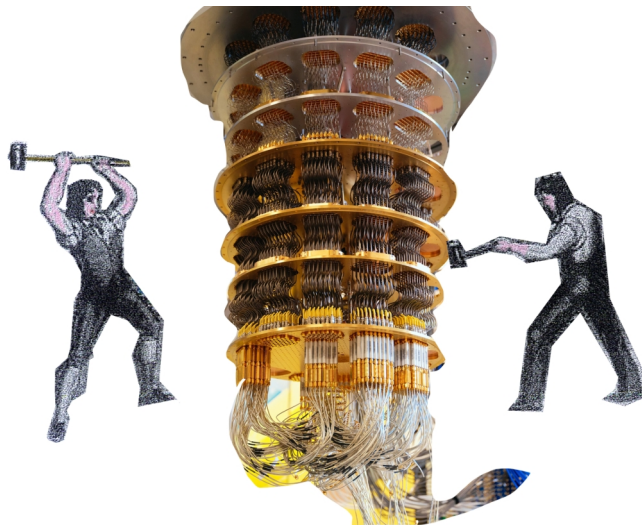
Then there is Mishigami, Lake Michigan, the life of this place we call home. With the other Great Lakes together, it holds over 20% of the world's surface freshwater. She is already suffocated by urban sprawl, a long history of lakeside industry & poisoned daily with toxic sludge from the BP refinery in Whiting. Now they want to use her waters to cool their newest greenwashed death machine: the quantum processor needs to be kept at an extremely low temperature, 15 millikelvin ( $-273^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), in order to function. That's going to generate a lot of really warm water for those fish to swim in (but don't worry how warm the planet gets, as long as the computer stays cold enough to function). To put that into perspective, 15 millikelvin is colder than interstellar space, equivalent to  $-450$  degrees Fahrenheit, & not anywhere near a temperature that naturally occurs anywhere on Earth.

That DARPA (the research wing of the US. Military) is a major partner in this should give those who value life in the world every reason to oppose this project. Even if the stakes of this burgeoning technology are not entirely known yet, it is clear that it will only ever truly benefit the tech moguls who already rule many aspects of our lives. There will never be ANY benefit from technology like this to everyday people in Chicago or elsewhere on earth - past, present, or future. You may die in a heatwave, but the Quantum campus will always be cooled to  $-450\text{F}$ .

## MEADOWLARKS AND SOUTHSIDERS AGAINST KILLER QUANTUM!

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