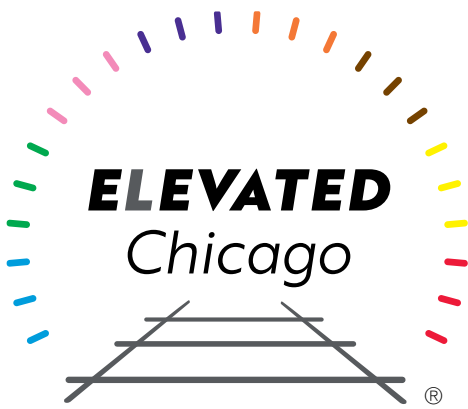


# 2021: HIGHLIGHTS



CONNECTING PEOPLE,  
BUILDING EQUITY

## PEOPLE



## EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT AMBASSADORS



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■ The pilot of our Equitable Development Ambassadors program kicked off in January and closed on Thursday, March 4, the City of Chicago's birthday. Twenty-four Ambassadors working in cross-community, multi-generational teams presented inspiring transit-oriented projects applying concepts learned through the program, including budgeting, completion of a proforma and story-telling, all through the lens of community-driven and ethical development.

■ In February, Elevated Chicago's Program Director, Roberto Requejo Carballo, was featured in Chicago Magazine's The New Power 30 list for his work advancing equity in the city.

■ On May 19, Metropolitan Planning Council partnered with us to launch our first JEDI (justice, equity, diversity and inclusion) cohort with 15 leaders and staff from the City of Chicago's Mayor's Office, City departments and sister agencies.

■ On June 9, a [webinar sponsored by Rail-Volution and SPARCC](#) featured Elevated Chicago and its work with the ETOD Working Group.



■ Chandra Christmas-Rouse of Enterprise Community Partners and poet, author and activist Leslé Honoré became the new Elevated Chicago Steering Committee co-chairs on July 23. Both have been Steering Committee members since 2019, serving in roles that include co-leading our Capital & Programs Working Group (Chandra), leading our Green Line South Community Table (Leslé), and launching our first Equitable Development Ambassadors program (both).



*Chandra Christmas-Rouse (l) and Leslé Honoré are the Elevated Chicago steering committee co-chairs*

■ On July 31, Elevated Chicago held our fourth symposium on equitable transit-oriented development (ETOD). A virtual audience joyed us for dynamic conversations about advancing ETOD in Chicago using planning, policy, public health, art, activism, design and... joy. Speakers included Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot in conversation with Steering Committee member Ghian Foreman. The symposium, [viewable on our YouTube channel](#), was supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.



*Nina Idemudia, Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development, and Michael Davidson, Chicago Community Trust, were among the conversation pairs featured in the 2021 ETOD Symposium*

*Continued*



CONNECTING PEOPLE,  
BUILDING EQUITY

**2021: HIGHLIGHTS** *Continued*



- Melvin Thompson, executive director of The Endealeo Institute, became a member of our steering committee in November, bringing the CTA Red Line 95th eHub closer to our core work. Representing an Elevated Chicago Plus community (Washington Heights, within the ½-mile radius of the CTA Red Line terminal), Melvin has been a member of the ETOD Working Group since its inception, and is leading the development of Briget's Bodega, one of the 11 ETOD policy pilots.
- A [new podcast](#) featuring Elevated Chicago was released by Convergence Partnership in December. Juan Sebastian Arias, Isabel Cabrera, Ghian Foreman, Kendra Freeman, and Melvin Thompson shared their stories about collaboration, community-building and “getting everybody onboard ETOD” in Chicago.

**PLACES**

- Action planning for ETOD supported by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) started in the Logan Square eHub, with a 20+ resident Action Council organized by LSNA leading the process.
- Terra Firma, an initiative by the Emerald South Economic Development Collaborative to activate vacant land in Elevated Chicago's Green Line South communities, received a \$2.5MM grant from the State of Illinois. Vacant land surrounding CTA stations are being prioritized and reactivation through art and flower plantings has started.



*Here to Stay Land Trust's home in Logan Square*

- The “Here to Stay” community land trust, supported by Elevated Chicago in Logan Square, purchased its first home thanks to the work of our Steering Committee members LUCHA and Logan Square Neighborhood Association.
- Our Community Ownership Incubation Lab (managed by Enterprise Community Partners) continued collaborating with North Memphis Voice, our SPARCC-funded partners in Tennessee,



*Assemble Chicago, affordable ETOD housing for essential workers (source: The Community Builders)*

- to identify community ownership models and build the network and infrastructure to support them. The ETOD Pilot process is likely to help us identify several Chicago examples to support, each receiving a \$20,000 grant. (Learn more about the Pilot process in the next section.)
- In partnership with the Mayor's Office, Elevated Chicago submitted 25+ projects for federal funding support. Walkability projects at the Kedzie-Lake, Homan Square and Pulaski Blue Line stations, and ETOD planning and development projects at the CTA's 95th Street Red Line and California Blue Line stations were formally recommended by U.S. Representatives Bobby Rush, Danny Davis and Jesús “Chuy” García.
- Assemble Chicago, the ETOD supported by Elevated Chicago in the competition to redevelop the lot across from the Harold Washington Library, won the proposals competition, part of a C40-sponsored program. This mixed-use project includes 200+ affordable homes for essential workers, community event space, a food court supplied by minority-business enterprises and a health clinic.

- Elevated Chicago, The Chicago Community Trust, EndeLeo Institute and other members and partners formally supported a proposal for Federal Transit Administration funding for ETOD planning along the 95th Street Corridor submitted by CTA in partnership with the Department of Planning and Development.

- In the fall, [We Rise Together](#) awarded grants to two ETODs in our capital pipeline: the Latinos Progresando community center by the California Pink Line station (a former public library being transformed into community, office and healthcare space), and [Overton Center of Excellence](#) near the Green Line 51st stop (a closed public school redeveloped as a business and arts incubator). Both have been supported by Elevated Chicago since 2018 with grants and technical assistance.

- The Foundation for Homan Square (FHS), located in the Kedzie-Homan Blue Line eHub, was awarded a \$300,000 grant from SPARCC (Strong, Prosperous And Resilient Communities Challenge) in October, to support 21 affordable homes along West Flournoy Avenue. The project has benefited from high community engagement, including a [fall art walk](#) on the sites funded through the grant.

- The Chicago Department of Housing ended the year with the announcement of more than \$800 million in planned investments in affordable



*Dept. of Housing Commissioner Marisa Novara (2nd from left) announced \$800 million in affordable, transit-centric housing developments. (Source: WTTW)*

housing across the city – 24 developments in 20 community areas, representing the City's largest-ever investment in affordable housing. Of these, 75% (or 18) are ETOD projects, representing \$800 million in walkable, transit-oriented homes.

- The Walder Foundation awarded Elevated Chicago a two-year, \$400,000 grant to support nature-based solutions, technical assistance and community engagement around green infrastructure projects. This work will give us an opportunity to activate vacant lots near transit stations and buildings in four communities.

## PROCESS

- On March 29, Elevated Chicago Leadership Council members heard our lessons learned on community-led walkability improvements for equitable transit-oriented development (ETOD) in Logan Square, Washington Park and other neighborhoods.

- In April, Elevated Chicago spoke in favor of the Chicago Department of Housing's

new Affordable Housing Requirements Ordinance (ARO) and sent a letter of support focused on its provisions requiring ETOD in private sector-led developments.

- On June 17, the Chicago Plan Commission approved unanimously the ETOD Policy Plan. Our “We Heard You” social media campaign showing how public comment was incorporated in the Plan informed this decision.

- On June 18, Crain's published our [op-ed presenting ETOD as a reparative tool](#) for communities of color, featuring the work of our Green Line South partners.

- Program Director Roberto Requejo, was selected to join the Advisory Group of the We Will Chicago comprehensive plan, which adopted Elevated Chicago's rules of engagement for meetings. Other Elevated Chicago partners such as Garfield Park Community Council, Metropolitan Planning Council and Rudd Resources are playing key roles.

- The Chicago Community Trust approved a \$125,000 grant in support of our coalition's work with the City of Chicago ETOD Working Group to continue implementing the ETOD Policy Plan and Pilots throughout 2022. We will pass the grant through to community-based organizations, minority-business enterprises, artists, ETOD pilot sponsors and consultants engaged in this work.

*Continued*





(L-R): Elevated Chicago's Roberto Requejo with USDOT Sec. Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot

Program director Roberto Requejo joined Mayor Lori Lightfoot, CTA President Dorval R. Carter, Jr., and the Illinois congressional delegation in welcoming U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Secretary Pete Buttigieg during his visit to the CTA 95th/ Dan Ryan Red Line station. Sec. Buttigieg was there on July 16 to promote federal infrastructure legislation and plans for the extension of the Red Line to 130th Street.



Homan-Harrison Mixed-Use Development Project is one of 11 sites supported by a pilot program to advance the city's new ETOD policy.

On October 18, the Office of the Mayor, Enterprise Community Partners and Elevated Chicago announced [11 TOD projects that will receive funding](#) and technical assistance as part of the roll-out of Chicago's new ETOD policy. The projects were selected in a transparent process by a committee that included members appointed by the City and Elevated Chicago.

Also in October, Chicago's City Council approved a 2022 budget that included \$10.2 million earmarked for ETOD.

The first of two Health and Racial Equity Impact Assessment (HREIA) workshops was held in November, with 52 people participating. The second will occur in January 2022.

Our Steering Committee enthusiastically approved our 2022-2024 workplan, which outlines our priorities for the next three years. Designed as a foldable, portable reference for understanding, advocating for, and celebrating equitable development, the workplan will be publicly available in January 2022. It was created with and for Elevated Chicago by Foresight Design Initiative, JNJ Design and Rudd Resources.



2022-2024 Elevated Chicago workplan poster



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