What if all Chicago neighborhoods worked for all residents — not for us, not around us, but with us? Chicago can. Chicago must.

We can and must be a place where our transit assets — that’s stations and stops, buses and trains — are tools for neighborhood vitality. We can and must commit to developing buildings, homes and public spaces in every neighborhood in ways that address residents’ needs and wants. We can and must be a city and region that embraces and models equitable transit-oriented development, or ETOD.

With ETOD, businesses, homes and public spaces near transit:
• Are owned locally, generating wealth for Black, Brown and indigenous people;
• Remain affordable and accessible, ensuring that they can be appreciated by all residents, without displacing people, particularly people of color who have lived in communities for decades;
• Have access to high-quality transportation to jobs, amenities and other opportunities;
• Attract respectful investors and visitors, who help to sustain and vitalize communities;
• Are walkable, encouraging community engagement, health and safety;
• Incorporate sustainable practices to address climate change;
• Include spaces to display and perform art reflective of communities.

ETOD means that people of all incomes can benefit from dense, mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly development near transit hubs. It’s a solution to the equitable recovery our city needs after COVID-19. It’s a strategy that centers racial equity in the policies that shape our neighborhoods and lives. ETOD ensures that we all live in healthy, equitable, and climate-resilient communities.

Collaboration
We at Elevated Chicago are residents, community orgs, artists, developers, regional nonprofits, community development financial institutions, city officials, policymakers and philanthropists. Collaboration is who we are and a measure of our work.

Crossing communities and sectors, we seek to erase boundaries, shift power, and de-center elements of white supremacy culture (such as perfectionism, conflict avoidance and competitive individualism) that harm community development.

Join us in advancing ETOD. Meet us at ElevatedChicago.org and learn how you can help neighborhoods be equitable for all.
Here's What We're Doing: Our 2022-24 Workplan

We Work Together to Achieve...