



# 2022: HIGHLIGHTS

We are pleased to share this recap of our 2022 year — one that included passage of the nation's most comprehensive policy advancing ETOD (equitable transit-oriented development). As a reader, you are, no doubt, among the dozens of people who supported our work, and we are grateful. We also want to thank our funders. We welcomed two new funders in 2022: Square One Foundation and Builders Initiative! They joined The Chicago Community Trust, Convergence Partnership, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Polk Bros. Foundation, SPARCC and Walder Foundation in supporting an equitable future for Chicago.

## PEOPLE



*Growing our team with Jannice Newson, new Elevated Chicago program coordinator*

■ Elevated Chicago welcomed our newest team member, coordinator Jannice Newson in March. A Chicago native with a background in environmental sciences and conservation ecology, Jannice has done research in agro-ecosystems and wetlands. She enjoys crocheting, reading autobiographies, and visiting botanical gardens. Jannice launched Elevated's TikTok account earning more than 6,000 followers!

■ In May, Mariia Zimmerman, an invaluable resource to Elevated Chicago as a consultant to [SPARCC](#), joined the US Dept. of Transportation to continue advancing transit policy that benefits people. Steering Committee Chandra Christmas-Rouse and Systems Change Working Group lead Drew Williams-Clark, both made professional transitions, joining the Metropolitan Planning Council.

In the fall, Steering Committee co-chair Leslé Honoré became the CEO of Urban Gateways, and founding Steering Committee member Nootan Bahrani of Arts + Public Life was succeeded by Alfredo Nieves.

## EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT AMBASSADORS



Duo/.



■ The second cohort of the Equitable Development Ambassadors graduated in March. Twelve community residents from across Chicago participated in sessions facilitated by Duo Development, Palenque LSNA and Rudd Resources, producing ideas for commercial, retail and affordable housing developments needed in communities like South Shore, Auburn Gresham and North Lawndale.



*Celebrating nature near transit at the Nature of Resilience Festival*

■ In June, Elevated Chicago and the Center for Neighborhood Technology presented climate-conscious solutions during the Nature of Resilience Festival, hosted by Steering Committee member Foundation for Homan Square. More than 120 people enjoyed music, food and local shopping while learning about nature-based solutions for ETOD as part of our Nature Near Transit program funded by Walder Foundation.

■ In July, the Steering Committee of Elevated Chicago approved \$167,000 in grants to five Community Tables organizing resident power for ETOD in Garfield Park, Logan Square, North Lawndale, Washington Heights, Washington Park, and Woodlawn.

■ Enterprise Community Partners and Upside-Down Consulting started to provide technical assistance to a group of community- and cooperatively-owned ETODs that were awarded grants by Elevated Chicago as part of the City's first cohort of ETOD pilots. Project sponsors include Equity Arts, Endealeo Institute, Coalition Food Hall, and IFF-Foundation for Homan Square.

■ In October, the Strong, Prosperous And Resilient Communities Challenge, (SPARCC) hosted its final convening to conclude six

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*"Chicago strong" at the SPARCC Homecoming in New Orleans*

years of racial equity, transit-oriented development and community development work in six U.S. cities. The "homecoming" was held in New Orleans with participation by more than 80 members of collaboratives in Chicago, Atlanta, Denver, Los Angeles, Memphis and the San Francisco-Bay Area, funders, and leaders and artists from the host city. Our steering committee co-chair Leslé Honoré was the meeting's emcee. Learn more about the legacy of SPARCC's work by visiting [legacy.sparcchub.org](https://legacy.sparcchub.org).

In November, Elevated Chicago's long-time communications agency Rudd Resources was recognized by the Publicity Club of Chicago's annual industry awards for its work with Elevated. The firm's management of the Equitable Development Ambassadors Program earned a Golden Trumpet in the community relations category, and its production of the 2021 ETOD Symposium earned

a Silver Trumpet in the Special Events — Virtual category.

## PLACES



*Ceremonial opening of Lucy Gonzalez Parsons Apartments in Logan Square*

In May, after years of advocacy, residents of the Logan Square community celebrated the groundbreaking of the Lucy Gonzalez Parsons Apartments located by the CTA station. Palenque LSNA and Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation, the Logan Square Community Table, and government and elected officials, worked hard to bring this ETOD to reality in a gentrifying neighborhood. In July, CTA announced that a site nearby will be redeveloped also as an ETOD.



*Breaking ground for Latinos Progresando's new community center*

Also in May, Latinos Progresando broke ground on a community center by the CTA's California Pink Line station at the site of a former Chicago Public Library. The new ETOD will support the Marshall Square community with affordable legal and health services, cultural events, and more.

Elevated, SPARCC, IFF, Enterprise Community Partners, and many more Elevated Chicago partners have supported this process with grants, loans and technical assistance.

Another flagship ETOD in Elevated's pipeline, the Overton Center for Excellence near the CTA's 51st Green Line station was awarded a \$5M Community Development Grant from the City, the largest of the Spring cycle. Overton founder and Elevated Chicago Steering Committee member Ghian Foreman gave remarks along with Mayor Lori Lightfoot at the grant announcement.



*Rendering of the Garfield Green development*

The Capital & Programs Working group recommended a \$372,500 grant to the nonprofit Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) for the commercial space at Garfield Green, a mixed-used ETOD near the CTA Kedzie-Lake station. The proposed development includes affordable apartments, retail space and multiple green features. Elevated Steering Committee member Garfield Park Community Council is working with POAH to facilitate authentic community engagement.

In collaboration with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and the Regional Transportation Authority, the Green Line South Community Table presented Action Plans developed with community





*Celebrating a family's return to Logan Square thanks to CLT's first "Here to Stay" home*

residents for equitable community and economic development around the Chicago Transit Authority's Garfield station in Washington Park.

The Logan Square Community Table celebrated with a ribbon-cutting the first residents moving into a home part of their "Here to Stay" Community Land Trust. The land trust was funded in part by Elevated Chicago and supported with technical assistance. Partners include LUCHA, Palenque LSNA and Spanish Coalition for Housing.

Invited by North River Commission, Elevated Chicago joined "Lot Jams," a free outdoor, summer series that showcases the people, businesses and culture of Albany Park. The festival location is one of the sites of Elevated's Nature Near Transit program.

The Chicago departments of Planning and Development and Housing collaborated to release a Request For Proposals for ETOD ideas to redevelop vacant lots adjacent to the Chicago Transit Authority's Kedzie-Lake station and The Hatchery. Garfield Park Community Council, The Chicago Community Trust (which provided \$25,000 grants to three finalist teams), and other Elevated members are working to enhance the community engagement process in this founding eHub of Elevated Chicago.

## PROCESS

In May, the Center for Neighborhood Technology and the Metropolitan Agency for Planning debuted their [ETOD Social Impact Calculator](#) (visit [cnt.org](#) and click "tools.") It provides a broad swath of data to developers, residents and policy makers, including parking, jobs, public transportation, greenhouse gas emissions, building purchasing power, and bike-sharing metrics. Users can examine and quantify the financial, social, and environmental benefits of ETOD projects in Cook County, answering questions such as, "How many jobs would a development add to the area?" and "What would the impact be on greenhouse gasses from driving?"



*Honoring the "graduation" of the first Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) cohort*

In May, the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) cohort graduated after 15 months learning methods and best practices to lead, from within, government agencies putting racial equity at the center. Elevated, the Metropolitan Planning Council and the Mayor's Office of Racial Justice and Equity designed a curriculum for leaders of the City departments of Planning, Housing, Transportation, and Cultural Affairs & Special Events, along with the Chicago Transit Authority and the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities.



*Thanking supporters of the new Connected Communities ordinance*

In June, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot introduced the Connected Communities Ordinance in the Chicago City Council, a momentous step for the ETOD movement locally and nationally. The most comprehensive ordinance in the nation was approved with modifications in July with 36 City Council "yes" votes. It updates and modifies zoning code and policy to address historic disinvestments in Black and Brown communities, and avoid displacement triggered by gentrification. Among other provisions, the ordinance makes affordable and accessible housing easier and more economical to build near transit, triples the amount of land eligible for parking reductions and density incentives, and improves pedestrian safety. The ordinance was collaboratively developed over three years by Elevated Chicago, City departments and leaders from community and citywide organizations.

During the summer, Chicago Department of Housing Commissioner Marisa Novara and our Executive Director Roberto Requejo spoke with WTTW's Chicago Tonight to discuss the importance of the ETOD ordinance and its benefits for the future of Chicago's growth. Other news

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outlets that invited Elevated staff and coalition members to speak about the ordinance included WBEZ, Chicago Reader, Chicago Tribune, the Daily Line and Crain's Chicago.

■ Executive director Roberto Requejo spoke at webinars sponsored by SPARCC (on demystifying federal funding) and by the Federal Transit Administration (on best practices in ETOD). He also participated in plenary and keynote panels at the conferences of the Shared-Use Mobility Center and the Association for Commuter Transportation, sat on an experts' panel at the Mansueto Institute's summit, "Beyond the Single-Family Home: Zoning, Equity, & Access."

■ In September, members of the Elevated coalition Christian Diaz (Palenque LSNA) and Ianna Kachoris (The Chicago Community Trust), and ED Roberto Requejo, presented to a delegation of government and civic sector leaders from Turin, Italy about the journey to the Connected Communities ordinance. The group visited the city as part of the "Chicago-Torino Lab: Addressing the Costs of Segregation" initiative, supported by the German Marshall Fund. The conversation was facilitated by Chicago Department of Housing Commissioner Marisa Novara in Logan Square. Also in September, Roberto presented Elevated Chicago's model during the City of Chicago's "Year of Healing Summit," hosted by the Office of Racial Equity and Justice. Elevated Chicago manager Marly Schott facilitated a panel with Steering Committee members Christian Diaz, Kendra Freeman (MPC) and Melvin Thompson (Endeleo Institute) at the Rail-Volution annual conference in Miami. And, Elevated welcomed

students from University of Michigan and SciencesPo School (Paris) for eHub tours.

■ In December, Roberto joined Ald. James Cappleman, Uptown United, Chicago's Mayor's Office and The Lakota Group representatives for a community webinar to discuss how to redevelop a site adjacent to the CTA Wilson stop as ETOD under the Connected Communities ordinance.

■ In the Fall, the City of Chicago launched a \$10M+ ETOD program of grants and technical assistance, funded by the American Rescue Plan. The funding is projected to support up to 60 ETOD projects across the city.



■ With funding from The Chicago Community Trust and JPMorgan Chase, the Elevated Chicago coalition launched Elevated Works, an initiative intended to leverage philanthropic support and collaborative technical assistance to supplement the City's ETOD program and finance work that can't be funded with federal dollars. The Center for Neighborhood Technology will act as Elevated Works project manager.

■ The Regional Transportation Authority released a draft of its strategic plan, "Transit is the Answer." One of its seven priorities for advocacy is to support communities' efforts to improve the areas around transit stops and pursue ETOD. Elevated Chicago was among the organizations that informed the plan and shaped this recommendation.

■ On December 1, we hosted our annual [ETOD symposium](#) at The Hatchery. Themed "Our Healthy Recovery," it was a hybrid event



that attracted about 90 people in person and 60 people via zoom. Panels covered the Connected Communities ordinance next steps, best practices and innovations in ETOD in Chicago and nationally, and the plans of Elevated for 2023. Guests were treated to artisanal ice cream in transit-station inspired flavors and gifts of exclusive t-shirts featuring designs by four Chicago artists. It was produced by Rudd Resources with support from JNJ Designs, Duo Development and Video Parachute, and funded by the James D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. View the entire event at [Youtube.com/ElevatedChicagoETOD](https://www.youtube.com/ElevatedChicagoETOD).



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