



2023: END OF YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

2023 was a fast-paced and exciting year for equitable transit-oriented development (ETOD) in Chicago and nationwide. We invite you to join us in revisiting the amazing strides Elevated Chicago has made over the past year.

PEOPLE *About our people*



Leslé at 2023 SUMC National Shared Mobility Summit

Leslé Honoré Joins Panel on Affordable Housing, TOD

Leslé Honoré was a panelist at the 2023 National Shared Mobility Summit in Chicago this past May. Its theme was All Together Now: Action + Accountability For People-Focused Mobility. Honoré discussed what the conference organizers called "Chicago's unprecedented Equitable Transportation Oriented Development program" along with other interesting cases across the US.



Catalyze Conference speakers in St. Louis

Roberto Requejo on Sustainable Equitable Communities at RWJF Catalyze Conference

ED Roberto Requejo was invited by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to speak about Elevated Chicago's community power building model at the national Catalyze conference, held in St. Louis, MO. The event brought together 300+ leaders and practitioners in the community development and public health fields.



Attending the Active Trans' Movers and Shakers Ball

Roberto Requejo and Marisa Novara Receive Advancing Equity Award from Active Trans

Roberto Requejo and Housing Commissioner Novara accepted the Advancing Equity Award at the Active Transportation Alliance Movers and Shakers Ball. The award honored Elevated Chicago's efforts in advocating for the passing of the Connected Communities Ordinance in 2022.



Marly Schott and Chandra Christmas-Rouse

Marly Schott and Chandra Christmas-Rouse Selected as Chicago United for Equity Fellows

Marly Schott and Chandra Christmas-Rouse were selected as 2023 Chicago United for Equity Fellows. The CUE Fellowship includes change-makers working in partnership with civic institutions and in community with neighbors to create an ecosystem of honest conversation, meaningful collaboration and collective action.

Jannice Newson Gives Keynote Speech at Chicago200

Jannice Newson served as the keynote speaker for the Chicago200 young adult leadership program. Her speech addressed the central question to the program. "How do we

make Chicago a city for all?" and explored how ETOD and public transportation fit into that vision.

Autumn Mays Joins as the Arts and Culture Intern

In June, Autumn Mays joined Elevated Chicago as our Arts and Culture intern. Autumn is a performing arts student at DePaul University and is the founder of NoteWorthy, a nonprofit supporting BIPOC youth in music.

Roberto Requejo on Transit-Induced Displacement at Singapore Conference

ED Roberto Requejo presented virtually at the Marcus Evans Mixed-Use Transit Oriented Development Conference in Singapore on TOD best practices to bridge the racial wealth gap and preserve existing communities.

Jannice Newson at the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Convening

Coordinator Jannice Newson presented on Elevated Chicago's Nature Near Transit upcoming projects. The Doris Duke Foundation has funded a pipeline of BIPOC professionals in STEM. The learning convention of scholars took place in Hague, New York.

Elevated Chicago Supports W/MBE and BIPOC-Led Orgs

As part of the commitment to equity in procurement, 100% of Elevated Chicago's contracts in 2023 went to WBE/MBE and BIPOC-lead organizations, amounting to \$400,000+.

100% **\$400K+**

OF OUR CONTRACTS IN 2023 WENT TO M/WBE AND BIPOC LED ORGANIZATIONS

M/WBE contracts in 2023

2023: HIGHLIGHTS *Continued*



Kevin Sutton, Foundation for Homan Square

New Steering Committee Co-Chair

In July, Kevin Sutton joined re-elected co-chairs Chandra Christmas-Rouse and Leslé Honoré as co-chair of the Elevated Chicago Steering Committee!

Welcoming New People to Elevated Chicago

We were excited to welcome several new people to the Elevated Chicago Steering Committee:

- BJ Stewart, Sunshine Enterprises
- Kate McMahon, Chicago Department of Public Health
- Marisa Novara, Chicago Community Trust

We are grateful to their predecessors, who parted ways with Elevated Chicago in 2023, leaving an extraordinary legacy:

- Megan Cunningham, Chicago Department of Public Health, Steering Committee founder
- Mike Davidson, Chicago Community Trust, Steering Committee founder
- Jair Pinedo, Sunshine Enterprises

PLACES

About places we're impacting



ETOD grantees at the City of Chicago's May 2023 announcement

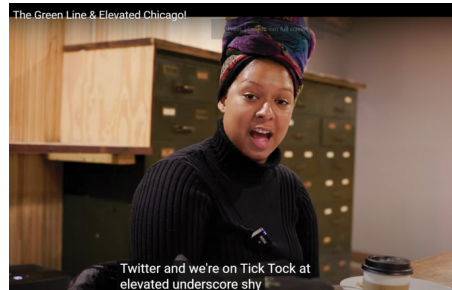
Chicago Recovery Plan ETOD Grantees

The Chicago Department of Planning and Development awarded 26 organizations more than \$4 million in grants for ETOD development and pre-development activities, including projects sponsored by a number of Elevated Chicago members and partners: Sunshine Enterprises (for a community center in Washington Park/Woodlawn); Duo Development (for its Starling community space in North Lawndale); Food Matters (for

its food-based organization in Bronzeville); and Far South CDC (for its West Pullman Lofts). Funding for the grants comes from the American Rescue Plan Act. All grantees are eligible for technical assistance provided by Elevated Works.

"Can You Walk There?" Video Series Featured on CBS News and WTTW

Coordinator Jannice Newson recreated the "Can You Walk There?" TikTok series at the Kedzie-Homan Blue Line eHub with [CBS News](#) and in Woodlawn with [WTTW](#). This video series highlights the successes and challenges of walkability near transit throughout the city of Chicago.



Jannice interviewing with 77 Flavors of Chicago

77 Flavors Podcast in Washington Park

Jannice Newson joined 77 Flavors of Chicago, a podcast on the community areas in Chicago. They discussed ETOD at the Garfield Green Line station and enjoyed a meal at the Retreat at the Currency Exchange Café, a culinary business incubator with music, art and rotating culinary artists.



Community meeting near the 95th/Dan Ryan Red Line station

Vacant Lots in East Garfield Park and Roseland/Washington Heights

Elevated Chicago and IHS supported two case studies on vacant lots near transit in the [Roseland/Washington Heights](#) and [East Garfield Park](#) neighborhoods. Research showed that there are more than 11,000 [vacant lots](#) located near transit in predominantly Black communities (about 3,400 are City-owned). The work entailed engagement with residents on their current perceptions of and future aspirations for vacant land. Walking tours were held in both communities to highlight vacant lot history, current conditions and potential development.



Rendering of Fifth City Commons

Groundbreaking at Fifth City Commons

Mayor Brandon Johnson opened the groundbreaking at Fifth City Commons, a new-construction affordable housing development by POAH located in the East Garfield Park neighborhood near the Kedzie/Lake Green Line. It includes 43 apartments built to Passive House standards. The development sits at the gateway to a part of Garfield Park called "Fifth City" and was named through a community-driven process co-led by Elevated Chicago Steering Committee org Garfield Park Community Council. The name also honors a community organization active in the neighborhood starting in the 1960s whose message and legacy still resonate today. Elevated supported this ETOD with a 2022 pre-development grant.



Rendering of 4715 N Western

Groundbreaking at 4715 N Western

4715 N Western, a development by The Community Builders near the Western Brown Line station, broke ground. There will be a total of 65 new affordable homes, ground-floor commercial space, and expanded outdoor public space.



Ribbon cutting at Latinos Progresando Community Center

Ribbon Cutting at Latinos Progresando

The Latinos Progresando Community Center had its grand opening in August 2023. This ETOD will offer mental health, wellness, and immigration and after-school services to the



Aerial view of the new Arts Lawn

Little Village community. Elevated Chicago was one of the first supporters of this project, providing a \$125,000 grant and technical assistance since 2018.

Grand Opening of the Arts Lawn

Steering Committee org Arts + Public Life unveiled the Arts Lawn in Washington Park, the newest addition to the Arts Block by the Garfield Green Line station. It will provide equitable access to outdoor community-centered arts programs, including film screenings, live theater and performance, outdoor music, youth education, and arts marketplaces. Elevated Chicago supported the adjacent Green Line Performing Arts Center and redeveloped historic CTA station with grants.

Public Kickoff of 95th Street Corridor Plan

Several community-based orgs, Chicago DPD, CTA and infrastructure consulting firm AECOM have launched the [95th Street Corridor Plan: Community-informed ETOD](#). The virtual public kick-off took place Nov. 1, 2023. Residents and visitors of the 2-mile corridor surrounding the 95th/Dan Ryan Red Line station will be able to share lived experiences and recommendations for future corridor development throughout 2024. Engagement efforts include public meetings, Community Table meetings and the creation of a Community Advisory Group.

PROCESS

About our systems-change work

Launch of the Connected Communities Impact Table

As part of the National Equitable Recovery Alliance, Elevated Chicago joined ACT-LA (Los Angeles) and the TransFormation Alliance (Atlanta) to launch the Connected Communities Impact Table. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, this collaborative builds on the work the three organizations undertook from 2017 to 2022 with funding from SPARCC (the Strong, Prosperous And Resilient Communities Challenge), a national equity initiative. This new Impact Table focuses on ETOD and



Elevated Works technical assistance launch

transit justice at the national level with a goal of advancing policy, exploring capital sources and exchanging lessons.

Launch of the Elevated Works Technical Assistance Program

Elevated Works, an initiative of Elevated Chicago managed by the Center for Neighborhood Technology, IFF, Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) and Rudd Resources, launched in the spring. It engages 18 organizations as technical assistance providers for ETOD projects that received funding from the Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development. The Chicago Community Trust, MacArthur Foundation and JPMorgan Foundation are co-funding this effort.



In.Field Community Engagement Toolkit

Updated Community Engagement Principles and New Toolkit

Duo Development (led by brothers Carlos and Rafael Robles), Rudd Resources and JNJ Creative worked together to update Elevated Chicago's Community Engagement Principles. A streamlined booklet and a new In.Field Community Engagement Toolkit, are now available for developers, government agencies and community groups interested in ensuring that development in neighborhoods is ethical, rooted in equity, led by resident and fun! The updated principles are live at [ElevatedChicago.org](#); the toolkit is expected to be widely available in 2024.

Elevated Chicago on the PART Steering Committee

Elevated Chicago ED Roberto Requejo and Steering Committee member Jacky Grimshaw were appointed to serve on the Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART) Steering Committee, convened by Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). This group



Roberto and Marisa accept HUD Secretary's Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships

of transportation experts came together to address the regional transit financial cliff and determine what we want our transit system to look like in the future, how to pay for it, and how to implement improvements.

Council of Foundations and HUD Secretary's Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships

The Chicago Community Trust was honored by the Council on Foundations and US Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary's Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships. This award acknowledges the leadership and contributions the Trust has made in Elevated Chicago and its close collaboration with the Mayor's Office, City departments, Chicago Transit Authority and other government partners.



Members of the mayoral transition Subcommittee on Transportation

Elevated Chicago Tapped for Mayor Johnson Transition Subcommittees

Several Elevated Chicago leaders were appointed to serve in Mayor-Elect Brandon Johnson's transition. ED Roberto Requejo was appointed to co-chair the Transportation Subcommittee, and Co-Chair Leslé Honoré to co-chair Arts and Culture. Other members of the Steering Committee served in a variety of sub-committees, including Christian Diaz and Lissette Castañeda (Housing) and Jacky Grimshaw (Environmental Justice). Other friends of Elevated Chicago who served on various sub-committees include Erin Aleman, Andy Geer, Darlene Hightower, Lynnette McRae, Jim Merrell, Katanya Raby, Sindy Soto, and Joanna Trotter.

G. Thomas Kingsley Impact Award

DePaul Institute for Housing Studies, co-chair of Elevated Chicago's Knowledge Sharing Working Group, received an award

2023: HIGHLIGHTS *Continued*

from the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership. The award recognizes their impact in using data to improve local policy—such as the Connected Communities Ordinance—and to advance equity and well-being across neighborhoods.

ETOD Visioning Breakfasts and Conversations

Elevated Chicago hosted breakfasts with aldermen to discuss the importance of ETOD, propose a plan for an office of ETOD in Chicago, and share why ETOD principles need strong government backing to be successful. Additionally, Steering Committee members and partners met with City Council and their staff to engage them in next steps needed to sustain the city's growing ETOD pipeline. A total of 26 aldermanic offices were engaged.



Connected Communities Impact Table members in front of mosaic at The Hatchery

Connected Communities Impact Table Convening

The Connected Communities Impact Table, part of NERA and co-led by Elevated Chicago, Transformation Alliance (Atlanta), and ACT-LA, convened in Chicago for a day-and-a-half session. The meeting served as a learning exchange and strategizing session for furthering the goals of the table: resourcing organizations to do ETOD work, providing joint oversight and community engagement for ETOD, and educating partners about public policy and impact at the federal level. Organizers from the three cities attended the event and toured The Hatchery, one of Chicago's pioneering ETODs.



Sept. 7, 2023 USDOT Chicago Listening Session

USDOT Listening Sessions

Manager Marly Schott attended a [USDOT Chicago Listening Session](#). Federal Transit Administration Administrator Nuria Fernandez met with elected and community leaders across the Chicagoland area for a firsthand look at how infrastructure investments are improving transportation and quality of life for passengers and residents around the city, with a special focus on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.



Receiving the Advancing Diversity and Social Change Award

Advancing Diversity and Social Change Award

Coalition partner Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and Steering Committee member Palenque LSNA received the Advancing Diversity and Social Change Award from the American Planning Association Illinois Chapter for their work on the [Logan Square Blue Line ETOD Action Plan](#), supported by Elevated Chicago.



Convergence Partnership meeting in Logan Square

Chicago Convergence Partnership Convening

Elevated Chicago and The Chicago Community Trust hosted a two-day meeting of the Convergence Partnership, a collaborative of national and community foundations advancing racial and health equity. Members discussed how to organize philanthropy to amplify community power and multiyear regional investment strategies. The group received a tour of the Logan Square eHub led by Palenque LSNA.



"A Decade of ETOD" presenters

Plenary Panel at M+Pact Transit + Community Conference

Elevated Chicago, ACT-LA, and Transformation Alliance—organizations on the Connected Communities Impact Table—held a plenary panel at the annual M+Pact conference in Phoenix, AZ. They discussed the past, present and future of ETOD in their respective cities. Mariia Zimmerman of USDOT and Jacky Grimshaw of the Center for Neighborhood Technology moderated the discussion, which attracted 600+ attendees.

Grant support from MacArthur, MetLife and Builders Initiative

Elevated Chicago received \$1M in new grants from Builders Initiative, the MetLife Foundation, and the MacArthur Foundation to support general operations, Elevated Works, and the In.Field Community Engagement Toolkit, among other projects. MetLife Foundation's grant is one of 24 provided to groups across the US that are accelerating solutions to close the income and wealth gap.



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