



Staff not pictured: Cyatharine Alias, Brandon Evans, Emily, Laflamme, Shavion Scott

Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) helps support the creation of *equitable, sustainable, and resilient* local governments and communities through *innovative analysis and solutions*.

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

CNT was founded in 1978 to organize residents to challenge harmful environmental practices with a socio-economic lens. Our founders believed in tackling issues directly within communities to elevate residents' living standards and economic opportunities, in partnership with the people who lived there.

Since then, we've expanded our work to include equitable transportation systems, inclusive housing strategies, and data-informed decision making.

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Our mission is to create new tools. The ‘technology’ in our name just means tools to deal with urban issues and urban problems for urban communities. That’s what we do.



Jacky Grimshaw, 30-year staff member
(*History Makers* interview)

Our new CEO brings her lived experience growing up in Detroit, her expertise as a city planner in Los Angeles and Chicago (notably leading the Chicago Recovery Plan to deliver more than \$250 million to neighborhoods in the wake of COVID-19), and her track record of operationalizing equity through data-informed tactics to CNT with the goal of making it possible for people to *thrive in place*.



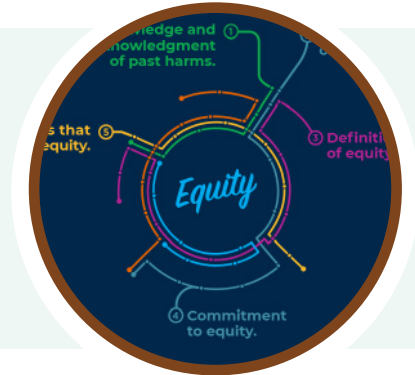
Nina Idemudia, Chief Executive Officer

VISION + PRINCIPLES

The critical challenge confronting our cities lies in **creating environments where individuals have the opportunity to thrive in place**. Through this lens, our effort to translate the commitment of racial equity from paper to practical action becomes not only a professional responsibility, but a dire necessity to put adverse trends behind us and foster inclusivity in the built environment.

1 EQUITY

We bring expertise in both the “what” of equity and the “how” – a set of practices that lift-up community voices and connect them with public and private institution leaders to solve problems together. We bring quantitative (e.g., number-crunching) and qualitative (e.g., listening) skills.



2 COURAGE

A significant factor impeding planners from advancing equity in cities has been the absence of genuine courage to admit the harms our land-use decisions caused over the decades. We need to admit what’s not working and find new ways to do more inclusive planning.

3 PEOPLE FIRST

Science and theory must serve people, not the other way around. This isn’t to downplay our enthusiasm for data, but the criteria for “what works” must originate from the perspectives of those who are most impacted by the issues we aim to address.



4 IMAGINATION

CNT’s most notable achievements often stem from ideas that seem audacious but are uniquely effective. We remain devoted to endorsing visionary concepts that challenge conventional limits in favor of the public interest.

CURRENT PROJECTS

CNT has over two dozen projects under way, and more in the pipeline, in various parts of the nation. These current projects exemplify how we execute our theory of change.

Sustainable Community Development + Transportation



ELEVATED CHICAGO

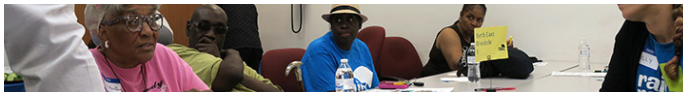
CNT helped co-found the Elevated Chicago coalition of local and citywide civic organizations and philanthropy advocating Equitable, Transit-Oriented Development, ETOD. The coalition built political will leading to the city's Connected Communities Ordinance in 2022, building support for ETOD policies.



TRANSPORTATION EQUITY NETWORK

Recognizing the need for a more inclusive and community-driven approach to transportation decision-making in Chicago and suburban Cook County, CNT initiated the TEN cohort. Over the last 3 years, CNT has convened more than 40 community groups, participating in transportation projects at various municipal levels to advocate for transportation equity and mobility justice.

Urban Resilience



RAIN READY CALUMET CORRIDOR

Our Urban Resilience team is staffing community leadership councils in the Calumet Corridor. The councils will direct \$6 million in federal infrastructure money to Green Sustainable Infrastructure projects to address flooding in six south suburban communities.



NATURE NEAR TRANSIT

We work with local community partners and stakeholders to install complementary, site-scale green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) and public art near transit stations to support these areas in becoming destinations for local economic and community development.

Urban Analytics



URBAN OPPORTUNITY AGENDA

CNT analyzed 100 urban areas to identify tools civic leaders could apply to reduce poverty. Our analysis uncovered a set of expense reductions, targeted job creation, and smarter public and private investments that together could reduce the number of people living in poverty by 25% or more.



ETOD SOCIAL IMPACT CALCULATOR

The ETOD Social Impact Calculator offers critical data for users from developers to transportation and housing planners to community leaders and even households. It's a tool to calculate the benefits of residing near transit—reduced commute times, savings, and greater connectivity—and ensure these can be built into pricing strategies in ways that are accessible to people across all economic strata.

CORE CAPABILITIES

Our bottom-up, data-informed approach to problems produces evidence-based solutions:

+ Analysis

We're known for rigorous, interdisciplinary analysis of urban and regional problems, both quantitative and qualitative.

+ Engagement & Empowerment

Our staff collaborates with local partners and government leaders, empowering them to improve communities both independently and alongside public institutions.

+ Innovation

We deliver data-informed policy, financial, and technological solutions, leveraging cutting-edge tools and insights to drive impactful change.

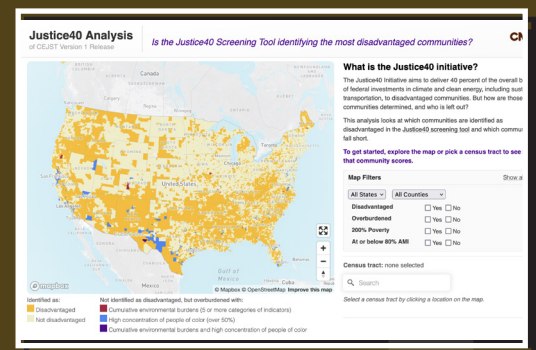
+ Community Collaboration

We partner with you to recognize gaps in service and devise innovative strategies to address challenges we discover jointly.

We're proud to be known for building sophisticated data tools, developing online resources to make findings usable, and creating common-sense approaches to planning and sustainable development.

PARTNERING WITH CNT

Our expertise in urban sustainability has been commissioned by governments, advocates, policy makers, and community groups. Our capabilities include urban planning, sustainability strategies, policy, spatial analysis, GSI, transportation infrastructure, impact metrics and indicators, web tool design, and community outreach.



For information on working with CNT as a client, investor or philanthropic partner, please contact one of our team leaders:

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