

CNT presents

# VISIONARY VOICES!

Join us this summer and fall for Visionary Voices – conversations with planners, organizers, and researchers about the built environment. Each event will feature a panel, Q&A, and time to meet and chat over refreshments and a beverage of your choice!

## **Visionary Voices for Accelerating Innovation in Policy and Practice**

Join us at CNT for an insightful discussion moderated by Nina Idemudia, AICP, exploring the dynamic role of a “think AND do tank” in driving innovation and actionable change. This engaging panel will feature several professionals who are at the forefront of integrating research with practical implementation.

Together, they will share their experiences and insights on how this unique model accelerates progress within our public institutions and fosters tangible improvements in our communities. Hear firsthand about the strategies, challenges, and successes of these experts in creating sustainable, equitable solutions for the future.

Join us for a panel discussion, Q&A, conversation and networking with light refreshments. Free, but registration required so we know how much food to buy!

**We’re also planning one more event for later this year...**

November: Visionary Voices on Climate-Induced Migration/Displacement



**RSVP here:**

<https://bit.ly/visionary24-2>



4 PM - 6 PM

**11**

**SEPTEMBER**

**CNT OFFICE**

17 N STATE ST. SUITE 1400,  
CHICAGO, IL 60602

CNT presents

# VISIONARY VOICES!

Visionary Voices for Accelerating Innovation in Policy and Practice

## PANELISTS

### **Chandra Christmas-Rouse**

Chandra Christmas-Rouse is an urban planner, advocate and artist based in Chicago, IL. A background in community development and environmental justice informs her design approach of working with community stakeholders in a participatory process to support capacity building, achieve place-based solutions, and reimagine systems. Chandra currently serves as a Director at Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC). At MPC, she developed and leads an initiative called Change Lab which provides learning and training programs for public, private and civic sector partners on how to co create and implement systems change efforts like newly adopted equitable policies and lending practices. She also directs MPC's housing policy work and supports land use & planning and equitable transit-oriented development (eTOD) programs by using research to develop legislative agendas and leading advocacy and outreach efforts.

### **Katanya Raby**

Katanya Raby is an urban planner, designer, artist, and activist. Katanya currently is a Greening America's Cities Fellow, Bezos Earth Fund. Previously, she served as the Director of Planning at Far South Community Development Corporation (CDC) and is the founding principal planner of Urban Dreams, LLC. She is also the founder of the Al Raby Foundation, a family-led organization that works to preserve the legacy of Al Raby's civil rights work in Chicago. Katanya is an alumnus of the Chicago United for Equity Fellowship, co-founder and former president of Society of Black Urban Planners at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a board director with the American Planning Association Illinois Chapter.

### **Robyn Wheeler Grange**

Robyn Wheeler Grange serves as the first Director of Argonne National Laboratory's Office of Community Engagement (OCE). Under her leadership, the office delivers structure and intentionality to the laboratory in its effort to extend its capabilities and resources to communities, including those who have historically been underserved. This intentional approach to community engagement provides a strong framework for the inclusive advancement of science and technology through community engaged research, expanded collaborations, and strategic partnerships.

### **Nina Idemudia, AICP, Moderator**

Nina joined CNT in September 2023 as our new CEO. Previously, she served as Chicago Recovery Plan Director for the Chicago Department of Planning and Development, where her primary focus was to ensure equitable grant distribution across 11 critical program initiatives supporting Chicago's economic revival. She has also helped to lead MUSE Community + Design, where she served as Director of Planning, and has previously served as a planner for the City of Los Angeles.