



CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD TECHNOLOGY

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



2015 WAS ANOTHER YEAR OF INNOVATION FOR CNT

CNT is committed to improving cities' economic and environmental sustainability, resilience, and quality of life. We work to help all people access:

- **Shared prosperity** through improving economic and job opportunities and reducing the cost of living.
- **Livable, connected, and equitable neighborhoods** with better choices in transportation, energy, water and other basic needs.
- **Resilient communities** in the face of the changing climate and economy.
- **Innovative infrastructure** that is efficient, cost-effective, environmentally friendly and, whenever possible, at a community scale.

WE WORK IN THREE AREAS:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Capturing the value of better urban infrastructure and location efficiency to reduce the cost of living, create jobs, and improve the environment.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Building resource-efficient and adaptive communities that minimize their contribution to climate change, and reduce and prevent its adverse impacts, such as urban flooding.

URBAN ANALYTICS

Creating data tools and analyses that help policymakers and communities make better decisions and take action to create more sustainable communities.

USING OUR CLIMATE RESEARCH TO SPARK AFFORDABLE HOUSING INVESTMENTS

The State of California will invest up to \$5 billion of cap-and-trade revenue each year in projects to curb climate change. In addition to investments in high-speed rail and public transit, millions of dollars will support affordable transit-oriented development (TOD). CNT research, done in partnership with [California Housing Partnership Corporation \(CHPC\)](#) and [TransForm](#), helped make the case that building affordable housing near transit can significantly reduce greenhouse gases from auto emissions. \$65 million has already been allocated to equitable transit-oriented development this year, with much more to come.





BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF URBAN FLOODING

CNT's RainReady Community program helps cities and towns create community-scale solutions to urban flooding. The Village of Midlothian, Illinois unanimously adopted the nation's first [RainReady Plan](#) in January 2016, committing to a long-term strategy that not only seeks to tackle flooding, but also revitalize the economy. In 2016 and beyond, we will be replicating our resilience model in other communities.

HELPING FLOOD SURVIVORS KEEP THEIR HOMES DRY

Our [RainReady](#) Home program helps homeowners flood-proof their houses. We assess the root causes of flooding and develop affordable, nature-based approaches - like rain gardens, property re-grading, and backflow valves - to keep homes dry. In 2015, RainReady Home completed 19 home assessments, and in 2016 we're scaling up to support homeowners throughout the city of Chicago.





REDUCING POVERTY THROUGH PLACE-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Even as economic growth and unemployment have recovered from the economic crisis, poverty rates have kept rising. New approaches to reducing poverty are urgently needed. With support from the Knight Foundation, CNT evaluated the potential of place-based economic development to significantly reduce poverty in ten cities across the nation. We found that [ten strategies](#) - including household expense reduction, resource efficiency, targeted job creation, and strategic public/private investments - have the potential to reduce the number of people living in poverty by as much as 25 percent.

MAKING TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT THE PREFERRED OPTION FOR NEIGHBORHOOD RENEWAL

Of the five US cities with large legacy transit systems Chicago was the only one that saw development near transit decline between 2000 and 2010. Since then we have been pushing for compact, vibrant, walkable neighborhoods around transit stations to reverse this trend. In 2015 we began working with neighborhood groups and developers to analyze how much parking new buildings really need and how residents' mobility can be enhanced with other options such as car sharing, bike sharing, and, of course, transit.





DEBUNKING PARKING MYTHS TO MAKE ROOM FOR HOUSING PEOPLE

By lowering the cost of living and connecting people to jobs, transit stops play an important role in anchoring equitable, vibrant communities. We have advocated for transit-oriented development for a long time; since 2013 this work has zeroed in on parking minimums. Interactive data-mapping tools we've built for King County, Washington; the San Francisco Bay Area; and Washington, D.C. have found that residential parking is often overbuilt, especially around transit, leaving less space and money for housing people. Our recent report *Stalled Out: How Empty Parking Spaces Diminish Neighborhood Affordability* offers innovative solutions for helping communities rethink parking minimums.

REVITALIZING CITIES THROUGH FREIGHT AND CARGO-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Traditionally, the success of freight rail has been measured solely by on-time performance. In *Freight Train to Community Prosperity*, we argue that freight rail can also play a significant role in driving local economic growth, reducing poverty, improving the environment, and promoting public safety.





LAUNCHING NEW DATA AND ANALYTIC RESOURCES FOR LOCATION-EFFICIENT COMMUNITIES

CNT has developed game-changing interactive web tools that help community leaders make data-driven decisions about urban development. We kicked off 2015 with the launch of an updated version of our iconic [Housing and Transportation \(H+T®\) Affordability Index](#) and the launch of the [Location Efficiency Hub](#), which houses our suite of location efficiency resources and tools. In early 2016, this was followed by the release of [AllTransit™](#), the nation's single largest source of transit connectivity, access, and frequency data, all of which is presented in user-friendly maps and graphics.

DESIGNING ECODISTRICTS THAT CREATE JOBS

CNT is evolving a new model of urban regeneration and economic development called *Manufacturing EcoDistricts*, in which freight access, efficient energy use, and business support services combine to nurture manufacturing businesses and create jobs. Interestingly, this was first done in Chicago in the early 20th century: the Central Manufacturing District on Chicago's Pershing Road was the first multi-tenant industrial park in the U.S. By 1915, some two hundred firms were located there, which, combined with the stockyards, employed around 40,000 people. Today the CMD is largely vacant. CNT is exploring the revitalization of the CMD; recapturing the site's original competitive advantages and reimagining them for the 21st century, and developing a framework for jobs-generating Manufacturing EcoDistricts nationwide.





BUILDING THE SHARED-USE ECONOMY

The [Shared-Use Mobility Center \(SUMC\)](#), which CNT co-founded in 2014, has been playing an important role in building the sharing economy. SUMC is a public-interest organization working to foster collaboration in shared mobility (including bikesharing, carsharing, ridesharing, and more) and help connect this burgeoning industry with transit agencies, cities and communities across the nation. In partnership with SUMC and carsharing operator Getaround, CNT is spearheading an innovative study to evaluate the feasibility of peer-to-peer carsharing, often called “Airbnb for cars.”

PROMOTING CIVIC TECH AND GRASSROOTS ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO REVITALIZE POOR COMMUNITIES

CNT's fourth annual *Urban Sustainability Apps Competition*, presented by Microsoft, was held on June 5-7, 2015. It connected thought leaders from Chicago's disadvantaged communities with coders and designers to solve community problems through tech. The result: prototypes of apps and app-enabled businesses that can make real change in Chicago neighborhoods. Our 2015 teams took on a range of issues, from food deserts and the digital divide to pollution and job training. Each year, more people from more neighborhoods have participated in our competition, making CNT a leader in promoting civic tech as a vehicle for economic development.





Photo credit: iStockphoto.com/Tracy/Creative Commons

FISCAL YEAR 2015 SUPPORTERS (UNAUDITED)

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION

Anonymous • Boeing Company • C.S. Mott Foundation • California Community Foundation • Enterprise Community Partners • Grand Victoria Foundation • John S. and James L. Knight Foundation • Joyce Foundation • Libra Foundation • Microsoft Corporation • Prince Charitable Trusts • Sally Mead Hands Foundation • Surdna Foundation • Thanksgiving Fund • Searle Funds at the Chicago Community Trust

American Society of Civil Engineering • AMLI Residential • Advantage Marketing Group, Ltd. • Applied Systems, Inc. • Atlanta Regional Commission • Backstop Foundation • Big Cat Foundation • Bronner Group, LLC • Chicago Beverage Systems LLC • Chicago Community Development Corporation • Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters • Christopher Burke Engineering • ComEd • Equilibrium IT Solutions, Inc. • Evanston Community Foundation • Farr Associates • FluidClarity, Ltd. • GE Foundation • Google • Grumman/Butkus Associates • Harris Family Foundation • Harvey L. Miller Family Foundation • Industrial Data Associates • Intel Corporation • Indiegogo • Fund Change • Jocardno Fund • Legat Architects • Lloyd A. Fry Foundation • Microsoft Matching Gifts Program • Motorola Solutions Foundation • New Visions Foundation • Oppenheimer Family Foundation • Ozinga Brothers Ross Family Foundation • Sheet Metal Workers Local 73 • SMART Transportation Division • Splunk4Good • T.Y. Lin • The John Buck Company • US Bancorp

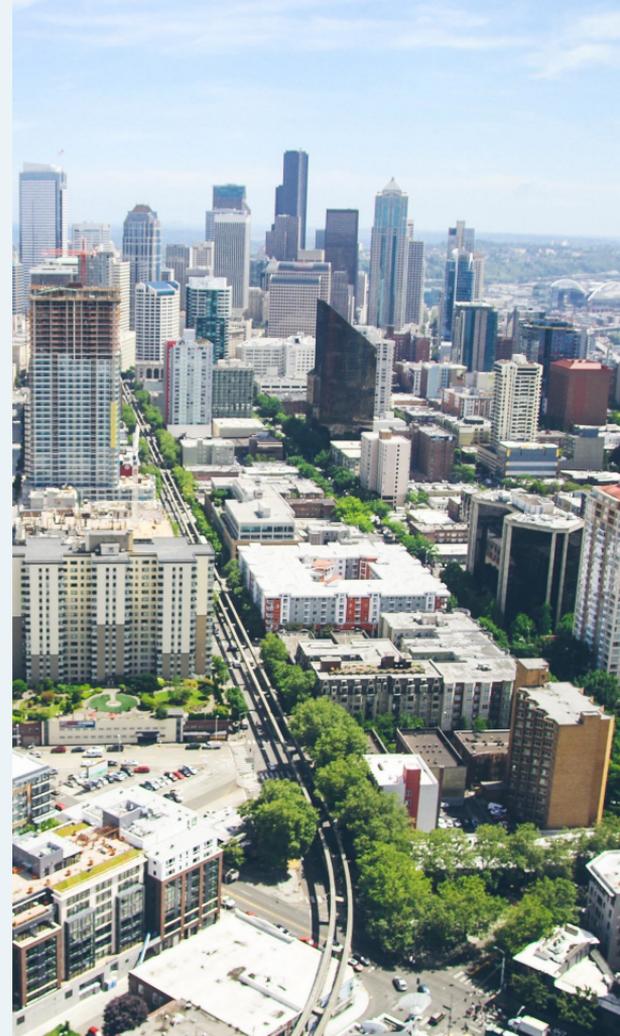
INDIVIDUAL SUSTAINABILITY CIRCLE LEADERS (\$1,000) AND ABOVE

Anonymous (Multiple) • Lucy and Peter Ascoli • Sheldon Baskin • Kay Berkson and Sidney Hollander • Joseph K. Block and Debbie Pavick • James Cahan and Linda Schneider • David Chandler and Mary Lupa • EarthShare Illinois (Multiple) • Dale and Ruth Fast • Anne Hallett • Michael and Janet Hanley • Edward and Sue Harney • Robert Henderson • Nancy Juda and Jens Brasch • Marion Kessy • Paul Marcus and Katherine Juda • Jerald Much • Richard Munson • Patricia Saldaña Natke • Mary O'Connell • Margaret O'Dell and Al Sharp • Harley and Chris Parker • Julia Parzen and Daniel Johnson • Jeanne Rattenbury and Geoff Grove • Bill and Eleanor Revelle • Ellen Seidman • Kathryn Tholin and Steven Starr • George Vinyard • Frances and Joel Zemans

INDIVIDUAL SUSTAINABILITY CIRCLE (\$360-\$999)

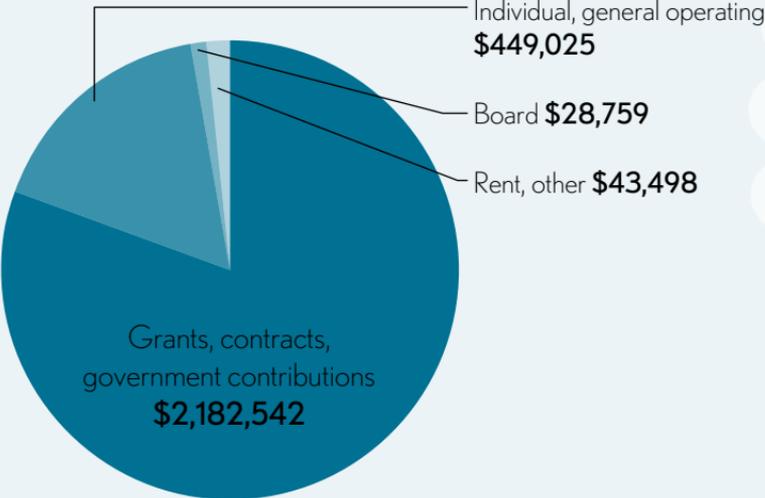
Anonymous (Multiple) • Sarah Bradley and Paul Metzger • Charles Budd • Etahn Cohen and Amy Paller • Timothy Collins • John and Irene Congdon • Anita Darrow • Simrit Dhesi • Josie and John Disterhoft • Marjorie and Richard Ettlinger • Jan Feldman • Andrew Fisher • Bill Gifford and Carolyn De Swarte Gifford • David and Elizabeth Graham • Randolph Gunn and Janet Johnson • Nathan Holtzman • James Andrew Irwin • John Jasper • Bennett Johnson III • George Johnson • Helen Kessler • Thomas Kunkle, American Trust • Mary A. Laraia and Andrew Mooney • Peter Laundry and Shirley Dugdale Laundry • Paul Lehman and Ronna Stamm • Kathi and Fred Lieb • Mike McKiernan • David and Patricia Mosen • Susan Mudd • Ken O'Hare and Denise Zaccardi • Bina Patel • Edgar Ramirez • Lise and Jonathan Ross • Paul and BettyLu Saltzman • Stephen E. Schlickman • Judy Schneider • Derek and Charlotte Supple • George Surgeon and Sara Jean Lindholm • Jon Trowbridge • David and Maxine Unger • Helen and Kale Williams • David Wishnick • Lee and Holly Zimmerman

CNT values all of its donors, with no gift too small. Any omission of donors is unintentional. This list is continually changing and updated. Please [contact us](#) if you feel there is an error.

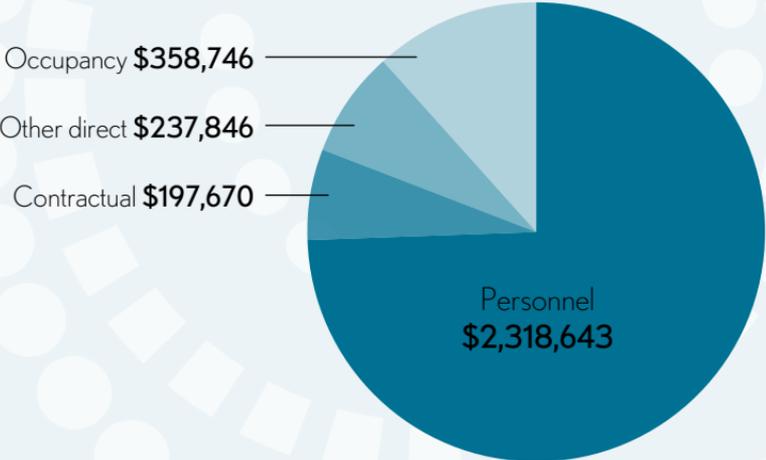


FISCAL YEAR 2015 REVENUE + EXPENSES

(UNAUDITED)



REVENUE



EXPENSES