

CNT presents

VISIONARY VOICES!

Housing as Infrastructure – water and flooding

Climate change is commonly experienced at home, yet discussions between housing and climate advocates are rare. Our panel will address that as we focus on the points where housing and water/flooding justice meet including:

- What should climate justice folks know about housing justice- and vice versa?
- How does climate change intersect with housing policy today—for example, recent spikes in homeowner’s insurance or complete drops from coverage that firms blame on climate change—and how can we respond?
- Housing advocates face a legacy of redlining; climate justice workers deal with sacrifice zones. Thinking about how these policies harmed Black and Brown health and wealth, how can we collaborate to redress the damage done?

Our panel will address these questions from the perspective of communities across both Chicago and Illinois, mixing the viewpoints of housing and climate organizing and advocacy.

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!

RSVP here:

 <https://bit.ly/visvoicesnov13>



**Kennedy Moehrs
Gardner
Equity Legal
Services**



**Meleah Geertsma
Alliance for the
Great Lakes**



**Sheila Sutton
Chicago Area Fair
Housing Alliance**



**Cyatharine Alias
Center for
Neighborhood
Technology
moderator**



4 PM - 6 PM

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NOVEMBER

CNT OFFICE

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CHICAGO, IL 60602

PANELISTS

Kennedy Moehrs Gardner

Kennedy Moehrs Gardner is a **Staff Attorney at Equity Legal Services** where, as part of the legal team, she represents residents of Cahokia Heights, IL in ongoing litigation to bring safe, adequate, and well-maintained stormwater and wastewater systems to their community to stop the flooding and sewage overflows they have experienced for decades. Prior to joining ELS, Kennedy worked as a Staff Attorney at the Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing & Opportunity Council, representing clients facing eviction and housing discrimination, seeking to keep the community stably housed and free from discrimination.

Meleah Geertsma

Meleah joined the **Alliance for the Great Lakes as Director of Clean Water & Equity** in 2023. In this role, Meleah is responsible for leading the Alliance's water infrastructure team, with a focus on advancing equity in access to clean drinking water and sanitation and ensuring that people are safe from flooding. Meleah brings her dual background in law and public health to her work, as well as a deep commitment to social justice and community-centered advocacy. Prior to joining the Alliance, Meleah spent over a decade with the Natural Resources Defense Council, where she focused most recently on environmental justice and civil rights across a wide range of topics and all levels of government.

Sheila Sutton

Sheila began her role as **Director of Advocacy at the Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance (CAFHA)** in July. Prior to joining CAFHA, Sheila spent over a decade engaged in a spectrum of housing justice work, working in housing policy, affordable homeownership and renter's rights. Sheila's direct service experience, from supporting women experiencing homelessness in Seattle, to partnering with renters at Metropolitan Tenants Organization and partnering with prospective homebuyers and homeowners at Habitat for Humanity Chicago, informs her drive for equity and justice. She keeps these experiences and the stories of people she has worked with, as well as her own family's stories and histories with housing injustice as guiding stars for her advocacy and policy work, with an eye toward holistic solutions.

Cyatharine Alias, Moderator

Cyatharine, **Sr. Manager, Community Infrastructure & Resilience, joined CNT** in 2020, bringing analytical expertise and a commitment to equity and sustainability to the organization. She contributes to CNT's work managing relationships with community-based partners, co-designing and co-leading resident science efforts and tool development, and supporting equitable electric mobility. Cyatharine is a graduate of Tufts University with a Masters of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, and holds a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology and Teacher Certification from Harvard University.