



20th ANNIVERSARY
Tishman Environment
and Design Center

DEFEND, DESIGN, AND REBUILD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

2025-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN



At the Tishman Center, we know the best responses to climate and environmental injustice are community-led and movement-expansive. Our work, organized into four main areas—

- **Research, Policy & Technical Assistance**
- **EJ Design & Movement Capacity**
- **Centering Justice Community of Practice**
- **Convenings & Leadership**

—is grounded in solidarity and leveraging long-lasting relationships for power. Our approach prioritizes the needs of those most impacted by pollution, environmental hazards, and climate change, while intentionally disrupting the extractive and transactional models that have long informed academic-community partnerships. Over twenty years, the Tishman Center has evolved not only to meet escalating environmental crises and champion environmental justice; it has solidified its place as a leader in modeling unique and powerful ways of supporting EJ communities for equitable and meaningful impact.

As the Center enters its twentieth year of impact, we are at a crossroads. The actions of the current federal government mark a critical shift, with frontline organizations and universities under attack. In the face of these attacks, we remain committed to safeguarding communities and securing environmental and climate justice wins for generations to come. Now more than ever, our dedication to mobilizing resources and technical assistance to the frontlines is urgently needed.

MISSION & VISION

The Tishman Environment and Design Center (Tishman Center) is a collaborative community of practice that leverages research, policy, and design in accordance with the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing. We bring together research and action to tackle the root causes of climate and environmental injustice and commit to change in higher education practices within and beyond The New School. We envision a future of environmental justice—a world that is free from racism, in balance with nature, with care and respect for all beings.

OUR UNIQUE IMPACT

In the past two decades, the Tishman Center has grown its reputation and impact as a movement hub that successfully leverages multi-sectoral partnerships, technical and design expertise, thought leadership, and organizing capacity to advance frontline-led policies, research, practices, and solutions. We take aim at environmental injustice and the root causes of the climate crisis through equitable collaborations with nationally recognized partners and leaders.

Our recent work has:

INTRODUCED GROUNDBREAKING POLICY & RESEARCH INTERVENTIONS

With the Tishman Center's design and research leadership and accompaniment, groundbreaking state and federal EJ/CJ policies passed—setting benchmarks and best practices that will impact the field for decades.

SPOTLIGHT: The Tishman Center supported the passage of landmark cumulative impacts legislation in New Jersey, which inspired a wave of state policymaking across the country, as well as, the inclusion of cumulative impacts protections in President Biden's historic EJ Executive Order 14096. The Center's research and policy advocacy also helped catalyze the commitment of Justice40 and the creation of significant environmental justice funding opportunities at the federal level.

RECLAIMED EJ DESIGN AS A TOOL FOR CREATIVE DISRUPTION

The EJ Fellowship has seeded an innovative EJ Design model that cultivates leadership and enables EJ organizations to creatively disrupt the climate field and scale climate solutions.

SPOTLIGHT: The EJ Fellowship's agile EJ Design Network of 350+ community organizations was able to quickly organize and influence the distribution of historic climate funds to reach frontline communities, resulting in over \$100 million in federal funding awarded to EJ fellows. Through a multi-pronged resource mobilization strategy, we also activated \$4 Million in philanthropic funding toward our EJ Fellows and their organizations' innovative work. The first EJ Fellowship cohort resulted in 7 scaled climate solutions.

CONVENED MULTI-SECTORAL LEADERS FOR COLLABORATION & ACTION

Our events like Climate Week, Earth Month, Centering Justice Symposia, and the EJ Fellowship retreats are places where movement is centered and where agile strategies are co-designed and implemented in real time.

SPOTLIGHT: The Centering Justice Symposium 2025 (Tucson, AZ) brought together over 150 participants from organizations representing EJ, Tribal communities, academia, philanthropy, and government sectors. It also seeded support for the **People's Environmental Justice Advisory Council**—a nationwide mobilization led by former White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council members in an effort to re-energize civic engagement and build people power for environmental justice, economic justice, and public health policy and action.

THE ROAD AHEAD

The Tishman Center's 2025-2027 Strategic Plan marks the beginning of the Center's next twenty years of work. As the Center has evolved, it has significantly grown its ability to build bridges, influence multi-sectoral decision-making, and co-design climate solutions. Our ability to facilitate multi-sectoral action and mobilize resourcing to the frontlines is needed now more than ever as the current political conditions are hostile to social movements and higher education partnerships. The Center will activate our unique position as a trusted partner across sectors to **Defend, Design, and Rebuild** for Environmental Justice, alongside communities. Over the next two years, our work will be guided by **four interconnected strategies that provide us with an ambitious north star towards ensuring communities are not only protected, but also thriving.**



OBJECTIVES

This Strategic Plan will be manifested through the Center's ongoing work, as well as critical investments in line with the following objectives over the next two years:

Serve as a national hub for cumulative impacts policy research, technical assistance and accompaniment, best practices, and provide one-on-one technical accompaniment to **4-6 partners and coalitions** to enshrine cumulative impacts protections in their states'/cities' permitting frameworks.



Contribute to the **development of two regional climate hubs** in the West and Midwest; **channeling \$6 million to frontline groups** in those regions; and providing them with technical assistance on narrative strategies, data for impact, and evaluation and learning.



Photo credit: Josue "Dino" E. Pérez Hernández

Provide research and policy support to the **People's Environmental Justice Advisory Council and national platform partners** to co-produce **10-15 recommendations** for policies that protect frontline communities.

Solidify a **nationwide organizing committee of 6-8 trusted peer academic centers** positioned and resourced to provide trusted, sustained accompaniment to EJ communities and **provide over \$1 million to seed 10 innovative, humanities-centered collaborations** within this community.

OBJECTIVES

Provide resources and coaching to **eighteen EJ Fellows** and their organizations to scale **five transformative, multi-sectoral climate solutions**; strengthen movement-level power to design and implement innovative solutions by introducing the EJ Disrupt Design model to **200 leaders across the West** and expanding the **EJ Design Network** to **450+ organizations**.



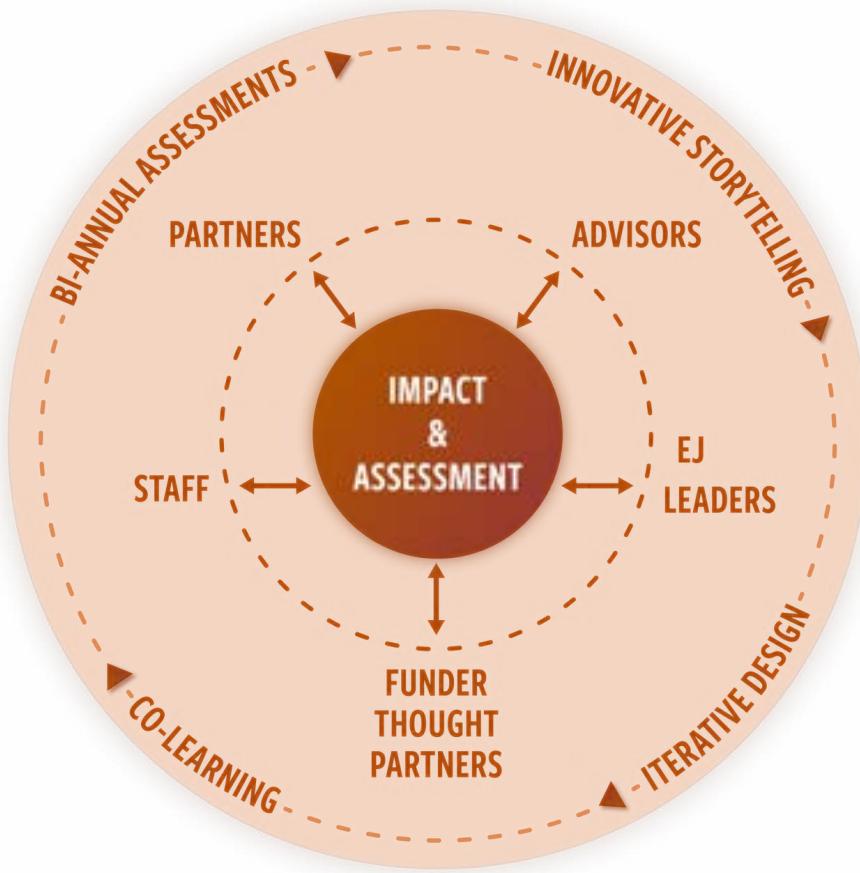
Amplify the Center's unique, longstanding impact through a **collection of courageous stories** that serve as a mile marker of the Center's 20 years of influence, **engaging over 2,500 participants a year**, and charting a course of action and network of support for our future.



Nourish a **network and culture of emerging EJ leadership and scholarship** by training **4-6 research assistants** and **5-10 Aronson Fellows** in EJ principles and partnerships; amplifying the work of Center alumni; and engaging visiting scholars and affiliated faculty.



IMPACT & ASSESSMENT TOOLS



Example metrics: philanthropic funds given to environmental justice priorities; event participation; new partnerships formed; solutions designed; influence on policy; and digital media engagement.

Progress on this strategic plan will be assessed bi-annually to ensure alignment with movement needs and to monitor advancement towards desired outcomes. Similar to the plan's development process, assessment will be led by a multi-pronged engagement process with partners, staff, fellows, community leaders, and advisors. A significant part of our assessment strategy will include collecting impact stories from our partners on how our work has contributed to material changes in their communities. We know the impact of the next two years of work will be felt beyond the timeline of this plan, and we remain committed to finding new, innovative ways to measure and show the long-term impact of investments in environmental justice organizations and intermediaries, such as the Tishman Environment and Design Center.

For more information, contact Marouh Hussein, Director of Impact and Learning, at husseinv@newschool.edu.