Community Tech New York (CTNY) and Detroit Community Technology Project (DCTP) exist as regional "sister" organizations who use and develop technology that strengthens our human connections to one another and to the planet. We are building and supporting healthy, resilient digital ecosystems rooted in community needs by sharing community technology practices, teaching tools, and direct project support.

Both sponsored projects of Allied Media Projects, CTNY and DCTP are part of an international movement for consentful, resilient, community-governed communications infrastructure, and communities are increasingly seeking our expertise, pedagogy and network management resources. As the **Community Technology Collective (CTC)**, we support sustainable community ownership of data and technology, and cultivate the long-term stewardship of neighborhood technologies that support health, well-being, and access to opportunity.

Below are precedent principles from organizations whose work has laid the foundation for own. As we build accountability and collective self-determination through community technology, the Community Technology Collective uses working principles such as these to guide decision-making and keep us true to our goals and shared vision.

Digital Justice Principles

Detroit Digital Justice Coalition

Access

- Digital justice ensures that all members of our community have equal access to media and technology, as producers as well as consumers.
- Digital justice provides multiple layers of communications infrastructure in order to ensure that every member of the community has access to life-saving emergency information.
- Digital justice values all different languages, dialects and forms of communication.

Participation

- Digital justice prioritizes the participation of people who have been traditionally excluded from and attacked by media and technology.
- Digital justice advances our ability to tell our own stories, as individuals and as communities.
- Digital justice values non-digital forms of communication and fosters knowledge-sharing across generations.
- Digital justice demystifies technology to the point where we can not only use it, but create our own technologies and participate in the decisions that will shape communications infrastructure.

Common Ownership

- Digital justice fuels the creation of knowledge, tools and technologies that are free and shared openly with the public.
- Digital justice promotes diverse business models for the control and distribution of information, including: cooperative business models and municipal ownership.

Healthy Communities

- Digital justice provides spaces through which people can investigate community problems, generate solutions, create media and organize together.
- Digital justice promotes alternative energy, recycling and salvaging technology, and using technology to promote environmental solutions.
- Digital justice advances community-based economic development by expanding technology access for small businesses, independent artists and other entrepreneurs.
- Digital justice integrates media and technology into education in order to transform teaching and learning, to value multiple learning styles and to expand the process of learning beyond the classroom and across the lifespan.

Equitable Internet Initiative Principles

Detroit Community Technology Project with Grace in Action, BLVD Harambe, and NEWCC

The Equitable Internet Initiative (EII) is an effort to redistribute power, resources, and connectivity through community Internet technologies.

We are working towards a future where neighbors are authentically connected, with relationships of mutual aid that sustain social, economic, and environmental health. We are working towards a future where those who have been marginalized from political and economic power have the ability to leverage Internet technologies to shape the future. To ensure we reach this future we work from the following principles to guide us along the way.

- We use and build technology for collaborative problem solving, so that we can address the immediate and long term needs of our communities.

- We use and build technology for storytelling, so that we can foster understanding, trust, and empathy within and between our communities.

- We use and build technology for education, so that we can cultivate knowledge, talent, ideas, opportunity, and imagination within our communities.

- We use and build technology for organizing, so that we can grow the power of our communities to transform systems of oppression.

- We facilitate collaborative community ownership and governance of technology infrastructure.

- We facilitate long term, authentic relationships through our teaching and organizing processes.

- We build resilience with our work, using alternative energy, fixing and recycling tech, minimizing waste, and prioritizing self-sufficiency wherever possible.

Resilient Network Principles

Resilient Communities and Community Tech NY with The Point CDC, Fifth Avenue Committee, Silicon Harlem, Project Hospitality, Rockaway Development & Revitalization Corporation, and Kings Bay Y

- We use technology to build participatory governance structures that equalize the flow of resources and knowledge to those that have been economically and politically marginalized.

- We create equitable access to digital tools and resources by sharing the knowledge necessary to create digital and physical infrastructure that reflects our shared values, principles, and relationships.

- We commit to use accessible language that allows members of the local community to advise, participate, influence, and leverage the content, function, and potential of the networks.

- We build trust relationships with businesses, organizations, and other institutions to sustain a resilient network of support.

- We create jobs and opportunities that support meaningful, vibrant lives and are relevant in the future, not just in the now.

- We learn from our mistakes and share what we learn with our communities in order to foster a culture of reflection.

- We approach education as an opportunity to break down barriers and reduce isolation within our communities.

- We intentionally plan for long-term sustainability and flexibility, adapting to the evolution of technologies and community needs.

- We recognize the work of others who are pursuing similar goals and align ourselves with them in order to offer a broader digital justice community.

Read more about the history of community technology in the Urban Omnibus article ["Building the People's Internet"](#) by Greta Byrum.