Abstract. The growing subfield of community geography and GIS places explicit emphasis on identifying the spatial thinking and local knowledge that emerges from neighborhood residents’ experiences and seeks to affect positive community change in a variety of ways. As a research framework dedicated to community-engaged scholarship, the subfield holds promise for developing a more inclusive and societal-relevant discipline of geography. In this collaborative presentation, we discuss community geography and GIS as a way to broaden participation of under-represented groups in geographic research and to increase spatial knowledge production. To demonstrate the power of community geography and GIS as a research framework, we present our experiences with social and environmental disparities research in Atlanta, Chicago, and Philadelphia.

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