Automation and the Future of Work

Few issues shape a society as crucially as work. It is the way we support our families, contribute to our communities, and generate an identity. Automation will profoundly change the jobs we know today and what is required to earn a good living. The scale and pace of change demands urgent action.

Communities across America will be at the frontlines of these changes. Leaders are grappling with many questions: What kind of work will people do in five, ten, and twenty years? Do emerging jobs provide the stability workers expect? What are the best ways to empower workers with skills and opportunity? How will the future of work transform our communities?

Empowering Communities

New America works in partnership with communities to address these questions. That’s why we are launching a new initiative, ShiftLabs, with five pilot communities to prepare for a future of automation and foster innovation. Beginning in Phoenix, Indianapolis, Miami, Detroit and Oklahoma City, we will collaborate with local leaders to develop a long-term vision for economic vibrancy. Bringing together leaders from technology, industry, policy, philanthropy and culture, ShiftLabs will harness each city’s strengths to catalyze social innovation to address automation.

How ShiftLabs Work

• **Community Engagement.** New America will partner with local institutions to engage the community in a public discussion on automation and the future of work.

New America

ShiftLabs builds on insights developed through the 2017 Shift Commission, a joint partnership between New America and Bloomberg, which examined the impact of automation and artificial intelligence on work.

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