



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CIVIC ACTOR STUDIO

Office of Civic Engagement



The Civic Actor Studio at the University of Chicago is a civic leadership retreat designed to help strengthen the performative aspect of civic leaders and accelerate civic trust through Classic Theater.

SPRING 2024 COHORT

CIVIC ACTORS



ALEXANDER BROWN

manages a Decarceration Fellowship of 13 returning citizens recently released from prison. This Fellowship aims to inspire and build out their leadership skills so that they can go back into their communities and mobilize more

leaders. Brown is passionate about bringing equity to community members and equality to communities.



AGNES CALLARD

is a philosophy professor at the University of Chicago specializing in Ancient Greek philosophy and ethics. She is also active as a public philosopher, producing writing, podcasts, and events designed to communicate philosophically with a

non-academic audience.



IONA CALHOUN-BATTISTE

is a trusted leader with more than 21 years of nonprofit experience. She is the senior director at The Chicago Community Trust and manages the Building Collective Power team. Calhoun-Battiste has a master's degree in developmental psycho-

pathology from Teachers College, Columbia University and a bachelor's degree in psychology, human development from Howard University. She lives in the Chatham neighborhood with her daughter and has managed her own dance studio for more than 15 years.



JEFF DEUTSCH is a lifelong bookseller and the author of "In Praise of Good Bookstores" (Princeton University Press, 2022). For the last 10 years, he has served as the executive director of the Seminary Co-op Bookstores, the nation's first and only not-for-profit bookstore whose mission is the bookstore itself.



ALEX FRALIN is the CEO and founder of Leading Partnerships, a consulting practice that equips school and district leaders with tools to transform their school-district partnership as well as leadership development and school support systems, dramatically improving

conditions for thriving. Fralin is also the director of the District Redesign Network at the National Equity Project, where he helps nurture, develop, and grow school district systems leaders to better meet their most marginalized students' needs.



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NICOLE JORDAN-REED, leveraging her 20 year corporate career, embarked on culinary entrepreneurship in 2016, creating Nicole Jordan Catering, LLC. Known for its top-tier service, her company handles events of any size. Starting with formal culinary training,

Jordan-Reed's entrepreneurial path mirrors her dedication to excellence and community, propelling her success within and beyond the culinary realm.

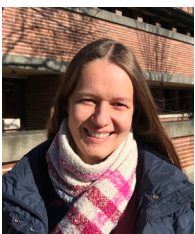


JARRETT KING is the director of education at Court Theatre, and an actor and playwright. His work centers around utilizing theatre organizations as community resources, particularly as a tool for helping young people recognize their place in the great human story.



DAMON LOCKS is an interdisciplinary artist who is the leader of the group Black Monument Ensemble, has a duo entitled New Future City Radio, performs in Exploding Star Orchestra, and is a solo performer and founding member of The Eternals. He has been

teaching with P+NAP inside Stateville Correctional Center (a men's maximum security prison) since 2014, as well as three years at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



KATYA LUKIANOVA is a Senior Instructional Professor at the Parrhesia Program for Public Discourse at the University of Chicago. Lukianova teaches courses on public dialogue and deliberation to undergraduate students and works on experiential

learning initiatives to promote constructive conversations about polarizing social issues.



DANIELLE McCONNELL is a leader in elevating the voices of Black and Brown students, a wellness and yoga enthusiast, Michigan Wolverine, and an advocate for solving education inequity. She is an experienced director with a demonstrated history of creating safe, introspective, and engaged spaces.



CALVIN MOORE is an impact specialist at Teamwork Englewood, a mentor, educator, and a program coordinator. Moore dedicates most of his time helping young individuals build character and understanding through youth developmental programs.



ÁNGELA MUNGUÍA is the founding executive director of AMPT: Advancing Nonprofits, a nonprofit organization focused on supporting Chicago Black and Latine-led organizations in building capacity from an antiracist framework that focuses on community centered values.



TAMIKO NETTLES is the CEO and founder of her educational consulting and coaching firm, Let Go-Be Great, LLC and director of the #EveryWoman Project, Chicago Chapter. Nettles passionately works to create empathetic leaders, drive change, build trust, empower

people, and transform organizational cultures in both nonprofit and for profit education-related industries.



YDALMI V. NORIEGA is a writer, arts administrator, and vice president of Programs and Engagement at the Poetry Foundation. Noriega works to celebrate poets by creating opportunities for poetry in our everyday lives so that, through

poems, we may imagine the new, just, and equitable worlds that we must build together.

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BREE PERRY is a program officer at the Joyce Foundation. Perry works to eliminate funding barriers for grassroots organizations while acting as a community connector, creating and providing spaces for nonprofit leaders to collaborate.



DOMINIC "I.B." PETTIS EL is a native Chicago MC, creative, uplifter, and programs director for Guitars Over Guns. Pettis El and his programs team manage nearly 20 partnerships in the Chicago region offering youth in our most vulnerable communities—from

Altgeld Gardens to the Waukegan area—a powerful combination of music education and mentorship to help them overcome hardship, find their voice, and reach their potential as tomorrow's leaders.



MARY ROCCO is the director of Engaged Scholarship & Community Engagement at Barnard College in New York City. Rocco is an engaged scholar, teacher, and learner who convenes campus and community partners to further opportunities for engaged teaching, learning, and

research toward public impact.



STEVEN ROSADO is a proudly born and raised Chicago native and a partner at The Praxis Institute, leading their Strategy and Engagement initiatives. He has an extensive background in program design and evaluation, facilitating professional learning, organizational

development, strategic planning, and developing and implementing equity-driven practices and policies. Rosado enjoys working in collaborative and creative spaces that are rooted in reflection, innovation, and excellence.



ELGIN BOKARI T. SMITH, also known as L O Kari, is a Chicago-based DJ, activist, and visual, and performing artist from St. Louis, Missouri. Smith gives back to his community as a teaching artist, is a former program-director-turned-artistic and executive director of

Stomping Grounds LAI, and president of the activist and artist collective, Elephant Rebellion. Smith also is the co-creator of Pocket Con, the comic book convention that celebrates characters of color.



ASHLYN SPARROW is a game designer and Senior Research Associate at The University of Chicago where she teaches undergraduate, graduate, and K-12 students how to design their own games while uncovering the sociopolitical implications of their designs.



JUSTUS WHITE is a Cabrini Green-raised filmmaker, photo/video producer, youth director, and teaching artist. White works to make media education accessible and feasible for youth with the goal of developing professional media skills that will empower youth creativity

and youth voice.

CIVIC FACILITATORS



NICOLE (NICKIE) BROOKENS is a youth literacy advocate and founder of PLAN4SUCCESS. The organization teaches life skills and offers resources to teens in the areas of college prep, career development, and financial literacy. It has serviced

more than 850 teens and awarded 141 college scholarships. The organization's college cohort attends 50+ colleges and universities across the nation.



FRANKLIN COSEY-GAY, Ph.D. MPH, is the director of the Violence Recovery Program at the University of Chicago Medicine. Cosey-Gay also volunteers to co-direct the Chicago Race Riot of 1919 Commemoration Project. Franklin aims to support violence prevention approaches and

rapid response intervention strategies to mitigate violence while raising awareness of the structural root causes.



YOHANCE LACOUR is an artist and an activist committed to the liberation of Black people in America and abroad.



LYNNE PACE GREEN is an arts education leader with a history of success in developing innovative, quality programs; sustainable projects; and vibrant learning communities. She has worked with arts organizations, artists, teachers and principals throughout Chicago

to bring power and voice to CPS youth by creating equitable access to the arts.



GABBY RANDLE-BENT is a scholar, director, and dramaturg who is passionate about social justice, storytelling, and the power of performance to change the world. She has a dual BA degree in Drama and Sociology from Stanford University and an MA degree in

Performance as Public Practice at The University of Texas at Austin. She has directed, devised, dramaturged, and produced professionally across the United States in Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Austin, and New York City (off-Broadway) and internationally on three continents. She was one of the co-founders of the Civic Actor Studio.