



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 2023 COHORT

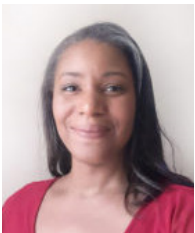
CIVIC ACTORS



OSWALDO ALVAREZ is an organizer at heart and serves as the executive director for the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation. A Chicago native, Oswaldo works to uplift the voice and experience of communities to ensure equitable public policy.



ALEX HERRERA is a native of Gage Park on the South Side of Chicago and an out-of-school mentor/educator/administrator. She oversees teen programs at Hyde Park Art Center, providing young people with the opportunity to connect with contemporary art and non-traditional pathways to becoming artists or leaders in their communities.



KYLAH FRYE is an instructional programs manager at Urban Gateways. She works with partners and artists to provide arts exposure, education, and opportunities for artistic expression to youth in the Chicagoland area.



ARIELLE HIRSCHFELD is a family medicine physician at Heartland Alliance Health with a background in music, baking and Jewish studies. Arielle leverages this varied background to improve care for her patients and her community.



PAULA HAMERNICK is a seasoned nonprofit leader in Woodlawn who is passionate about community development that connects people with resources, opportunities and access to social capital in order to empower them to reach their goals and dreams. She has initiated multiple youth outreach programs including her favorite endeavor of running a community coffee shop aimed at workforce development for at-risk youth.



LARRY HOOVER JR. is a passionate community activist and founder of Free My Father Movement, which fights for prison reform, against unjust mass incarceration due to the failed war on drugs, and to address the social emotional toll faced by children of incarcerated parents.

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DAVID L. KELLY is a Cook County Circuit Court Judge, currently assigned to the Pre-Trial Division at the George N. Leighton Criminal Courthouse. David is a dedicated public servant with a strong reputation for fairness and equal justice under the law.



TY'KIRA SMALLS is a writer and storyteller, currently serving as communications associate at Urban Gateways. She's passionate about creating community amongst Black and Brown creatives/writers and telling stories of the unheard through collaboration, innovation, and open-mindedness.



KHADEEJAH LASUC LEWIS

is the vice president of talent, learning, equity, and inclusion at Chicago Scholars. She has turned her passion for social justice, equity, inclusion and diversity into a successful career for over 20 years, working with historically

underserved student populations, communities, staff and leaders. Her passion for equity and inclusion also fuel her as a partner, mother and survivor.



ALLEN SWILLEY is the director of My Brother's Keeper Initiatives, Thrive Chicago. He is also a husband, a father, and a public servant.



JEANINE LOGAN is a certified nurse midwife and certified lactation specialist. She has a strong background in public health and reproductive health policy. Jeanine spends her extra time creating art, making herbal medicines, foraging plants, gardening, and swooning

over #herbalist things.



QUINTIN WILLIAMS leads reform initiatives addressing racial equity, reentry for formerly incarcerated citizens, and police reforms as the program officer for the Gun Violence Prevention and Justice Reform program.



JOHNNY PAGE is the executive director of ConTextos Chicago, a transnational storytelling organization operating in Chicago and Central America. Johnny is an anti-violence educator and an advocate for the right of access to higher education on traditional campuses for formerly

incarcerated students.



STANEÉ WILLS serves as the Area 2 (far South Side) youth services coordinator for the Chicago Police Department's Office of Community Policing. Staneé helps build the capacity of youth officers to implement quality programs and supports leadership training for

youth who serve on Youth District Advisory Councils aimed to reflect their authentic voice in local police engagements.



RODNEY PHILLIPS is a field manger for the metropolitan peace academy, where he trains city outreach workers and other outreach professionals during an 18-week course that centers on the standards of hyperlocal restorative justice trauma informed and

non-violence principles. A graduate of Cohort 1 of the peace academy, he has been involved in violence prevention since 2008.

CIVIC FACILITATORS



JOANIE FRIEDMAN is the executive director of civic leadership in the Office of Civic Engagement at the University of Chicago. She is the instigator and co-founder of the Civic Actor Studio. Joanie works to build civic trust through participatory civic arts.



SENYAH HAYNES is a multi-disciplined artist, trainer, mentor, and joyful wanderess. She is both a participant and facilitator of the Civic Actor Studio.

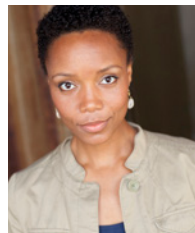


YOHANCE LACOUR is an artist and an activist committed to the liberation of Black people in America and abroad.



GABRIELLE 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 is one of the co-founders of the Civic Actor Studio.



MALKIA STAMPLEY is a theatermaker, specializing in directing and arts leadership. She is a mother of three, a wife and currently serve as the artistic producer at Goodman Theatre.



MATT WOODS is an interdisciplinary artist and director of street level at Urban Gateways. Matt works to support the voices of young creatives of color and broaden access to technology in order to build more equitable and creative futures.