Nicole Clarke-Springer
Deeply Rooted Dance Theater
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Nicole Clarke-Springer began formal training under the guidance of Claudette Solls (Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and Julliet Ballet Society) and at the Indianapolis Ballet Theatre under Dace Diodonis. In 2013, she joined the Kevin lea Lega and Gary Abbott as the newest member of the DPF artistic team and was named Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre’s Emerging Choreographer for the program generations. Nicole received her BS in Arts Administration-Dance from Butler University in Indianapolis and served as an adjunct professor at Western Kentucky University’s Dance Department. She also served as assistant choreographer to Kevin lea Lega for Congo Square Theatre’s Nativity for two years.

Katie Colvin
Pilot Light
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Katie Colvin is the director of education at Pilot Light, where she facilitates teacher support, professional development, and program evaluation. She is a native of northwestern Pennsylvania and graduate of Pennsylvania State University, with undergraduate majors in International Studies, Advertising, and French. Katie joined Teach for America in Baltimore and taught in with undergraduate majors in International Studies, Advertising, and French. She acted as chair and treasurer of Oberlin’s Hip Hop Workshop 101 and the Oberlin Black Musician’s Guild, respectively. Since moving to Chicago in 2014, Sam has worked on the production staff at Hyde Park’s The Promontory, curating, stage managing, and coordinating hospitality for Chicago’s best rising talent. She is presently the administrative director for AllCamp Chicago, a free summer program for youth 11-14 years old that exposes underserved adolescents to dance and other art forms.

Samantha Brown
Deeply Rooted Dance Theater
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Samantha (Sam) Brown, a native of Coral Springs, Fla., is currently the development education manager and executive assistant at Deeply Rooted Dance Theater. A 2013 graduate of Oberlin College with high honors in African Studies and Dance, she acted as chair and treasurer of Oberlin’s Hip Hop Workshop 101 and the Oberlin Black Musician’s Guild, respectively. Since moving to Chicago in 2014, Sam has worked on the production staff at Hyde Park’s The Promontory, curating, stage managing, and coordinating hospitality for Chicago’s best rising talent. She is presently the administrative director for AllCamp Chicago, a free summer program for youth 11-14 years old that exposes underserved adolescents to dance and other art forms.

Chris Guzaits
The Odyssey Project
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Chris Guzaits is the director of the education + grants division at Illinois Humanities, the nonprofit state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Before assuming this role, Chris directed the Odyssey Project at Illinois Humanities from 2015-2018. Before that, she was an assistant professor of Queer Studies in the Gender, Feminist, and Sexuality Studies Department at Scripps College. Chris also taught courses at Claremont Graduate University, Pomona College, and California, San Diego. Her commitment to issues of access to education began as she navigated, by trial and error, her way through higher ed as a first-generation college student.

Myetie Hamilton
The Provost Foundation
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Myetie Hamilton brings more than 18 years of experience leading innovative change in K-12 education, and a deep personal and professional commitment to Chicago’s South Side communities. She served most recently as deputy chief of schools for Network 9, the nation’s fastest-growing urban school network, managing transformation for 27 schools in the Woodlawn, Bronzeville, and Hyde Park communities. As executive director of EPIIC Academy, Myetie leads organizational strategy and vision, fundraising and external relations, and board engagement. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Management from Alabama A&M University and master’s degree in Public Administration from Illinois Institute of Technology, and is a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow Class of 2016.

Kendra Julion
Pilot Light
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Kendra Julion is the community programs director at Pilot Light. She graduated with a Master of Science in Health Communications from Northwestern University. She was also a research assistant on federally funded studies that focused on medication management and community health centers and increasing physical activity in African American women. Her area of interest for her future professional practices will focus on developing and implementing community intervention and programs that address food access and education in underserved communities.

Kenneth Malone
100 Black Men of Chicago
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Kenneth Malone is a board member and President of 100 Black Men. He is a corporate strategist, software executive, and management consultant focused on the global financial market and communications firms seeking to bring greater efficiency and effectiveness to their enterprise-wide systems. Ken has managed organizations with 1000+ technology employees, and led successful campaigns to embed small-aperture database technologies into the first rendition of smartphones, the world’s most sophisticated satellite networks, and data interaction of the world’s largest computer systems with next-level data analytics. Ken has attended the University of Illinois at Chicago, studying business administration and entrepreneurship, and the Cambridge Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Ashley Floyd
LINK Unlimited Scholars
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Ashley Floyd, vice president of institutional advancement at LINK Unlimited Scholars, is responsible for strategic planning, communications, and fund development to support the organization’s overall viability, impact, and programs. She received her BFA in Dance Performance/Choreography from the University of Southern Missouri, MA from the University of New Orleans, and MBA from Governors State University. Ashley sits on the Big Throater’s Chairman’s Advisory Council (2018 Membership Co-Chair). Gus Gudane Jazz Chicago Associate Board, Auditorium Theater’s Auxiliary Board, and the Junior League Chicago.

Kendra Julion
Pilot Light
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Kendall Malone
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Kenneth Malone is a board member and President of 100 Black Men. He is a corporate strategist, software executive, and management consultant focused on the global financial market and communications firms seeking to bring greater efficiency and effectiveness to their enterprise-wide systems. Ken has managed organizations with 1000+ technology employees, and led successful campaigns to embed small-aperture database technologies into the first rendition of smartphones, the world’s most sophisticated satellite networks, and data interaction of the world’s largest computer systems with next-level data analytics. Ken has attended the University of Illinois at Chicago, studying business administration and entrepreneurship, and the Cambridge Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Hilesh Patel
The Field Foundation of Illinois
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Hilesh Patel is dedicated to working with Chicago’s aspiring leaders and their organizations. Hilesh was previously the deputy director of Hyde Park Art Center, overseeing public programs, marketing and communications, finance and operations, and strategic planning.

Audrey Petty
The Odyssey Project
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Audrey Petty is a writer, educator, and native South Sider. She is director of the Odyssey Project at Illinois Humanities and a member of the Prison+Neighborhood Arts Project.

Mathis Prunty
ABJ Arts
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Mathis “Simma Beats” Prunty is a local producer from Chicago, who has worked with several artists nationwide. An alumus of South Shore High School and active member of ABJ’s Board of Millennials, Simma Beats is no stranger to the South Shore community. He’s been an activist for more than 10 years. He serves the community through leadership and mentorship, focusing on illustrating the importance of self-awareness. Simma Beats helped develop the arrangement for a song entitled “Peace Didn’t Stop We Did,” which was featured at the Peace School’s annual International Peace Day at Daley Plaza in September 2018.

Tina Pyer-Pereira
The University of Chicago
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Tina Pyer-Pereira is the associate director for advancement and diversity in the University of Chicago Office of the Provost, where she is responsible for developing programs related to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative and Faculty Development Program. Tina is trained in social justice education and social science research methods. Previously, she worked as a research manager at UChicago’s Survey Lab.

Silvia Rivera
WBZ - Vocolo
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Silvia Rivera is managing director of Vocolo Radio. In her role, she curates music and stories that connect and inspire Chicagoans.

Imani Rupert-Gordon
Affinity Community Services
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Imani Rupert-Gordon is the executive director of Affinity Community Services, a social justice organization that focuses on health and wellness, leadership development, and community building.