



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CIVIC ACTOR STUDIO

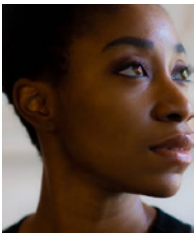
Office of Civic Engagement



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.

FALL 2023 COHORT

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ALEXIS WILLIS is a native Chicago artist who performs theatre (BA Columbia College '16) and uses her social media as a creative outlet toward highlighting architecture, art, and cultural events across the city. She desires to expand her knowledge of the world “physically, philosophically, and spiritually.”



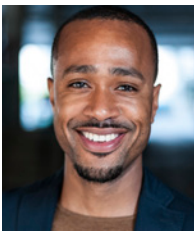
DAR'TAVOUS DORSEY is a lifelong Chicagoan and Director of Partnership and Community Engagement at the University of Chicago Crime Lab and Education Lab. He oversees the Student Advisory Council, empowering Options CPS students by leading initiatives that create educational pathways of equity and inclusion for all students.



ANALÍA RODRIQUEZ, Program Officer at the Field Foundation, is an organizer who supports communities in issues such as education, labor, and immigration.



ERICA BAUER is the Director of Community Relations at the Chicago Bulls and the founder of Girl Power Songs. She is an experienced communication expert skilled at leveraging assets to maximize impact.



CHARLES ANDREW GARDNER is a native Chicago South Sider—actor, educator, and Chicago Local President of SAG-AFTRA—who knows full well the importance of access and how, with the right teachers and leaders in place, anything is possible.



ERICKA RATCLIFF is the Artistic Director of Congo Square Theatre Company, where she works to amplify the mission of celebrating the complexities of Black life and culture on stage.

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FRANKLIN COSEY-GAY, PHD, MPH, is the Director of the Violence Recovery Program at the University of Chicago Medicine. He also volunteers to co-direct the Chicago Race Riot of 1919 Commemoration Project. Cosey-Gay aims to support violence prevention

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



JAWANZA MALONE is the Executive Director of the Wieboldt Foundation. During his tenure, he has launched a cohort of community organizing groups to help them build their organizational and power-building capacities, established an internship program

to recruit young leaders into the field of community organizing, and increased the size of grant awards going to grantee partners.



JESSICA SULLIVAN-WILSON is the Managing Director, Partnerships for Teach For America Greater Chicago-Northwest Indiana. She holds the deeply-rooted belief that educators, school communities, and students have the power to shift systems in education to manifest

the flourishing spaces of learning and joy that all students deserve regardless of their zip code.



KAMILAH RASHIED is the Director of Engagement at Court Theatre, the professional theatre of the University of Chicago. She is an arts administrator, educator, writer, producer, and artist. She has worked from every angle of cultural production as an arts administrator

with nearly 20 years of experience in arts education, new program development, community-based programming, and civic-minded audience engagement.



NICOLE WARD is the Senior Program Manager of the Multicultural Leadership Academy (MLA) at the Latino Policy Forum. Ward believes in the power of unity and works with amazing leaders in the Chicagoland area. She creates spaces for leaders of non-profit

organizations to build bridges and relationships between our Black and Brown communities.



SAMUEL VASQUEZ is a dedicated fundraiser and arts advocate for Los Angeles cultural institutions. He is interested in new approaches to financial sustainability centered around community building, social inclusion, and mission-driven fundraising. Vasquez is working on

opening The Performance Art Museum, an organization dedicated to advancing the visibility, legacy, and scholarship of artists working in performance.



KATE RHODES PETERSON is the Director of the Chicago Teacher Residency. She creates a pathway for a diverse cohort of resident teachers to develop as educators in hard-to-staff content areas at high-needs Chicago Public schools. Rhodes Peterson is passionate

about mentorship, building resilient school communities, and designing systems that produce equitable outcomes.



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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.

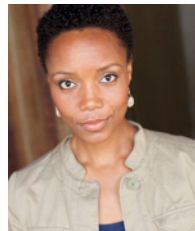


YOHANCE LACOUR is an artist and an activist committed to the liberation of Black people in America and abroad.



GABRIELLE RANDLE-BENT is Court Theatre's Associate Artistic Director. She 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 from the University of Texas at Austin. She is a co-founder of the Civic Actor Studio and supports the development of civic facilitators.



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.