



2021 CHICAGO PEACE FELLOWS

*When “I” is replaced by “we” even illness
becomes wellness.*

~ Malcolm X

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Executive Summary

The **Chicago Peace Fellows** is a unique leadership development program created by the **Goldin Institute** to support neighborhood-level initiatives to build more safe and peaceful communities across the city in partnership with the **Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities**.

The Chicago Fund is a strategy of the **Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities**, a coalition of 50 foundations that are aligning their investments to support proven and promising approaches to reducing gun violence.

Designed in collaboration with past grantees of the Chicago Fund and with input from a wide range of civic leaders, this GATHER course provides a series of core **social change concepts and tools for authentic community engagement**.

The curriculum encourages learning, practice and reflection augmented through workshops led by partner organizations leading violence prevention work throughout the city.

The **Chicago Peace Fellows** program connects and equips a select group of past grantees of the Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities representing neighborhoods across the West and South sides. The Peace Fellows come together as a community of practice, learning and working together to promote peace at a grassroots level.

Chicago Peace Fellows utilize the technology of the **GATHER** platform, an online learning hub built by the **Goldin Institute** to empower grassroots leaders. Each Fellow received a **stipend and access to the GATHER platform** for shared learning and real-time collaboration. By connecting Chicago leaders through GATHER, their work is more effective, interconnected and sustainable.

Chicago Peace Fellows learn from one another, their local communities and the Global Alumni Network who are always available to offer advice and experience. Upon Graduation, Peace Fellows join the Global Alumni Network for ongoing training, monthly workshops and facilitative support so the Chicago Peace Fellows can share their wisdom about violence prevention with civic leaders in Chicago and beyond.



Andrea Reed
Roseland



Annette Kelly
Auburn Gresham



Bertha Purnell
Austin, Garfield Park



Chris Crater
Woodlawn



Darius Ballinger
Bronzeville



David Rojas Jr.
City-wide



Dorothy Thompson
City-wide



Juliet Jones
Woodlawn



Marettta Brown-Miller
Austin



Maureen Hallagan
Garfield Park



Mekazin Alexander
Englewood



Messiah Equiano
Bronzeville



Nicole Davis
Austin



Oscar Sanchez
South Chicago



Pilar Audain
Greater Grand Crossing



Randy Sadler
Humboldt Park



Rashada Dawan
South Shore



Raynetta Greenleaf
Englewood



Reshorna Fitzpatrick
Englewood



Tia Brown
City-wide



Tony Raggs
W. Humboldt Park



Vince Carter
Cabrin



CHICAGO
PEACE
FELLOWS

The Goldin Institute



Since 2002, the Chicago-based Goldin Institute has **inspired, equipped and connected grassroots leaders in over 50 countries to lead community-driven social change**. By linking grassroots efforts from around the world in our global network, we provide opportunities to build broad partnerships that both adapt to particular local contexts and draw from creative solutions and approaches from around the globe.

Over the past **20 years**, we've seen first-hand how real and sustainable change is rooted in the power of communities working together to build on their own assets, where everyone can contribute, and where the people most impacted by a challenge take the lead in designing the solution.

Our work has always been **shoulder-to-shoulder** with grassroots leaders who are making a real difference in their communities. At the same time, we **leverage new technologies** to connect our global network and deepen collaboration between them.

In this spirit, we launched **GATHER** to empower communities of practice. We applied the experience we gained from working alongside our partners to an online platform that connects them with other grassroots leaders across the world. **GATHER** allows them to learn and work together using practical tools with global peers.

We are proud to bring insights from peace building around the world back home through the **Chicago Peace Fellows**.

GATHER

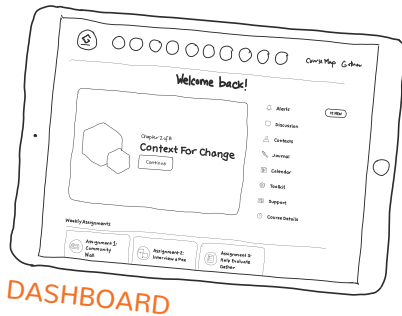
GATHER is an **online learning platform** designed to support shared learning and collaboration between a community of practice. The suite of tools on the GATHER platform enables Fellows to learn, work and reflect together on real issues facing their communities.

*In our world,
divide and
conquer must
become define
and empower.*

~ Audre Lorde

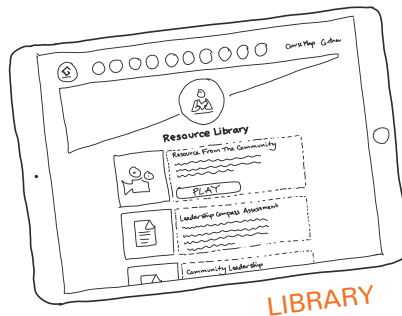


Discussion Boards: A chance for the group to share reflections with each other about topics and practices.



Peer to Peer Chat: We invite Fellows to communicate with each other informally as well as through required interactive assignments with peers.

Resource Library: Fellows can dive deeper on key topics with curated resources and add their own knowledge and materials to the growing shared library.



Field Guides: Fellows have access to “just in time” summaries of key ideas and new skills that are easily accessible for use in the community.

Contacts: As Fellows meet new people through practical assignments, they capture contact information to grow their network and expand local partnerships.

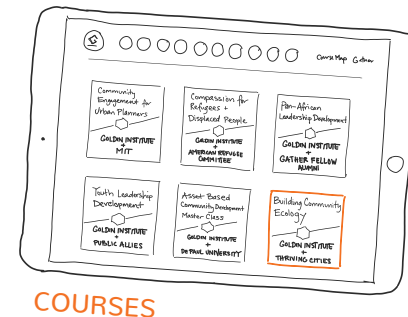
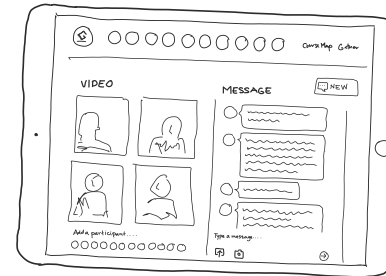
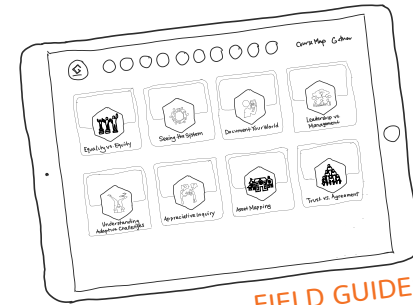
Budget Tracker: Fellows can keep track of their expenses using the budget tracker app to help them build a track record of fiscal management.

Weekly Roundtables: Through periodic workshops, key ideas and skills covered in the curriculum are presented and discussed with leading experts on the theme.

Digestable: Interactive content is designed to be mobile friendly so that Fellows can complete the curriculum and related activities in 2 - 4 hours per week.

Interactive: Private journaling, discussion boards and practical assignments help Fellows learn, practice and reflect together.

Audio-Visual: Each chapter includes a mix of writings, videos, illustrations, photos and other forms of content to reach a wide variety of learning styles.



CHICAGO PEACE FELLOWS GATHER

1 WELCOME TO GATHER



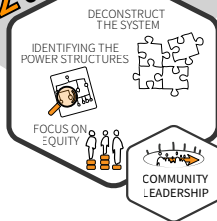
PURPOSE

CONNECT & EQUIP GRASSROOTS LEADERS
IN CHICAGO TO PREVENT VIOLENCE
AND PROMOTE PEACE

3 DISCOVER OUR STRENGTHS



2 CONTEXT FOR CHANGE



4 BUILDING ON ASSETS



5 ASK ENGAGING QUESTIONS



6 LEADERSHIP OF THE MANY

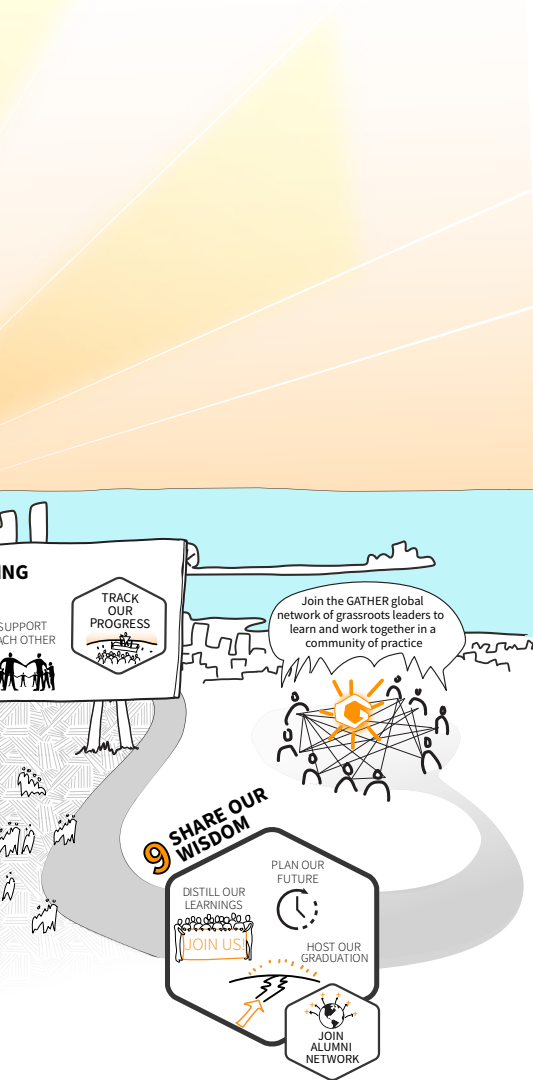


7 NO SMALL PLANS



8 PEACE-BUILDING IN CHICAGO





1 WELCOME TO GATHER

Meet our peers and determine the principles and practices for our shared learning community.

2 CONTEXT FOR CHANGE

Commit to inclusion and equity in our approach to community leadership.

3 DISCOVERING OUR STRENGTHS

Identify our personal and collective gifts and skills that we bring to our communities.

4 BUILD ON ASSETS

Shift from a deficit mindset to an asset-based approach.

5 ASK ENGAGING QUESTIONS

Learn how to frame issues and ask questions that produce insights and motivate action.

6 LEADERSHIP OF THE MANY

Differentiate between management, authority and leadership and build a diverse team.

7 NO SMALL PLANS

Design collaborative peace building projects that leverage your communities assets towards a shared vision of the future.

8 PEACE BUILDING IN CHICAGO

Take direct action with your peers and neighbors to build peace and prevent violence within and between our communities over the summer.

9 SHARE OUR WISDOM

Share what you learned and achieved as a Peace Fellow and inform partners and allies on how they can promote peace throughout the city at the graduation ceremony.

Learning Together

The **GATHER** curriculum is not a traditional teacher-to-student course, but rather an opportunity for a community of practice to learn and work together. Interactive chapters guide Fellows through key concepts and provide them space for shared reflection after they put those methods into practice. Fellows also participated in over **52 workshops** with organizations doing violence prevention work throughout the city.

*Start where you
are.*

*Use what you
have.*

*Do what you
can.*

~ Arthur Ashe

Each chapter of the curriculum was organized around a key question or theme that was identified as critical to peace building in Chicago through a wide-ranging series of interviews and focus groups with over 50 past grantees of the Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities and dozens of civic partners engaged in violence prevention.

As we explored key themes like intersectionality, Asset Based Community Development, the nature of community leadership and creating shared visions for the future, the readings and videos were always complemented by practical applications of these ideas in the real world and weekly roundtable conversations to share what we learned from our experience.

Complementing the content on the GATHER platform that dives into core themes of community driven social change, the Peace Fellows also participated in over 50 workshops and events over the 9 months of the fellowship.

These workshops were designed to deepen understanding on the core themes and create connections with the leaders of key leaders in Chicago's violence prevention and peace building strategies.

Through the **Civic Partners Series**, Peace Fellows to key initiatives like the Metropolitan Peace Academy, the Mayor's Office for Violence Reduction, the Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities as well as with a range of civic leaders who can address the role of different sectors of society in violence prevention such as religious communities, business leaders, schools and other key groups in the city.



Bertha Rurnell receives her
welcome packet



Discussing the Westside
Asset Map



Discussing Greencorps
with CDOT



Learning to navigate City Hall
w/ Alderman Burnett



Greening & Ecology for
peace building

Working Together

Using a pool of **\$44,000** donated by philanthropic leaders in Chicago, the Chicago Peace Fellows **co-designed 7 collaborative peace building projects** informed by the principles and practices explored in the curriculum to reduce violence and build peace across the city.

*There are no
right answers to
wrong questions.*

~ Ursula K. Le Guin

PLANNING WORKSHOPS



Fellows describe their existing projects that are open for collaboration

After four months of intensive learning and trust building as a community of practice, the 2021 Chicago Peace Fellows put the **principles of community driven social change into practice** by co-designing seven peace building projects in Chicago. These projects were designed by the Peace Fellows to model the structural changes they seek: collectively they are 22 grassroots leaders who live and work in the communities they serve on the West and South sides, and they practice a liberatory model of shared leadership, collaborative decision-making and collective action.

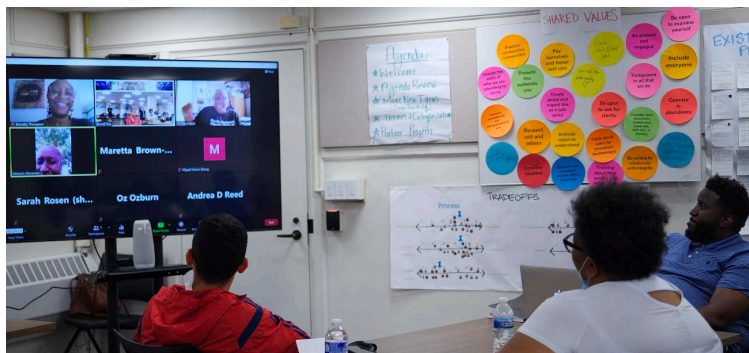
As grassroots leaders, Peace Fellows were on the front lines of responding to the racial unrest and the COVID-19 pandemic, both of which are compounding the challenges of violence that impact their communities on the West and



Fellows generated over 30 "Big Ideas" of new projects to explore

South sides. The spirit of collaboration and the commitment to equity and justice runs deep amongst the Chicago Peace Fellows, and these co-designed projects collectively help get to the root issues driving violence.

These projects were designed in a highly collaborative series of six workshops with a foundation of trust that was built on months spent learning together through the **GATHER Platform** where Fellows explored the principles of community driven social change like asset mapping, community engagement, framing issues, intersectionality, appreciative inquiry and frameworks for community leadership. The Fellows had a pooled fund of \$44,000 that they allocated in a participatory and collective process to underwrite these projects.



Meeting online and in person helped the team stay together



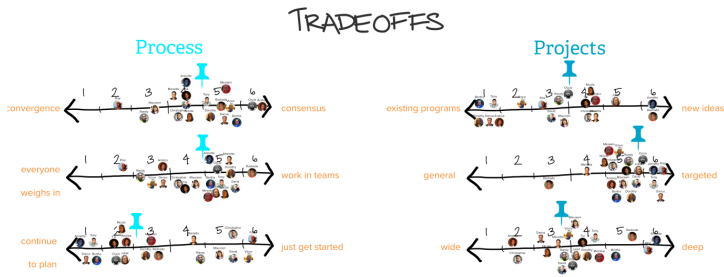
Fellows cluster related project ideas to uncover common themes



Teams create Project Partner Cards to create actionable strategies



Fellows make collective funding decisions to support the projects



Fellows weighed trade offs to help clarify their priorities

Determining Our Shared Values and the Decision Making

Process: in this session, the Fellows came up with a list of principles and shared values to guide the work ahead and affirmed the parameters for the decision making process.

Sharing Our Current Projects: in this session, Fellows completed project idea cards that document the work they are currently doing that they think could benefit from collaboration with others Fellows. This allows people to make their current work visible so they can create mental space for creative ideas in the future.

Envisioning New Projects: In this session, Fellows create new project idea cards documenting ideas they would like to pursue if they had the support they needed.



Big Ideas that were related were combined into project proposals

Shared Aspirations: in these sessions, Fellows reviewed all of the “existing” and “new project” cards and grouped them under common themes they uncovered between the projects. Through this process of moving and sorting cards, they identified thematic areas of shared aspirations.

Setting our Priorities: in this session, Fellows were guided through a process of naming and negotiating the trade offs inherent in program design. For example, deep vs wide: do we want to do as many projects possible or go invest in a smaller number of more urgent priorities? This session ended with a clarification of our key priorities for making project decisions.



Fellows “voted with their dollars” to make collective funding decisions

Refining Our Ideas: in these sessions, we returned to the collection of project idea cards and teams self-selected to take clusters of related projects and combine them as appropriate into discrete project proposal cards with timelines and budgets. Teams sought to get feedback from neighborhood leaders as part of the design and prioritization process.

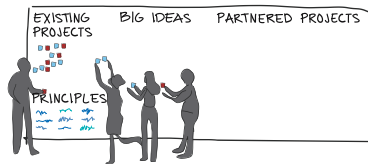
Collaborative Funding: the group refined these project proposals and selected final projects for consideration by the Collective. All Fellows were then given equal portions of the available funding to put towards the projects of their choosing. If some projects received more than they needed, they expanded their project or shared their excess with other projects at the discretion of the team. In most cases, they chose to share their funding with other groups because they all had a stake in the work of the collective.

PLANNING WORKSHOP PROCESS AGENDA

ROUND #1

Surfacing Our Values & Existing Projects

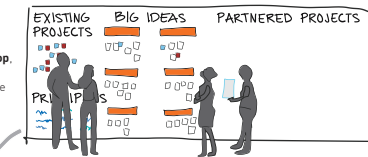
During our first **virtual meeting**, we will surface our values as a cohort and list all the existing projects that each of us is involved in outside the Chicago Peace Fellows.



ROUND #2

Generating New Ideas

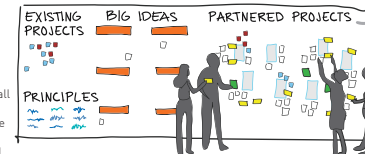
At this **in-person workshop**, we will come up with new BIG IDEAS for collaborative summer projects based on our shared values and existing work in our communities.



ROUND #3

Making New Connections

In this **in-person workshop**, fellows have the chance to present new PARTNERED PROJECTS inspired by the process. Small groups will partner to explore and refine ideas into initial plans and review all projects.



ROUND #4

Prioritizing Our Plans

In our last **virtual meeting**, we will fund the projects with our summer budget, establish Working Groups, and define our next steps.

REFLECT AND REIMAGINE

GROUP AND INNOVATE

ALL CITY YOUTH SUMMIT

The Youth Summit will be an opportunity for young people to come together, talk about the issues they are facing, and take action to promote peace. The first action of this team was to assemble young people who are participants in the programs of various Chicago Peace Fellow organizations to learn directly from them the topics and activities they hope to have.

Fellows are designing a variety of peace building workshops to help young people gain employment skills. By hosting an All City event, the team hopes to build relationships across neighborhoods.

Budget: \$12,250

Chicago Peace Fellow Team:



SUMMER PROJECTS

Over the course of six planning workshops, the Peace Fellows collaboratively designed seven initiatives that put the principles of the GATHER curriculum into practice on the South and West sides of the city.

The process was open and democratic and offers a vision and **model for truly participatory grantmaking** where the goals, evaluation and funding decisions are all made by those grassroots leaders closest to the issues.

The only guidelines for the group were that projects had to be collaborative, with more than two Fellows working together, and designed to have an impact or meet a significant milestone this summer. Several of the projects will continue long after graduation, a testament to the ongoing commitment of the Peace Fellows.

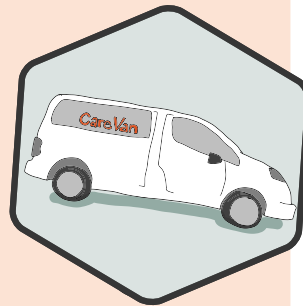
WE CARE VAN

Centered around healing, the We Care Van is a pilot project that will bring a healing presence to communities highly impacted by gun violence on the South and West sides of Chicago. Through a series of pop-up events, this team will bring licensed therapists, artists, food and caring neighbors to help communities who have recently experienced acts of violence.

Based on a shared insight that the trauma of violence impacts whole families and communities, not just those who are directly injured, the team is dedicated to bring healing to the whole community in the wake of violent acts.

Budget: \$5,100

Chicago Peace Fellow Team:



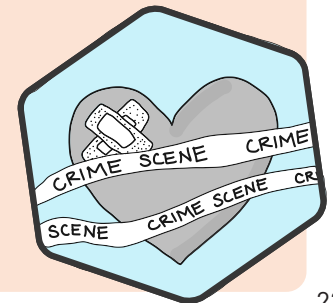
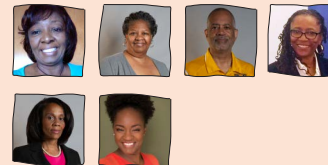
CRIME STOPPERS

Taking a targeted approach, this team is focused on connecting with people who are at the highest risk of being a victim and / or perpetrator of crime. Through engagement and dialogue, Crime Stoppers is an effort to learn from those closest to the issue of crime and support efforts that get at the root causes of violence and how to prevent it.

Composed of grassroots leaders from the South and West sides, Crime Stoppers is an intentional effort to make neighborhoods safer for everyone by engaging directly with those most at risk and the most at stake.

Budget: \$3,550

Chicago Peace Fellow Team:



WE ARE SURVIVORS

Gun violence injures more than the direct victims and often leaves invisible wounds for the families and friends of the victims. Led by Peace Fellows who themselves know all too well the pain of losing family and friends, We are Survivors are committed to helping other families and communities through the healing process.

The team is planning an event featuring social services, food and games for other survivors, their families and communities. The event offers a day of peace, celebration and healing for families directly impacted by violence.

Budget: \$5,000

Chicago Peace Fellow Team:



OUR STORY, OUR LIVES

This project will focus on getting young people to tell their own stories and the wisdom of their communities. By convening and supporting young people, this program seeks to unlock their native talents and highlight their unique insights into building a more peaceful and just future.

Young people will share these stories in a wide variety of creative ways of their own choosing. By providing stipends to all participants who share their stories, the team is bringing useful employment opportunities that can help build the confidence and resumes of youth from the South and West sides.

Budget: \$5,750

Chicago Peace Fellow Team:



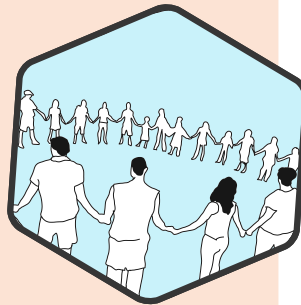
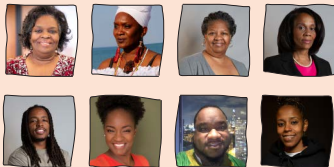
PEACE FELLOWS RETREAT

The Chicago Peace Fellows retreat is an opportunity for members of the 2021 cohort to get out of the city and participate in self-care, healing and bonding activities. As Peace Fellows have been on the front lines of responding to violence and COVID, the team hopes that this opportunity will provide their peers a much-needed space for reflection and rejuvenation.

The retreat will happen this fall in an outdoor environment and is meant to serve as a space for leaders to deepen their connection to each other and reflect together on how they can stay connected and centered for the long term.

Budget: \$6,600

Chicago Peace Fellow Team:



HIGHER GROUND DEVELOPMENT

Inspired by community driven social enterprise, this team will focus on using tiny homes and other architectural designs to help address issues of affordable housing and support people experiencing homelessness by activating vacant lots that are owned by the city.

This team hopes to use their limited budget to create designs and strategies that can be enacted over the longer-term. By joining forces across neighborhoods, this team hopes to build a model that can address the affordable housing crisis in ways that build community wealth and avoid gentrification.

Budget: \$5,750

Chicago Peace Fellow Team:



Building a Community of Practice

The Chicago Peace Fellows collaboratively determined their own **principles for shared learning** to guide their journey as a community of practice:

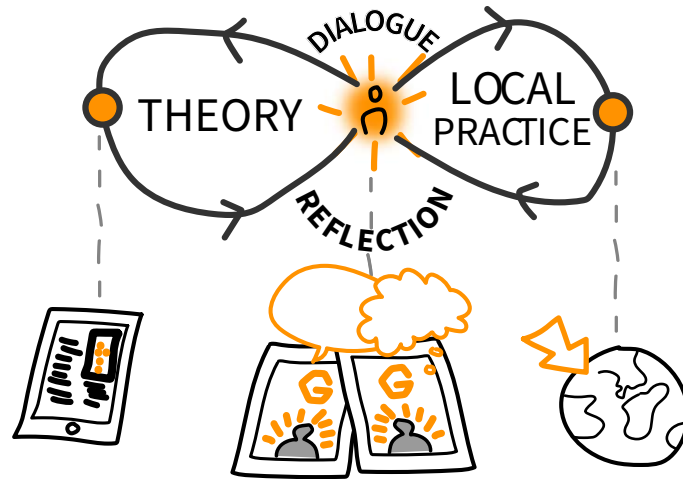
- *Actively listen to understand
- *Be willing to collaborate with integrity
- *Be open to ask for clarity
- *Respect self and others
- *Include everyone
- *Create peace and regard this as a safe space
- *Present the authentic you
- *Be open to examine yourself
- *Exercise compassion for all
- *Practice constructive commentary
- *Promote unconditional and intergenerational love
- *Operate in abundance

*A single tree
does not make a
forest.*

*A single string
cannot make
music.*

~ unknown

LEARNING APPROACH



Core Workshops

These core workshops allowed Peace Fellows to explore the key themes of the GATHER curriculum.

Meet Your Peers
Understanding Adaptive Challenges
Defining Our Shared Principles
The ABCD's of Community Leadership
Uncovering Our Assets
Questions that Unlock Potential
The Power of Storytelling
Chicago Peace Fellows Annual
GATHERING
Critical Moments Reflection
Cultivating Compassion for Community
Leaders
Mutual Aid Collaborative Presentation on
Unlocking Our Collective Assets
Community and Police Townhall with
Superintendent David Brown
Self Care for Community Leaders
Role of Architecture, Design and Planning
in Community Safety

Ecology for Peace
Planning Workshop 1: Our Shared Values
and Decision Making Process
Planning Workshop 2: Sharing Our
Current Projects
Planning Workshop 3: Envisioning New
Projects
Planning Workshop 4: Setting Our
Priorities
Planning Workshop 5: Creating Partner
Projects
Planning Workshop 6: Refining Our Story

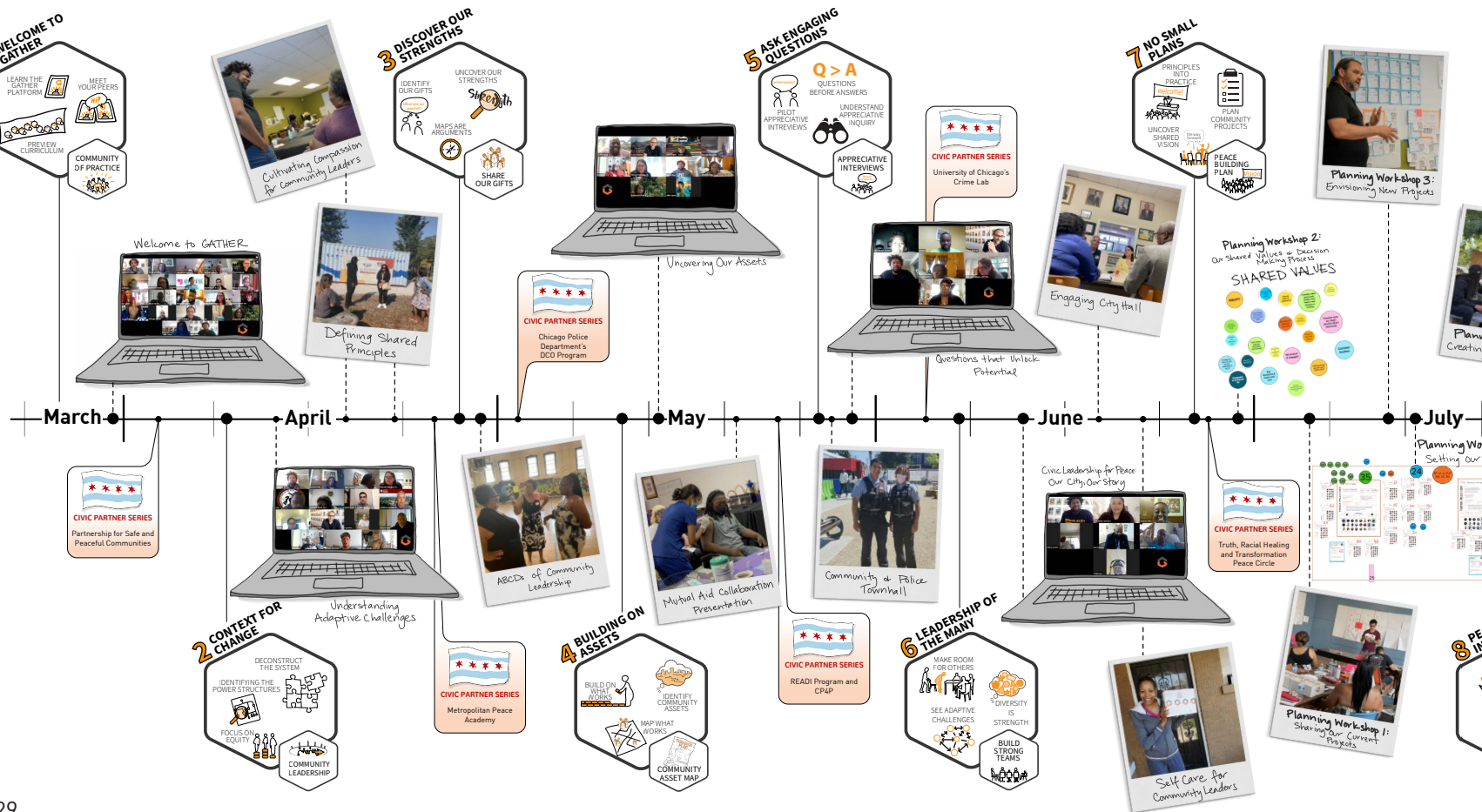
Civic Partner Series

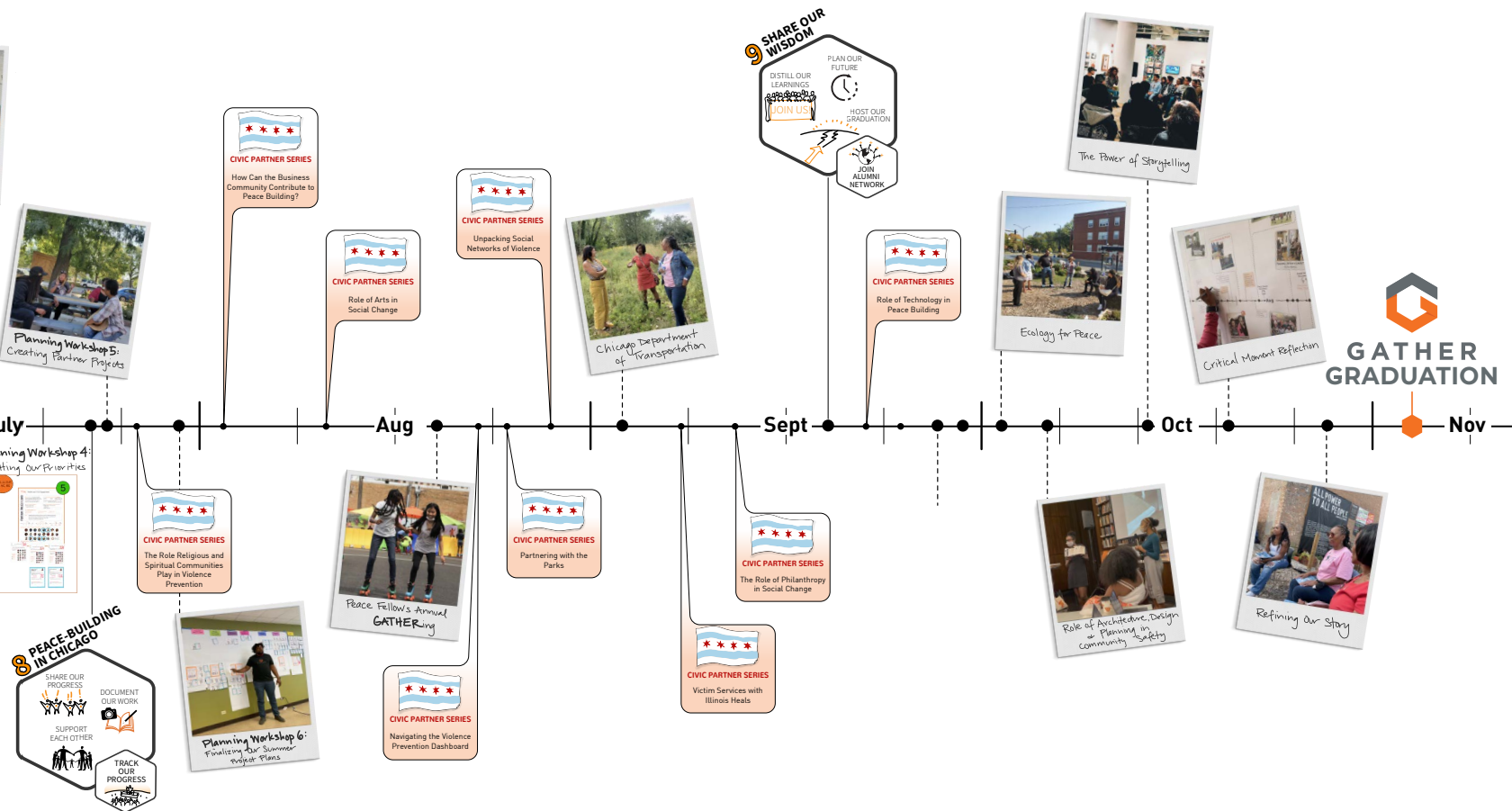
This series opens lines of communication and collaboration with key civic leaders on the front lines of violence prevention throughout the city.

Partnership for Safe and Peaceful
Communities
Metropolitan Peace Academy
Chicago Police Department's DCO
Program

READI Program and CP4P
University of Chicago Crime Lab
Mayor's Office of Violence Reduction: Our
City, Our Safety
Engaging City Hall
Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation
Peace Circle
The Role Religious and Spiritual
Communities in Violence Prevention
How can the Business Community
Contribute to Peace Building?
Role of the Arts in Social Change
Navigating the Violence Prevention
Dashboard
Partnering with the Parks
Unpacking Social Networks and Violence
with Dr. Andrew Papachristos and
Eddie Bocanegra
What if All Violence was Preventable? A
Conversation about Vision Zero with
CDOT
Victim Services with Illinois Heals
The Role of Philanthropy in Social Change
Role of Technology in Peace Building

Chicago Peace Fellows Event Timeline





Meet the Fellows

The **22 Chicago Peace Fellows** were selected from a pool of over 50 applicants who were past recipients of grants from the Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities. The Peace Fellows live and work in community areas most impacted by violence on the city's South and West sides.

*If you don't
know where you
are going,
any road will get
you there.*

~ Lewis Carroll



ANDREA REED

Roseland

organization

Greater Roseland Chamber of
Commerce

position

Executive Director

for more information:

www.greaterroselandchamber.org

Andrea D. Reed is the Executive Director of the Greater Roseland Chamber of Commerce (GRCC). Since its inception in April 2009, Andrea has lead the organization's efforts to attract, stimulate, rehabilitate, and transform the Greater Roseland community. The Chamber seeks to encourage business and community prosperity by providing technical assistance programs to educate aspiring entrepreneurs and existing businesses.

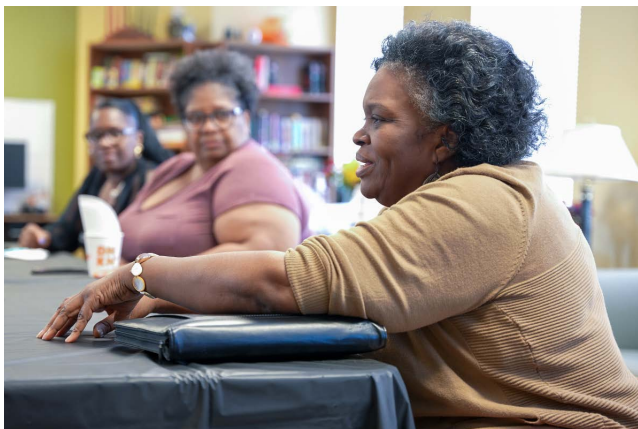
Andrea designs programs to strengthen and promote financial opportunities for all businesses within the Greater Roseland business corridors, identify and overcome obstacles that are detrimental to the business climate and economic development of Roseland, and support civic, social, cultural and educational programs to increase and improve the functional values of the community.



Andrea receiving her welcome box



Andrea at black business owners conference



Andrea Reed speaks to Fellows at a planning workshop



Andrea at a Pullman ribbon cutting with 9th Ward Alderman Beale

“

The work that is needed in all communities, in my opinion, requires collaboration. I believe that if we all come together with our various solutions, we just might come up with a viable and doable resolution. Unfortunately, what I see in my community are too many splintered groups who have not come together. I am looking forward to and most excited about hearing and learning from other community leaders' best practices that can be useful in my community.”

~Fellow Andrea Reed





ANNETTE KELLY

Auburn Gresham

organization

FOUS Youth Development
Services

position

President/Founder

for more information:

www.4usyouthdevelopment.org

Annette Kelly is President and Founder of FOUS Youth Development Services. She is a Certified Youth Development Practitioner with over 35 years of experience in positive youth development programming in the private sector, community settings, and faith-based arenas. Through the organization's school-based mentoring program, Annette has mentored over 1,000 youth. Further, Ms. Kelly is an Independent Youth Program Consultant and Trainer, providing direct service to youth-serving organizations and schools throughout the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois.

Annette has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from National Louis University. In her spare time, Annette is a women's bible study teacher and speaker who also loves doing arts and crafts projects. In 2008, the makers of Pine-Sol and Ebony Magazine honored Annette with the Unsung Hero Award.



Annette distributing smoke alarms and face masks



Annette distributing school supplies



Annette distributing PPE in her neighborhood



Annette participating in Summer Planning Workshop (far left corner)

“

“As a not-for-profit leader, the thing I am most excited about is collaborating with other organizations across the City of Chicago. I strongly believe this is one of the missing pieces to affecting positive and consistent changes in every community.”

~Fellow Annette Kelly





BERTHA PURNELL

Austin,
Garfield Park

organization

MothersOnAMission28

position

Founder and CEO

for more information:

FB: [www.facebook.com/
bertha.purnell.71](https://www.facebook.com/bertha.purnell.71)

Bertha Purnell is Founder and CEO of Mothers On a Mission 28. Bertha is a mother of 5 and the grandmother of 10. Her 2nd youngest son died at 3 months of SIDS and her youngest son, Maurice, was killed by gun violence at 28. Because of that incident, her life and career as a nurse changed course. Bertha started Mothers On a Mission 28 to help families get services and to be a support network for grieving families. She is also the Chapter Coordinator for CSSJ, a national organization supporting all survivors and those reentering from prison, as well as the currently incarcerated. Bertha is on the board of Nature120, an organization working to heal trauma with 120 minute outdoors. She is on the community board of Axon, where she hosts community meetings and town halls.

Bertha strives to do as much as she can without causing additional trauma. She prides herself on being a credible messenger and a listener who desires to learn and teach what she knows.



Bertha receiving her welcome box



Bertha speaking to the media about community safety



Bertha speaking about her organization Mothers On a Mission 28



Bertha speaking at a rally about violence prevention

“

I would love to learn how to bring organizations together to work on peace in communities and across the city.”

~Fellow Bertha Purnell





CHRIS CRATER

Woodlawn

organization

Obama Foundation

position

Community Engagement
Associate

for more information:

[www.linkedin.com/in/
christopher-crater-23ba99103](https://www.linkedin.com/in/christopher-crater-23ba99103)

Christopher Crater is the Community Engagement Associate for the Obama Foundation. In his role at the Obama Foundation Christopher acts on both the Public Engagement & My Brother's Keeper teams where he helps to mobilize communities, stakeholders, and grassroots leaders around the construction of the Obama Presidential Center (OPC) in Jackson Park. In addition to community engagement oversight, Christopher aids in program management for the Obama Youth Jobs Corps (OYJC) which helps to advance initiatives that support young men of color as they navigate social-emotional needs, education and career planning.

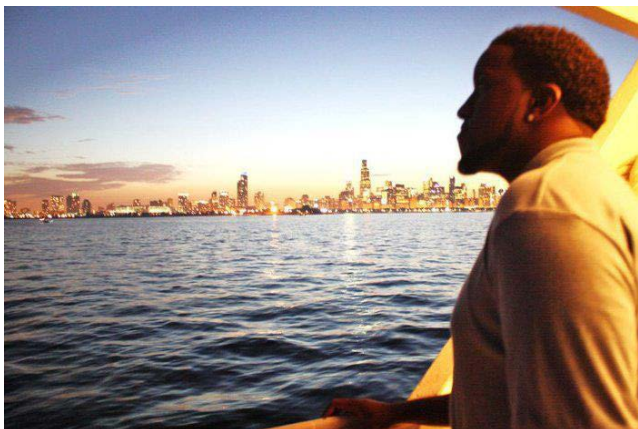
Prior to joining the Obama Foundation, Christopher helped pilot the After School Matters PeaceMakers Program at Urban Prep Englewood. When he is not working on behalf of his community in his professional capacity, he is the Youth Ambassador for the Washington Park Chamber of Commerce.



Chris hosts event for Obama Presidential Center



Chris takes a selfie with a group of recent graduates



Chris looking out to the Chicago skyline and lake



Chris poses next to mural on Southside of Chicago

“

This summer, the Goldin Institute alum changed the city and truly impacted my life...As a marginalized youth from the North Lawndale community, I was able to find my place in the world despite the presumption of failure. Through the examples of mentors and others that supported my growth and development, I learned that someday it would be my turn to support rising generations. This Chicago Peace Fellows program has inspired and cultivated my work and passion.”

~Fellow
Christopher Crater





DARIUS BALLINGER

Bronzeville

organization

Chasing23 Youth
Empowerment Group

position

Executive Director

for more information:

darius@chasing23.org

Darius Ballinger is the Executive Director of Chasing23 Youth Empowerment Group. Growing up on the South Side of Chicago as a young black man, Darius is open about his difficult beginnings characterized by suspensions and expulsions, drugs and guns, arrests and funerals, and other decisions that shorten life spans. On April 12, 2013, Darius was facing a mandatory minimum of 3-5 years prison sentence for past convictions but was offered a plea deal of 2 years probation and 90 days jail time. In that same evening, Darius spoke his last words to his mentor Wayne who was fatally stabbed the following day. Devastated and determined, Darius decided to make a change, one that would have a good impact, remembering the years of advice from of his mentor Wayne. The impact became Chasing23.



Darius with a group of young men in his community



Darius holding a Chasing 23 sign at Bud Billiken Parade



Darius embraces fellow Peace Fellow Mareta Brown-Miller



Darius speaks at high school graduation ceremony

“

Chicago's most pressing challenges can't be solved by one group or one method of impact. I want to be a Chicago Peace Fellow to share my learnings, deepen my relationships with local leaders, and discover new ways to approach community work through an equitable and transformative lens.”

~Fellow Darius Ballinger





DAVID ROJAS JR.

City-wide

organization

The Alliance 98 (TA98)

position

Founder &
Chief Executive Officer

for more information:

IG: @david.rojasjr

David Rojas, Jr. is the Founder and CEO of The Alliance 98 (TA98). Under David's leadership, TA98 provides a range of services and youth-focused programs, including employment, entrepreneurship, education, and international development through an innovative social enterprise model. David is a "Davis 100 Projects for Peace" recipient, designing a paid summer internship program for first-generation college students in his neighborhood of South Lawndale (Little Village.) David transformed the summer internship program into TA98. He is a proud Little Village - Social Justice High School graduate and a Posse Scholar. David earned his Bachelor of Arts in Hispanic Studies with a concentration in global community development from Connecticut College in 2014.

In 2019, Chicago Scholars named David a 35 under 35 for his work in the community. He earned an Executive Certificate in Social Impact Strategy from the Center of Social Impact at the University of Pennsylvania in 2020.



David poses with a friend on a bridge in Chinatown



David listening to a conversation with other Fellows



David on the shores of Hawaii

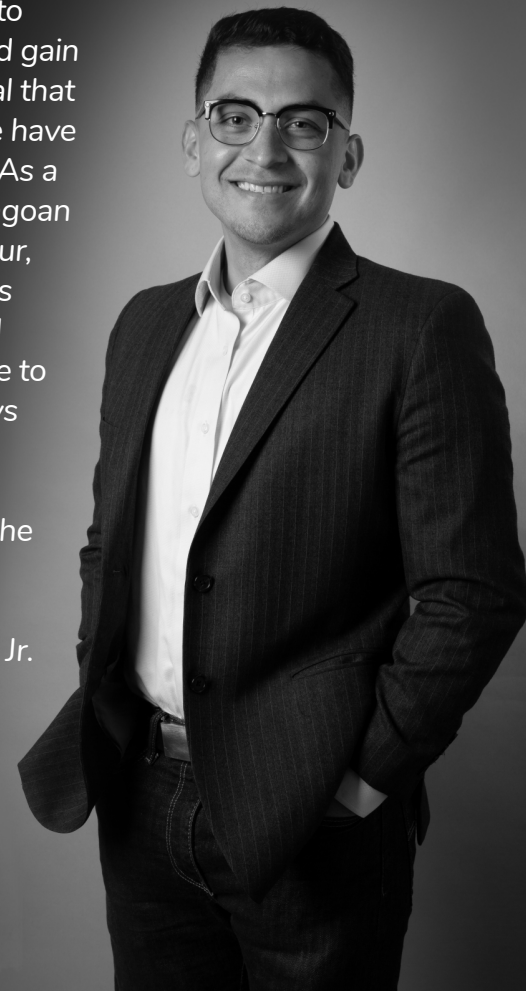


David distributes clothing to unhoused people in the community

“

The opportunity to join the Chicago Peace Fellows program allowed me to grow intellectually and gain access to social capital that I would not otherwise have access to in Chicago. As a first-generation Chicagoan and social entrepreneur, I am excited about this opportunity because I believe it will allow me to learn more about ways to continue growing my organization and supporting others in the process.”

~Fellow David Rojas Jr.





DOROTHY THOMPSON

City-wide

organization

Bullying Prevention
Awareness 365

position

Director

for more information:

www.bullyingprevention365.org

Dorothy Thompson is the Director of Bullying Prevention Awareness 365. Over her career, Dr. Thompson worked in CPS as a teacher, a Business Manager, an A. P. School Improvement Coordinator, and she retired from CPS as a Principal in 2012. Dorothy also worked in the field of alcohol and drug prevention in Iowa and Illinois. Dorothy began her Doctorate in 2015 and completed her studies at National Louis University in December of 2017 with a Superintendent's endorsement. Her area of focus was Senate Bill 100's equitable implementation related to bullying. Dr. Thompson collaborated with like-minded individuals to host the first BPA365 Anti-Bullying conference at National Louis University. BPA365 partners with Community in Schools. Dorothy is on the board of Global Girls, Inc. and ART-R Open Hands Ministry, Inc.

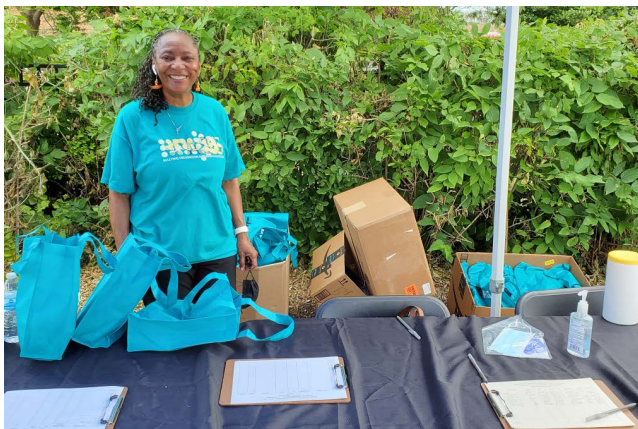
She is also an ordained minister, and author of "What To Do When You Believe in Something."



Dorothy at an education conference



Dorothy takes a group photo with BPA365 staff



Dorothy at a Bullying Prevention and Awareness 365 event



Dorothy at a CDOT meeting

“

I can only imagine the wealth of knowledge, skill, and information that will be made available to me and exchanged with my partners in the cohort. I am genuinely excited to join this year's Chicago Peace Fellow cohort to learn more and be a better steward of the greater work I seek to do throughout Chicago.”

~Fellow Dorothy Thompson





JULIET JONES

Woodlawn

organization

The Original Sixty Fourth Street Beach Drummers, Inc.

position

Co-Founder,
Program Director

for more information:

www.64thstreetbeachdrummers.org

Juliet Jones is the Co-Founder and Program Director for The Original Sixty Fourth Street Beach Drummers. In addition to Founding the The Original Sixty Fourth Street Beach Drummers in 2015, Juliet is also a Health Educator and an HIV Counselor & Tester. Juliet is a Westside resident of Chicago who now lives on the Southside.

She is a mother of 2 children and 2 grandchildren. Juliet is the great-granddaughter of Thomas Madison Haynes, the Co-Founder and Banker of Boley, Oklahoma.

She dreams of hosting the world's largest virtual Peace Drum Circle with participants drumming locally, statewide, and globally. This circle is to help eradicate violence, systemic racism, and to show support for ALL.



Group of peace circle drummers



Juliet engages in conversation at the summer planning workshops



Members of the Original 64th Street Drummers



Lead drummers with the Original Sixty Fourth Street Beach Drummers play at an event in Englewood in 2017

“

I enjoy seeing how GATHER and the Peace Fellows reach out to a global community from far, far away but the teaching and the connection seems like they are in the room with you, at best, in the same country. I want to experience that global connection with our drummers so that we may gather in a circle of one.”

~Fellow
Juliet Jones





MARETTA BROWN- MILLER

Austin

organization

1400 & 1500 North Long Block

position

Block Coordinator

for more information:

FB: www.facebook.com/marettabrownmiller

Mareta Brown-Miller is the Block Coordinator for the 1400 & 1500 North Long Block Club. Mareta is the Blessed Mother of 3 children and 4 grandchildren and a connector in the Austin community since 1982. She passionately works and serves with numerous organizations and community groups in Austin and throughout the City of Chicago. Mareta is employed with the Chicago Park District and is an active member of The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. Mareta is a firm believer in equity and that equality is deserved and wanted in the Austin Community. Mareta works with the 11th, 15th and 25th Police Districts, and is Chair of the Youth Committee in the 15th District. Mareta is involved with a wide range of organizations: Austin Community Action Council (ACAC), Chairman; 1400 & 1500 N. Long Block Club, Coordinator; Westside Stakeholders, Leadership Member; Prevention Partnership; Leaders Network; BUILD; ACT; West & Central Community Justices Centers; Westside Ministers Coalition; All Star Project; AAABNA; and wherever else she is asked to serve.



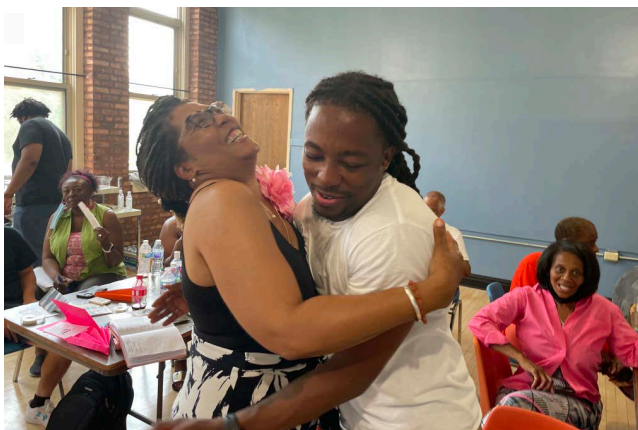
Mareta creating a sign for Women's March



Mareta at a podium speaking at Parks conference



Maretta serving food alongside Mayor Lori Lightfoot



Maretta embraces fellow Peace Fellow Darius Ballinger

“

I am most excited about learning from others and picking their brains on our views of our communities and worldwide issues. I am looking for the push to make me charter into deeper places of different communities, diversities, politics, resources and empowerment to be better in my community work.”

~Fellow
Maretta Brown-Miller





MAUREEN HALLAGAN

Garfield Park

organization

Marillac St. Vincent
Family Services

position

Chief Operating Officer

for more information:

www.marillacstvincent.org

Maureen Hallagan is the Chief Operating Officer for Marillac St. Vincent Family Services. Maureen has a Masters in Social Work and has worked on the West side for over 35 years. Active in the community, she has participated in many programs that promote the strengths of the communities and she remains humbled by her staff and the community in all of the positive things that occur every day in an area where the media only covers negative events. She had the honor on serving on many committees, networks and groups that promote safety and opportunities to give a hand up to people so they can succeed in their own personal goals.

Maureen is a 5 year cancer survivor. She and her husband, Steve, have been married for 38 years and they have 3 adult children: Rachel, Jessica and Zachary. Her daughters are married and she has 2 grandsons named Cameron and Theo.



Maureen at a workshop with Alderman Burnnett



Maureen attends a summer planning workshop



Maureen Celebrates One Year on IDHS Child Care Advisory Council



Maureen speaking at rally for family rights

“

I am excited to work together with this group of leaders to give our communities the resources needed to deal with the violence that occurs daily. There is so much strength, creativity, resilience and dedication from the people in the communities we serve. I really love the philosophy of looking at issues from a strength based lens and from the importance of inclusion, diversity, equity and access. Looking forward to learning together and seeing what is possible.”

~Fellow
Maureen Hallagan





MEKAZIN ALEXANDER

Englewood

organization

Earl's Garden Mae's Kitchen

position

Founder

for more information:

FB: www.facebook.com/EarlsgardenMaeskitchenzuna

Mekazin Alexander is the Founder of Earl's Garden Mae's Kitchen. Over the past 20 plus years Earline "Mekazin" Alexander has been committed to ensuring that residents in the City of Chicago receive equitable services to improve the quality of their lives, be it housing, health services, economic stability, or any type of inclusion that promotes their wellbeing. She holds a Master's degree in human service administration from the Spertus Institute. She has worked in government and the non-profit arena serving children, youth, adults, seniors and services for the developmentally disabled.

A main interest has been working with pregnant women to reduce the infant mortality rate among women of color. Mekazin has created a community garden in Englewood focused on food education, artistic expressions, and community events. Mekazin states that "the challenge is making sure you always provide a continuum of service and that you are doing what is necessary to take people to the next level while addressing their critical needs."



Mekazin and a group of gardeners



Mekazin working in her garden



Mekazin sitting in her garden

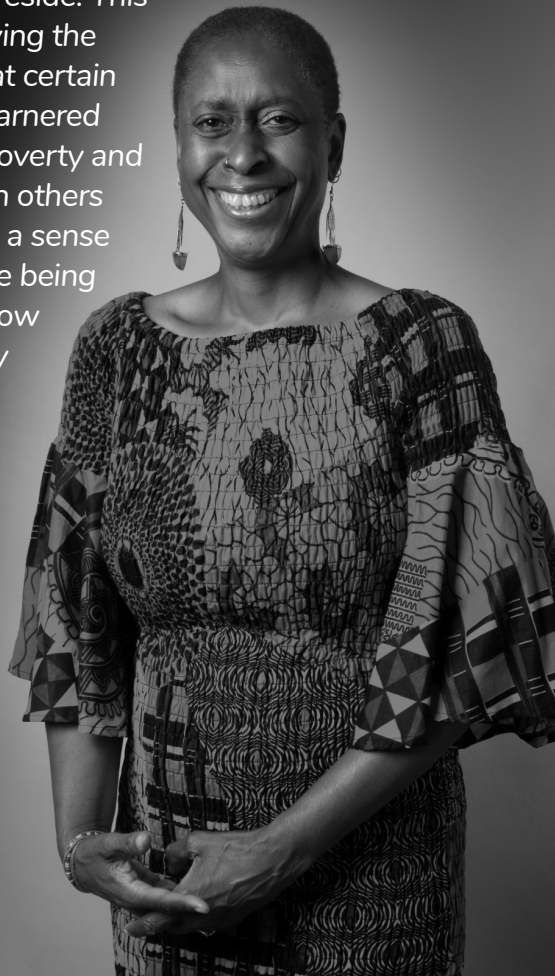


Mekazin working in her garden

“

It has always been my desire to make positive changes in the community where I reside. This work involves removing the negative stigmas that certain communities have garnered based on systemic poverty and racism. Working with others of like mind provides a sense of belonging. I believe being a Chicago Peace Fellow is a great opportunity to continue the work in partnership with others.”

~Fellow
Mekazin Alexander





MESSIAH EQUIANO

Bronzeville

organization

CHI-RISE

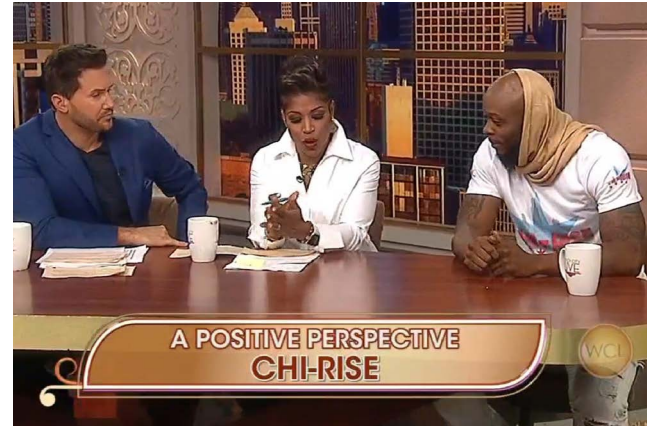
position

Executive Director

for more information:

FB: [www.facebook.com/
MessiahEquiano](https://www.facebook.com/MessiahEquiano)

Messiah Equiano is the Executive Director of CHI-RISE. Born Daniel Bowden but known in the community as Messiah Equiano, Daniel is a writer, producer, director and actor born and bred in Chicago. He attended Holy Trinity and Holy Family elementary schools and DeLaSalle Institute for HS. He founded CHI-RISE in 2016 with a mission of saving, inspiring and empowering the lives of Chicagoans through helpful programming, inspirational media productions and empowering philanthropic efforts.



Messiah speaking on a local news station



Messiah posing at opening for "The Penis Monologues"



Messiah's latest play, opening November 13th, 2021



Messiah participating in Summer Planning workshop

“

Becoming a Chicago Peace Fellow will serve as a tremendous opportunity to link and collaborate with some of Chicago's most dedicated and committed change makers. It will offer me and my organization the opportunity to collaborate with other organizations and individuals who are committed to making Chicago the best city it can be.”

~Fellow
Messiah Equiano





NICOLE DAVIS

Austin, North
Lawndale, West
Garfield Park

organization

Talk2MeFoundation

position

Founder

for more information:

IG: @Talk2mefoundation

Nicole Davis is the Founder of the Talk2MeFoundation. Nicole is a proud Chicagoan raised on the West side of Chicago where she is a mother to 2 beautiful young ladies and 2 grandchildren. She is a proud owner of Xquisite Premir located on the Westside of Chicago in the Austin community. Davis is also the CEO and Executive Director of Talk2MeFoundation for kids whose parents are incarcerated. Nicole is also the founder of The Sisters of Support house for formerly incarcerated women in Gary, Indiana.

As someone who was directly impacted by the justice system, serving 13 ½ years in federal prison, she knows first hand how unfairly women are treated in the criminal justice system. She is a sought-after national speaker who advocates for dignity, decriminalization, decarceration and an end to the harm of women and girls. She is a passionate community organizer, dedicated to helping secure equality, basic human rights, and second chances for justice-impacted people.



Nicole posing with Talk2Me Foundation staff



Nicole at the Sisters of Support house for formerly incarcerated women



Nicole distributing PPE in the Austin community



Nicole at violence against women rally

“

My intent as a leader is to work with others to address the needs of our community by providing a platform for them to heal. I want to be part of the solution and believe that collaborative partnering is important, that is why I applied to be a Chicago Peace Fellow to learn and grow in my mission to be a strong contributor bringing healing and peace to our communities in Chicago.”

~Fellow
Nicole Davis





OSCAR SANCHEZ

South Chicago

organization

Southeast Youth Alliance (ASE)

position

Director of Youth and
Restorative Justice
Programming

for more information:

<https://asechicago.org/>

Oscar Sanchez is the Director of Youth and Restorative Justice Programming at the Southeast Youth Alliance (ASE). Oscar is an organizer with a passion to tell the stories of others, and is fueled by the work and necessity to amplify these voices. Born and raised in Chicago to a family of Mexican immigrants, Oscar has spent his life advocating for others with the privilege he has. Oscar has worked with organizations such as Young Invincibles, the Obama Foundation, and the National Democratic Training Committee where he trains others on how to use their voice politically, socially, and for their own self-esteem.

Working with both local and national institutions, Oscar is proud to give back to his community as a youth organizer and co-founder of the Southeast Youth Alliance in the Southside of Chicago. Oscar strongly believes that our own stories becomes our greatest assets.



Oscar and a group of students from the Obama Foundation



Oscar poses with friends at a Stop General Iron rally



Oscar speaking about the Stop General Iron campaign



Oscar speaking at a rally about the General Iron Hunger Strike

“

I am excited about being a Chicago Peace Fellow because it is important to build a community of like-minded individuals. I have served as youth and violence prevention coordinator for an organization, and for me, it's to be able to fit these kinds of roles better. I am an individual in the Southeast side looking to improve the living conditions for our community and, although COVID-19 has been a tragedy in our communities, violence still exists and, for me, I would like to build power to create assets that address the needs for our families in need.”

~Fellow Oscar Sanchez





PILAR AUDAIN

Roseland and South Chicago

organization

Wrap Your beYOUty
Movement

position

Founder / Iya

for more information:

www.pilarsplanet.com

Pilar Audain is the Founder and Iya (Movement Leader) of the Wrap Your beYOUty Movement (WYBM). For seven years, Pilar worked for the Chicago Department of Public Health/ CDC as an Infectious Disease Community Epidemiologist after receiving her MS and MPH degrees from the University of Illinois.

Based on Ancient indigenous artforms and healing practices, WYBM assists women of the community in their journey by facilitating safe spaces for women to share their experiences, learn and build together. WYBM empowers women to take what they learn back to their families, with an emphasis on training their own children. Pilar is also an Arts Vendor for Chicago Public Schools, a community healer and associate director at Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation.



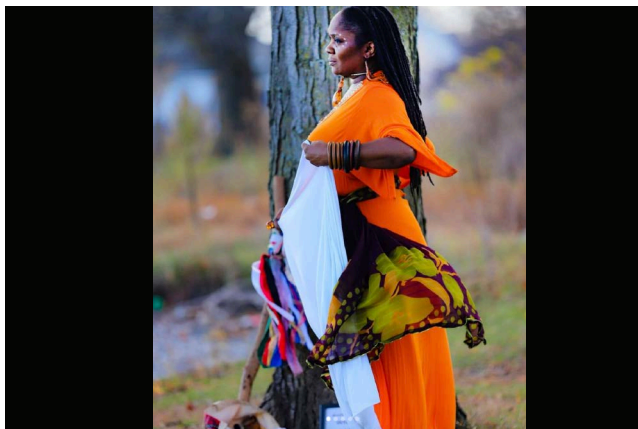
Pilar at a Gele event



Pilar makes a silly face with a group of children at self-esteem workshop



Pilar speaking on a local television news station



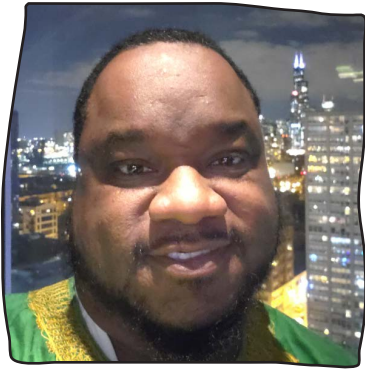
Pilar honoring Iya mi Osun

“

The Chicago Peace Fellows program fosters solidarity among leaders who are committed to the cause of promoting peace and love within Chicago communities... I am certain that being a part of this sacred community will open me up to new inspirations, outlooks and perspectives that will broaden my own understanding of this work.”

~Fellow
Pilar Audain





RANDY SADLER

Humboldt Park

organization

Monticello Block Club

position

Vice President

for more information:

IG: Urban_enstein

Randy Sadler is the Vice President of the Monticello Block Club. Randy is a Community Psychologist (ABD) and Immediate Past President of the Chicago Association of Black Social Workers. He is a Psychology Professor at South Suburban College and a Clinical Consultant with McKinley Interventions. He is also the Founder and Executive Director of Youth 1st Counseling Services and Elite Community Counseling Services (ECCS), social service agencies that provided a myriad of clinical, psycho-therapeutic, and counseling services to individuals and families. Randy is known as a leader who takes people where they want to go and where they ought to be.

Dr. Sadler displays a heartfelt commitment, a clear vision, and innovative actions. Dr. Sadler is the middle son to Emma Wesley (2015) and Sandy Sadler Sr., with two brothers, Sandy Jr. and Cartier.



Randy distributing food at the Jellybean Learning Center III



Randy smiling with a friend at a food drive.



Randy posing at the National Association for Black Social Workers.



Randy at Love Fridge in West Humboldt Park

“

I want to be part of the change that I seek. I believe with my background in social services, child welfare, clinical therapy, community activism and an affinity for the underdog, I would not only bring a wealth of knowledge but gain substantial information that can successfully impact my community.”

~Fellow
Randy Sadler





RASHADA DAWAN

South Shore

organization

B.Fli Productions, Inc.

position

Executive Director

for more information:

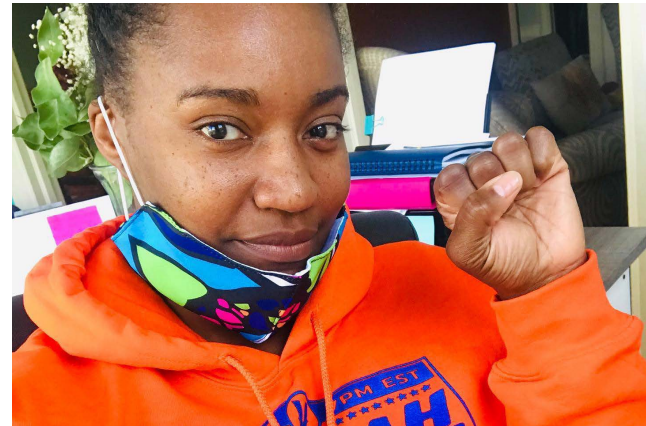
www.bfliproductions.org

Rashada Dawan is the Executive Director of B.Fli Productions. Rashada is a proud South Shore native, born and raised on the Southside of Chicago where she has been teaching and working since she was 17 years old. While serving in her church as a praise dancer, she worked with youth from ages 5-17. After graduating from Florida A&M University, she went on to work with the all-girls praise dance ministry at St. Paul CME Church for over 5 years.

Her resume includes anti-violence and bullying prevention, touring in the Broadway show Disney's "The Lion King" and serving as the CEO of a community arts organization, B.Fli Productions, Inc. where the mission is to increase mental wellness and decrease violence through performing arts. She is also the mother of Genesis Denise Hale who plays Maisha on Showtime's hit series, The Chi.



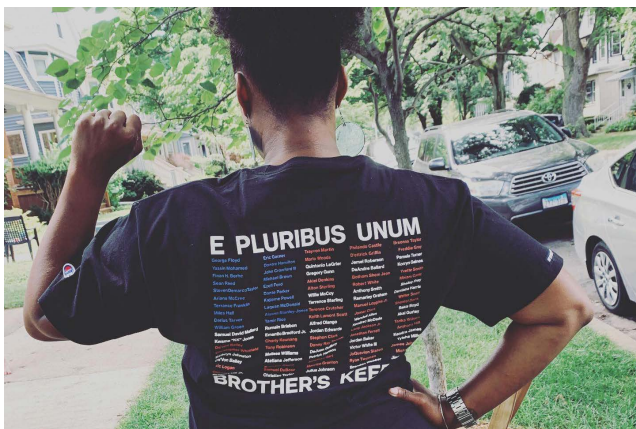
Rashada hugging a community member as a part of Opera on the Corners



Rashada taking a Black Power selfie



Rashada poses with a group of women singers and actors

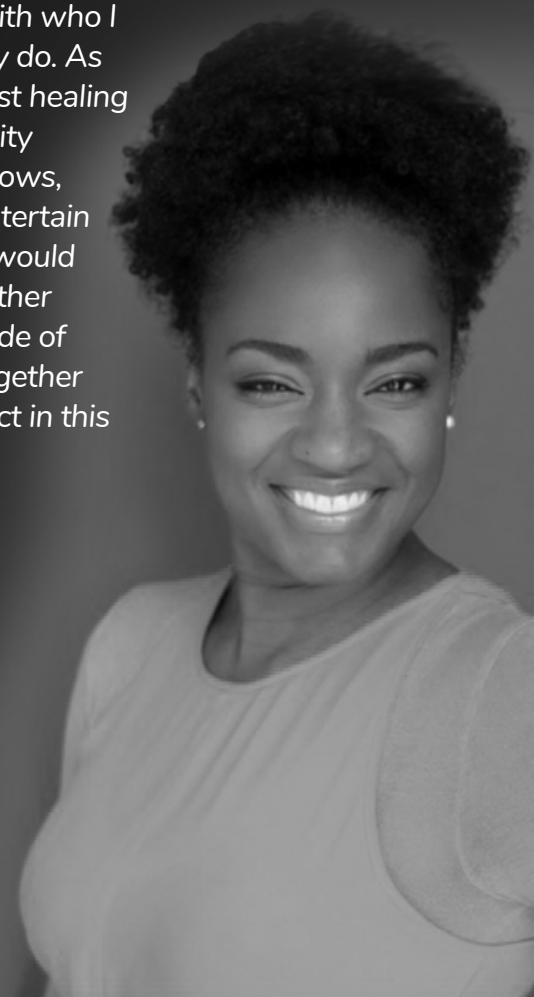


Rashada stands proudly with a Black Power fist

“

I believe I can serve as a Chicago Peace Fellow because it already coincides with who I am and what I already do. As an arts advocate, I host healing circles in my community as well as produce shows, educate youth and entertain humans of all ages. I would like to explore what other communities do outside of my own and come together to have a global impact in this world."

~Fellow
Rashada Dawan





RAYNETTA GREENLEAF

Englewood

organization

Greenleaf Motivation Inc.

position

CEO

for more information:

IG: @Greenleafmotivationinc

Raynetta Greenleaf is the CEO of Greenleaf Motivation, Inc. Raynetta was born and raised in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood and attended John W. Cook Elementary School and Simeon Career Academy. Through her work at Greenleaf Motivation Inc., Raynetta engages youth and leads violence prevention efforts in her neighborhood. She is also the owner of GreenleafTLC, which is geared towards health and wellness. Ms. Greenleaf is active with people all over the city of Chicago and is a lifelong learner who is ready for change.



Raynetta holding a Greenleaf Motivation Inc. sign



Raynetta in front of a Greenleaf for Alderman billboard



Raynetta at a community meeting on the South side.



Raynetta enjoys a Civic Partners workshop with CDOT

“

I want to help make an impact on the children in the city of Chicago. I simply want to work next to other individuals that share the same compassion about our youth and the environment they've grown up in. I want to be able to say I'm a reflection of a group whose job is to help make a positive outcome in the city of Chicago. Why? Because I'm a child from the South side of Chicago and I remember my city and what it used to be.”

~Fellow
Raynetta Greenleaf





RESHORNA FITZPATRICK

North Lawndale

organization

North Lawndale Community
Coordinating Council

position

Pastor

for more information:

www.Stonetemplechurch.org

Reshorna Fitzpatrick is Pastor of the Historic Stone Temple and a Coordinator of the North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council. Reshorna received a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration in 1986 from Talladega College; a Master's Degree in Forensic Psychology from Argosy University, and a Master's Degree in Theology in 2010, and a Doctorate of Biblical Studies in May 2013 both from North Carolina College of Theology. She is a Board Member at Faith in Place and I Am Able. She chairs the North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council and the Greening Open Water Soil Sustainability Committee.

In December 2020, Reshorna and her husband, Bishop Derrick Fitzpatrick, were acknowledged in Time Magazine as 2020 Heroes for their pioneering leadership in the North Lawndale Community. She was born in Chicago and reared in North Lawndale and West Garfield Park. She is a member of the Chi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.



Reshorna preaching at the podium



Reshorna posing with volunteers at a daily food drive



Reshorna at Stone Temple Missionary Baptist Church hosting community services during the Covid pandemic

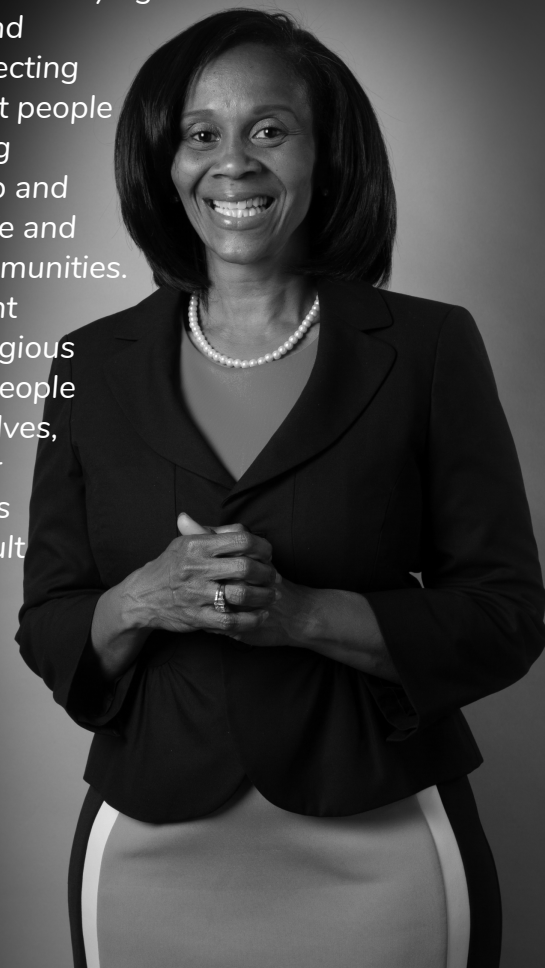


Pastor Reshorna Fitzpatrick and her husband, Bishop Derrick Fitzpatrick, before an outdoor service in July

“

As a Chicago Peace Fellow I will do my part to build strong communities by identifying organizations and resources, connecting them to the right people and empowering people to rise up and build strong, safe and sustainable communities. This engagement process is contagious and will cause people to value themselves, others, and their community. This process will result in unity in the community.”

~Fellow
Reshorna
Fitzpatrick





TIA BROWN

City-wide

organization

The Brown House
Experience

position

CEO

for more information:

www.TheBrownHouseExperience.com

Tia Brown is the CEO of The Brown House Experience. Tia is a mother of 3 daughters, a 17 year Veteran Teacher, and CEO and co-founder of The Brown House Experience, a not-for-profit organization that provides at-risk youth with interactive opportunities to enhance their academic, social and emotional intelligence through STEM, the arts, mental health, fitness, and culture.

Tia has been in the education field for over 20 years, educating all levels from day care, to a freshman level English course at SIUC, to adults as a Reading Specialist with CPS. The Brown House Experience provides unique programming and events like Trade Day, that allow youth to interact with tradesmen & women to learn new skills, as well as after-school and summer programs geared to provide the most vulnerable youth with equitable experiences and mental health strategies. Tia's goal is to enhance the lives of our youth one interactive experience at a time!



Tia at the Teacher's Strike



Tia with her family



Tia posing showcasing her book "Hey ma... Hey princess..."



Tia Brown leading a science project for youth

“

I would like to be a Chicago Peace Fellow, because I would like to connect with other people and organizations that are geared towards making proactive programs and activities to help curb the high rate of violence in our city. To work with others with a common goal of changing the dynamics of violence in Chicago is an opportunity I am looking forward to engaging in as a Chicago Peace Fellow.”

~Fellow Tia Brown





TONY RAGGS

West Humboldt, Garfield Park

organization

ALSO

position

Program Manager

for more information:

www.also-chicago.org

Tony Raggs is the Manager of Street Outreach for the Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO). Tony has more than 20 years of experience working in various capacities for nonprofit organizations in Chicago. In the last 20 years, his experience has included many years of violence prevention work in the city. He has served as a volunteer outreach worker in West Humboldt Park and West Garfield Park, and, later, as an outreach supervisor in West Humboldt Park. Most recently, he worked as a Program Coordinator at Breakthrough Urban Ministries. Over the years, he has also worked as a community activist for Bethel New Life.

Tony's background includes a dynamic creative side; he once worked as an illustrator and short story writer for Windy City Word, which was published on Chicago's West Side. At ALSO, Tony says that "This work is about changing minds and saving lives."



Tony Raggs poses with two friends in Garfield Park



Tony and the staff at ALSO



Tony out in his community working and building peace



Tony Raggs, Safe Streets Program Manager, wearing a neon yellow ALSO face mask to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

“

This work is about changing minds and saving lives.”

~Fellow Tony Raggs





VINCE CARTER

Cabrini

organization

Project Education Plus

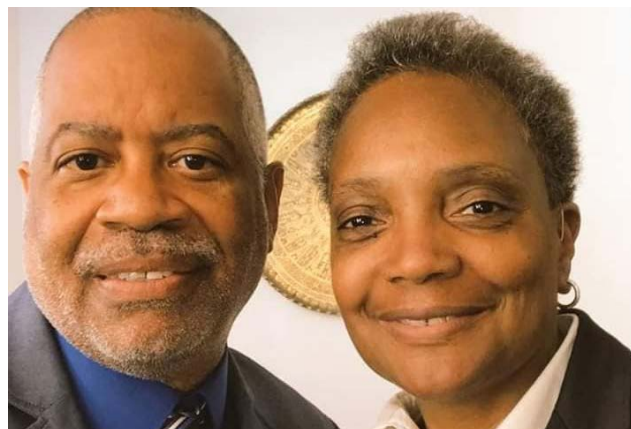
position

Executive Director

for more information:

TW: @ProjectEdPlus

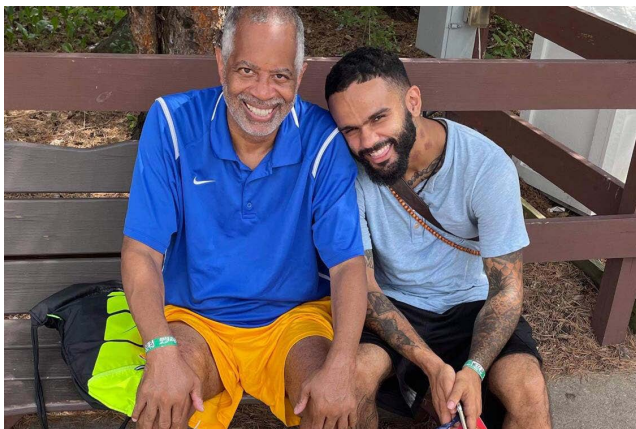
Vince Carter is the Executive Director of Project Education Plus. Vince is a life-long Chicagoan, a graduate of Chicago State University with a Bachelor's in Elementary Education, and a Master's in Athletic Management from the University of Concordia, Irvine. He has taught and coached in the Chicago Public Schools since 1976. He has been awarded several educational and athletic accolades. In 1980, he co-founded Project Education Plus (PEP), an academic and athletic program in the Cabrini-Green Near North community. Vince and others volunteered to tutor the students while they were not in school. He has served as PEP's executive director since its inception. The Chicago Demons Baseball and Basketball Programs grew out of PEP's recreational programming. He also was instrumental in developing the first Seward Park Raiders Jr. Bear Football Program and the Carson Field Baseball League. He has been instrumental in the growth of PEP into a program that includes youth, senior citizens, and families for forty years.



Vince takes a selfie with Mayor Lori Lightfoot



Vince embracing a parent at youth basketball game



Vince at work at Project Education Plus

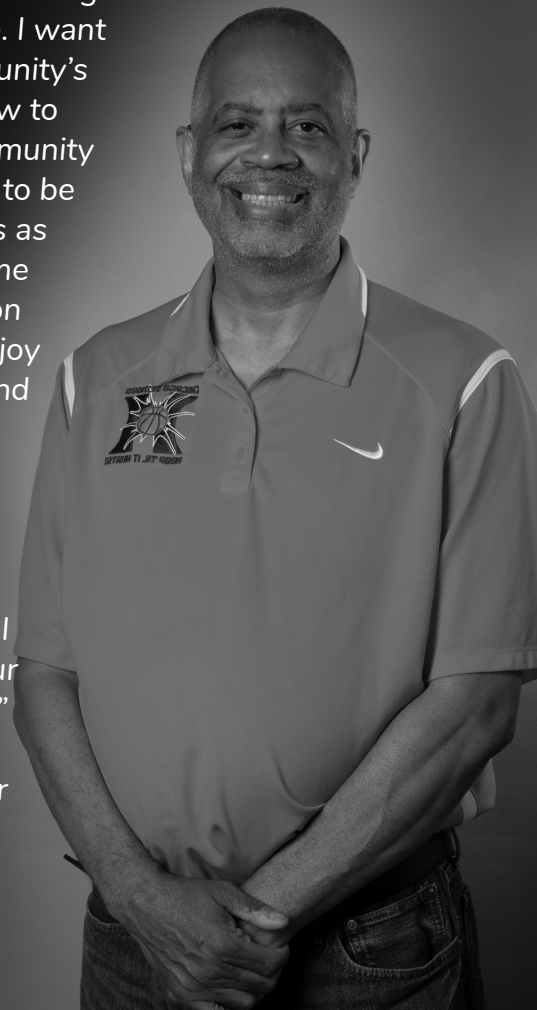


Former college participant, Jamal Akokpo's new film, *The Choice*, stars current youth Chris Gone Crazy and Debo

“

Becoming a Chicago Peace Fellow, I can gain new insight on reducing violence. I want to learn other community's best practices on how to build additional community relationships. I want to be able to inspire others as well. I feel I have some knowledge to offer on engaging youth. I enjoy working, listening, and engaging with other groups from around the city to work for the common goal of making our communities an ideal living space for all our youth and residents.”

~Fellow Vince Carter



A Global Network

After graduation the Chicago Peace Fellows will join a growing Alumni network in Chicago and around the world.


In Chicago, Fellows will be invited to join the **Mutual Aid Collaborative** founded by Peace Fellow Alumni as a sustainable base for peace building action and collective liberation.

Globally, Peace Fellows will join the **Global Alumni Network** with grassroots leaders from 27 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North and South America.

The Global Fellows meet monthly for mutual support, ongoing learning and global cooperation.

*If there's a book
that you want to
read, but it hasn't
been written yet,
then you must
write it.*

~ Toni Morrison



We know that systemic and adaptive challenges facing our communities will require **new approaches to see and change the system** by building on our local assets and unlocking the potential of emerging leaders.

The GATHER Global Alumni network meets online each month for workshops and discussions on themes selected by the alumni themselves. Recent workshops have included trainings on metrics and evaluation; children and armed conflict; decolonizing wealth with Edgar Villanueva; and preventing violent extremism.



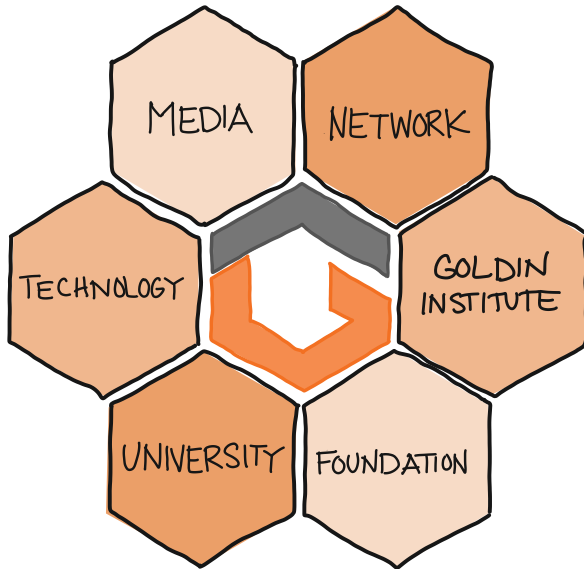


Global Network

Global Alumni Network







THE FUTURE OF GATHER

The Goldin Institute is seeking partners who are committed to a new vision of shared learning and collaboration that upends the current models of distance learning, philanthropy and leadership development.

We know that systemic and adaptive challenges facing our communities will require new approaches that help us see and change the system by building on our local assets and unlocking the potential of emerging leaders.

By linking grassroots efforts from around the world in our global network, we provide opportunities to build innovative multi-sector relationships and solutions that both adapt to particular local contexts and draw from creative solutions and approaches from around the globe.

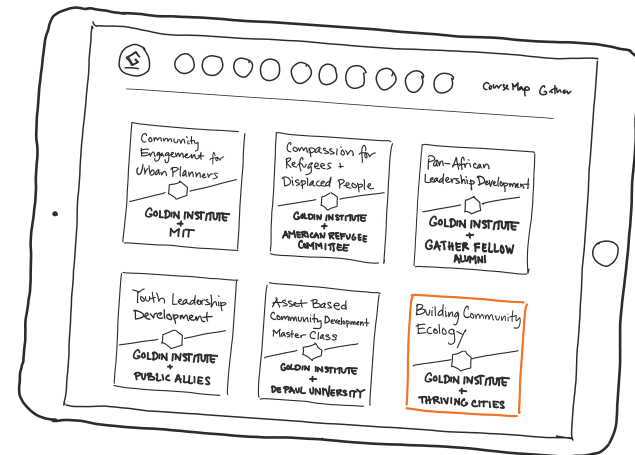
We invite new partners from the fields of technology, academia, philanthropy and the media to join us and our global network of allied organizations so we can make bottom up strategies add up to real change across the globe.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We are committed to expanding the GATHER curriculum in partnership with leading organizations in a variety of fields who can bring unique assets and insights to the shared vision of helping people learn and work together to solve tough issues.

Please reach out to us to learn how the GATHER platform serve your community or organization. We are eager expand the curriculum available to our global network and connect new communities to the GATHER Alumni Network.

We look forward to continuing to build on the growing network of Chicago area peace builders — now 100 strong — who are working on the front lines.



Thank You

Today, Chicago is stained by an enduring legacy of racial injustice that is laid bare by the disproportionate impact of the twin pandemics of violence and COVID-19 on our communities on the South and West sides of Chicago. Now in its **third year**, the Chicago Peace Fellows has grown into an inspiring and powerful network of **60 community leaders** who live and work in these neighborhoods and address these challenges by practicing a liberatory model of shared leadership, collaborative decision-making and collective action.

The Goldin Institute is proud to bring back home to Chicago the learnings from the last 20 years of experience gained by partnering with grassroots leaders and their communities across the globe. Literally thousands of conversations with community leaders from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, the streets of Port au Prince to the Boardrooms of international agencies,

have informed the curriculum and improved the GATHER platform. We wish to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of our global team.

We want to begin by thanking the **2021 class of Chicago Peace Fellows** whose hard work, dedication, and insightful conversations have made hosting the course deeply meaningful and have expanded the network of leaders who together make Chicago a more peaceful, just and equitable city. It was an honor to learn and work alongside you during this course and we look forward to our continued relationship as you join the **Mutual Aid Collaborative** and the **Global Alumni Network**.

The Chicago Peace Fellows was made possible by an incredible, dedicated, and talented team to whom we express our deepest appreciation:

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Aziz Asphahani
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The following organizations and groups who **extended critical assistance, hosted workshops, collaborated on peace building projects** and shared insights to make the Chicago Peace Fellows an inspiring and productive experience:

Agape Werks, Alliance for the South East, Annie B. Jones Community Services, Asset Based Community Development Institute, the Black Star Project, Bold Ventures, Breakthrough Urban Ministries, Bright Star Church, Bright Star Community Outreach, Brothers Standing Together, Center for New Horizons, Chicago Community Trust, Chicago CRED, Chicago Beyond, Chicago Department of Transportation, Chicago Eco House, Chicago Freedom School, Chicago Mobile Makers, Chicago Park District, Chicago Police Department, Chicago Public Libraries, Chopin Theater, CompassionIt, Conant Family Foundation, Crossroads Fund, Crown Family Foundation, Cure Violence, DePaul University, DePaul University Egan Office of Urban Education, DePaul University Steans Center, Firehouse Community Arts Center, Future Ties, GAP Community Center, Girls Like Me Project, Global Girls, Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation, Greencorps, Grow Greater Englewood, Healing Hurt People, Heartland Alliance READI Program, Homan Grown, ICIJA, Illinois HEALS, Imani Community Development Corporation, Institute for Nonviolence Chicago, Joyce Foundation, Ladies of Virtue, Leader Champions, LevelUp, LiftUp Enterprises, MacArthur Foundation, McCormick Foundation, Metropolitan Chicago Syndicate of the Evangelical Lutheran

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We are proud to collaborate with each of you in our shared mission to build a more safe and peaceful future for Chicago as a model for communities around the world.

Sincerely,

Diane Goldin

Founder & Board Chair

Travis Rejman

Executive Director

The Goldin Institute extends it's deepest appreciation to the Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities and the following philanthropic partners for your generous support of the 2021 Chicago Peace Fellows:

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Seabury Foundation
Walder Family Foundation
Williams Family Foundation*

Thank you to our generous network of champions for community driven social change for supporting the
Chicago Peace Fellows.

*Look closely at the present you are
constructing: it should look like the
future you are dreaming.*

~ Alice Walker

2021

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