



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 2022 COHORT

CIVIC ACTORS



DANIEL ANELLO has served as CEO of Kids First Chicago since 2015. He previously served as the chief of strategy and external relations for Chicago International Charter School. Anello brings deep quantitative analytical skills and authentic lived experience to his role in supporting parent-led and data-informed change within Chicago's public schools.



JAMIL CARY is the manager of academics and enrichment at MetroSquash and a dedicated changemaker. He is also a gemini.

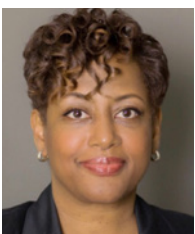


QUINTON R. ARTHUR is a member of 100 Black Men of Chicago, Inc., where he serves as the Membership Engagement Co-Chair, and the senior external affairs manager at the Chicago Urban League. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Northern Illinois University, a Master of Science in Journalism from Roosevelt University, and is a Maynard 200 Fellow and

National Urban League Emerging Leader.



KATE COLLINS is a Chicago-based actress, acting coach, and teacher. She most recently performed in Oedipus Rex at Court Theatre. She is currently working as an acting coach for Chicago Booth's Leadership Studio with Harry Davis.



NICOLE (NICKIE) BROOKENS is a youth literacy advocate and founder of PLAN4SUCCESS. The organization teaches life skills and offers resources to teens in the areas of college prep, career development, and financial literacy. It has serviced more than 850 teens and awarded 141 college scholarships. The organization's college cohort attends 50+ colleges and

universities across the nation.



NOELLE GIPSON is a dynamic professional with a track record of developing relationships, leading teams through the entire project lifecycle, and guiding people to success. She is an expert at forming cross-functional teams and is on a mission to ensure that the leaders of today and tomorrow have the tools they need to make a difference in the world. Gipson has steadfast faith in her ability to affect sizable social and cultural change.

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KIMBERLEE GUENTHER serves as chief impact officer at United Way of Metro Chicago, where she leads the organization's Neighborhood Network initiative and co-managed the Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund. Prior to joining United Way, Guenther was a community-based researcher, combining arts programming and ethnography at The Field Museum and the Center for Urban Research and Learning at Loyola University.



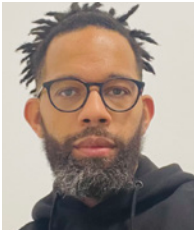
AJA PANDEY a dancer/arts administrator/artist originally from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. She has performed in theaters across the East Coast as well as most recently interning at the Bates Dance Festival for their 40th anniversary. She has just joined Deeply Rooted Dance Theater in Chicago as their new Marketing Manager and she is ecstatic to be joining the Civic Actor Studio in its 5th cohort.



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



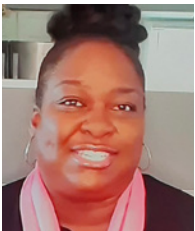
TANESHA PEEPLES is the founder of The Roots Initiative, director of Strategic Partnerships and Innovation with Wayfinder Foundation, a Surge Institute alumnus, and a member of Education Leaders of Color (EdLoc). Peeples' passion for people and relentless pursuit of equality, justice, and liberation drive her in uplifting and amplifying the voices and advocacy of those who are often ignored, specifically in public education.



NICK JONES is was born and raised on the south side of Chicago in the Roseland Community and is the product of Chicago Public Schools. Jones had served Chicago students and families in different capacities over the past 13 years. Currently, Jones serves Chicago students and families within Noble Schools as the Assistant Director of Student Support and Culture.



RONALD PRINCE is a guitarist, recording engineer and music instructor with the Music Box Foundation.



LATRICE McARTHUR is the executive director and founder of Wellness with Bella (formerly Bella Cuisine), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide access and opportunities for children residing in divested Chicago neighborhoods.



NIKKI WILLIAMS RUCKER is a professional with a heart for civic engagement, especially for young people. She is a wife and mom of two amazing children. After spending 17 years in the classroom, she has now dedicated her life to ensuring that young people have spaces where they feel seen, heard, valued, and safe.



ALEAH MOORE is the founder and CEO, Lead Business Development for Boss Women Matter, a community organization and entrepreneurial resource for women business owners.



MALKIA STAMPLEY is a Chicago transplant from Milwaukee, Wisconsin; a mother; a wife; and an artist. She is the artistic producer at Goodman Theatre and has spent her entire adult life in the theater, performing, directing and now producing, curating, collaborating, and exploring her next chapter in institutional arts leadership.



LONNIE DEE NORWOOD, JR. is a music educator and singer who is unapologetically enthusiastic about African musical studies. Norwood is a community builder and budding world traveler who is passionate about family and trying new foods!

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for international experiences.

KIMBERLY TOWNSEND studied theatre in undergrad and has also worked as an actor on several local productions. Currently working as the chief program officer for a local nonprofit, the Chicago native has 17 years of international development work experience, and has recently returned to Chicago to support youth development initiatives and provide opportunities



managing the district's service-learning initiative and directed partnerships for a global nonprofit, WE Charity. She is a proud South Sider and a new resident of the South Shore community.

LAUREN M. WOODS is a fourth-generation Chicagoan, storyteller, civic practitioner, and mixed media artist. She is a program manager for the building collective power strategy at The Chicago Community Trust. In this role she is responsible for stewarding the media and storytelling portfolio. Prior to joining the Trust, Woods worked at Chicago Public Schools



CIERA WHITAKER, MBA is the office manager/SSA#42 assistant of South Shore Chamber Community Development Corp., implementing programs, providing professional coaching services, developing impactful strategies and leveraging financial resources for small minority owned businesses.

CIVIC FACILITATORS

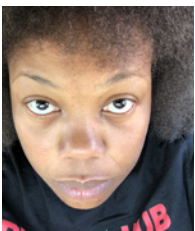


JOANIE FRIEDMAN is the executive director of Civic Leadership in the Office of Civic Engagement at the University of Chicago. She is an arts instigator and a community alchemist, creating spaces where groups of people can establish trusting relationships through artistic practice. She is a co-founder of the Civic Actor Studio.



with artists to create transformative spaces that amplify the human spirit.

JILL LECESNE POTTER is the Lyric Opera's senior director of learning programs. Potter has led the successful expansion of arts opportunities for young people through strategic partnership building with cultural and educational institutions, and community-based organizations in Chicago and beyond. A native New Orleanian, Potter believes in cultivating vibrant communities



SENYAH HAYNES creates, consults, trains, instructs, keeps circles, attends to birthing mothers, mentors, and myriad other things. She has held many titles over the years and until "Community Alchemist," her coolest one was "Culture Connector."



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.



CHARLIE NEWELL has been artistic director at Court Theatre since 1994 and has directed at the Goodman Theatre, Guthrie Theater, Arena Stage, John Houseman's The Acting Company, the California and Alabama Shakespeare festivals, Juilliard, and New York University. He is one of the co-founders of the Civic Actor Studio.