

CIVIC ACTOR STUDIO

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

FALL 2021

A collaboration between



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

Office of Civic
Engagement



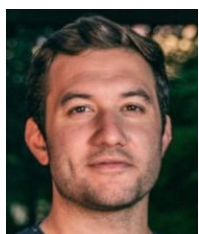
The Civic Actor Studio at the University of Chicago is a civic leadership retreat designed to help strengthen the performative aspect of civic leaders and accelerate civic trust through Classic Theater.

CIVIC ACTORS



ADRIAN SEGURA was born and raised in Chicago and has more than a decade of experience in nonprofit and government sector leadership in engagement, program design, performance management, organizational change management, education, public policy, and innovation. As the chief officer of Family and Community Engagement for Chicago Public

Schools, Adrian creates inclusive spaces to elevate the perspectives of CPS families to inform responsive policies that reflect their values and experiences.



ANDREW DEMURO lives a double-life as musician and educator, compiling a decade of experience as a teacher, an instructional coach, a contestant on NBC's "The Voice," and most recently, as regional director for Guitars Over Guns, a nonprofit that offers youth a powerful combination of music education and mentoring relationships with professional musicians to help

them unlock their potential. Andrew is a proud alum of the Center for Effective Government's Civic Leadership Academy, and looks forward to further examining the intersection where the arts & leadership meet.



ANWULIKA ANIGBO is a visual artist, thought partner, and mother aspiring to create worlds for herself and those who seek rest, redemption, and restoration. She has a deep love for Mr. Rogers and hopes to be a neighbor.



BARBARA LEE WILLIAMS is a reader, writer, translator, performing and visual artist. Central Illinois-born, south suburban-bred, Chicago-seasoned.



DARNELL LEATHERWOOD is a quantitatively trained interdisciplinary social scientist, educator, and social entrepreneur. He currently lectures on race, data analysis, and adolescent development at the University of Chicago, is a National Science Foundation Fellow in Advanced Quantitative Research Methods, and holds publicly-elected office on a Board of

Education. In 2017, he founded Black Boys Shine, Inc. (501c3) which is purposed to illuminate the character and contributions of Black boys and men nationally and internationally.



DERRICK MARCELL FLEMING, JR.—also known as "Derrick The Gent"—is the man to make things happen when you think of style and class, organization and structure, education and empowerment, and equity and advocacy. With a heart to serve and a passion for youth and system change, Derrick brings electrifying energy to any atmosphere.



DR. DOMINICA MCBRIDE is a leading thinker on how we evolve beyond the current racial-equity paradigm, a champion of Culturally Responsive Evaluation, and a grassroots advocacy strategist. She founded BECOME, an innovative movement-building nonprofit that facilitates grassroots community leadership in 2013 from a belief that communities should be at

the center of creating the reality they want and need.



DR. JANINE FRANKLIN, affectionately called Dr. J, is a scholar, education leader, mentor, and passionate youth development specialist committed to equity in education for Black and Brown students and/or first-generation students in the city of Chicago. Currently, Janine is the senior director of Student Culture and Support for Noble Schools and has served in various

professional and civic capacities within education for almost a decade.



HANNAH EL-AMIN is the director and founder of Alif Schoolhouse, a cooperative early education program founded on the mission of making nurturing, thoughtful, high-quality, and inspired education financially accessible to all families. The program also focuses on building community bonds via connections made in the program. Hannah is also a registered dietitian

working in nutrition and diabetes education.



JASMIN CARDENAS is a Colombian-American storyteller, theater director/deviser, community organizer, and arts educator working with youth and working adults to harness the power of art in action. Co-founder of WorkersTEATRO, she co-creates with low-wage working adults to tell powerful stories of exploitation and discrimination to pursue policy

change, educate, and heal.



JHMIRA ALEXANDER is the president and executive director of Public Narrative. Jhmira is a trained journalist who is not only a storyteller but a strategist committed to improving community health and well-being through media and civic engagement. Under her leadership, Public Narrative uses storytelling to implement narrative change strategies related to

public safety, health, and education.



JILL LECESNE POTTER, as chief program officer of Urban Gateways, guides the strategy, development, and implementation of arts programming across a broad sector of learning environments. Her career is grounded by a commitment to creating artistic spaces that generate critical dialogue and build community at the intersection of art and social justice.



JOSEPH WILLIAMS is a lifelong Chicagoan, and resides in Englewood with his wife and five children. He created Mr. Dad's Father's Club in 2017 to help fathers become actively involved in their children's lives through mentoring and literacy. Mr. Williams is also a community activist and a former 15th Ward alderman candidate. Mr. Williams serves as chairman of Beasley

Academic Center's Parent Advisory Council and the Local School Council.



JUREMA GORHAM is an transformative nonprofit leader with more than 13 years of experience in K-12 education. Her mission is to remix the narratives that have been created about Black and Brown communities.



LIDDELL-JEGEN MCGUIRE is an assistant principal at Thomas Kelly College Prep in Brighton Park. She is a mother to a 3 year old, Zora Josephine. Her passion is spending time with family, reading literature, and listening to music to connect with people through their stories, and improving student experiences through equity work and courageous conversations.



LYNNE PACE GREEN is an arts education leader with a history of success in developing innovative, quality programs; sustainable projects; and vibrant learning communities. She has worked with arts organizations, artists, teachers and principals throughout Chicago to bring power and voice to CPS youth by creating equitable access to the arts.



MALCOLM EVANS has served as the production manager for Urban Growers Collective since 2018. Malcolm was a Production and Marketing program assistant at Growing Power, Inc. for seven years. Malcolm began his farming career at the age of 12, when Growing Power installed the Chicago Lights Urban Farm and Community Garden in the Cabrini-Green neighborhood.



TOMMIE COLLINS is a storyteller with a designer's toolkit. He desires to share undiscovered and often overlooked stories, create experiences, and, most of all, impact lives. Tommie currently serves as a design strategist for ChiByDesign, a social and civic impact design firm.



SENYAH HAYNES is an artist, a youth development practitioner, and a children's book author.



WILL GRANDBERRY, a graduate of Howard University, has a charismatic approach to ministry that pierces the heart and mind of all generations. He is the senior director of Outreach and Community Development for New Life Covenant Southeast and the Chance Center Inc.



SHAZ RASUL is the executive director of Education Partnerships at the University of Chicago's Office of Civic Engagement. Over 20 years at the University, he has created numerous partnership initiatives that support local schools and community organizations, and developed student civic engagement. Shaz has also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in South Africa, and is

presently serving on the boards of EasterSeals Chicago and MetroSquash.

CIVIC FACILITATORS



Civic Actor Studio.

AUDREY PETTY is director of the Sojourner Scholars Program (for South Side high school students) at Illinois Humanities, a teaching artist with Prison + Neighborhood Arts Project, and a senior fellow with the Invisible Institute. Audrey grew up in Chatham and Hyde Park, and now makes her home in South Shore with her family. Audrey was a participant in the 2019



color where they feel valued and have clear pathways to opportunity. Chris was a participant in the Spring 2021 Civic Actor Studio.

CHRIS GOINS is a former founding high school principal and now serves as the chief equity officer at Thrive Chicago and the impact leader for My Brothers Keeper Chicago (MBK), in partnership with the Obama Foundation. Through MBK, Chris is leading a cross-sector Chicago call-to-action focused on building a safe and supportive community for boys and young men of



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 was one of the co-founders of the Civic Actor Studio.



focused on providing mentoring services to at-risk youth on the South Side of Chicago. He has worked for Urban Male Network, Guide Right, and Chicago Votes. Darius was a participant in the 2019 Civic Actor Studio.

DARIUS BALLINGER is the founder and president of Chasing23 Youth Empowerment Group. He holds an AS in Human Sciences (Liberal Arts) from the City Colleges of Chicago Kennedy-King, and is currently completing a BS in Entrepreneurship from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Darius most recently served on a team at the KLEO Center that



GABBY RANDLE-BENT is a scholar, director, and dramaturg who is passionate about social justice, storytelling, and the power of performance to change the world. She has a dual BA degree in Drama and Sociology from Stanford University and an MA degree in Performance as Public Practice at The University of Texas at Austin. She has directed, devised, dramaturged,

and produced professionally across the United States in Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Austin, and New York City (off-Broadway) and internationally on three continents. She was one of the co-founders of the Civic Actor Studio.



HARRY DAVIS studies leadership, strategy, creativity, and innovation. He earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology in 1959 and MBA in Marketing in 1960 from Dartmouth College. He earned a master's degree in Sociology in 1969 and PhD in Marketing in 1970 from Northwestern University. He was one of the co-founders of the Civic Actor Studio.



JOANIE FRIEDMAN is the executive director of Civic Leadership in the Office of Civic Engagement at the University of Chicago. Working across the University, she raises the visibility of programs and partnerships that strengthen the civic sector by investing in civic leaders. She is one of the co-founders and community alchemists of the Civic Actor Studio at

the University of Chicago.
