

CIVIC ACTOR STUDIO AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

2022

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



LORI D. BARCLIFF BAPTISTA

is the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Advising and Professor of Instruction in the Department of Performance Studies in Northwestern's School of Communication. Lori builds upon collaborative relationships with visual and performing artists, museums, cultural centers, theatre companies and formerly

incarcerated women to mount community-curated exhibitions, documentary film projects, staged readings and arts education programs that explore how people attempt to make sense of and navigate their places in the world.



DIRRICK BUTLER, founder and executive director of Project OneTen, believes that the status quo exists only to challenge it. In his work, he challenges students of color to dream big by providing them the tools and resources to self-determine a future of their own design.



GABRIEL COOMBS is a Chicago native raised and educated on the South Side committed to supporting Black and brown students and bridging socioeconomic barriers for brighter outcomes. She currently is the program director at MetroSquash, a long-term, out-of-school program that provides educational support, enrichment, and sports engagement.



DEVIN EVANS is an English Language Arts teacher-leader in Chicago. He is a reformer, co-founder of the Black Male Educator Alliance of Illinois, and a mentor to dozens of young adults and teachers.



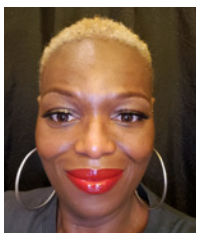
CORNELIUS GRAVES IV is a Chicago native finishing a master's of Divinity at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, developing new teachers at KidTek, and dreaming up a healthier, more playful world led by the children.



HAYDEE LOPEZ is a visual arts teacher at Thomas Kelly College Prep, a position she has held for the past 23 years. She runs the world travel club and is the department chair for visual art.



BILLY MCGUINNESS is an artist, teacher, arts administrator, and executive director of the Seabury Foundation. He is married, with a 13-year-old son, and lives in Chicago's Pullman neighborhood.



WANDA OBAZEE is a lifelong admirer of how people use imagination and creativity in navigating their way through this world. Obazee believes people elevate and add value to their lives when they willingly and collectively suspend disbelief through books and entertainment. She believes it keeps us in touch with our inner child.



DR. TAMARA HOFF POPE is the vice president of Programs at Chicago Scholars where she oversees Chicago Scholars' seven-year program model including the selection, counseling, mentoring, training, and leadership development of academically ambitious students from under-resourced communities.



SHAKA RAWLS grew up in the Woodlawn community of Chicago, experiencing the injustices that plagued our city in the '80s and '90s. That experience guides his activism, as he works to instill civic engagement as a life cornerstone for the young people he serves at Leo High School.



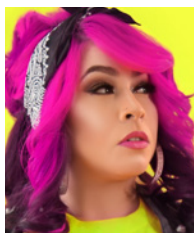
RACHEL REICHLIN is a Senior Program Officer with Michael Reese Health Trust where she mobilizes resources and partners in ways that help communities, organizations, and systems heal and thrive. She is excited to bring her curiosity, laugh, and love for making connections to the Civic Actor Studio's 4th cohort.



CECILY RELUCIO is the program director of the Surge Chicago Fellowship and co-director of the Truth, Healing and Equity Fellowship, both of which center ancestral wisdoms and the liberation of Black and Indigenous Peoples of Color, and aspire to create greater racial equity, healing, and justice. Relucio is a proud Pinay mama to 18- and 14-year-old daughters, Vanessa and Mia, and she lives in a vibrant blended family home in Albany Park with her loving partner and his daughter and two sons.



TRINA REYNOLDS-TYLER is a Chicago South Side native and data journalist at the Invisible Institute where she investigates gender-based violence at the hands of police. She is also an organizer with Not Me, We, a mutual aid group who organizes for housing protections win South Shore.



PINQY RING is a Puerto Rican rapper, activist, speaker, and hip hop educator born and bred in Chicago. She is a proud U.S. Hip Hop Cultural Ambassador, traveling overseas to manage and facilitate hip hop diplomacy programming. A Latina artist on the rise, Pinqy Ring shines bright with the determination to share her story while encouraging others to find their truth, live in it unapologetically, and tell it authentically.



TOY ROBINSON is the 2nd year coordinator of the Odyssey Project at Illinois Humanities. The Odyssey Project is a free college-credit bearing humanities program for income-eligible adults who have had limited access to higher education. Toy is passionate about non-traditional learning and building community.



CHARLIQUE C. ROLLE is an arts administrator, performing artist, award-winning choreographer, director, producer, and the executive director of Congo Square Theatre Company. Rolle is passionate about seeing the arts thrive, developing artists, ensuring that Black stories are unapologetically and authentically told through our lenses, and ensuring equity in the arts for Black and BIPOC artists.



MOLLIE STONE serves as Choral Conductor & Lecturer at the University of Chicago, and Programming Outreach Director for Village Harmony. Her passion is creating opportunities for musicians to learn directly from culture-bearers and their communities, and facilitating collaborations and projects that support culture bearers in sharing their music on their own terms.



DORIAN SYLVAIN works to build the next generation of "Culture Keepers" through her mural practice that reimagines space with color and design. Her practice aims to elevate neighborhood aesthetics and foster shared understandings.



FLO WALKER-HARRIS is a multi-ethnic interdisciplinary artistic change agent whose choreography, directing, producing, and innovative arts development career spans three decades. She believes in direct, collaborative, and transformative leadership and her work can be found throughout the Chicagoland area, Atlanta, and Florida to name a few.



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.



DEKEVIOUS WILSON is originally from Arkansas and taking full advantage of what Chicago has to offer. Currently he is the regional manager of Becoming a Man at Youth Guidance. He can't wait to connect!



KRISTA WORTENDYKE is a Chicago-based conceptual artist, educator, and arts administrator. Wortendyke is currently the manager of Student Programs for the Arts Education Department at Chicago Public Schools.

CIVIC FACILITATORS



DOMINIQUE ATWOOD is an artist, educator, and entrepreneur. She is the founder and executive director of Dance Connect Worldwide, a resource hub for dancers.



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



HARRY L. 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 is one of the co-founders of the Civic Actor Studio.



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.



DERRICK MARCELL FLEMING, JR. is the man who comes to mind when you think of style and class; organization and structure; education and empowerment; equity and advocacy. With a heart to serve and a passion for youth, collective impact, and systems change, Fleming brings electrifying energy to any atmosphere.



CAROLYN OU is an executive/leadership coach with more than 25 years of experience in management consulting, marketing, entrepreneurship, and higher education leadership. She is particularly passionate about helping emerging and unsung leaders identify and explore who they are at the core, and how they want to show up in this world.



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 of the Civic Actor Studio at the University of Chicago.



CRE WALLS is an improviser and youth advocate and enjoys connecting people to the outdoors. He is very excited to be working with the Civic Actor Studio as a facilitator.
