

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EQUITY – Appointee Bios



Victor B. Dickson [Reappointment] (Co-Chair) is the President /CEO of Safer Foundation, a national leader in the fields of community corrections, prisoner reentry and workforce development. His experience includes more than 20 years in the corporate sector with AT&T and Sprint. Mr. Dickson finished his corporate career at Sprint Corporation as National Vice President Sales Support & Infrastructure Services. In addition, Victor served as Chief Operating Officer for a local non-profit where he directed a variety of entities providing social services, education, and relief efforts locally and abroad. Mr. Dickson was recently reappointed by Governor Pritzker to the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board. He has previously served as an appointee to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Advisory Council and the Illinois State Treasurer’s General Investment Fund Advisory Board. Mr. Dickson is a graduate of Roosevelt University.



Esther Nieves [Reappointment] (Co-Chair) has worked with grassroots, statewide, and national organizations. Her career experience includes leadership positions in city government (Chicago), not-for-profit/non-governmental, and philanthropy. In these roles, she has supported communities' engagement and leadership participation in efforts that improve their quality of life, advance inclusion, and bring about social, political, and economic equity. Her experience includes serving as director of WK Kellogg Foundation's leadership fellowship program (Community Leadership Network) and as program officer for the community and civic engagement portfolio; national director of American Friends Service Committee's Project Voice/Human Migration and Mobility Initiative (Philadelphia); executive director of Erie Neighborhood House (Chicago) and, program officer at the Field Foundation of Illinois. Her service in municipal government includes her appointment by Chicago's Mayor Washington as the second executive director of the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs.



Niketa Brar [Reappointment] serves as the founding executive director of Chicago United for Equity (CUE). She comes to this work from a career working to bring a community-centered approach to government, starting during her time advising a city councilmember in Oakland, California. Additionally, she currently serves on the Local School Council at National Teachers Academy, a Level 1+ school serving a majority Black, majority low-income student population. She co-founded CUE with LSC President Elisabeth Greer as they worked together to organize parents, students, and a larger citywide coalition to fight this school closing. Niketa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy and International Affairs from the George Washington University, a Masters of Arts in Teaching Secondary Mathematics from American University, and a Masters in Public Policy from the Ford School at the University of Michigan.



Arianna Cisneros [Reappointment] is a program officer for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, where she is responsible for identifying and supporting equitable and transformative early childhood and education systems across the country. Ms. Cisneros has experience in consulting, grantmaking, capacity building, facilitation & training, policy advocacy, global research, and program evaluation. As a child of immigrants and first-generation college graduate hailing from the south side of Chicago, Ms. Cisneros is committed to dismantling racial and social injustice so that all individuals have the power, resources, and opportunities to reach their full potential.



Chandra Christmas-Rouse [New member] is a Senior Manager at Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC). A background in community development and environmental justice informs her design approach of working with community stakeholders in a participatory process to support capacity building, achieve place-based solutions, and reimagine systems. At MPC, she leads the Change Lab initiative which equips advocates, the public sector, and private entities with the skills and tools to affect structural change and to institutionalize equity. Chandra also directs MPC's housing policy work and supports land use & planning and equitable transit-oriented development (eTOD) programs by advancing research, policy advocacy, and outreach efforts. Her past experiences include integrating policy and strategy consulting with technical knowledge to advance economic mobility and sustainability for a number of organizations and firms including the United Nations, Jacobs Engineering Group and Enterprise Community Partners. She has been named a 2020 Threewalls RaD Lab+Outside the Walls Artist Fellow and 2023 Chicago United for Equity Fellow. She serves as the co-chair of Elevated Chicago and on the board of Equiticity. Chandra was also appointed by IL Governor Pritzker to serve on the Illinois Clean Energy Jobs and Justice Fund Board.



Mary Kate Daly [New member] has been at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago for 22 years and has served in various external affairs positions. In her current role as Vice President, Magoon Institute for Healthy Communities, she provides leadership and strategic direction for the hospital's community health programs and initiatives. The goal of the Magoon Institute at Lurie Children's is to advance health equity for youth in Chicago. Mary Kate and her team do this by building strong collaborations with community organizations to address shared health priorities, including social and structural influencers of health, violence and injury, mental health and chronic health conditions. Mary Kate has been a Leadership Greater Chicago fellow since 2015, and she currently serves Chicago Youth Program's Board of Directors and the iHeart Media Local Advisory Board. She earned a BA from the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts in 1998 and an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management in 2007.



Bob Glaves [New member] has been Executive Director of The Chicago Bar Foundation since 1999, prior to which he had a successful nine-year career as a civil litigator in private practice. As Executive Director of the CBF, Glaves is responsible for leading and overseeing the CBF's work that brings Chicago's legal community together to improve access to justice for people in need and to make the legal system more fair, equitable, and effective. Glaves currently serves on the Illinois Judicial Conference, previously was the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Donors Forum and President of the National Conference of Bar Foundations, served on other nonprofit boards, and continues to be active in a number of other nonprofit, court, and bar initiatives. He is a graduate of The John Marshall Law School and received a B.A. degree in Political Science and Journalism from the University of Wisconsin.



Teny Gross [New member] is Founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Nonviolence Chicago. A veteran of the Israeli Defense Force, Teny began his career working to build peace between Palestinians and Israelis. Soon after, he became a street outreach worker in Boston. He was later founder and CEO for the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence in Providence, RI in 2001. In 2015, Teny was recruited to Chicago to aid in our violence reduction efforts. He founded the Institute for Nonviolence Chicago and now serves as Executive Director. Teny is actively involved in shaping Chicago's citywide community violence intervention strategy and building partnerships with key institutions—what he terms the New Civilian Architecture of Violence Reduction. Teny has a BFA from Tufts, an MTS from Harvard, and a fellowship in Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management from Harvard Business School.



Lisa Yun Lee [New member] is the Executive Director of the National Public Housing Museum, a cultural activist, and an Associate Professor of Public Culture and Museum Studies in the UIC School of Art & Art History, teaches classes at Stateville Prison as faculty with the Prison and Neighborhood Arts/Education Project, and is a member and Board member of the Chicago Torture Justice Memorials. Lisa is working with public housing residents to open a museum in the last remaining building of the historic Jane Addams Homes with the mission to preserve, interpret and propel housing as a human right. As the previous Director of the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, she oversaw a renovation of one of the US's most important historic sites, installed a new permanent exhibition, and reinvigorated public programming. As the Director of the UIC School of Art & Art History from 2010-2017, she helped to find the Museum and Exhibition Studies Program that is committed to social justice. She served on both Mayor Brandon Johnson and Mayor Lori Lightfoot's Arts & Culture Transition Teams. She was recently reappointed by Governor Pritzker to the Board of the Illinois State Museum, and serves on the Boards of 3Arts, and the Field Foundation, and the Chicago Torture Justice Memorials.



Liliana Scales [New member] serves as the State Director for the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition (ICJC). The Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition (ICJC) is made up of hundreds of environmental advocacy organizations, businesses, community leaders, consumer advocates, environmental justice groups, and faith-based and student organizations working together to improve public health and the environment, protect consumers, and create equitable, clean jobs across the state. After more than three years of community organizing and policy leadership, in 2021, ICJC was instrumental in helping pass the nation-leading Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA). Prior to her current role with the ICJC, Lili served as the Advocacy Director at a nonprofit where she led coalition building in support of independent redistricting and was responsible for the organization's census efforts. She has also served as the VP of External Relations and Resource Development for a human services nonprofit in Chicago, serving veterans who were experiencing homelessness and children in foster care, where she was responsible for and led all fundraising, media, marketing and advocacy efforts. Lili is a graduate of John Carroll University (Cleveland, OH) where she received her Masters in Nonprofit Administration. She was

a 2020 Chicago United for Equity Fellow and has recently been appointed to serve on the Clean Energy Jobs and Justice Fund Board for Illinois.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LGBTQ+ Issues – Appointee Bios



Don Abram (he/him) [**New member**] is the founder and Executive Director of Pride in the Pews, an organization that aims to create connections with the LGBTQ+ community and the Black Church. Don is a graduate of the Harvard Divinity School and a recipient of the 2023 Chicago Proud Award.



Maliyah Arnold (she/her)- [**Reappointment**] is an openly transgender activist, model, and actress. Maliyah serves on the board of directors for Howard Brown Healthcare, a federally qualified healthcare center focused on providing affirming care to the LGBTQ community. Additionally, she has recently joined the board of directors of Brave Space Alliance, a trans-led LGBTQ center dedicated to providing affirming programming & resources on the South and West sides of the city.



Don Bell (he/him) [**New member**] is a retired college administrator, an LGBTQ+ activist, and a founding ally of Affinity Community Services. He is a resident of Town Hall Apartments, Chicago's first affordable housing complex to be LGBTQ+ senior-friendly. He serves as Chair of Governor Pritzker's Illinois Commission on LGBTQ Aging.



Miguel A. Blancarte, Jr. (he/him/él) [**New member**] founded Blancarte Strategies, a health, equity, and community social impact strategies firm. He was previously the Director of COVID-19

Response and Community Outreach at Esperanza Health Centers. Miguel served on Mayor Johnson's Health and Human Services Transition Subcommittee.



Robert Castillo (he/him) **[New member]** is an organizer and Chicago Hall of Fame inductee. He and his partner were involved in the first case involving sexual orientation that proceeded under the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance. The couple was arrested with others after dancing as same-sex couples in a suburban bar. Today, Robert is a tireless advocate for affordable housing.



Stefanie Clark (she/her) **[New member]** is a transgender activist, model, and advocate for LGBTQ+ seniors. She is a member of The Village Chicago, serves on Howard Brown's Aging Services Advisory Board, and participates on the Vernita Gray Council for Philanthropy.



Starr De Los Santos (she/her) **[New member]** currently serves as the Senior Coalition Manager at Women Employed, where she is involved with coalitions such as Illinois Time to Care, Illinois Full and Fair Wage, Paid Leave for All, and Equal Pay Chicago.



Jin-Soo Daniel Huh (he/him) **[Reappointment]** is a partner at The Learning Accelerator. He is a regular EdSurge columnist, a Victory Campaign board member, and the Victory NextGen Network

Co-Lead. Jin-Soo is an LSC community representative at Inter-American Magnet School and is the Founding Co-Chair of the Equality Illinois Emerging Leaders Circle.



Kim L. Hunt (she/her) [**New member**] was the first Executive Director at Affinity Community Services. Now Kim serves as Executive Director of the Pride Action Tank, a project of the AIDS Foundation on Chicago. She is a Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame inductee and a regular contributor to Outspoken, an LGBTQ+ storytelling collective.



Kristen Kaza (she/her) [**New member**] is the Creative Director of No Small Plans and has been the architect of hundreds of “parties with a purpose”. She consistently is ranked by Chicago Reader as Best Party Promoter. She is the Co-Founder and Producer of the long-time queer celebratory party series Slo’Mo Dance Party.



Cornelius Lee (he/him) [**Reappointment**] is a DEI consultant and Partner at Promise54. Cornelius is also an Adjunct Professor at Dominican University and the founder of Mockingbird, a company that aims to cultivate Black and Queer wine enthusiasts.



Dr. Pamela Lightsey (she/her) [**Reappointment**] is the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and Associate Professor of Constructive Theology at the Meadville Lombard Theological School. Dr. Lightsey’s publications include “Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology,” “Transforming Service,” and “He Is Black and We Are Queer.”



Mony Ruiz-Velasco (she/her) **[New member]** currently serves as Deputy Director at Equality Illinois. Before joining Equality Illinois, Mony was the Associate Director for Network Power at Alianza Americas, a transnational human rights organization. She was also Executive Director of the West Suburban Action Project Mony has been advocating for LGBTQ+ families for decades. She has also provided legal counsel and representation to thousands of immigrants and their families focusing on women, LGBTQ immigrants, survivors of crimes and other vulnerable populations.



Sanjeev Singh (he/him) **[New member]** is the Program Manager at Affirm through RUSH Hospital. Affirm provides gender-affirming clinical services for LGBTQ+ residents, including behavioral health, HIV care, surgery, and specialty care.



Stephanie Skora (she/her) **[New member]** is the co-founder of Brave Space Alliance and currently serves as the organization's Chief Development Officer. Active in Chicago and Cook County politics, Stephanie is the author of the Girl, I Guess progressive voter guide.



Butch Trusty (he/him) **[Reappointment]** is a partner at The Bridgespan Group, Chair of the Equality Illinois Board, and Chair of the Mayor's LGBTQ+ Advisory Council. Butch currently serves on the Chicago Commission on Human Relations.



Eric Wilkerson (he/him) **[New member]** is the Founder and Principal of Wilkerson + Company, which serves nonprofit organizations in fundraising for social justice, advocacy, animal welfare, and social services. Eric is a board member of the LGBTQ Victory Fund and the Victory Fund Midwestern Caucus Chair.



Vic Wynter (they/them) **[New member]** is an ensemble member of About Face Theater's Education Outreach program. They are a producer at The Neofuturists and Fly Honey Live. Vic was also a For Youth Inquiry actor, teaching young people about sexual health through interactive plays.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON NEW AMERICANS – Appointee Bios



Karina Ayala-Bermejo [Reappointment] (Chair) is President and CEO of Instituto Del Progreso Latino. She previously served as General Counsel and Executive Vice President at Metropolitan Family. Prior to Metropolitan, she worked for the City of Chicago in Mayor Daley's administration as Acting Commissioner, First Deputy Commissioner, and Managing Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Human Resources. Karina spent seven years as the Director of Community Services for the Chicago Bar Association where she encouraged attorneys to take on pro bono work and collaborated with the bar and various divisions of the Circuit Court of Cook County on initiatives to improve the justice system. She also served as the first Executive Director of the Sun Times Judge Marovitz Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth Program, a foundation that mobilizes the legal profession around mentoring youth, where she was instrumental in securing a \$2 million dollar award. Karina's legal career began as an attorney in the Litigation Division of the Chicago Board of Education handling labor and employment matters. Ms. Ayala-Bermejo holds a Bachelors of Science from Loyola University Chicago and Juris Doctor from DePaul College of Law.



Fasika Y. Alem [New member] is the Programs Director at the United African Organization, a coalition-based not-for-profit that promotes social and economic justice, civic participation, and empowerment among African immigrants and refugees in Illinois. At UAO, Fasika leads the organization's public policy advocacy and community organizing work, building relationships with other organizations and coalitions locally and nationally. Fasika also serves as a co-chair of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights' (ICIRR) Action Council and sits on the board of the Refugee Action Network. Fasika holds MPH and PHD degrees in public health from the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Lucy Burmov [New member] is a native Chicago resident whose parents came to this country for a better life. After graduating from Chicago Public Schools, Lucy became the first college graduate in her family who earned advanced degrees. To date, she is the only member who went to college. She currently is a Reading Interventionist for the Chicago Public Schools. Her 25-year career has been spent working in the same system that educated Lucy, serving a largely immigrant population (mostly Spanish speaking, but also some from the Middle East, Asia, and Africa). She is the recipient of a Master of Science from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Bachelor of Science from DePaul University. Additionally, Lucy is a homeowner on the southwest side of Chicago.



Abbey Eusebio [New member] is an experienced public servant with over 18 years of experience in federal and state government, constituent services, outreach, and nonprofit work. She currently serves as the Anti-Hate Action Center Manager for the Chinese American Service League. She has previously worked in advocacy and outreach for the Office of Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul and the Office of U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky. She is a leader in the Asian American community for the Midwest with experience leading boards for several nonprofit organizations in the Chicagoland area that aid and empower the immigrant community. Abbey is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia.



Linda Flor Brito [New member] is a longtime community organizer building collective resistance and mobilizing community against the deportation and criminalization of immigrants. As a daughter of the Kichwa Cañari, Linda honors her ancestors by fighting at the intersection of immigrant, Indigenous, and labor struggles. Linda Flor holds a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Chicago where her research and policy interests focused on building and elevating community-led immigration policy that centers the voices of communities impacted by the US immigration detention system. Linda Flor served as the Vice President of Minorities in Public Policy

Studies, is a two-time recipient of the Harris Community Leader of the Year Award, and is an Obama Scholar graduate. She has worked at various immigrant rights organizations including the United States Committee for Immigrants and Refugees, Migrant Roots Media, Centro de Trabajadores Unidos, and is currently a Senior Policy & Campaigns Organizer at Immigrant Defense Project. She is devoted to her work within the migrant justice movement and is working to establish an Indigenous-led immigrant rights organization in Chicago that will fight towards ending the criminalization and erasure of Indigenous people.



Ana Gil-Garcia [New member] is a Venezuelan-American scholar, Professor Emerita, founder of the Illinois Venezuelan Alliance, advocates for immigration solutions, women rights, and Latino civic representation. She is a 5-time Fulbright U.S. Scholar. Her academic and humanitarian work have been recognized and awarded multiple times including 100 Most Influential Hispanics in USA, 30 Outstanding Visionary Women in Higher Education, three times more influential Latinos in Chicago, El Humanitario Award by Cook County and the Rotary International's Face of Humanity in Action to fight poverty. Her past work includes numerous positions in educational leadership roles, including time as Executive Director of Academic Effectiveness for St. Augustine College. She has been a visiting professor at universities in the United States, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Liberia, Armenia and the Republic of Georgia. She has a Doctorate in Education from Western Michigan University, a Master of Science from the University of Tennessee and a Bachelor degree in Biology Teaching from Pedagogic University of Venezuela.



Laura Mendoza [New member] is an immigration organizer at The Resurrection Project. In this role, she has led community navigator engagement to assist in the implementation of local strategies to improve the lives of immigrants at local and state level. She has played an active role in the successful passage and implementation of many pro-immigrant programs including the expansion of healthcare to undocumented seniors and older adults in Illinois, the Chicago Legal Protection Fund, Illinois Access to Justice Program. She is a DACA recipient from Puebla Mexico who obtained her bachelor's in social work at Northeastern Illinois University.



Sara Miranda [Reappointment] is the daughter of Iraqi Americans who migrated to the US after fleeing civil conflict in Lebanon. Sara and her brother attended Chicago Public Schools throughout K-12. Sara later went on to obtain her undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees in nursing, making her the first college graduate of her family. Sara works as a Family Nurse Practitioner at PCC Community Wellness in the Austin Community on the West Side of Chicago. Focusing her treatment in addiction and hepatitis C management, Sara is committed to the underserved population and improving public health access. In her off time, Sara spends time with her husband and two boys visiting museums, dining, and traveling.



Barbara Munube [Reappointment] is a lawyer. Barbara obtained her initial law degrees from Makerere University, Uganda. Over the years, she has served in the Uganda government in various capacities, including, Research Officer (2002-2006), Legal and Compliance Officer (2006-2007) and in Kenya as a Legal/Legislation Officer (2007-2013). Barbara moved to Chicago, Illinois six years ago to pursue a Master's Degree in International Law at DePaul University College of Law. After the initial degree in DePaul, she enrolled for the Juris Doctor program. Barbara is licensed to practice law in New York State and is an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda. Currently, she works as a Contract Attorney in Chicago. Since October 2018, Barbara has held different positions in the Ugandan community in North America, including being the Executive Secretary in the Uganda Community in Greater Chicago. Barbara is also actively involved in her neighborhood schools. In the last two years she has been Secretary on the Parents Advisory Council and since July 1, 2020 she has been a parent representative both on the Mather High School Local School Council.



Sarah Pajeau [New member] is the Assistant Director at the Rohingya Culture Center, where she handles grant writing/reporting, finances, and more. She is experienced in non-profit

management and program development, with a demonstrated history of working in the nonprofit industry. She has experience working in refugee resettlement, mutual aid, and gender-based violence. Pajeau is passionate about refugee rights and community health. She holds an MS in Refugee & Forced Migration Studies from DePaul University.



Nina Sedeño [New member] is a proud Latina and third-generation Mexican immigrant, born and raised on the northside of Chicago, with a passion for social justice, equity, and advancing the human rights and dignity of all immigrants. Having been raised by her Mexican grandmother and attending an immigrant church, immigration became important to her, personally, at an early age. She currently is an Immigration Policy Analyst for the Latino Policy Forum. She has a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern University.



Radhika Sharma Gordon [Reappointment] manages Education and Training for Apna Ghar (a Hindi/Urdu phrase meaning “Our Home.”) Apna Ghar was founded in 1989 in Chicago to serve the legal, counseling, advocacy, and housing needs of immigrant, refugee, and other marginalized survivors of gender-based violence. Radhika obtained her BA and her Masters in Public Health from the University of Michigan. Since 1989, she has been working and volunteering in Chicago addressing disease, violence, the needs of immigrant communities, women's empowerment, and positive youth development. Radhika is also an adjunct instructor in Community Health and Wellness at Northeastern Illinois University.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON VETERANS – Appointee Bios



Jennifer Blandon [New member] was born in New York and raised in North Carolina before enlisting in the US Navy. Jenny attended boot camp in Great Lakes, IL and would return to Illinois in 2012 as a Navy Recruiter. For three years she would recruit on the north side of Chicago before finally separating after seven years of service. Jenny attended DePaul University for one year and finishing up her college education in New York City. Jenny graduated from Columbia University in the City of New York with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy. She would return to Chicago in 2021 to be a technology consultant and eventually join a local office campaign as treasurer. Jenny and her partner live in Bronzeville with their new baby boy.



Kevin S. Cajas [New member] made a decision to join the US Army following the tragic terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. During his time in the military, Kevin Cajas served his country with distinction, completing two combat tours in Iraq. After his honorable discharge from the US Army, Kevin Cajas embarked on an academic journey, earning a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He continued his educational pursuits and attained a master's degree in Science from the University of Chicago. Kevin's entrepreneurial spirit and passion for innovation led him to venture into various industries. He co-founded Healthonomic Primary Care, a groundbreaking healthcare organization focused on providing comprehensive and accessible medical services to the community. Additionally, he founded Ares Financial Technology, LLC, a dynamic company that invests in start-ups, and Cajas Realty, LLC, demonstrating his diverse range of interests and entrepreneurial acumen. Despite his professional success, Kevin remains deeply connected to his roots and continues to give back to his community, including volunteering his time with Veterans organizations and community-based outreach programs.



Dr. Jerry Field [Reappointment] is a Korean War Veteran (1950-53). His experience includes assignment to ROTC Chicago as an instructor for 6 years, Special Assignments to the Department of Defense from 2001 to present, including assignment as Liaison Counsel General South Korean Chicago. He has been awarded the Gold Medal as Ambassador of Peace. He was Post Commander 710 and served on the Executive Committee of Jewish War Veterans Illinois. He is a member of the City of Chicago Veterans Advisory Council, the Cook County Veterans Assistance Program, and the State of Illinois Veterans Advisory Council. He has also been a volunteer at the Jesse Brown VAMC and Executive Director of Chicago Veterans Coordinating Committee.



Alejandra Hernandez [New member] is a Veteran Outreach Coordinator at The Road Home Program at Rush University Medical Center. Alejandra served in the United States Marine Corps for four years as a Food Service Specialist with Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune Headquarters and Marine Support Squadron 272 Marine Corps Air Station New River, NC. She deployed once in 2007 to Kuwait, Camp Al Asad, and Camp Al Taqqaddum Air Base. After her unit returned home from Iraq, she spent her remaining time in the service as an Assistant Chief Cook. After her time in service, Alejandra attended Waubensee Community College while working in the auto parts industry. She then went on to get her bachelor's degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago and studied Sociology at UIC. She worked as a community health worker prior to starting at The Road Home Program in April of 2022.

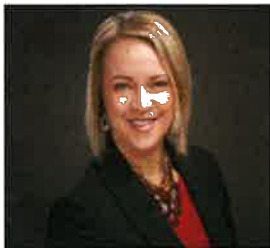


Karen Hernandez [Reappointment] serves as the Executive Director for Chicago Veterans. Karen enlisted into the U.S. Army in 2008 and is currently a Medical Operations Officer for the 108th MMB. Karen graduated from Lewis University with a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science/Criminal Social Justice.



Saul Marchan [New member] is Founder and CEO of BLU Commercial Cleaning.

Saul is a proud alumnus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree. During his college years, he proudly joined the United States Marine Corps, having served in the position of Supply Administration. After working in industry leading Fortune 500 firms from 2000 to 2013, it didn't take much time before jumping into Entrepreneurship by creating BLU Commercial Cleaning in 2013. Under his leadership, BLU offers establishments and facilities from different sectors an effective cleaning service with the utmost professionalism and care.. He is also is founder and partner at Bluberry, a SAAS operations software platform for service based businesses empowering his peers to make growth focused decisions through data. Saul is also a graduate of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program, LBAN Scaling program at Stanford University and the Illinois Tollway Technical Assistance Program. Aside from his commitment to business, he has engaged with the community, offering mentorship and expertise to young minds at Palmer Elementary School and the Belmont & Cragin Early Childhood Development Center.



Elisabeth Pennix [New member] is the Deputy General Counsel at Sloan Global

Holdings where she manages the labor, employment, ethics, compliance, and litigation portfolios. She began her practice of law in 2004 as an officer in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps. She served for 8 years on active military duty including a deployment to Iraq during the surge of forces in 2006-2007 and a Reserve deployment to Guantanamo, Cuba with the Military Commissions from 2015-2016. Since joining the Navy Reserves in 2011, Elisabeth has worked in various full-time civilian roles: as an Account Executive at Relativity, as General Counsel for the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, and as Assistant Chief Counsel with the Department of Homeland Security. In her Navy Reserve role, Elisabeth currently serves as a Captain (select), Appellate Judge, and Executive Officer for the Navy Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals (NMCCA). Elisabeth is actively engaged with multiple non-profit organizations, including one she co-founded, Operation HerStory, which is dedicated to making women veterans visible. She is also engaged with Business Executives for National Security (BENS), the Pritzker Military Museum & Library (PMML), and the Navy League, Chicago Council. Elisabeth, along with her husband, a U.S. Army and Chicago Police Department veteran; are passionate about raising their children in Chicago, to be amazing humans and caring members of society.



Eden Puente [New member] joined the U.S. Army in 2003 and served until 2007.

Eden was sent overseas in 2003 and in 2004 was Injured in an IED attack which left him with a Traumatic Brain Injury and injuries to his back, wrist, and hands. After Eden's time in service, he returned to Illinois. In 2017 he entered college and graduated with a B.A. in Marketing/Management in 2021 and received his M.B.A. in June of 2023. A resident of Chicago's Uptown neighborhood, Eden is active in military community outreach in the City of Chicago. He interned at Chicago Veterans as a marketing coordinator. While there Eden wrote a business report research paper about his time there and what he saw. It was published by DePaul University in 2020. During the pandemic when most of the food banks were shut down, he teamed up with a church on the west side and food vendors to provide safe food drives for the community. The first one was held in May of 2020 and monthly events ran until September of 2021. In total, they distributed 35,000 pounds of food. Eden serves on several boards for veteran non-profits throughout the Chicagoland area and his goal is to connect all Chicago Veterans to all the resources available that they deserve.



Nabeel Shah [New member] joined the Army as a Healthcare Specialist/Combat

Medic in 2014 from Chicago MEPS. Completing Basic Training and Advanced Individual training from Fort Sill OK and Fort Sam Houston TX respectively, he was stationed Fort Campbell KY and assigned to 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division(Air Assault). After getting an honorable discharge from the Army he was accepted at Harvard University as a research assistant in 2017, he then moved back to Chicago where he started a double Bachelors program in Physics and Computer Science at Loyola University of Chicago using his GI Bill, completing both degrees in 2019. He moved back to Chicago in 2020 during Covid, when he used his VA home loan to buy a property in the City of Chicago where he now lives with his parents. In 2021 he started a master's program in Applied Data Science using his GI Bill again at the University of Chicago and graduated from that program earlier this year. During his time at Loyola and University of Chicago he was a member of the veteran community and an active participant in veterans events. He has

been volunteering at Nielsen and serves as the regional lead for the SERV Employee Resource Group dedicated to helping veterans and supporting veterans issues.



Ashley Marie Tillman [New member] is a HR Policy & Analysis Manager at Metra, assuming responsibility for ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal regulations while developing new policies and refining existing ones. As a United States Army Disabled Veteran, she excels in Policy, Human Resources, Safety and Risk Compliance, and Public Transportation. She holds a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies and an MA in Communication and Training. Ashley's military career began in 2004, retiring in 2015 after serving with the 863rd Engineer Battalion. She then joined the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) as a System Safety Officer and later in her career as a Manager of Rail Station Management, contributing to projects like the Safety Management System and "Loop Link". In 2018, she joined Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, focusing on community service needs within the Pullman area. Ashley also has worked for the Cook County Assessor's Office HR Department as a Senior Human Resources Generalist.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WOMEN – Appointee Bios



Jaquie Algee [New member] is Director of External Relations at SEIU Healthcare.

Jaquie is also a longtime civil rights activist. Jaquie has helped organize a multitude of marches, protests and rallies for workers' rights, civil rights, women's rights and more in Illinois and around the country. For example, she co-chaired the Illinois Women's March on Springfield that brought thousands to the Capitol in the spring of 2017 in support of the Equal Rights Amendment and justice for all women. Historically, Jaquie has also been at the forefront of several critical social movements, beginning with the gun violence prevention movement. When her only child, Kenneth, was shot and killed in 1995, Jaquie put "purpose over pain" and dedicated herself to "stopping senseless gun violence." She became a regional director of the Million Mom March, which was held on Mother's Day, May 14, 2000 in Washington, D.C. and other sister cities. With more than one million people participating across the nation, the march was the largest anti-gun violence rally to date.



Anwulika Anigbo [New member] asks ruminative questions. This fidelity to inquiry is the foundation of her work as a visual art, development director for the Invisible Institute, and mother. In each role, the questions and the conversations that arise from them facilitate the creation and recreation of narratives, systems, and spaces. Having moved to Chicago as a single mother after graduate school at Indiana University, her experience of the city has seen many sides and phases. The early lessons gained navigating our city guide her commitment to it and the women who lead without titles as a matter of survival. This respect for the expansiveness of domestic life is often the topic of her photography practice, reflecting back the quiet beauty of daily life. Anwulika is a proud member of her Southside community, where she frequents her favorite local businesses and enjoys all the art and culture the city has to offer, often with some or all of her three children and partner in tow.



Leslé Honoré [New member] is the CEO of Urban Gateways, Co-Chair of Elevated Chicago and was appointed by Mayor Brandon Johnson as Co-Chair of the Arts and Culture Transition Team. Leslé is a Blaxican poet, activist, and published author. She attended Xavier University in Louisiana, where she studied English Literature and Spanish, before moving to Chicago in 1999. Born and raised in Gardena, California, she remains deeply rooted in the heritage and culture of her father Louis Honoré Sr, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana; and mother, Rosalba Honoré, who was born in Sinaloa, Culiacan, Mexico, and immigrated to the US at age 15. Her first book of poetry, *Fist & Fire*, was published in 2017. Her forthcoming Children's Book, *Brown Girl*, will be released in the fall of 2024 followed by *My Brown Boy* in 2025 by Little, Brown Publishing.



Sarah Garza Resnick [New member] is the President and CEO of Personal PAC. Her organizational prowess is perfectly positioned to bring Personal PAC into the Post Dobbs world of micro-campaigns throughout the state. She understands the power of effective communication and movements, drawing people from all walks of life into the cause. Her vision for Personal PAC, to empower individuals across the state to take ownership of their beliefs and actively contribute to the cause, will build exponentially upon the foundation already created by the organization. The impact is sure to be profound and have a lasting impact for generations to come. Prior to this role, Sarah was the Chief Deputy Assessor for Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi and the Chief of Staff to Cook County Clerk David Orr. She graduated from Cardozo School of Law, where she worked at the Innocence Project. She received her undergraduate degree in Political Science and Economics from Brandeis University and her master's degree in Political Sociology from the London School of Economics.



Rosazlia Grillier [New member] is an advocate for all things equitable! She is a survivor of multiple life threatening illnesses, a factotum, and pioneer in the realm of real parent

engagement and advocacy. Rosazlia's determination nevertheless, persona fosters many hats – she sits on multiple local and national boards and advisories. She is a trainer and Board Chair of COFI (Community Organizing and Family Issues), as well as Co-President Emeritus of POWER-PAC IL, in which she served many years as President and has mentored many other leaders to walk in that role. She continues to participate with strong voice in many collaborative ground efforts such as The Transit Table, Economic Justice Coalition, FIAI formerly known as IABG; noteworthy that she helped to create their new name (Financial Inclusion for All Illinois); worked for years to help pass and push for implementation of the Statewide Illinois Children's Savings Account legislation, has worked for many years on fines and fees, debt collection, utility relief, and is now working in partnership with Blacks in Green (BIG) to create and soon to pass The People's Utility Rate Relief (PURR) Act (HB2172) as a part of The Campaign to End Energy Poverty! She also serves nationally as a Governing Council member and Founding member of UPLAN (United Parent Leaders Action Network). Nationally, she also sits on NAFSCE's Board (National Association for Family School and Community Engagement) as well as the PFLC, the Family Math Advisory PAC, and is one of three parents on the Funders for Educational Leadership Advisory. She has received numerous local and national awards for her commitment and service. No matter the challenge a day might bring, Rosazlia comes equipped to encourage equitable collaborations and partnerships so everyone wins, with a goal to inspire a vision that "Ignites Positive Change - Worldwide!"



Megan Jeyifo [New member] is Chief Executive Officer at Chicago Abortion Fund. She is an expert in navigating onerous restrictions and barriers to abortion care across the country. Megan is a storyteller with We Testify, an organization dedicated to the leadership and representation of people who've had abortions, increasing the spectrum of abortion storytellers in the public sphere, and shifting the way the media understands the context and complexity of accessing abortion care. Megan has spoken publicly about her experiences accessing abortion as a young person navigating parental consent laws and by plane. Prior to CAF, Megan was assistant director of operations at Arts + Public Life at the University of Chicago, where she built creative connections on Chicago's south side through artist residencies, exhibitions and programming, youth education, and cultural entrepreneurship. She formerly led Currency Exchange Cafe and BING Art Books and Reading Room, two social enterprises in Washington Park, Chicago. The cultural and commercial venues she directed on behalf of Rebuild Foundation united community redevelopment, entrepreneurship, workforce development, and artist-led engagement. Megan was named a 2022 Chicagoan of the Year by Chicago Magazine. She is the proud parent of eight-year-old twins.



➤ **Stephanie Love-Patterson [New member]** is Executive Director of Connections for Abused Women and their Children. Stephanie has worked at CAWC since August 1999 and is a Certified Domestic Violence Professional. Stephanie provides training and technical assistance to various organizations and healthcare professionals throughout the community to help create a coordinated response to domestic violence. Prior to coming on board at CAWC Stephanie worked at A Safe Place Shelter in Lake County Illinois as a counselor/advocate. She has also worked at Rape Victim Advocates' John H. Stroger Hospital Satellite Program. She has been a trained sexual assault advocate since 1985.



Nicole R. Robinson [New member], born and raised on Chicago's South Side, has spent her career building bridges between communities, individuals, government and business leaders. Nicole serves as the Chief Executive Officer for YWCA Metropolitan Chicago. Prior to joining YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, Nicole was the Chief Partnership and Program Officer at the Greater Chicago Food Depository where she designed strategies to expand food access while tackling the root causes of poverty, unemployment, and racial inequity. Her food justice advocacy resulted in a \$10MM investment in the emergency food system and she inspired the reimagination of Chicago's entire food system as one of the co-creators of Chicago's first ever Food Equity Council. Before joining the social sector, Nicole began her career in corporate finance supporting various business units and would go on to lead the corporate foundation for Kraft Foods and Mondelez International. Nicole resides in Bronzeville on Chicago's South Side and is the founding leader of Chicago's first ever South Side Giving Circle focused on reducing inequities faced by Black women and girls.