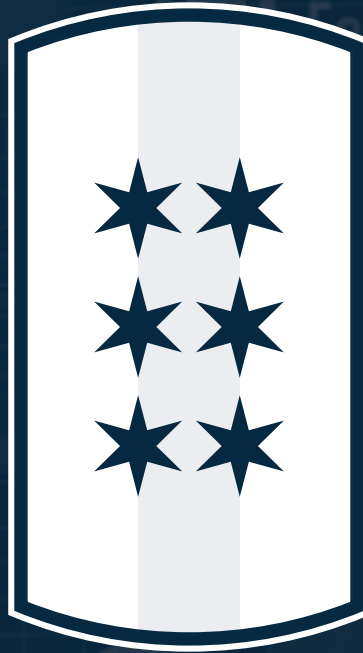


Humboldt
Park

Community Leadership Fellows

IMPACT REPORT

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY TWO-TWENTY THREE



West Garfield
Park

East Garfield
Park

North Lawndale

CLF

Identify + Amplify = Diversify

Community
Leadership
Fellows

Little Village



Friends,

Three years ago, while our country was facing unprecedented times - COVID-19, food insecurity, health disparities, and civil unrest - we saw grassroots leaders across the Westside mobilize and respond with intentional efforts to address the disparities ever-present – and growing – in their communities. Their intimate knowledge of the issues, their authentic approach to solutions showed an expertise that cannot be replicated by an outsider.

The concept of Community Leadership Fellows was born from this ideal. Understanding the power of relationships, we embarked on a year-long exploratory journey to curate a leadership experience specifically for grassroots leaders. We wanted to create a unique leadership incubator on the Westside that brought talented people together and set them on a pathway of personal and professional growth.

The inaugural CLF cohort is proving that we are on the right track.

Our aim is to create an intentional opportunity; a movement in which leaders grow together. We unite untapped Westside talent, across a range of impact sectors, to embark on a life-changing journey because **no one can grow alone**.

The learning, growth and development is not just for our Fellows. CLF is committed to evolving to meet the needs of the community and to supporting our Fellows beyond a single cohort year. The next evolution is the launch of the CLF Planning Lab, a resource hub that will support every Fellow as they continue to develop and execute their *5-Year Plan for Leaders* – a detailed and individualized action-planning process for personal and professional goal attainment that is a core part of the CLF experience and vital to the creation of sustainable, impactful organizations.

As we turn our attention to the second CLF cohort, our goals and objectives continue to center around building a sustainable leadership incubator for Westside leaders that will serve as a catalyst in the revitalization of communities. By focusing on building relationships, investing in homegrown talent, and connecting them with the knowledge and support they need to thrive, the impact of CLF will be generational.

Thank you for reimagining leadership development with us.

In partnership,

Alexandra Auguste
Co-founder & Executive Director

About CLF

An authentic commitment to honor the true spirit of diversity, equity and inclusion, Community Leadership Fellows (CLF) is a leadership development experience and a social change network that identifies, invests and develops overlooked talent from the Westside of Chicago. **It is time to put impactful, invested leaders in a position to create systemic, sustainable change for their communities.**

CLF's leadership incubator creates a streamlined pathway for promising grassroots leaders to the decision-making table - a space that has been vacant for far too long.

Fellows will gain the knowledge, develop the valuable relationships, skills, and tools they need to lead the revitalization of Westside communities.

We support emerging leaders. Our changemakers engage with programming designed specifically for Black and Brown leaders, emphasizing the creation of viable professional development pathways to the highest levels of leadership in private, public and governmental agencies and organizations.

Do nothing about me without me.

Our inclusive leadership model allows the community to have a voice, claim ownership of ideas and have a vested interest in the success of CLF.

CLF offers a yearly cohort of 15-20 fellows from the six Westside neighborhoods:

- ★ Austin ★ East Garfield Park
- ★ West Garfield Park ★ Little Village
- ★ North Lawndale ★ West Humboldt Park

The impact of CLF is made possible through investments from:

Amazon; AT&T; Chicago Community Trust; The Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities; The Joyce Foundation; Marc and Jeanne Malnati Family Foundation; Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation; Steans Family Foundation; Wells Fargo and numerous anonymous donors.

“
A community helps itself.
It builds within itself.
”

Aisha Oliver | Austin | CLF '23
Executive Director | Root2Fruit Youth Foundation
root2fruit.youth@gmail.com



IMPACT | INVESTMENT

THE FELLOWS

18 Fellows in the inaugural cohort



100% Black and Brown leaders



72% of the cohort positions held by women



All 6 Westside neighborhoods represented



DeAngelo Johnson | East Garfield Park | CLF '23
Associate Director | Breakthrough Youth Network
d.johnson@breakthrough.org



INVEST IN THOSE WHO ARE INVESTED TO STAY INVESTED



The sessions were so empowering and inspiring. I took vital information away from each speaker and, more importantly, I better understand what makes someone a leader.



THE EXPERIENCE

56 hours of leadership training



15 Leaders in Action series speakers &

9 Professional development sessions



24 hours of networking events



1:1 personal coaching



17 Fellows attended the
Global Leadership Summit



3 Capstone projects targeting youth,
housing, and Westside history

Learn.

National leaders. Westside connections.

Each month, trailblazing leaders from around the country shared their knowledge and real-world insights during CLF's interactive Leaders in Action series. The closed-door sessions placed the Fellows in the room for candid, authentic conversations about leadership, life and sustainable operations with some of the nations most successful and inspiring leaders.

Leaders in Action Series Topics & Presenters

Recognizing Leadership & Personal Power

Robert Lewis, Jr., President & CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston

Mental Wellness - Minding Your Mental

Dee Atkins, Chief of Community Engagement & Equity, Thresholds

Mark Ishaug, CEO, Thresholds

Dr. Aaron Quarles, Emergency Medicine, Northwestern University

Dr. Shawn Smith, Physician, Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

Dr. Garth Walker, Senior Medical Director of Value Based Care, Rush Health

Community Organizing & Developing

Michael Strautmanis, Executive Vice President, Obama Foundation

Navigating Systems

Brandi Knazze, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Family & Support Services

Asset Mapping

Nia Abdullah, Executive Director, Northwestern School of Education and Social Policy

Storytelling, Visioning, and Strategic Planning

Jackie Kostek, Anchor/Reporter, CBS Chicago

Dr. Hasshan Batts, Executive Director, Promise Neighborhoods of Lehigh Valley

Grants and Proposals

Lindsay Marciniak, Managing Director, CCS Fundraising

Yolanda Knight, Managing Director, Steans Family Foundation

Kelsey Malnati, Executive Director, Marc and Jeanne Malnati Family Foundation

Mark Rodriguez, Executive Director, Lohengrin Foundation

Grow.

Personal development. Actionable skills.

Throughout the year-long CLF experience, Fellows attend professional development workshops designed to expand their skills and enhance their business acumen. The sessions develop the hard skills that help emerging leaders get organized, set goals, communicate, and create sustainable organizations.

- Getting Organized at All Levels
- Goal Setting and Getting Things Done
- 5-Year Plan Lab
- Social Media & Social Currency 101
- Social Media Campaigns | Marketing
- Mid-Year Goals & Planning Coaching
- Public Speaking, Presentations & Executive Presence

IMPACT | INVESTMENT



Robert Lewis, Jr.



Dr. Aaron Quarles

LIVE HERE ★ WORK HERE ★ LEAD HERE

IMPACT | NETWORK

Lead.

Collaborative initiatives. Applied knowledge.

The CLF cohort experience is a talent incubator designed to build lasting relationships and expand personal networks that connect like-minded leaders who are invested in the success of the Westside. Those connections strengthen individual initiatives and create strong foundations from which leaders can be ready for the challenges they will face on their journey to revitalize the Westside.

Immediate Impact

Community Leadership Fellows has hit the ground running (literally) in its mission to put impactful, invested leaders in a position to make systemic, sustainable change on the Westside.

Class of 2023 Fellows wasted little time in tapping into each other's expertise and talents to cultivate partnerships that drive forward their initiatives outside of the classroom.

Jackie Hoffman (CLF '23), the founder and president of Peace Runners 773, a health equity nonprofit that offers free workouts and group runs as part of a holistic approach to personal wellness, was quick to find synergies in his pursuit of a larger, collective impact for his community.

Jackie developed a partnership with Lee Ann Eiland (CLF '23), a nearly 20-year veteran in nonprofit development, to leverage her fundraising and strategic planning skills to help to grow Peace Runners 773. With Lee Ann's assistance Jackie was able to increase his operating budget with new grant awards from initiatives such as Lululemon and Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities Fund.

Mercedes Pickett (CLF '23), a systems architect, founder and CEO of Earth's Remedies, a nonprofit using advanced data analysis to connect disenfranchised families with developmental resources that run the gamut of impact sectors from health and wellness to career readiness and violence prevention, teamed up with Jackie to overhaul spaces in the West Garfield Park community with Earth Day-inspired cleanups and gardening projects. Beautification of spaces is a high priority of Westside residents.

Aisha Oliver (CLF '23) and Jackie partnered to host the Pushing Peace school tour where students across the Westside were provided mentoring and violence prevention services.

Aisha is the executive director of the Root2Fruit Youth Foundation, a youth-led village-building initiative that engages youth and challenges them to be their best self through experiential outings. Jackie brought his unique approach to mental health and wellness for the youth focused initiative.

Jackie Hoffman | West Garfield Park | CLF '23
President & Founder | Peace Runners 773
peacerunners773@gmail.com | www.peacerunners773.com

FOCUS ON PEOPLE. CONNECT THEM WITH RESOURCES, KNOWLEDGE AND NETWORKS.

Lee Ann Eiland | Austin | CLF '23
Lead Consultant | Eiland & Associates
leeanneiland@gmail.com

Thrive.

Driven, talented leaders. Sustainable organizations.

Innovative up-and-coming leaders with the will and know-how to make a positive impact their community are vital for a revitalization on the Westside. Ensuring those leaders and their organizations have access to the people and resources they need to sustain their efforts over the long-term is equally as vital. Enter: the Planning Lab.

PLANNING LAB

The newly-launched CLF Planning Lab is CLF's next evolution of support for emerging Westside leaders, stemming from the inclusion of the 5-Year Plan for Leaders project in the CLF curriculum.

The Planning Lab is a interactive digital resource hub that connects leaders with experts, information and networks of support to help our Fellows continue their development during and following their cohort term. The Lab is a place for collaboration, data sharing and process improvement, an incubator exclusively for Westside leaders to grow ideas and their impact.

The 5-Year Plan for Leaders is a detailed strategic planning process designed to help Fellows to set and achieve both personal and professional goals and is a capstone element of the CLF experience. The plan process guides Fellows through the adoption of a goal-oriented mindset, outlining goals and tasks, and execution strategies for goal achievement.

Fellows are required to develop their personal 5-Year Plan during their experience in the CLF cohort. It provides a framework from which Fellows can turn concepts and ideas into actionable operations and implementable processes by progressively achieving benchmark goals.

The plan is divided into three main sections:

1. **Mindset:** Shifting into goal-writing mode
2. **Begin the Plan:** Outlining goals and tasks
3. **Execution Strategy:** Key principles for realizing goals

The 5-Year Plan portal is continuously updated with customized coaching tips that guide Fellows through the goal-setting process, but more importantly, the strategies necessary to ACHIEVE those goals.

The plan was designed by Bret Townsend of SavvyPro Freelance. For more, visit savvyprofreelance.com.

Mercedes Pickett | West Garfield Park | CLF '23
Executive Director, Systems Architect | Earth's Remedies
mercedespickett@gmail.com | www.earths-remedies.org

LIVE HERE ★ WORK HERE ★ LEAD HERE

Austin



LIVE
WORK
LEAD **HERE**