

PROGRAM PROSPECTUS

CLF

Identify + Amplify = Diversify

Community
Leadership
Fellows

LIVE
WORK
LEAD **HERE**

Friends,

As we thought about how we wanted to introduce Community Leadership Fellows to you, we couldn't help but reflect on our personal journeys and the opportunities afforded to us that ultimately led others to believe in us enough to call us "leaders."

From our personal experiences in the private sector, to nonprofit work, military service and community policing, we've seen leadership in many forms.

We developed Community Leadership Fellows because we believe in building up, creating change from the inside. Our goal is to create and support the development of a network of homegrown leaders - people born on the Westside - who are personally invested in the success of the community, to **stay invested HERE**.

In this prospectus, we'll provide a glimpse at our approach to reimagining leadership development, nonprofit work, and philanthropy through culturally competent practices that best support communities of color. We'll show you how we, with the help of community investors who understand that community building goes far beyond program funding and infrastructure, will connect the unconnected with the skills and resources they need to drive change in our neighborhoods.

Together with you, we will prove that nurtured, supported, homegrown Westside leaders can create the change we need from within.

The talent is here. Let's keep it here.

Yours in community,



Alexandra Auguste
Co-founder and Executive Director



Jermaine Harris
Co-founder and Advisory Council Chair

LIVE HERE ★ WORK HERE ★ LEAD HERE



CONNECTING THE UNCONNECTED: A NEW APPROACH

Community Leadership Fellows is investing in the next generation of Westside leaders - developing those who are **invested to stay invested** in their community.

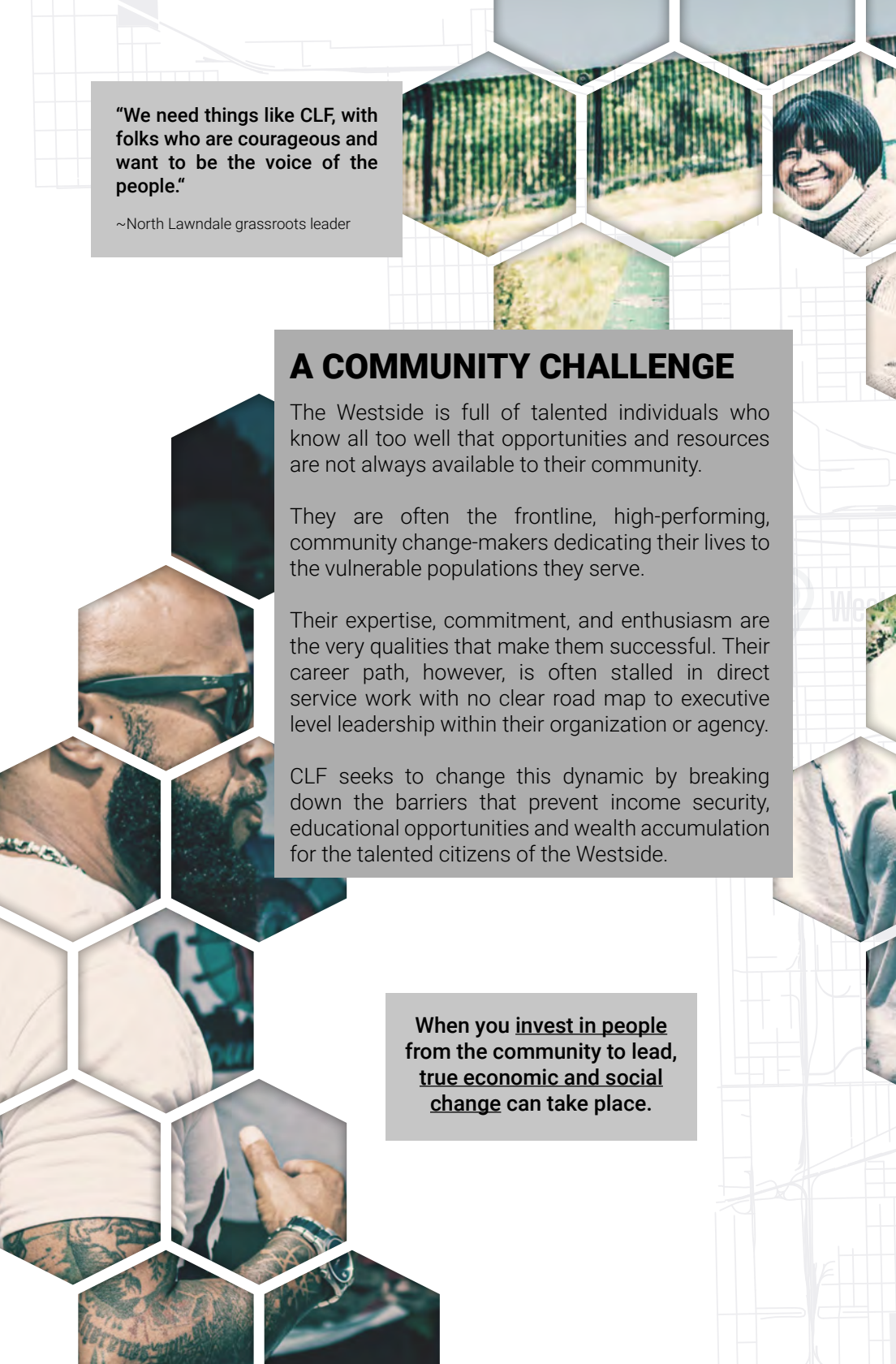
CLF takes an inside-out approach to cultivating and supporting homegrown talent that empowers them to establish the path forward for the Westside. Our leadership development network brings educational workshops, tactical training, collaborative learning, coaching, mentoring, and networking opportunities to untapped Westside talent.

We believe that the investment in homegrown leaders will drive sustainable, vibrant communities.

We take a “do nothing about me without me” approach that gives our people a voice in their future and prepares Westsiders to reclaim their blocks, their community, and their businesses.

**“Our strength is the grit of our community members.
The Westside has a spirit of relentlessness.”**

~ Austin grassroots leader



"We need things like CLF, with folks who are courageous and want to be the voice of the people."

~North Lawndale grassroots leader

A COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

The Westside is full of talented individuals who know all too well that opportunities and resources are not always available to their community.

They are often the frontline, high-performing, community change-makers dedicating their lives to the vulnerable populations they serve.

Their expertise, commitment, and enthusiasm are the very qualities that make them successful. Their career path, however, is often stalled in direct service work with no clear road map to executive level leadership within their organization or agency.

CLF seeks to change this dynamic by breaking down the barriers that prevent income security, educational opportunities and wealth accumulation for the talented citizens of the Westside.

When you invest in people from the community to lead, true economic and social change can take place.



WHY THE WESTSIDE?

This is where we need to be. The Westside has served for decades as the epicenter of neglect and disinvestment, leaving a void that has been filled with violence and despair.

Among Chicago communities, the Westside is home to:

- 4 of the top 5 murder rates
- 4 of the top 5 opioid death rates
- A 16-year life-expectancy gap
- Household income 40% of Chicago median

LIVE HERE WORK HERE LEAD HERE

Live Here, Work Here, Lead Here is our defining mantra.

A crucial factor in the success and impact of CLF is that the fellows have a vested interest in the Westside.

Community Leadership Fellows are selected from one of the six Westside neighborhoods:

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



REPRESENTATION MATTERS

CLF is a social change network embedded inside the Black and Brown communities of the Westside. We identify untapped talent and bring them into our leadership feeder system where we will guide them on a pathway of personal and professional growth and show them how to tap into community-changing opportunities.

Our leaders-in-waiting know the pulse of their community and will sharpen their skills through our targeted development programming that combines **mentoring, networking, skill-building,** and **self-discovery** in order to create the social capital necessary to amplify their voice and begin to build change-making capacity.

When decisions about the Westside are being made, our fellows will be ready to take their seat at the table - and lead the discussion.

"We need mentors - specifically mentors who stick around."

~North Lawndale grassroots leader

HOW WE'RE DIFFERENT

CLF will amplify the voices and talents of Black and Brown leaders currently working on the front lines and who historically have been underrepresented in nonprofit and government leadership.

Our fellows have deep connections and relationships with the communities they serve and, with a seat at the table, will have the ability to bring positive change.

It's more than a program. It's an **investment in community**. CLF includes:

- **Monthly Leadership Instruction** covering a range of topics including organizational leadership, systems change, community organizing, fundraising, and more.
- **Bi-Monthly Leadership Practicums** guided by professionals, fellows will apply classroom instruction to the real-world.
- **Bi-Monthly Networking Events** to deepen connections, foster collaboration, and create a safe space for fellowship.
- **Opening Retreat** to connect the cohort as they explore the connection between leadership and achieving community impact.
- **Alumni Support** to ensure fellows have ongoing professional development.

There is no tuition. CLF is a fully funded, year-long fellowship.



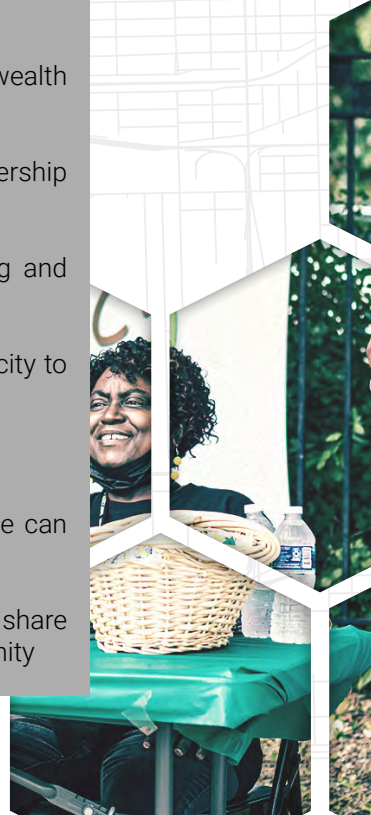


Our goals and objectives are about building a sustainable leadership incubator for Westside leaders that will serve as a catalyst in the revitalization of the community.

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.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Build strong, vibrant communities by leading social impact
- Drive economic change by building and keeping wealth within Westside communities
- Create a pipeline of new talent for advanced leadership programs in Chicago
- Strengthen local talent by providing mentoring and support
- Attract and retain talent who will increase capacity to act in the civic life of the community
- Form a robust alumni engagement strategy
- Understand how a leader's approach to change can impact a team, an organization or an agency
- Create collaborative networks for change that share mutual interests around the future of the community



"Now more than any time in history, we are in this moment and have a choice about what we can do. Man to man, woman to woman, people to people. "

~Austin grassroots leader

REIMAGINING PHILANTHROPY

Transformation cannot occur without collaboration.

To be successful, we need to reimagine philanthropy. Community Leadership Fellows seeks community investors. We will partner with:

- Investors who have a personal commitment to realizing change on the Westside of Chicago
- Influential champions within philanthropic, civic, corporate, and government sectors, who commit to following the fellows' leadership journeys, to provide access and opportunities
- Investors with a vision to fund principles rather than organizations
- Bold and courageous risk takers who seek social change

IT STARTS WITH YOU

We are not canvassing the city to find financial supporters. We are reaching out to individuals like you, people who are willing to disrupt philanthropy and who understand that the current process is not working.

We need **VISIONARY** investors, **BOLD** leaders who will be a **CHAMPION** for our fellows. We are looking for partners who understand the ultimate return on their investment is a **RETURN ON COMMUNITY**.



WHO WE ARE


Co-founders Alexandra Auguste and Jermaine Harris are real life examples of what happens when investments are made in homegrown talent.

A product of the Westside, Jermaine has used his lived experiences to elevate as a leader on community policing through municipal, state, and national initiatives. He is a graduate of Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, was a sergeant in the United States Marine Corp, and holds master's degree in public safety from Calumet College of St. Joseph.

Alexandra, who serves as executive director, was raised in Boston's South End neighborhood. She amplified her talents to go on to lead in the global financial sector, philanthropy and nonprofit management. Alexandra earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Boston University.

The vision of Community Leadership Fellows is to become the nation's premier grassroots leadership program by providing comprehensive knowledge enrichment and advancement opportunities for community leaders.





DO NOTHING ABOUT ME WITHOUT ME

CLFELLOWS.ORG