

NATIONAL FORUM FOR BLACK PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS
CHICAGO CHAPTER



*Marks
Of
Excellence
Awards Ceremony and Dinner*

Hyatt Regency Chicago
October 13, 2022

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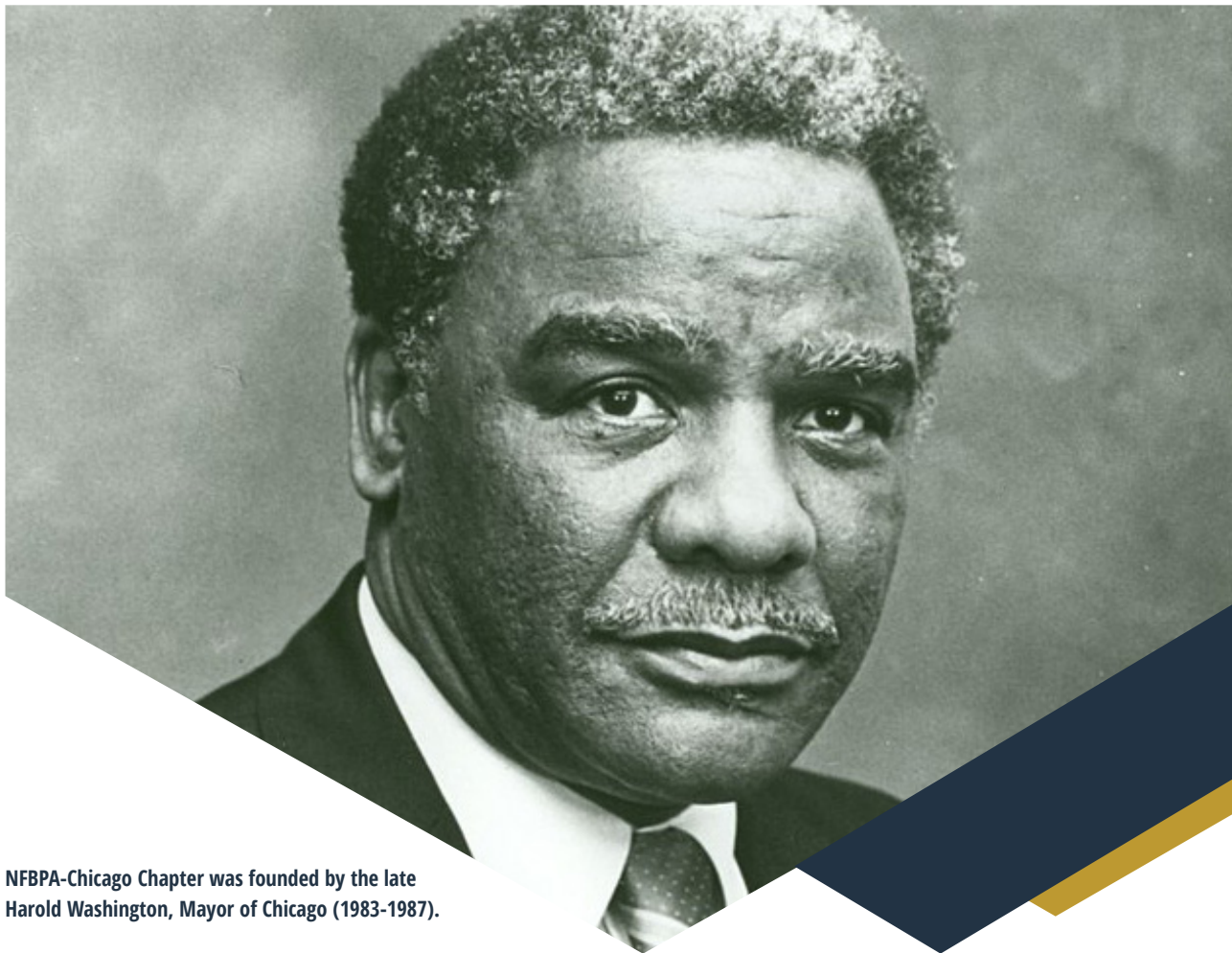
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NFBPA-Chicago Chapter was founded by the late Harold Washington, Mayor of Chicago (1983-1987).

About **NATIONAL FORUM FOR BLACK PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS** **CHICAGO CHAPTER**

The National Forum For Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) is the premier professional organization promoting careers in public administration. NFBPA is an independent, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1983. The NFBPA Chicago Chapter was founded by the late Harold Washington, the first African-American mayor of Chicago, who served from 1983 - 1987. Through his vision and leadership the chapter grew to become an organization renowned for promoting the advancement of African-American public administrators.

Our mission is to expand and strengthen the roles of African Americans in public service by assisting in the development of public administrators.

The NFBPA Chicago Chapter membership includes public officials, managers, executives and employees in virtually all disciplines in Illinois federal, state and local government. Our members are leaders and managers of public programs and agencies across the State of Illinois.



NFBPA members help support the nation's history makers and future leaders of tomorrow. NFBPA has established a national reputation for designing and implementing quality leadership development initiatives of unparalleled success.

For More Information:

NFBPA Chicago Chapter
27 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois
www.nfbpa-chicago.org

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NATIONAL FORUM FOR BLACK PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS

CHICAGO CHAPTER



27 North Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60601
www.nfbpa-chicago.org

Greetings,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire membership of the **National Forum for Black Public Administrators Chicago Chapter**, we welcome you to the **2022 Marks of Excellence Awards Ceremony and Dinner**. The **Marks of Excellence Awards** are bestowed upon African Americans in public administration, public officials, and community advocates who have achieved extraordinary success in the areas of public administration and service. This year we celebrate the significant accomplishments of several extraordinary leaders and acknowledge the lifetime achievements of two trailblazers in the fight for civil rights and equity that reverberates for African Americans in Chicago and across the country.

Lifetime Achievement Awards

- Bobby L. Rush, US Congressman, 1st District
- Jessie White, Illinois Secretary of State

President's Award

- Dennis Deer, Cook County Commissioner, 2nd District

Marks of Excellence Public Administrator Award

- Annette Holt-Nance, Commissioner, Chicago Fire Department
- Shannon Andrews, Chief Inclusion & Equity Officer, Cook County Health
- Omer Osman, Illinois Secretary of Department of Transportation

Community Service Award

- Benjamin Oluwole-Johnson, CEO, Benol Development

Corporate Leadership

- Ellen Rozelle Turner, CEO, The William Everett Group

On this occasion we are reminded of the profound words of the late Mayor Harold Washington, founder of the NFBPA Chicago Chapter, who said, "In our ethnic and racial diversity, we are all brothers and sisters in a quest for greatness. Our creativity and energy are unequalled by any city anywhere in the world." We celebrate our achievements and encourage our sponsors, members, and public officials to continue to support our efforts in the ongoing quest to build African American excellence in public administration.

Sincerely,

Wasiu Fashina

Wasiu Fashina
President
NFBPA Chicago Chapter

BOBBY L. RUSH
1ST DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN, ENERGY
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
COMMODITY EXCHANGES, ENERGY, AND CREDIT
LIVESTOCK AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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2188 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1301

CHICAGO
11750 SOUTH WESTERN AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60643-4732

RUSH.HOUSE.GOV

Thursday, October 13, 2022

National Forum for Black Public Administrators — Chicago Chapter
27 N. Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606, United States



Dear Members of NFBPA Chicago,

I am deeply honored to be invited to the Marks of Excellence Awards Ceremony and Dinner. It's a further honor to be recognized along such an esteemed group of individuals that are also being awarded this evening.

Congratulations to the other honorees of tonight's event: Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer, William Everett Group CEO Ellen Rozelle Turner, Cook County Health' Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer Shannon Andrews, Chicago Fire Department Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt, and Benol Development Corporation CEO Ben Oluwole-Johnson. All of you have been model public servants. Not only have you enriched your constituencies and organizations, but each one of you has served as an enduring inspiration for the Black community. Your leadership and success truly reflect the NFBPA's membership and mission.

Again, thank you so much for this honor. It is a privilege to be associated with such exemplary leaders in Chicagoland and Illinois. I hope all of you enjoy tonight's event and dinner.

Sincerely,

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



JULIANA STRATTON
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF ILLINOIS



October 13th, 2022

Dear Members of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators:

Greetings! I want to send my heartfelt congratulations as you come together for the 2022 Marks of Excellence Awards Ceremony and Dinner.

As the first Black woman to lead as Illinois' Lieutenant Governor, I know how important it is for our voices and perspectives to be represented in the rooms where decisions are made. I thank you for your advocacy and hard work so that Black leaders across the state have support, and I commend the members dedicated to serving communities for the betterment of all in their roles.

I want to shine a light on this year's honorees: U.S. Congressman Bobby Rush, Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer, Ellen Rozelle Turner, Shannon Andrews, Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Omer Osman, Chicago Fire Department Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt, and Ben Oluwole-Johnson. Their impacts can be felt throughout Illinois, and I am proud to join you in uplifting their amazing contributions.

Thank you for all that you do to ensure Black leaders and their efforts are seen, heard, and celebrated. May you enjoy this evening's program!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JS", written in a cursive style.

Juliana Stratton
Lieutenant Governor
State of Illinois

214 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706
Phone: 217.558.3085
Fax: 217.558.3094
TTY: 800.563.7110

James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph St, Ste. 15-200
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Phone: 312.814.5240
Fax: 312.814.5228



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

KWAME RAOUL
ATTORNEY GENERAL



September 19, 2022

National Forum for Black Public Administrators
Chicago Chapter
27 N. Wacker Dr.
Chicago, IL 60601

Greetings:

As the Attorney General of Illinois, I extend a hearty welcome to the members, supporters, and friends attending the 2022 Marks of Excellence Awards Ceremony presented by the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, Chicago Chapter.

I applaud your achievements, sense of commitment and ongoing efforts to serve your respective governments with integrity and competence. No other organization has done more to provide leadership development for African Americans desiring to dedicate their careers to public service.

It is my sincere pleasure to join the Chicago Chapter in congratulating this year's Marks of Excellence honorees. I wish you a memorable event and many more years of continued success.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kwame Raoul". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Kwame Raoul
ATTORNEY GENERAL



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

October 5, 2022

National Forum for Black Public Administrators-Chicago Chapter
Post Office Box 64506
Chicago, IL 60664-0506



Greetings,

As Illinois Secretary of State, I congratulate the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA)- Chicago Chapter on their its “Marks of Excellence Award Ceremony and Dinner.” Your organization’s leadership and dedication to the encouragement of Black public leadership in local and state governments is respected throughout our great nation. Your mission in providing government employees with opportunities to learn, network, and encourage younger people to achieve success in the field of public service is commendable.

As the first African American Secretary of State, I am proud to see Black public servants from various backgrounds come together to make this event possible. Your members are leaders and managers in of public programs and agencies across the state of Illinois, and I am honored to recognize each of you today.

Thank you for your leadership and the work you do for those involved in public service. When great leaders come together, wonderful things happen, and this event is the product of that.

I offer my best wishes for a successful and meaningful event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse White".

Jesse White
Secretary of State



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER
MICHAEL W. FRERICHS

October 13, 2022

The National Forum for Black Public Administrators
27 N. Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois, 60606



Dear Friends & Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2022 National Forum for Black Public Administrators - Marks of Excellence Awards Ceremony. Our host, the NFBPA, is the fulfillment of the Honorable Mayor Harold Washington's vision to promote the advancement of Black professional leaders who dedicate their skills and talent to public service throughout Illinois. This evening, the honorees join a renowned group of Illinois' most distinguished citizens, not the least being former President Barack Obama.

The legacy of the NFBPA is the stewardship of African American professionals providing the mentorship and support necessary to navigate challenges with the grace and integrity required of leaders. Since 1983, the NFBPA has proudly reflected this high caliber of Chicago leaders in its membership. Each year, it has brought the novices and the practiced together to inspire a future of public service.

I congratulate the recipients of The National Forum for Black Public Administrators - Marks of Excellence Awards. All the service roles represented reflect a strong personal and professional commitment to the citizens of Illinois. I commend you for your unique achievements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Frerichs".

Michael Frerichs
Illinois State Treasurer

State Capitol
Room 219
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: (866) 458-7327
Fax: (217) 785-2777
TTY: (866) 877-6013

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Marine Bank Building
1 East Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701
Phone: (866) 458-7327
Fax: (217) 524-3822
TTY: (866) 877-6013



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

October 13, 2022



Dear Friends:

On behalf of the City of Chicago, I am honored to welcome all those gathered for the National Forum for Black Public Administrators Marks of Excellence Award Ceremony and Dinner.

The National Forum for Black Public Administrators was founded in 1983 with the mission of advancing black public leadership in local and state governments, developing initiatives and resources aimed at successful leadership, and preparing the next generation of local and state government leaders. This year's event presents the opportunity to come together to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, recognize those who have made a difference, and look ahead to the future. The awards presented tonight honors those individuals who have made a difference by uplifting the community, advocating for those in need, and whose contributions will make a difference for generations to come.

I am proud to congratulate this year's honorees, **Congressman Bobby Rush** and **Secretary of State Jesse White**, this year's *Lifetime Achievement Award* recipients; **Commissioner Dennis Deer**, this year's *President's Award* recipient; **Ellen Rozelle Turner**, Founder and CEO of The William Everett Group, this year's *Corporate Leadership Award* recipient; **Ben Oluwole-Johnson**, CEO of Benol Development Corporation, this year's *Community Service Award* recipient; and **Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer Shannon Andrews**, **Secretary Omer Osman**, **Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt**, this year's *Marks of Excellence Award* recipients for their ongoing and dedicated commitment to the community and beyond. I commend the NFBPA for their ongoing commitments to the community and the city.

I hope your event is memorable and enjoyable. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Mayor



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY**

118 NORTH CLARK STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
(312) 603-4600
TDD: (312) 603-5255

TONI PRECKWINKLE
PRESIDENT



October 13, 2022

GREETINGS

As Cook County Board President, I extend my sincerest congratulations to the honorees of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators Marks of Excellence Awards.

Your hard work and steadfast commitment to civic leadership have led you to well-deserved national recognition.

The National Forum for Black Public Administrators has been a critical partner in promoting equity, one of Cook County's central values. This honor means you have been exceptional in promoting that value. We congratulate you for your service and wish you many more years of success.

Sincerely,

Toni Preckwinkle
President



Iris Y. Martinez
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County



Dear friends at the National Forum for Black Public Administrators Chicago Chapter,

It is an honor to celebrate all of your wonderful accomplishments as you hold your Marks of Excellence Awards Ceremony.

Ensuring the participation of Black people in leadership, especially in government, is imperative to the advancement of our society. We cannot expect to do great things without proper representation, and I commend you for your commitment to the advancement of Black public leadership in local and state governments.

As a former lawmaker and current administrator, I can attest to the importance of diversity in government. When we have the input of leaders from different communities, it ensures that our work is centered on doing the best we can for the most people.

I would also like to congratulate the Marks of Excellence Honorees, especially the Lifetime Achievement Award recipients, U.S. Congressman Bobby Rush and Secretary of State Jesse White, both of whom are incredible leaders who have made a huge impact in their time as public servants. To the other honorees, thank you so much for your leadership and service.

You are very much appreciated, NFBPA Chicago, for your everlasting commitment to public service and building up leaders in the Black community. I wish you all the best as you continue your mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Iris Y. Martinez".

Iris Y. Martinez
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County



Dorval R. Carter, Jr.
President

Chicago Transit Authority

October 1, 2022

National Forum for Black Public Administrators
Chicago Chapter
PO Box 64506
Chicago, Illinois 60664



To the Members of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators:

As President of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), the nation's second-largest public transit agency, it is my privilege to extend my congratulations to the Chicago Chapter of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) on your 2022 Annual Marks of Excellence Awards Ceremony and Dinner.

Over the years, to receive a Marks of Excellence honor has come to symbolize high levels of achievement among the elected officials, public administrators, community advocates and others who have received them. At a time when we hope to attract of our best, most talented Black minds to consider public service, your honorees are the brightest of the shining lights that show young, future leaders what is possible. I applaud the work and accomplishments of this year's honorees, which include the Hon. Dennis Deer, Shannon Andrews, Omer Osman, Annette Nance-Holt, Ben Oluwole-Johnson and Ellen Rozelle Turner, with Lifetime Achievement Award recognitions for civic giants the Hon. Bobby L. Rush and the Hon. Jesse White. They are an extraordinary group.

On behalf of the Chicago Transit Board and our family of employees, I extend NFBPA and your honorees our best wishes for a wonderful and memorable evening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dorval R. Carter, Jr.".

Dorval R. Carter, Jr.
President, Chicago Transit Authority



CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION
CITY OF CHICAGO



October 13, 2022

Dear NFBPA Marks of Excellence Honorees:

On behalf of the entire Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA), I'd like to offer my sincerest congratulations on your selection for the National Forum for Black Public Administrators' Marks of Excellence Awards!

This recognition is truly well deserved. Thank you so much for everything you do to support diversity, equity, and inclusion in our city.

Under the leadership of Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, the CDA shares your commitment to diversity and inclusion and works to increase MBE and WBE participation in all aspects of its operation.

I look forward to continuing this work with organizations like the NFBPA to advance these goals in the years ahead!

Sincerely,

Jamie L. Rhee

Commissioner, Chicago Department of Aviation



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NFBPA Chicago Chapter

Marks Of Excellence Awards Ceremony & Dinner Program

October 13, 2022

Mistress of Ceremonies

Stacey Mansker Young

Senior Manager, Plante Moran, NFBPA Chicago Chapter Vice President

Welcome

Wasiu Fashina

Finance Director/Treasurer, Village of Richton Park, IL

NFBPA Chicago Chapter President

Invocation

Reverend Dr. Danielle J. Bulhuro

Supervisor, Advocate Aurora's South Suburban, Trinity and Christ Medical Centers

Welcome Addresses

Honorable Lori Lightfoot

Mayor of Chicago (video)

Honorable Toni Preckwinkle

Cook County Board President

Acknowledgements/Sponsors

Ellen Rozelle Turner

Corporate Advisor, NFBPA Chicago-Chapter Founder and CEO, The William Everett Group

Gemara Williams, Co-Chair Corporate Advisor, Account Executive RL Canning

Welcome Addresses

Honorable Kam Buckner

Illinois State Representative, 26th District

Honorable David Moore

Chicago Alderman, 17th Ward



NFBPA Chicago Chapter

Marks Of Excellence Awards Ceremony & Dinner Program

October 13, 2022

Awards Ceremony

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Michael Frerichs, Illinois State Treasurer, introduces

Jesse White, Illinois Secretary of State

Danny K. Davis, US Congressman, 7th District of Illinois, introduces

Bobby L. Rush, US Representative, 1st District of Illinois

President's Award

Bill Lowry, Commissioner, Cook County, 3rd District, introduces
Kaleb Deer and Kanaan Deer to accept on behalf of

**Dennis Deer, Cook County Commissioner, 2nd District
(video)**

Community Service Award

Dorothy Brown Cook, Attorney, introduces

**Ben Oluwole-Johnson, CEO, Benol Development
Corporation**

Corporate Leadership Award

Carlton R. McGee, Jr., President, and Blair C. McGee, Senior VP, The
William Everett Group, introduce

Ellen Rozelle Turner, CEO, The William Everett Group

Marks of Excellence Awards

The Honorable Judge Arnette R. Hubbard introduces

**Shannon Andrews, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer,
Cook County Health**

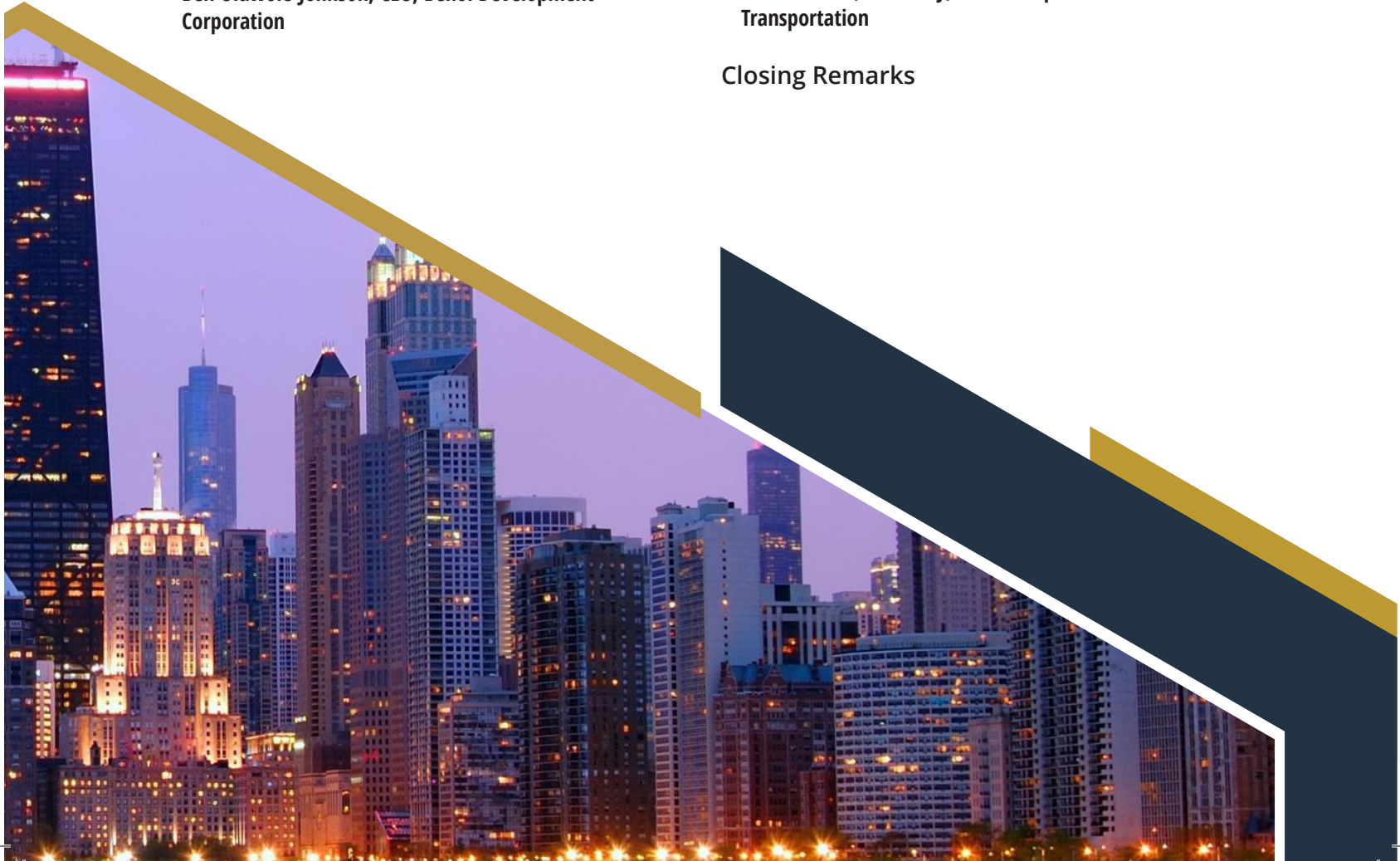
Stacey Mansker Young, NFBPA Chicago Chapter Vice President,
Mistress of Ceremonies, introduces

**Annette Nance Holt, Commissioner, Chicago Fire
Department**

Tanya Adams, Vice President, Community Relations and Diversity
Manager and Co-Chair of the Diversity Council for WSP USA, introduces

**Omer Osman, Secretary, Illinois Department of
Transportation**

Closing Remarks



Marks Of Excellence

HONOREE

Lifetime Achievement Award

Honorable Jesse White Illinois Secretary of State

Jesse White is Illinois' 37th Secretary of State. White was first elected to the office in 1998 and won landslide victories in 2002, in which he won all 102 counties, and again in 2006 and 2010. On November 4, 2014, White was re-elected to a record-breaking fifth term, winning another landslide victory by a 2-to-1 margin in which he earned over 2.3 million votes statewide. White became Illinois' longest serving Secretary of State on May 30, 2014.

The Illinois Secretary of State's office is the largest and most diverse office of its kind in the nation, providing more direct services to the people of Illinois than any other public agency. As State Librarian, Secretary White oversees the State Library and literacy programs, and as State Archivist, he maintains records of legal or historic value.

Under White's leadership, customer service has been improved through the use of technology as well as modernizing and streamlining operations. Wait times in facilities are shorter than ever before. Illinois has become a national leader in road safety as White strengthened DUI laws, reformed the CDL program and overhauled teen driving guidelines. As a result, traffic fatalities have decreased, with drunk driving deaths down nearly 50 percent and teen driving deaths reduced by 51 percent. In 2014, White was inducted into the Illinois High School & College Driver Education Association Hall of Fame.

Prior to his election as Secretary of State, White served as Cook County Recorder of Deeds – a job to which he was first elected in 1992 and re-elected in 1996. Before that, he served 16 years in the Illinois General Assembly, representing the most culturally, economically and racially diverse district in Illinois.

In 1959, White founded the internationally known Jesse White Tumbling Team to serve as a positive alternative for children residing in and around the Chicago area. Since its inception, more than 17,500 young men and women have performed with the team. White has spent 58 years working as a volunteer with the team to help kids stay away from gangs, drugs, alcohol and smoking, and to help set at-risk youth on the path to success. The program has received international praise. This year the team will make more than 1,500 performances using seven units, consisting of 225 young men and women. Currently, there are 51 members enrolled in college. In 2014, the Chicago Park District opened the Jesse White Community Center and Field House in honor of White's lifelong contributions to the community. In addition, a school in Hazel Crest, Illinois, was recently renamed the Jesse C. White Learning Academy, and a Chicago street was designated Jesse White Way in honor of White.

White served our country as a paratrooper in the US Army's 101st Airborne Division and as a member of the Illinois National Guard and Reserve. He played professional baseball with the Chicago Cubs organization, which was followed by a 33-year career with the Chicago Public Schools as a teacher and administrator.

Jesse White earned his Bachelor of Science from Alabama State College (now Alabama State University) in 1957, where he was a two-sport athlete earning all-conference honors in baseball and basketball. In May 1995, White was inducted into the Southwestern Athletic Conference Hall of Fame. He was an all-city baseball and basketball player at Chicago's Waller High School (now Lincoln Park High School) and was inducted into the Chicago Public League Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in June 1995. In 1999, he was inducted into the Alabama State University Sports Hall of Fame. Born in Alton, Illinois, he now lives on Chicago's Near North Side. White has two daughters, Glenna and Lorraine, and two grandchildren, Jesse and Susan.



Marks Of Excellence

HONOREE

Lifetime Achievement Award

Honorable Bobby L. Rush

U.S. Representative
1st Congressional District of Illinois

U.S. Representative Bobby L. Rush is a transcendent and influential American leader who keeps his legislative and policy interests focused on the needs of his constituents in the 1st Congressional District of Illinois, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable and the communities that have been left behind. Rush is a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, where he serves as Chair of the Energy Subcommittee, and is also a member of the House Agriculture Committee.

Some of Rush's proudest accomplishments as a Member of Congress fall under the issue of civil rights, an issue that inspired him to enter public service. Rush was the original House sponsor for the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act, which created a board to review what materials from Civil-Rights-era cold cases can be declassified and released to the public. During his last term in Congress, Rush also reintroduced the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, designating lynching as a federal crime and defining lynching as a conspiracy to commit a hate crime that results in death or serious bodily injury. The bill passed the House on a 422-3 vote and passed the Senate unanimously, before President Joe Biden signed it into law in March 2022. Despite 200 previous attempts to pass an antilynching bill in Congress since 1900, this was the first time such legislation was able to get through both chambers and signed into law.

In office since 1993, Rush has been a steadfast champion of civil rights and legislative initiatives to create jobs, tackle gun violence, and make communities safer. Rush is an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Army and an ordained minister with a master's degree in Theology, and he holds honorary doctorate degrees from the Virginia University of Lynchburg, Roosevelt University, and the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). In addition to his Congressional responsibilities, Rush is the pastor of the Beloved Community Christian Church of God in Christ in Chicago. Rush listens to his constituents with a pastor's ear and acts on their needs through hard work, empathy, and a commitment to public service.



Marks Of Excellence

HONOREE

President's Award

Honorable Dennis Deer

Cook County Commissioner, 2nd District

Cook County Commissioner Deer proudly represents one of the most diverse districts in Cook County. The 2nd Cook County District extends north to Division, south to 75th Street, east to King Drive and west to Laramie. He serves as Chairman of the Health and Hospitals Committee, and the Cook County Sustainability Committee for Cook County Government. In addition he serves as Vice-Chairman of the Cook County Forest Preserve Finance Committee.

He is a graduate of Jackson State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Elementary/Special Education and the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Psychology. He later went on to earn his Ph.D. in Christian Psychology. Born and raised on Chicago's west side, Dr. Deer remains a resident of the North Lawndale community. He has a long history of community service and has worked extensively with local community organizations on employment and training, re-entry, economic development, affordable housing, healthcare, and education. Dr. Deer is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, Clinically Certified Forensic Counselor, and a Certified Corrective Thinking Therapist.

He is also an Illinois Law Enforcement Standards and Training Board Certified Instructor, as well as a Cognitive Restructuring National Trainer. With this, Dr. Deer has been able to help craft solutions to community issues using multiple lenses. His passion for the community became evident some twenty plus years ago when he returned to North Lawndale and founded Deer Rehab Services Inc., a company that has become one of the most well-regarded providers of comprehensive services for ex-offenders. Dr. Deer went on to later start the Law Enforcement Family Training Services. Both organizations are full-service training, curriculum design, and consulting firms.

Dr. Deer serves on several not-for-profit and community boards including Strategic Human Services and North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council which he co-founded. He was also appointed to the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Domestic Violence Advisory Council (DVAC); Partner Abuse Intervention Programs Subcommittee; Executive Steering Committee of Domestic Violence Accountability Council (DVAC); and is Vice President of the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence. In addition, he is a graduate of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program and Chicago Urban Leagues Nextone business accelerator. Dr. Deer's long track record of serving the community demonstrates a sustained level of involvement over many years, and a track record for giving back.

He has not only served the community in many roles, i.e. as a community organizer and in executive leadership roles, something that he insisted upon to make himself easily available to people who most needed his help. Through his work, Dr. Deer has helped to transform the lives of individuals and families who stopped believing in themselves and/or were counted out by society. He has been and continues to be a servant-leader, a person who is unquestionably dedicated to the community and works collaboratively to impact positive change. Outside of his work as a Commissioner Dr. Deer served as Vice President of Org. Health and Mgmt. with Lawndale Christian Legal Center. Dr. Deer is married to his high school sweetheart, and he and his wife Barbara have three teenage children.



Marks Of Excellence

HONOREE

Community Service Award

Ben Oluwole-Johnson
CEO, Benol Development Corporation

Ben Oluwole-Johnson is one of the founders and pioneers of the African United Organization in Chicago. The organization was responsible for assisting and advising people of the African Diaspora residing in Chicagoland to ensure that they are educated, productive, and empowered to contribute their time to serve the communities where they live.

Mr. Oluwole-Johnson helped galvanize the African community of Chicago to support the mayoral candidacy of the late Mayor Harold Washington. He recruited volunteers to support candidate Washington and provided training on the essence of community and public service by Africans.

Mr. Oluwole-Johnson was the Director of Financial Services under Mayor Washington's administration. He also previously served as Executive Assistant to Mayor Eugene Sawyer, Deputy Executive Director with the Cook County Housing Authority, and Cook County Deputy Comptroller during the tenure of Cook County Board President Todd Stroger.

Mr. Oluwole-Johnson is currently CEO of his own company, Benol Development Corporation, that has developed, financed, and constructed retail, commercial and residential projects worth more than \$850 million in minority neighborhoods. Additionally, he has held various executive positions in the private sector.

Mr. Oluwole-Johnson has advocated for African Americans to be considered for top administration positions in public service at County, City and State levels of government. He has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Roosevelt University and an MBA from Keller Graduate School of Management of DeVry University. Mr. Oluwole-Johnson has received numerous honorary, professional and leadership awards from nonprofit organizations and governmental institutions.



Marks Of Excellence

HONOREE

Corporate Leadership Award

Ellen Rozelle Turner
CEO, The William Group

Ellen Rozelle Turner is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of The William Everett Group and Mind Your Manners, Limited. Mrs. Turner is an inspirational leader and entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience in executive management, sales, marketing and is a subject matter expert in the government industry. Mrs. Turner has held positions as President of Blackwell Consulting Services, one of the nation's largest minority owned technology firms, Managing Partner with Clarity Partners and Assistant Commissioner at the City of Chicago Department of Innovation and Technology and the Office of the Mayor.

Mrs. Turner founded William Everett in 2010 and leads the successful family-owned management and information technology consulting firm that is named in honor of her grandfather William Everett Rozelle. William Everett has over 140 consultants that serve state and local government and Fortune 500 organizations and has expanded its offices to St. Louis, Missouri, Washington, DC and Dallas, TX. She is also the president of an etiquette consulting business, Mind Your Manners, Limited, whose clients include the Chicago Bears.

Mrs. Turner was appointed by Mayor Lori Lightfoot to the City of Chicago Affirmative Action Advisory Board and the City of Chicago Council Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology. In 2019, William Everett was bestowed the On-Deck Finance national Small Business of the Month Award and was the first Illinois firm to receive this prestigious honor. Mrs. Turner has received multiple honors including being chosen by BEST Magazine as one of Chicago's 2021 Top Ten Black Women of Impact, the Chicago Defender's Women of Excellence Award, the prestigious Anti-Defamation League Women of Achievement Award, the University of Illinois CHANCE Program Community Partnership Leadership Award and the National Forum for Black Public Administrators Leadership Award. She has been featured in Crain's Chicago Business The Takeaway.

Mrs. Turner is dedicated to her charitable causes and is the president of her family's charity, The McGee Turner Family Foundation (TMTFF). TMTFF will provide charitable donations and programs to help at-risk youth in black and brown communities. She also served as the Chairman of the Board of Circle Urban Ministries a not-for-profit organization serving Chicago's Austin Community. Mrs. Turner was formerly on the board of directors of the Loretto Hospital, Harrington College of Design, DuSable Museum Women's Board, and the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago. She is a member of the Executive's Club of Chicago's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee and serves as the corporate advisor to the National Forum for Black Public Administrators.

Mrs. Turner lives in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood with her husband Donald Turner, Jr., and is grandmother to Gabrielle, Connor, and Micah.



Marks Of Excellence **HONOREE**

Shannon Andrews

Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer Cook County Health

Ms. Andrews was announced as the inaugural Cook County Health (CCH) Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer in April 2021. She is charged with leading efforts to develop a system and strategies to ensure that Cook County Health's culture and programs are open and available to every patient and every care team member.

In partnership with CCH leadership, Ms. Andrews will develop and implement programs that enhance diversity and demonstrate proven results creating a positive care environment for patients and a positive work environment for CCH employees. The Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer works to understand the root causes and operational functions that contribute to inequalities and impact change by advocating for racial diversity, equity, and inclusion across the organization.

Operationally, she leads supply chain initiatives; language services; the Center for Health Equity and Innovation and other diversity and inclusion initiatives developed at CCH. In addition, Ms. Andrews provides oversight to CCH equity and diversity initiatives, including compliance regarding MBE/WBE contract goals. Ms. Andrews also leads the development of training strategies to address areas of concern, establish best practices and solutions for implementing action plans engaging all levels of CCH.

With nearly 20 years of government experience, Ms. Andrews has over ten years serving as the Chief Procurement Officer for the City of Chicago and the County of Cook where she was responsible for purchasing goods and services, expanding MBE/WBE activities and opportunities and implementing strategies to streamline, standardize and improve procurement cycle times. Ms. Andrews led efforts to strengthen opportunities for local and small businesses; creating workshops to provide tools and resources to vendors interested in doing business with Cook County and establishing and enhancing incentive and earned credit programs to support local vendors.

Ms. Andrews is a native of South Carolina and a graduate of Hampton University. She is a member of multiple professional organizations and has received several awards recognizing her accomplishments and commitment to government service and equity.



Marks Of Excellence

HONOREE

Annette Nance-Holt

Commissioner, Chicago Fire Department

Fire Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt is a 32-year veteran of the Chicago Fire Department (CFD). As the Fire Commissioner, she is responsible for the day to day administrative and operational oversight of the country's second largest fire department, overseeing a budget of approximately \$740M and a workforce of 4846.

As the first woman to hold this rank in the history of the CFD, Ms. Nance-Holt has steadily progressed through the ranks of Firefighter, Lieutenant, Training Instructor, Captain, Battalion Chief, Deputy District Chief, 1st Deputy Fire Commissioner to her current position. She holds numerous credentials and professional training certificates that include the Northwestern Public Safety Management Certificate, the Outside Chicago Fire Department Oral Boards and Assessment Centers, FEMA Unified Command and the FEMA All Hazards.

She is steadfastly committed to life safety and protection of property for all residents and visitors of Chicago, in addition to the safety and continuing education for all CFD members. She is acutely aware of the importance of training and preparedness and works with many external groups and organizations to ensure that Chicago is as prepared as any metropolitan city can be.

A native of Chicago, Ms. Nance-Holt was raised in the Maple Park community on the southside and attended both parochial and public schools. She learned responsibility at an early age, having worked at the family-owned grocery store on the south and west sides of Chicago, Illinois. She also worked eight (8) years on the corporate side before joining the CFD in 1990. While studying and working full time, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Chicago State University. Ms. Nance-Holt obtained her Master's in Public Administration in Fire and Emergency Services in 2018 from Anna Maria College.

In her personal life, Ms. Nance-Holt's passion has become the passing of common-sense gun legislation. In May of 2007, tragedy hit when her 16-year-old son, Blair Holt, was fatally shot on his way home from school. Since Blair's death, Ms. Nance-Holt has supported parents who have lost a child to gun violence with the creation of the non-profit organization, Purpose Over Pain - an advocacy organization that supports parents who also lost children to gun violence, provides safe and positive outlets for children and youth, and advocates and promotes safer communities in Chicago, Illinois. Also, she volunteers with the Carl Holmes Executive Development Institute (EDI), which provides a curriculum that prepares Fire Service professionals with the skills to lead departments, which is hosted yearly at Dillard University in New Orleans, LA.

Ms. Nance-Holt is a member of St. Sabina Church, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters and the African American Firefighters & Paramedics League, where she once served as President and Vice-President.



Marks Of Excellence

HONOREE

Omer Osman

Secretary

Illinois Department of Transportation

Omer Osman was appointed Transportation Secretary by Gov. JB Pritzker in 2019. His role as secretary reflects three decades of experience at the Illinois Department of Transportation in engineering and management.

Moving through the IDOT ranks gives him unique insight into department operations and scope, funding challenges and opportunities, as well as the need for strategic maintenance and infrastructure growth to support economic development and travel for Illinois residents.

Under his leadership, IDOT continues to champion diversity. He remains an advocate for eliminating barriers and increasing access to IDOT partnerships with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and minority- and female-owned businesses.

His vast experience in transportation includes the management and advancement of complex projects and the assessment of current resources to inform funding and programmatic needs to create a multimodal system for the 21st century.

He assisted in the passage of the transportation component of Rebuild Illinois with Governor Pritzker and Illinois General Assembly. Passed in 2019, Rebuild Illinois is investing a total of \$33.2 billion over six years into the state's aging system, creating jobs and promoting economic growth. Rebuild Illinois is not only the largest capital program in state history, but also the first that touches all modes of transportation.

He has continued to guide IDOT during the unprecedented challenge of the coronavirus pandemic beginning in 2020. His commitment to keeping projects open and safe provided invaluable reassurance to the transportation industry at a time of great uncertainty. He also mobilized IDOT's operations teams to deliver key personal protective equipment throughout the state.

A native of the Sudan, Osman came to the United States to study civil engineering at Southern University and A & M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He also earned a master's in civil engineering with an emphasis in construction management at Bradley University in Peoria.



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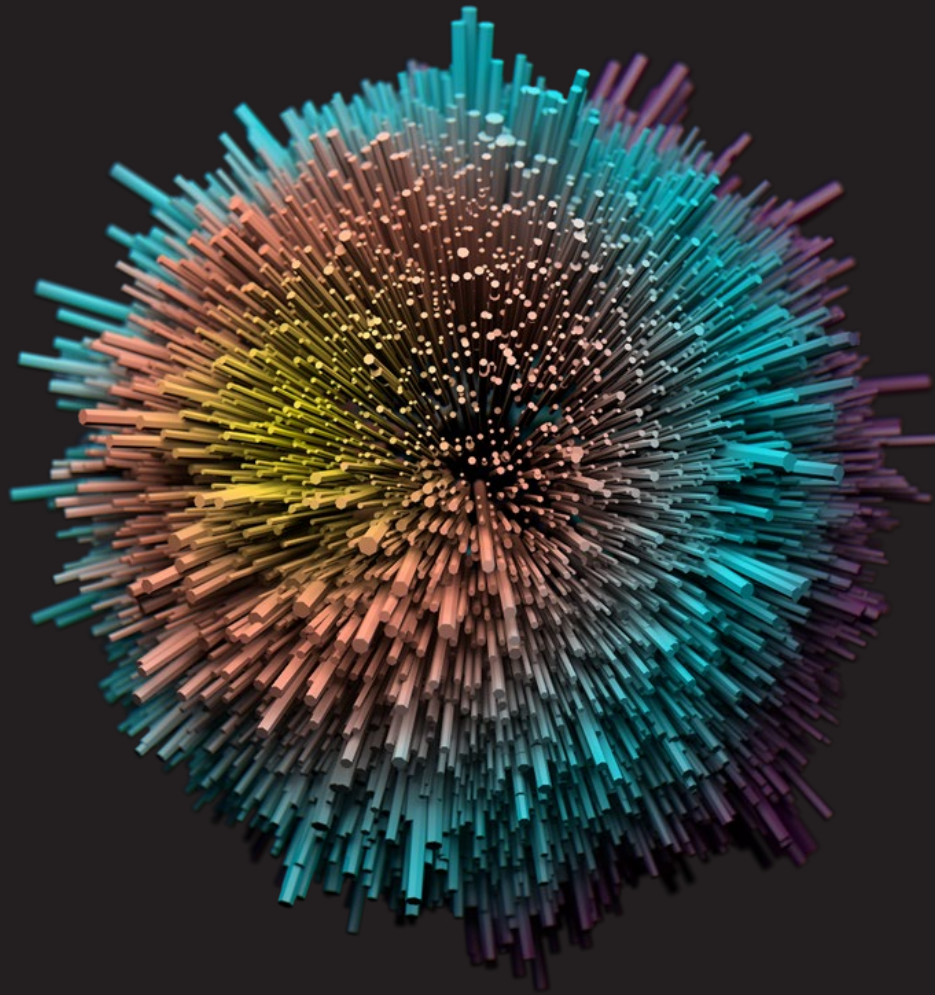
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