

CHLO'E I. EDWARDS

LOBBYIST | EXECUTIVE LEADER | ARTIVIST | CULTURAL ORGANIZER | HEALING JUSTICE PRACTITIONER

CONTACT



 www.chloeiedwards.com

SKILLS

Leadership and Campaign Strategy:

- Managerial Leadership, Multidisciplinary Campaign Management, Coalition and Network Building

Policy and Advocacy Expertise:

- Lobbying, Policy Analysis, Research and Data Interpretation

Community Power Building:

- Community Organizing, Youth Engagement, Community-Based Participatory Action Research

Facilitation and Healing-Centered Practice:

- Trauma-Informed and Healing-Centered Engagement, Social Emotional Learning Facilitation, Creative Facilitation, Teaching Artist Practice, Artivism

EDUCATION

Certificate of Completion

Virginia Civic

Engagement Table

- Virginia Progressive Leadership Project

Master of Arts

Liberty University

- Public Policy in Leadership

Certificate of Completion

University of Virginia

- Sorensen Institute for Political Emerging Leaders

Bachelor of Arts

Hollins University

- Bachelor of Arts with a double concentration in Creative Writing and Multicultural Literature
- Minor in Social Justice

PROFILE

Policy strategist and campaign leader with more than a decade of experience spanning nonprofit leadership, advocacy, and cultural organizing. Founder of Virginia's first Racial Truth and Reconciliation Week and architect of participatory policymaking processes advancing a Working Class People's Agenda. Known for integrating art, narrative strategy, and healing-centered leadership to amplify youth voice and build multistate advocacy infrastructure across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. Brings a deep commitment to intersectional justice, coalition power building, and community-driven policy change.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Sr. Policy Director at New Virginia Majority

Richmond, Virginia

04/2023 - present

- Advances civil rights, education, public health, housing, criminal legal system, economic security, and environmental justice public policy goals across dozens of issues
- Develops and maintains a positive working relationships with key local, state, and national elected officials to advance public policy agendas
- Strategizes a year-round member-driven policy process: community focus groups, legislative summit, people's congresses, regional delegations meetings, direct actions
- Produces a rebranded Working Class People's Agenda paired with racial equity impact statements, advancing hundreds of bills and budget items annually - centering the leadership and aspirations of working class woman of color
- Collaborates with with 30 state and national coalitions and networks to develop collective agendas across various issues
- Supervises policy analysts to research, develop, and influence policy and budget outcomes, providing staff, members and stakeholders with training and technical assistance, talking points and materials
- Collaborates with partners, organizing and teams, and elected officials to build multidisciplinary power to advance a bold agenda for working class people of color across 8 chapters/hubs

Founder & Co-Executive Director at Transformative Changes

Glen Allen, Virginia

05/2022 - present

- Advances racial, gender, and healing justice through cultural organizing, healing-centered leadership development, and civic engagement.
- Designs and implements statewide leadership, narrative, and movement-building programs connecting artists, healers, and community leaders.
- Serves as a spokesperson and representative of the company in communicating important decisions to board members, stakeholders, and the public
- Provides overall strategic and operational leadership in the development of the organization's short-term and long-term strategies to propel growth, including board and mixed funding strategy.
- Oversee cross-functional teams to align program strategy, communications, and advocacy with the organization's theory of change.
- Build and steward partnerships with philanthropic, governmental, and grassroots entities to expand impact and resource mobilization.
- Fosters organizational growth and impact by empowering leaders across diverse industries, including public health, education, arts, mental health, substance use and recovery, faith, and environmental justice
- Supervises a team of contractors/staffers and manages board of directors.

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Certificate of Completion

Southern University

- Minority Research and Law Institute
- Minor in Social Justice

FEATURED AWARDS

- Outstanding Women, Human Relations and Faith in Action, YWCA (2021)
- Richmond History Maker, Championing Social Justice, The Valentine (2021)
- Equity in Media, Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children (2021)
- Racial Truth and Reconciliation Week, Governor Northam, Commonwealth of Virginia (2021)
- Racial Truth and Reconciliation Week, Governor Northam, Commonwealth of Virginia (2020)
- 40 Under 40, Style Weekly (2020)
- Top 34 Black Woman Influencers, #RVAMicShare (2020)
- Outstanding Service Award, Connecting Hearts (2018)
- "30 Under 30" Influencers Award, IPower Richmond (2017)

EXPERTISE

- Intergenerational restorative healing circle facilitator (2025)
- Digital Storytelling Facilitator Certificate (2022)
- Certified/Registered Yoga Teacher and Social Emotional Learning Facilitator (2022)
- Certified Healing-Centered Engagement Practitioner (2022)
- Advanced Racial Equity Facilitator Certificate (2022)
- Master Trauma and Resilience Trainer Certificate (2021)

BOARDS

- Emerging Leaders Council Member, Health Brigade (2025 - 2026)
- Board Member, I'm Just Me Movement (2020 - 2025)
- Advisory Board Member, Hive Movement (2021 - 2023)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Poetry Program Manager at Words, Beats, and Life

Washington, District of Columbia

01/2023 - seasonal

- Youth Poet Laureate Program: Empowers youth poets to use their voices to inspire change through artistic expression and civic action. Provides individualized mentorship in artist development, leadership, and advocacy. Guides youth through the completion of signature initiatives, poetry portfolios, and literary anthologies, including the peer review and publication of three chapbooks.
- DMV Youth Slam Team: Trains, coaches, and chaperones youth preparing for Brave New Voices, an international competition that fuses art and activism. Develops performance and writing curriculum focused on narrative power, creative entrepreneurship, and community transformation.

Black and Latino Changemakers Fellow at Rockwood Leadership Institute

Richmond, Virginia

03/2025 - 12/2025

- Selected for a multi-state leadership fellowship focused on advancing Black and Latino solidarity, multiracial alliance building, and transformative leadership practice
- Engaged in cohort-based strategy development across leaders in Virginia, Delaware, Texas, and New Orleans to map conditions and opportunities for cross-community power building
- Strengthened skills in healing-centered leadership, movement sustainability, and collaborative campaign strategy through intensive training and applied practice
- Applied fellowship learning to community and policy work, deepening approaches to coalition alignment, narrative strategy, and multi-racial organizing

General Education and Social Justice Adjunct Faculty at Southern New Hampshire University

Manchester, New Hampshire

10/2023 - 08/2025

- Taught three courses in the general education and social justice program to increase racial equity literacy, including Cultural Awareness in Online Learning, Problem Solving for Social Change, and Civic Responsibility for Social Change
- Managed classrooms of 20-35 students on average- integrated lived experiences and trauma-informed, healing-centered lens into course curriculum.

Policy Analyst and Advocacy and Engagement Manager at Voices for Virginia's Children

Richmond, Virginia

06/2018 - 03/2022

- Served as policy lead across health, family economic security, trauma-informed care, and racial equity portfolios, advancing legislative strategy and coalition advocacy statewide
- Founded and led the Racial Truth and Reconciliation Virginia campaign and Virginia's annual Racial Truth and Reconciliation Week, engaging more than 1,000 advocates, policymakers, and community stakeholders annually in healing-centered policy dialogue and reconciliation efforts

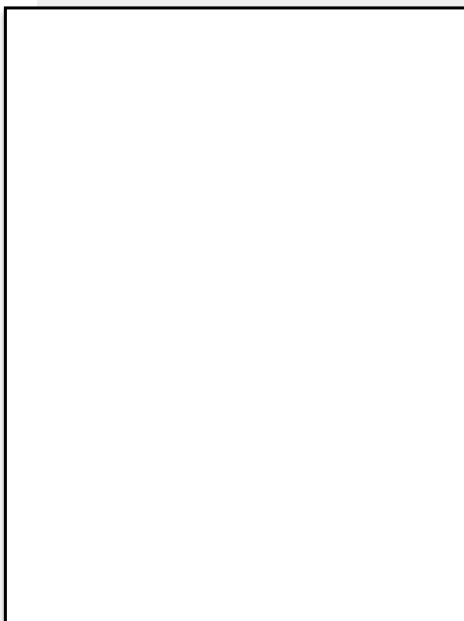
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NETWORKS

- Member, Metropolitan Business League (2025 - present)
- Member, Healthy School Meals for All Coalition (2024 - present)
- Member, Virginia Restorative Justice Coalition (2024 - present)
- Member, Community Violence Coalition (2024 - present)
- Co-Chair, Safe and Restorative Schools Subcommittee, Fund Our Schools Coalition (2023 - present)
- Member, Legislative Subcommittee, Fund Our Schools Coalition (2023 - present)
- Virginia Food is Medicine Coalition (2023 - present)
- Member, Virginia Community Health Worker Coalition (2023 - present)
- Member, Virginia Immigrant Rights Coalition (2023 - present)
- Chair, Policy & Finance Committee, Virginia Community Health Worker Development Council (2022 - present)
- Member, PUSH Coalition (2022 - present)
- Virginia Food Access Coalition (2018 - present)
- Member, Healthcare for All Virginians (2018 - present)

REFERENCES



WORK EXPERIENCE

- Expanded trauma-informed community infrastructure from 6 to more than 27 statewide networks by coordinating cross-sector partnerships, providing technical assistance, and strengthening local organizing capacity
- Managed the Campaign for a Trauma-Informed Virginia, aligning advocates, service providers, and policymakers to advance trauma-informed policy adoption and community implementation
- Cultivated relationships with legislators, state agencies, and directly impacted youth, parents, and practitioners to ensure lived experience informed campaign strategy and policy priorities

Community Partner in Residence at Bonner Center for Civic Engagement

Richmond, Virginia

08/2021 - 01/2021

- Conducted research to craft a Multidisciplinary Guide for Racial Equity and Social Justice Policy Development for Professionals, Organizations, and Community Leaders
- Served as a community liaison to support student engagement, faculty and staff engagement, community relationships, and institutional engagement

Program Director at Connecting Hearts in Virginia

Richmond, Virginia

04/2015 - 06/2018

- Led an annual Foster2Adopt awareness campaign in partnership with WRIC, WTVR, and WSLS — increasing visibility of Virginia's youth in foster care through multimedia storytelling and local business collaborations.
- Designed and managed statewide campaigns including 30 Days of Hope & 30 Kids in 30 Days coordinating with local media outlets, child welfare agencies, and the Office of the Governor to elevate adoption awareness.
- Built and maintained partnerships with nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and small businesses (e.g., Children's Museum of Richmond, Brewer's Café) to promote family recruitment and foster parent education.
- Led and supported organizational fundraising initiatives, including grant management, special events, and grassroots giving campaigns, securing resources to sustain statewide programming.
- Supervised interns and volunteers, facilitating leadership development opportunities that connected youth experiences with civic engagement and storytelling.
- Developed digital and print communications strategies across social media and local networks, amplifying adoption stories and community impact.