

CHLO'E I. EDWARDS

POLICY DIRECTOR | NON-PROFIT LEADER
ARTIVIST | YOUTH CREATIVE MENTOR

CONTACT



✉ chloe@chloeiedwards.com

🌐 www.chloeiedwards.com

📍 Glen Allen, Virginia

SKILLS

Managerial Leadership, Trauma-Informed Healing-Centered Supervision, Lobbying, Policy Analysis, Research and Data Analysis, Coalition and Network Development, Community-Based Participatory Action Research, Community Organizer, Trauma-Informed Healing-Centered Engagement, Yoga and Social Emotional Learning Facilitation, Creative Writing, Youth Engagement, Teaching Artist.

EDUCATION

Contractual Completion (2022)

University of Richmond

- Community Partner in Residence at Bonner Center for Civic Engagement

Certificate of Completion (2021)

Virginia Civic Engagement Table

- Virginia Progressive Leadership Project

Master of Arts (2020)

Liberty University

- Public Policy in Leadership

Certificate of Completion (2019)

University of Virginia

- Sorensen Institute for Political Emerging Leaders

Certificate of Completion (2017)

Hollins University

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

PROFILE

Extraordinary agent of change with over a decade of experience in the non-profit, policy and advocacy, and arts education spaces. I create tools for personal, interpersonal, and community transformation! As the founder of Virginia's first Racial Truth & Reconciliation Week, innovator of a participatory policy making process for a Working Class People's Agenda, and a combiner of art and activism tools that center the voices of young people across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia in creative expression, I leverage my passion for intersectionality to work towards the pursuit of justice.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Youth Poet Laureate Advisor at Words, Beats, and Life

Washington, District of Columbia

01/2024 - present

- Empowers youth poets across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia to use their voice to inspire change
- Creates opportunities and resources to expand and elevate the platforms of the youth poet laureates
- Advocates for youth participation in the expression of themselves through literature and poetry
- Serves as a trusted advisor to youth by providing artist development, leadership development, and advocacy training and resources
- Provides guidance to youth throughout the successful completion of a signature initiative, poetry portfolio, and literary anthology
- Prepares artists for ongoing public events and speaking engagements, including the National Youth Poet Laureate Commencement and Brave New Voices Festival

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 policy agenda process that centers the aspirations of working class people of color through a racial equity impact assessment and participatory policy making
- Produces a rebranded Working Class People's Agenda paired with racial equity impact statements
- Collaborates with with 30 state and national coalitions and networks to develop collective agendas across various issues
- Coordinates with 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 communications teams, and elected officials to build multidisciplinary power to advance a bold agenda for working class people of color

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EDUCATION

Southern University

- Minority Research and Law Institute
- Minor in Social Justice

Certificate of Completion (2013)

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

- 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 - present)
- Board Member, I'm Just Me Movement (2020 - present)
- Advisory Board Member, Hive Movement (2021 - 2023)

WORK EXPERIENCE

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

Manchester, New Hampshire

10/2023 - present

- 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
- Engaged youth in transformative leadership development by connecting the curriculum to professional and personal experiences in the social justice movement space
- Promoted leadership development and empowerment through day-to-day discussions, office hours, and diversity, equity, and inclusion focused curriculum, concepts, and feedback

Chief Executive Officer at Transformative Changes

Glen Allen, Virginia

05/2022 - present

- Powers the organization's mission to defy the status quo in the pursuit of justice and human liberation through transformation of self, relationships, and community
- Centers holistic strategies towards change by employing healing-centered engagement, cultural organizing, and civic engagement in the social justice movement space
- 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
- Creates a positive culture through strong, inspirational leadership
- 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

Youth Slam Team Coach at Words, Beats, and Life

Washington, District of Columbia

01/2023 - present

- Empowers youth to promote awareness, provoke thought, and inspire action on social issues
- Trains, coaches, and chaperones the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia slam team in preparation for Brave New Voices, an annual competition that engages the nation's leading artists in arts education, performance, and civic engagement
- Provides guidance, leadership, and direction to the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia to mentor youth towards day-to-day goals
- Conducts weekly arts education sessions to contribute to poet and youth leadership development towards specific goals
- Customizes curriculum and lesson plans to contribute to the construction of poems that communicate strong concepts
- Prepares youth for ongoing events and public speaking engagements, including the monthly "Slamtastic," a youth-led competition and open mic in partnership with Busboys and Poets

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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

President at Black Lives Matter 804

Henrico, Virginia

08/2020 - 04/2022

- Executed the Movement for Black Lives vision of a future fully divested from police, prisons, and all punishment paradigms and which invests in justice, joy, and culture
- Managed operations by overseeing the chapter's day-to-day operations and implementing policies
- Served as spokesperson by representing the chapter at public events and public relations initiatives

Policy Analyst at Voices for Virginia's Children

Richmond, Virginia

03/2020 - 03/2022

- Served as the policy lead in domains related to health, family economic security, trauma-informed care, equity, and justice
- Coordinated the Racial Truth and Reconciliation Virginia campaign to promote healing, reconciliation, truth telling, and repair
- Fostered effective working relationships with officials in key departments of state government, legislators and legislative staff, and other state government policymakers

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

Advocacy and Engagement Manager at Voices for Virginia's Children

Richmond, Virginia

06/2018 - 03/2020

- Led the Racial Truth and Reconciliation Virginia campaign and coalition to include advocates and organizations representative of all of Voices issue areas across the state
- Provided technical assistance and support to Racial Truth and Reconciliation committees, trauma-informed community networks, and other stakeholders across the state
- Built relationships with organizations and individuals directly impacted by Voices priorities, including youth, parents, professionals, and stakeholders to ensure advocacy is at the core of all policy efforts and connects these relationships to the appropriate policy team member

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 "30 Kids in 30 Days"
- Recruited and retained foster, adoptive, and kinship families to help children in foster care find permanent, loving families.
- Engaged youth in transformative leadership development by connecting curriculum to professional and personal experiences
- Collaborated with agencies to educate prospective foster-to-adopt parents