

# Chlo'e I. Edwards

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**Featured Skills:** Managerial Leadership. Policy Analysis. Advocacy & Activism. Lobbying. Campaign Management. Coalition & Network Development. Qualitative & Quantitative Data Analysis. Research & Analysis. Public Speaking. Motivational Speaking. Teaching Artist. Racial Equity Facilitator. Master Trauma & Resilience Trainer. Healing-Centered Community Engagement Practitioner. Yoga & Mindfulness Teacher. Social Emotional Learning Facilitator.

## EDUCATION, PROGRAMS, & TRAININGS

**Master of Arts:** Public Policy Analysis, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA (2020)

- Summa cum laude graduate
- Major in Public Policy & Leadership

**Bachelor of Arts:** English, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA (2017)

- Summa cum laude graduate
- Major in English with a double concentration in multicultural literature and creative writing
- Minor in social justice

**Virginia Progressive Leadership Program,** Virginia Civic Engagement Table, Richmond, VA (2021)

**Sorensen Institute for Political Emerging Leaders Program,** University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA (2019)

**Minority Research & Law Institute Program,** Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA (2013)

**Racial Equity Facilitator Training Cohort,** Equity Literacy Institute, Fairfax, VA (2021)

**Master Trauma & Resilience Train the Trainer Training Cohort,** ChildSavers, Richmond, VA (2021)

**Healing-Centered Engagement Practitioner Training,** Flourish Agenda (2022)

## EXPERIENCE

**POLICY DIRECTOR** at NEW VIRGINIA MAJORITY  
Richmond, VA ▪ 04/2023 - Present

Builds power in working-class communities of color across the Commonwealth. Organizes in communities year-round for racial, economic, and environmental justice through political education, mass-scale voter outreach, mobilization, and intensive leadership development around dozens of issues – all with a racial equity & justice lens. Works with the senior leadership team and policy team to develop public policy agendas and strategies for advancing those agendas. Oversees the preparation of research and related deliverables by policy analysts. Presents the policy positions and opinions of the organization to the public, government officials, and other organizations. Devises strategies with relevant staff to engage New Virginia Majority's grassroots network and allied organizations to influence policy and budget outcomes, providing staff, members, and stakeholders with training and technical assistance, talking points and materials. Develops and maintains positive working relationships with key local, state, and national elected officials to advance public policy agendas. Remains informed about local, state, and national policy developments that relate to New Virginia Majority's priorities and mission. Coordinates with policy analysts to develop annual short and long-term departmental goals. Works with the senior leadership team in setting strategic direction for New Virginia Majority.

**COMMUNITY ADVOCATE** at WORDS, BEATS, & LIFE  
Washington, DC ▪ 01/2023 - Present

Develops a performing arts and media pipeline designed to support, train, and invest in the DMV's next wave of event hosts, spoken word artists, radio/podcasts hosts, writers, and stage performers. Constructs weekly and/or monthly workshops. Encourages youth to publish work created via podcasts, journals, or commissioned performances with venues. Identifies young writers and leaders, who are committed to civic & community engagement, artistic excellence, human relations, diversity, and education across the region. Facilitate a group of about 4-6 youth aged 14-19 that spend a full year training, developing their literary skills, and performance technique to compete at the annual Brave New Voices International Poetry Festival. Train youth as social entrepreneurs to pursue artistry for passive revenue or a full-time role as adults.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER** at TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGES  
Glen Allen, VA ▪ 05/2022 - Present

**Systems Change:** Engages in the transformation of community and systems change. Facilitates personal and professional development related to diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, justice, and change strategies. Empowers

**Advanced Racial Equity Facilitator Training Cohort**, Equity Literacy Institute, Fairfax, Virginia (2022)

**Digital Storytelling Facilitator Training**, StoryTelling Alliance, Virginia (2022)

## TRAININGS IN PROGRESS

**Yoga Teacher Training**, Breathe for Change (03/22 - 09/22)

**Social Emotional Learning Facilitator Training**, Breathe for Change (03/22 - 09/22)

## LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

**Advisory Board Member**, The Hive Movement (2021 - present)

**Board Member**, I'M JUST ME MOVEMENT (2020 - present)

**President**, Boss Folx Vibes (2020 - 2022)

**Spokesperson**, Adopt US Kids (2018 - present)

**Member**, Collective 365 (2020 - present)

## AWARDS

**Young Women's Christian Association Outstanding Women Award**: Human Relations & Faith in Action (2021)

**Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children Award**: Equity in Media (2021)

**The Valentine Richmond History Maker Award**: Championing Social Justice (2021)

**Style Weekly Top "40 Under 40" Award**: Trailblazer (2020)

**Richmond, Virginia (RVA) Mic**

advocates, activist, community leaders, and organizations through workshops, trainings, and research-based concepts. Engages in policy and research consulting to ignite systemic change through policy development.

**Social Change**: Engages in transformation of self and relationships. Manages social entrepreneurial efforts with a concentration in cultural empowerment and healing by centering Black identity, Black joy, cultural plights, and triumphs yearlong through blogs, podcasts, art, and social networking. Creates opportunities for community connection to foster a sense of collective care, healing-centered engagement, mindfulness, and wellness principles derived from yoga as a vehicle for transformation of self and relationships.

**POLICY ANALYST** at VOICES FOR VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN  
Richmond, VA ▪ 03/2021 - 03/2022

Served as spokesperson and policy lead in domains related to the social determinants of health (SDOH) and justice, working collaboratively with engagement staff to create a multi-disciplinary policy agenda. Founded and operated as key decision maker and led Voices' Racial Truth & Reconciliation (RTR) Virginia Campaign & Racial Truth & Reconciliation Week (RTRW) to develop campaign priorities and agendas to promote truth, reconciliation, and justice for children and families. Founded and coordinated RTR coalition, committees, and issue-specific networks. Provided policy analysis expertise to relevant workgroups convened by state agencies, legislative commissions, and partner coalitions. Fostered effective relationships with community members, key legislators, legislative staff, elected officials, appointed officials, local and state government policy makers, reporters, private and public organizations. Maintained awareness of federal, state, and local work to strategize Campaign work plan, goals, strategies, tactics, and frameworks across issue areas. Managed Voices Trauma-Informed, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging leadership team to create staff trainings and development related to Racial Truth & Reconciliation concepts internally and externally.

**PRESIDENT** at BLACK LIVES MATTER 804  
Richmond, VA ▪ 08/2020 - 03/2022

Led and provided non-profit administration, the creation of operational procedures, workflow planning, fundraising, and grant administration for Black Lives Matter 804. Communicated regularly with executive team members to deliver pertinent details related to progress status and direction of the organization and chapter. Upheld strong constituent relations with public meetings, community demonstrations, events, and robust feedback system through volunteer staff. Builds and deepens partnerships with other activists, organizations, and public officials to carry out agendas more effectively. Led programs and operations, including staff and volunteer management, grant administration, press & political engagement, amongst other executive and programmatic duties.

**COMMUNITY PARTNER IN RESIDENCE** at  
UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND BONNER CENTER FOR CIVIC  
ENGAGEMENT  
Richmond, VA ▪ 08/2021 - 01/2022

Spearheaded research project to develop a multidisciplinary racial equity and social justice policy development guide for professionals, organizations, and good troubleleaders. Conducted research ranging from definitions and

**Share:** Top 34 Black Influential Women (2020)

**Connecting Hearts in Virginia Award:** Outstanding Service (2018)

**iPower Richmond's "30 Under 30" Award:** Trailblazer (2017)

## PROFILE

[www.ChloeIEdwards.com](http://www.ChloeIEdwards.com)

[www.linkedin.com/in/chloeiedwards/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/chloeiedwards/)

concepts related to diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging and justice to advocacy, activism, research, and data analysis strategies, and more. Lectured and communicated effectively with students from diverse backgrounds through on-campus engagement on topics related to leadership and social justice. Created and delivered quality findings rooted in research-based step-by-step strategies for just and equitable change.

### **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & DIGITAL ORGANIZER** at THE TRUTH TELLING PROJECT

Chicago, IL ▪ 06/2020 - 11/2021

Served as an advisor to prioritize and execute federal, state, and local Grassroots Reparations Campaign (GRC) and The Truth Telling Project (TTP) network initiatives. Liaised with stakeholders to address issues and implement solutions to achieve a just, equitable, and sustainable society free of state-sanctioned violence and systemic racism. Improved staff morale by optimizing workload to support work-life balance. Created and coordinated digital communication marketing tools and strategies for TTP network & GRC coalition.

### **ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT MANAGER** at VOICES FOR VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN

Richmond, VA ▪ 06/2018 - 03/2021

Trained and empowered advocates to connect with local, state, and federal elected and appointed leaders. Created advocacy toolkits and resources and serves as a point person for Voices advocacy days in providing support to all policy team members. Fostered effective and diverse relationships, including community members, public and elected officials, private and public organizations' perspectives. Led and increased staff capacity on the Campaign for a Trauma-Informed Virginia; served as key liaison between policy staff and regional trauma-informed community networks. Developed and directed traditional and digital campaign and advocacy strategies, including e-advocacy and action alerts, digital & traditional advocacy trainings, and virtual, hybrid, and in-person advocacy days.

### **PROGRAM & PROJECT DIRECTOR** at CONNECTING HEARTS IN VIRGINIA

RICHMOND, VA ▪ 04/2015 - 06/2018

Promoted company public profile by delivering speeches, writing articles, and led and collaborated on statewide conference as public face of organization. Oversaw strategic organizational management and decision-making to develop, enhance and enforce non-profit mission. Executed the Connecting Hearts mission to find each child a permanent, loving home through grassroots campaigns, strategic partnerships, and media campaigns to solve Virginia's Child Welfare crisis. Provided organizational leadership and collaborated with the board to establish long-term goals, strategies, budget, and revenue goals. Collaborated with the appointed Adoption Champion of Virginia and led ADOPT advocacy network legislative committee to develop child welfare, kinship care, and foster care policy priorities.