# 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. Spoken Word. 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 doubleconcentration 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)

#### TRAININGS & CERTIFICATIONS

Healing-Centered Engagement Practitioner Certification, Flourish Agenda (2022)

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

# EXPERIENCE

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER** at CHLO'E EDWARDS BRANDS LLC & TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE LLC WASHINGTON, DC • 03/2017 – Present

**Transformation of Community: WOKE Literacy Institute LLC:** Mutually empowers community members, professionals, leaders, and organizations to ignite change. Facilitates personal and professional development related to diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, justice, and change strategies. Empowers advocates, activist, community leaders, and organizations through empowerment practices and research and concept-based change strategies.

**Transformation of Relationships: Blackity Black 365 LLC:** Manages social entrepreneurial efforts with a concentration in cultural empowerment and validation the Black identity, cultural plights, and triumphs year-long through blogs, podcasts, and social networking. Creates networking and opportunities for community connection to create sense of collective care, validity, and solidarity.

**Transformation of Self: Stay Yoked LLC:** Leads development of a healingcentered engagement and wellness-based initiative focused on transformation of self, transformation of relationships, transformation of community, and liberation of humankind through yoga and mindfulness as a vehicle for social change.

ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR at COALITION FOR NON-PROFIT HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WASHINGTON, DC • 03/2022 - 06/2022

Advocacy & Campaign Activities: Collaborated with President/CEO and policy leads to develop cross-issue advocacy strategy. Collaborated with the communications team to develop a coordinated advocacy, communications, and social media strategy. Collaborated with CNHED policy leads, working groups, and advocacy partners to amplify policy recommendations and positions. Developed an engagement workplan surrounding the District's annual budget process outlining CNHED's advocacy involvement throughout the entire process. Trained CNHED members and supporters on advocacy methods and coalitionbuilding techniques. Recruited and supervise advocacy interns and volunteers. Developed collaborative relationships with District elected leaders and government staff. Coordinated rallies, developed campaigns, and maintained digital advocacy tools.

**Community Engagement:** Developed and facilitate Community Voices Working Group to advise CNHED on the perspectives and experiences of residents with lived experience with affordable housing and workforce development programs. Facilitated the Resident Leadership Team's work to advise CNHED on relevant affordable housing issues and to develop and implement tactics to recruit, engage, **Digital Storytelling Facilitator Training**, StoryTelling Alliance,

Virginia (2022)

**Certified Yoga Teacher 200 (CYT-200),** Breathe for Change (2022)

**Certified Social Emotional Learning Facilitator (SEL\*F)**, Breathe for Change (2022)

**Racial Equity Facilitator**, Equity Literacy Institute (2021)

Master Trauma & Resilience Facilitator, ChildSavers, Richmond, VA (2021)

#### LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

# **Executive Committee Member**, Racial Truth & Reconciliation

Virginia (2022 - present)

Member, NAACP DC (2022 - present)

**Member**, Thursday Network, National Urban League (2022 present)

**Member**, Harriet's Wildest Dreams (2022 – present)

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

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

**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) and mobilize supporters of CNHED's Housing for All campaign. Assisted residents, community leaders, and others with drafting testimony, questions, and public comments about legislation, regulations, and policies regarding homelessness, affordable housing, and workforce development. Served as the primary liaison between CNHED and District residents. Collaborated with CNHED members to connect with District residents. Researched new ways to engage community members in affordable housing, small business, and workforce development issues.

**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 Campaignwork 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 pertinentdetails 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 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

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

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

Richmond, Virginia (RVA) Mic 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

www.linkedin.com/in/chloeiedwards

for just and equitable change.

#### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & DIGITAL ORGANIZER at THE TRUTH TELLING PROJECT Chicago, H + 06/2020, 11/2021

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 forVoices 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 BICUMONID VIA - 04/2015 - 06/2018

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.

# **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZER** at THE SMALL ENTREPRENEUR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE RICHMOND, VA • 01/2013 - 04/2015

Identified and recruited individuals with gaps in opportunities to make a change across public health industries, including entrepreneurship, non-profit start-ups, and direct service substance use and mental health fields. Help business owners in re-entry create their brand presence and achieve their goals by outfitting opportunities needed to empower their brand. Led seminars and workforce discussions across a variety of topics, including self-employment consultations, self-advocacy, network collaborations, and target market demographics.