



CHICAGO
**AFRICAN AMERICANS
IN PHILANTHROPY**

LEADING

Through Adversity

February 26TH

2021

**CONNECTING
PHILANTHROPY
AND COMMUNITY**

Hosted by
CHICAGO
**AFRICAN AMERICANS
IN PHILANTHROPY**

Infrastructure

Racial Equity

Resilience

Resistance

Divestment

Power

**Impact
Response**

**Trust
Unity**

CONNECTING PHILANTHROPY & COMMUNITY

Connecting Philanthropy & Community is the signature event of Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy (CAAIP). Its focus is to highlight exemplary work in fostering meaningful connections between the local philanthropic sector and the diverse communities it serves. We are proud to recognize leaders in the local philanthropic and nonprofit sectors who have demonstrated a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion on behalf of the African American community.

The goal is to stimulate dialogue and action around strengthening philanthropy's commitment to the African American community – by paying tribute to today's leaders, and by way of recognition of and support for the leaders of tomorrow. The awards and lecture call special attention to philanthropy- community partnerships that identify needs and create strategic opportunities aimed at improving outcomes for African Americans.

2021 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Claudette G. Baker, Chair

Tina Battle

Iona Calhoun-Battiste

Deborah Clark

Jessyca Dudley

Janice Dunbar-Travis

Caroline McCoy

Tawa Mitchell

THANK YOU TO THE CAAIP LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jessyca Dudley, CAAIP Director

Caronina Grimble, State of Illinois (Co-chair)

Tawa Mitchell, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (Co-chair)

Iona Calhoun-Battiste, Thrive Chicago (Special Events)

Sabrina Greig, Lloyd A. Fry Foundation (Membership Committee)

Caroline McCoy, Woods Fund Chicago (Social Justice Committee)

Ayom Siengo, Skills for Chicagoland's Future



EVENT PARTICIPANTS, IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Featured Musician

Sam Trump

Civic Leaders

JB Pritzker, Governor of Illinois

Lori Lightfoot, Mayor of Chicago

Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County
Board of Commissioners

Emcee

Evelyn Holmes, ABC 7 News

CAAIP Leaders

Claudette G. Baker, Event Chair

Jessyca Dudley, Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy

Timothy Russell, WTTW Chicago

Janice Dunbar-Travis, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Deborah Harrington, Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy

Sabrina Greig, The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation

Featured Artist

Leonard Mitchell Jr.

Awardees

Corliss V. Garner, First Midwest Bank

Jonathan Peck, CivicLab

Local Leaders

Jawanza Malone, Wieboldt Foundation

Dorri McWhorter, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

Featured Guest and Interviewer

Kayce Ataiyero, The Joyce Foundation

Nikole Hannah-Jones, The New York Times





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[Myforefront.org](http://myforefront.org)

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of Forefront, I greet you in anticipation of a wonderful evening Connecting Philanthropy and Community: Leading Through Adversity. Welcome to an important and much needed dialogue complete with honoring champions in the social impact sector.

As previous Co-Chair of Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy (CAAIP), I remain proud of your success in bringing conversations like this to our attention. CAAIP's forward thinking since its founding in 1998 has provided a space for African Americans to advance their leadership in the social sector. Being both responsive and proactive, it has been a pleasure to engage with CAAIP's leadership to increase investments in communities of color, advance equitable philanthropy practices and build an impenetrable infrastructure for equitable leadership in the social sector.

Congratulations to this year's honorees. It is my hope that your work is a testament to greater things to come. Congratulations to CAAIP on your work to serve your members and ally organizations and stepping forward by speaking truth to power. May this evening spark important conversation followed by united impact.

Best wishes for continued success.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MBJones".

Monique B. Jones, LCSW

President & CEO

The logo for the Grand Victoria Foundation is a blue square with the text "GRAND VICTORIA" in white, uppercase letters on the top line, a thin white horizontal line in the middle, and "FOUNDATION" in white, uppercase letters on the bottom line.

GRAND VICTORIA
FOUNDATION

To the Beloved CAAIP Community,

It is an absolute joy to welcome you to Connecting Philanthropy and Community this year! We are at a critical point in history where the collective voice and power of Black people is on full display in Chicago and beyond. Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy is influential in amplifying Black voice in this moment. Its members lead the quest for racial equity and justice in philanthropy. It curates essential dialogue between the nonprofit, philanthropy, and government sectors. And it advocates for long-term change in how philanthropy is in relationship with Black communities.

It is not lost on me that this year's Connecting Philanthropy and Community occurs during a Black History Month that follows an intense year of protests and unrest that represent a generational shift for racial justice. Educating the masses about Black history, our valuable contributions and the systemic oppression perpetuated upon us, is as important as it has ever been in my lifetime. True understanding and application of our history is the path to the economic and social liberation for Black people and, ultimately to the advancement of the city, state and country. Keynote speaker Nikole Hannah-Jones and her body of work is a wonderful embodiment of this moment and of CAAIP's enduring leadership. I know that being in conversation with her will be provocative and inspiring.

And, a heartfelt congratulations to my friend Corliss Garner and Jonathan Peck the Champion of Diversity and Champion of Social Justice award recipients. As a previous CAAIP award recipient, I know there is no higher honor than being recognized by members of your own community. Thank you for all that are and all that you do.

My best wishes for an outstanding event!

Sharon Bush
President, Grand Victoria Foundation

Dear CAAIP Sisters and Brothers,

What a time we are living in! A pandemic that has put racial and economic injustice in stark relief. Continued police violence that has sparked righteous protests across the country and world. I struggled with what I could write that would be meaningful and additive. My default would have been to cite statistics about disparities caused by systemic racism. But you already know that there is consistent and longstanding inequity in healthcare, education, employment, homeownership, policing, child welfare, and financial systems. You know that these disparities drive the racial wealth gap. You know that they ultimately manifest themselves in the 16-year death gap between Black and white Chicago residents. You know that this is not because of biology, behavior or beliefs. It is the result of centuries of discriminatory policies and practices. And you know that as historian Carol Anderson says in her book *White Rage*, whenever "African-Americans have made advances toward full participation in our democracy, white reaction has fueled a deliberate, relentless rollback of any gains." The more than 100 bills to restrict voting rights recently filed in state legislatures across the country illustrates this point.

At the same time, we are experiencing what author Ibram X. Kendi calls a Black Renaissance, "the third great cultural revival of Black Americans, after the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s, after the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and 1970s." He asserts that Black writers, filmmakers, musicians, and visual artists are no longer limited by what Toni Morrison called the "white gaze," which centers what white people will think about their work. Moreover, they are also no longer limited by Black "respectability politics," which dictates that their work "represent the race," as if we are a monolithic people.

I am a child of the Black Arts Movement, who enthusiastically embraced Black pride and Black power. However, as a result of often being one of few Black faces in white spaces, I have been limited by the "white gaze" and "respectability politics." I am heartened by this new era of art and activism that is expressing the full humanity of Black people. I'd like to share a bit of art that has gotten me through - a few lyrics from Dianne Reeves' song *Testify*:

"So sweet the journey when you learn to love yourself,
accept yourself,
Forgive yourself, respect yourself, believe in yourself,
be yourself

With amazing grace as your constant friend
I am free of danger, I am free of fear, and my mind is at ease
I don't regret yesterday, 'cause yesterday made me who I am today"

Let's keep up the good fight and make our ancestors proud.

Appreciatively,
Deborah E. Bennett
Senior Program Officer, Polk Bros Foundation

Welcome

Welcome to CAAIP's signature event, Connecting Philanthropy and Community. As we are settling into new and different ways to connect, we are so glad that you have chosen to join us for this virtual celebration. In addition to recognizing two leaders in our community whose work exemplifies a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Black community, we want to acknowledge efforts happening across the metropolitan Chicago area to build strategies to advance racial justice in our policies, institutions, and culture.

Over the last year, many have come to understand that the racial disparities that have long existed in this country --from healthcare to education access to wealth distribution-- are not inevitable. They are the result of systemic and institutional racism. This same racism extends to corporate, community, national and local leadership sectors, and contributes to the adversity faced by many Black leaders in those spaces. CAAIP members work to dismantle these systems, and to empower community to create new systems that advance equity and racial justice. Tonight we honor two leaders who embody this work, and who represent the ongoing commitment to equity and racial justice. Congratulations to Corliss Garner, and to Jonathan Peck.

We thank you for joining us for this event, and we invite you to join us in our work.

Please enjoy tonight's event, and again, welcome.

Caronina Grimble
Co-chair, CAAIP Leadership Team



Featured Guest

NIKOLE

HANNAH-JONES



Ms. Hannah-Jones is a domestic correspondent for The New York Times Magazine focusing on racial injustice. In 2020, she won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary for her essay in The 1619 Project, which traces the central role black Americans have played in the nation, including its vast material success and democracy itself.

Ms. Hannah-Jones has written on federal failures to enforce the Fair Housing Act, the resegregation of American schools, and policing in America. Her extensive reporting in both print and radio on the ways segregation in housing and schools is maintained through official action and policy has earned the National Magazine Award, a Peabody and a Polk Award.

Ms. Hannah-Jones earned her bachelor's in history and African-American studies from the University of Notre Dame and her master's in journalism and mass communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a co-founder of the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, housed at UNC Chapel Hill.



A portrait of Corliss V. Garner, a woman with curly brown hair, smiling, wearing a red lace top. The background is a light gray gradient.

**Champion
of Diversity**
**CORLISS V.
GARNER**

Corliss V. Garner is Senior Vice President and Head of Corporate Social Responsibility and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at First Midwest Bank. In this role, Corliss is responsible for designing and executing strategies in diversity, equity and inclusion and corporate citizenship that drive the bank's business and growth agenda.

Prior to joining First Midwest Bank, Corliss held leadership positions at BMO Financial Group in several areas including operations, wealth management, commercial lending, community giving and diversity and inclusion. She is a graduate of DePaul University, has completed several leadership programs, including the Chicago Urban League/University of Chicago Booth School of Business IMPACT program and Leadership Greater Chicago, and has earned the Certified Trust and Financial Advisor (CTFA) and the Certified Financial Planner (CFPTM) designations. Corliss has received the Chicago Defender Woman of Excellence Award, Black Women's Expo Phenomenal Woman Award and is a Leading with Virtue honoree.

As a lifelong Chicagoan, Corliss is very passionate about giving back to the community. She has served as a contributing financial columnist to the Chicago Defender, is a former Trustee of the Chicago State University Board of Trustees and is a Life Trustee of the advisory board of The African American Legacy at The Chicago Community Trust. Corliss has also held board positions with the DePaul Coleman Entrepreneurship Center and the Executive Service Corps of Chicago. In 2013, in honor of her late mother Corliss created the Murry L. Garner Scholarship Fund supporting college aspirations for African American girls from the west side of Chicago.

A portrait of Jonathan Peck, a man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, white shirt, and dark tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.

Champion of Social Justice

JONATHAN PECK

Jonathan Peck is a Master Facilitator, Organizer, Trainer, Coach and Mentor and has provided these services to over 5,000 individuals. He has extensive experience as an Advisor and Consultant, providing strategic advice in the areas of organizational development, electoral political campaigns, strategic planning and partnerships, and nonprofit executive leadership and business management.

Jonathan has extensive experience in the international arena, most notably working on the ground in Southern Africa and Nicaragua. He has worked in over 15 countries across North and Latin America, Europe and Southern Africa. He was the Resource Development Coordinator for Alternatives, Inc., where he also served as the South & West Side Coordinator for Restorative Justice.

He is the former President and Chief Executive Officer of the Tucson Urban League and has over 25 years experience working within the community development field facilitating projects, coalitions, and alliances at the neighborhood, citywide, regional, national and international levels. Jonathan worked as a community organizer, and later as Associate Director of the Southwest Youth Collaborative (SWYC), a Chicago based organization dedicated to the healthy development of low-income children, youth and families. Jonathan served on the Community Relations Working Group of the Police Accountability Task Force of the City of Chicago.

FEATURED MUSICIAN Sam Trump



Sam Trump is a full-time musician & curator, and is mostly active throughout the city of Chicago where he's become a mainstay. He curates musical talent & events, and maintains multiple performance residencies. Sam Trump sings, plays a smooth trumpet amongst other instruments, and brings a sophistication to the stage that engages & uplifts. As a songwriter and recording artist he covers topics of love & romance, inspiration, community, and societal interdependence.

[More about this artist](#)

A portrait of Leonard Mitchell, Jr., a bald man with glasses and a goatee, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue zip-up shirt and a patterned vest. The background is a light green wall with a white decorative swirl on the left side.

FEATURED ARTIST Leonard Mitchell Jr.

A talented creative artist and graphic designer for more than 40 years, Leonard Mitchell, Jr. brilliantly captures the unique essence of each project he approaches.

Leonard developed a deep passion for art in his teen years as he studied under his father, who was also a gifted artist. Leonard's spectrum of creative works includes drawings, paintings, portraits, e-brochures, flyers and web pages. With knowledge and formal training in Illustrator, Photoshop and InDesign programs, he uses a variety of mediums including pencil, chalk, acrylics and interactive media.

Leonard is a survivor, overcoming a cancerous brain tumor in 2018. Throughout his challenging recovery, he continued to paint, create and master new art and computer graphic techniques. This life obstacle endeared Leonard even more to his mantra: "I enjoy taking memorable moments and turning them into priceless works of art."

Leonard is an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and a former elementary school worker focused on special needs children. He and his wife Gwendolyn have four children and eight grandchildren, and live in suburban Chicago.

[More about this artist](#)

THANK YOU to our 2021 Connecting Philanthropy & Community Sponsors

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Residents observe 2019 *Leader for a New Chicago* Tonika Johnson's "Folded Map Project," which visually connects individuals living on the city's North and South Sides, while addressing urban segregation and how it impacts Chicago residents.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation is proud to support Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy.

MacArthur invests in people, places, and partnerships to advance racial equity and build a more inclusive Chicago. Over 40 years, we have invested \$1.4 billion in more than 1,600 organizations and individuals across the Chicago region—more than any other place in the world.

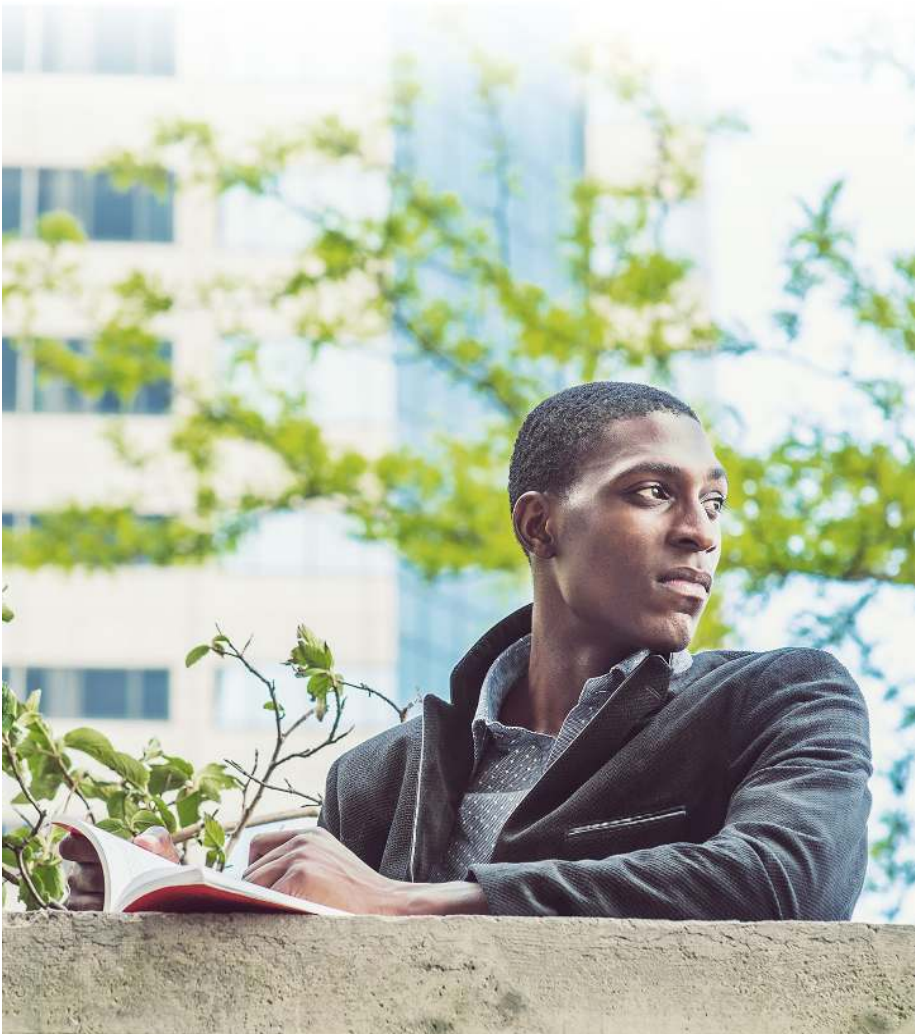
www.macfound.org/Chicago

MacArthur Foundation

ROBERT R.
MCCORMICK
FOUNDATION

The Robert R. McCormick Foundation values diversity, equity, and inclusion by supporting organizations that provide and foster access to resources and opportunities.

We salute you, Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy.



The
Joyce
Foundation

We are proud to support
Chicago African Americans in
Philanthropy's 2021 Connecting
Philanthropy & Community
event.



**Working to advance racial equity and
economic mobility for the next generation
in the Great Lakes region.**

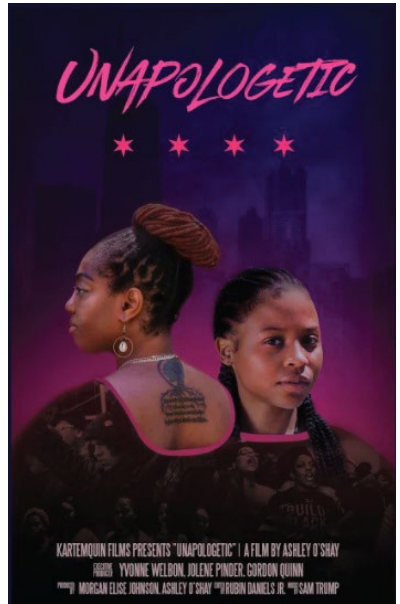
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Proudly serving Chicago for 80 years,
the mission of the Field Foundation is to center
racial equity to achieve community empowerment through
Justice, Art, Media & Storytelling and Leadership Investment.

We salute and celebrate
Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy
and we congratulate this year's Champions of
Diversity and Social Justice.





BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

Diversity and inclusion are part of Boeing's values at the deepest level, and we proudly celebrate our team coming together to raise the bar for change.

This photo was taken before Boeing implemented COVID-19 pandemic safeguards.



GCM GROSVENOR IS PROUD TO SUPPORT

Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy

**Congratulations Awardees
Corliss Garner and Jonathan Peck**

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GRAND VICTORIA FOUNDATION

We celebrate
Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy
on their deep commitment to
racial equity, inclusiveness, and advocacy of
diverse leadership in philanthropy.

Our deepest gratitude to
CAAIP for Connecting
Philanthropy and Community
in 2021 and Beyond.

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Congratulations ...

2021 Connecting Philanthropy and Community awardees



Thank you for your 23 years of
advocating for racial justice in
philanthropy ...

Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy

POLK BROS FOUNDATION

chicago
foundation
for women
is proud to support
Chicago African
Americans in
Philanthropy!

*Join us on March 18
for the
2021 Impact Awards
cfw.org/impact*

thrive
chicago

Thrive Chicago is deeply committed to leadership that elevates the lived experiences of the youth and our partner organizations we work alongside with everyday.

We celebrate and support Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy and congratulate all 2021 award recipients!



ABFE

Strengthening Black Communities
SINCE 1971



**First
Midwest
Bank**

BANK WITH MOMENTUM 

Letter from the Director and Event Chair

Thank you for joining us for Connecting Philanthropy and Community 2021, your support is invaluable to our community. This year brings new opportunities for Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy and we are excited to have you join us as we look ahead to a year of promoting dialogue between philanthropic organizations and nonprofits serving people of color, advocates for investment by African Americans and builds infrastructure for equitable leadership roles in philanthropy.

We envision a philanthropic community that effectively responds to the needs of African American communities and is inclusive of Black leadership and talent. Our vision compels all of us, allies included, to contribute and to become engaged in ensuring our community is resourced adequately and equitably; and to support, uplift, and promote our leaders by disarming oppressive systems and workplace microaggressions.

Leading Through Adversity encourages us to be hopeful and vigilant in addressing the myriad of opportunities and challenges that require thoughtful and energetic solutions to traditional philanthropy and complex operations in the social sector. As leaders, your style and brand define who you are, sometimes misunderstood, and we laud your boldness, your authenticity, your courage, your humility. Thank you for awakening the spirit of individualism and daring to lead on your terms and in your season.

Tonight, we recognize the artistry, leadership, and perseverance of our many peers - with special appreciation to our awardees Corliss V. Garner and Jonathan Peck, who have demonstrated their commitment to our local community and to Nikole Hannah-Jones for an inspired conversation on leading through adversity. We look forward to continuing the conversation!



Jessyca Dudley
Director, CAAIP



Claudette G. Baker
Event Chair

CAAIP Upcoming Events

Black Philanthropy's Support for the Black LGBTQ+ Community

March 11, 2021 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm

Join us in conversation with Kim L. Hunt, Executive Director, Pride Action Tank; Jamie Frazier, Executive Director, Lighthouse Foundation; Anna Deshawn, Board Chair, Affinity Community Services; Craig W. Johnson, Minority Affairs Section Group Manager, American Medical Association; Joel D. Jackson, Director, Inclusion and Equity Strategies, Urban Health Initiative and moderator Caronina Grimble on centering the LGBTQ+ community in our philanthropic efforts.

#TrustBlackWomen Virtual Happy Hour

March 23, 2021 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Join us online for a virtual happy hour. We will continue to discuss the pressing changes that we are seeing in our communities and in our work as well as opportunities for collaboration. We will be joined by Lisa Marie Pickens, consultant and executive coach, to lead a conversation about Black female leadership in philanthropy and how we can use our collective power to shape new models of leadership.

Quarterly Membership Meeting

April 15, 2021 from 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Join your fellow CAAIP members to learn of important member updates and to hear from organizations serving our community.

**Please join CAAIP for these Upcoming Events.
Visit our events page to learn more!**





CHICAGO
AFRICAN AMERICANS
IN PHILANTHROPY

Remember to follow us on social media,
and tag tonight's posts with:
#CAAIP #ConnectingPhilanthropy&Community