Alia J. Bilal  
**Director of Community Relations, Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN)**
Alia is responsible for cultivating and maintaining individual donors and engaging other organizations and institutions around strategic programs and initiatives. A native of the South Side, Alia graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a degree in International Studies and concentration in Islamic World Studies. She is an appointee of the Equity Advisory Council of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations and board member for the Southwest Organizing Project.

Twania Brewster  
**Vice President of Marketing, Communications, and Guest Operations, Chicago Children’s Museum**
Prior to joining the museum, which serves more than 400,000 visitors every year, Twania led the rebranding of the City Colleges of Chicago from seven separate colleges to one community college system dedicated to moving its students from college to careers. She began her professional life in the business sector, and is particularly interested in marrying the best practices and efficiencies of for-profits to the mission-driven operations of nonprofit and governmental organizations.

Jaime Arteaga  
**Manager - Community Engagement, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago**
Jaime has spent his career developing relationships and partnerships that support youth, eliminate violence, and improve education. He is currently leading the roll out and implementation of a collective impact initiative in 10 communities. Jaime also serves on the steering committee of the Chicagoland Equity Network and is co-chair of the Chicago chapter of Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy.

Juliet Azimi  
**Director of Budget & Management, Chicago Park District**
Juliet is responsible for the preparation and oversight of CPD’s $449 million operating budget, capital budget, and grants management. She has served in several roles at the City of Chicago over the course of her career, including deputy director for the Department of Finance, chief revenue analyst for the Office of Budget and Management, and auditor for the Department of Revenue.

Jessica Bryar  
**Chief, Civil Division, Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender**
Jessica’s division represents indigent individuals in the Child Protection and Mental Health divisions of the Circuit Court of Cook County. She oversees 35 employees and an annual budget of approximately $3.4 million. She serves on the American Bar Association’s National Alliance for Parent Representation Steering Committee and Illinois Department of Children and Family Service’s Cook County Transformation Team. Jessica received her J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law and B.A. from Boston College.
Prentice Butler
*Director of Constituent Services and Development, 4th Ward Service Office*
Prentice has worked for the Fourth Ward Service Office since 2011, and currently focuses on community development, quality of life, and public safety concerns for Ald. Sophia King. He is president of the University of Chicago Association of Black Alumni, and a member of New Leaders Council, Truman National Security Project, and 100 Black Men Chicago. Prentice holds a B.A. from the University of Chicago and M.A. from Loyola University Chicago.

Jessica A. Caffrey
*Director of Real Estate Management, Cook County*
Jessica develops and implements transformative redevelopment initiatives for more than 19 million square feet of real estate, while consolidating and streamlining real estate operations and costs. She negotiates and recommends strategic improvements, leases, dispositions, and acquisitions of properties beneficial to the County. Her management of space allocation to meet agency needs has generated savings for Cook County taxpayers. She has been leading complex asset initiatives at the County and Chicago Housing Authority for more than 15 years.

Kathleen S. Caliento
*Chief Program Officer, Spark*
Kathleen oversees evolution and implementation of Spark’s mentoring program and serves on the Executive Team. She has spent two decades committed to urban education and student success. A published author, she has written about youth STEM pathways, parental engagement, and more. Kathleen earned her doctoral and master’s degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University. She received a bachelor’s degree in psychology, minoring in biology from State University of New York, Stony Brook. An avid runner, Kathleen also enjoys playing guitar and traveling.

Ted Christians
*Chief Executive Officer, Umoja Student Development Corporation*
Ted joined Umoja Student Development Corporation in 1999. He holds a Bachelor of Social Work from Calvin College and A.M. from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. He received a Certificate of Professional Achievement in Nonprofit Management from Kellogg School of Management, Harvard Business School (HBS) Alumni Club of Chicago fellowship to the HBS Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management program, and Harry L. Davis Executive Education scholarship to Chicago Booth. He is a member of Leadership Greater Chicago’s Class of 2008.

Ketsia Colinet
*Director of Housing Policy & Occupancy, Chicago Housing Authority*
Ketsia oversees CHA’s public housing policies, procedures, and waitlist management leasing activities. Previously, she managed the City of Chicago’s largest ($169 million) housing program designed to assist communities severely impacted by foreclosure. Ketsia also worked in the private sector, serving as director of development for one of the nation’s largest multi-family Real Estate Investment Trusts and senior analyst for a highly regarded real estate consulting firm. Ketsia received a Master in City Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Architecture from Illinois Institute of Technology.
**Felicia Dawson**  
**Director, Community Partnerships and Engagement, Preservation of Affordable Housing**  
Felicia began her career in community development as a community organizer and real estate analyst in Kansas City, Mo. In 1999, she became manager of a $1.2 million dollar housing portfolio and other housing programs. In 2003, she joined the Steans Family Foundation as a program officer managing the foundation’s satellite office and programming. Felicia then joined the Community Builders as director of community life, managing its $2.2 million social service programming. This led to her current role at Preservation of Affordable Housing.

**Mollie Dowling**  
**Executive Director, OAI, Inc.**  
Mollie holds an M.A. in Community Development and has a passion for creative social change that has grown over 14 years of experience leading large-scale employment and training programs. She has managed a variety of complex federal, state, and private workforce development initiatives serving employers as well as disadvantaged adults and youth, including the successful Calumet Green Manufacturing Partnership. Mollie serves on the board of the Chicago Jobs Council, Muslim Women’s Resource Center, and Chicago Wisdom Project. She is a beekeeper, avid runner, and vegetarian home cook.

**Paul Fitzgerald**  
**General Manager, Working Bikes**  
Paul manages a nonprofit that rescues discarded bicycles and gives them new life as empowerment tools in local and global communities. In four years, he has overseen an overhaul of the organization’s financials, increase of involvement with global partners, and more than tripling of local impact. A strong believer in the value of service and popular education, Paul works to build partnerships aimed at addressing inequity in transportation and health in Chicago. Paul earned a BA from University of Illinois-Chicago in 2004 and currently lives in South Shore with his family.

**Theresa Gibbons**  
**Director, Asset Building Programs, Heartland Alliance**  
Theresa has worked in affordable housing and asset building programs for more than 15 years. In her current role, she seeks to build economic security for low-income families. She also helped pilot a large-scale asset-building program for residents of public housing in Chicago, and provided oversight for domestic and sexual violence recovery programs. Her direct service experience has focused on housing advocacy and tenants’ rights, financial empowerment, and adult education. She holds a B.S in Math from the University of Notre Dame.

**Amy Crawford**  
**Deputy Director, Cook County Department of Human Rights & Ethics**  
Prior to her current position, Amy was a litigation partner at the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis, LLP. She is a fellow of Leadership Greater Chicago and the Illinois Women’s Institute for Leadership, and serves on the board of the Illinois Gun Violence Prevention PAC. Amy ran for alderman of the 46th Ward (Uptown, Lakeview) in 2015, and is president of her local block club. Amy obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame and law degree from the University of Chicago.
**Ana Guajardo**  
**Executive Director, Centro de Trabajadores Unidos: Immigrant Workers’ Project**  
Ana was born and raised in South Chicago, after her parents migrated from Mexico in the early 1970s. Upon graduation from the University of Minnesota Hubert H. Humphrey Institute with an M.A. in Public Policy, Ana began working for SEIU Local 3 in Indianapolis as a union organizer, then with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. In 2009, she was elected executive director for her current organization, which she co-founded after identifying the large need in the community while mobilizing for the immigrant rights marches in southeast Chicago.

**Imran Khan**  
**CEO & Co-Founder, Embarc**  
Imran co-founded Embarc on the idea that isolation is one of the key factors in the achievement gap and that experiences are fundamental to success. In 2016, he was awarded an Ashoka Fellowship. Previously, Imran taught at Harper High School, which NPR’s *This American Life* labeled “the most dangerous school in the country.” At Harper, Imran served as English chair, AVID chair, and on the Instructional Leadership Team. He was a Gold Medal Winner for highest student gains in Chicago’s Area 12 for three consecutive years.

**Peter Leonard**  
**Director of Student Assessment, Chicago Public Schools**  
A Philadelphia native, Peter taught middle school in St. Petersburg, Fla., before moving to Chicago. Now a district administrator, he stays connected to students by mentoring a second grader through Horizons for Youth. Peter is a proud alumnus of the Education Pioneers fellowship and an even prouder uncle to his nephew. Peter holds a B.A. in History from the University of Notre Dame and M.A. in Learning Sciences from Northwestern University.

**A.D. Sean Lewis**  
**Director of Public Policy & Legislative Affairs, Civilian Office on Police Accountability**  
A.D. oversees his office’s policy and data analysis section and is developing the agency’s framework for policy recommendations, data analysis, and pattern and practice investigations. He previously worked as an auditor for the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General. A.D. is on the Executive Board for New Leaders Council Chicago, was named to *Crain’s* “20 in their 20’s,” and has worked on a range of issues that impact the LGBT community and survivors of abuse and assault. He is originally from Jersey Village, Tx., and studied politics and viola at Oberlin College.

**Chris Lipman**  
**Program Coordinator, Cook County Department of Environmental Control**  
Chris manages his department’s Land Division, overseeing regulatory and sustainability programs focused on waste diversion and appropriate handling of materials throughout suburban Cook County. He chairs the Cook County Green Leadership Team’s Waste and Recycling Subcommittee and is a member of several environmental non-governmental organizations. Prior to his work with Cook County, Chris managed environmental regulatory compliance for Sears Holdings Corporation’s 4,000 retail and logistics facilities. He holds an M.B.A. from DePaul University and B.S. in History from Illinois State University.
Ellen Grace McCormack  
**Vice President of Purchasing and Supply Chain, Chicago Transit Authority**  
Ellen was promoted to vice president in 2013, and currently manages a $22 million budget and directs a team of 175 employees. Her department is responsible for the procurement and distribution of all needs of the Authority, from construction to rolling stock, to vehicle and facility maintenance. Ellen received a B.A. from Marquette University, J.D. from Chicago Kent College of Law, and L.L.M. in real estate from John Marshall School of Law.

Jose M. Muñoz  
**Vice President of Community Ownership, The Resurrection Project**  
Jose leads the Resurrection Project’s Community Ownership Pillar, which includes La Casa Student Housing, San Jose Obrero Mission, Immigration Services, and TRP’s education, health, civic engagement and violence prevention efforts. He previously served in the Illinois Governor’s Office as chief marketing officer for the state’s Health Insurance Marketplace and deputy commissioner for the Chicago Department of Public Health. Jose was raised in Chicago’s Back of the Yards neighborhood and holds a bachelor’s degree from Chicago State University.

Jennifer O. Maddox  
**Police Officer, Chicago Police Department**  
Jennifer is a 20-year CPD veteran police officer who has worked various positions, from patrol officer to CAPS officer serving as a liaison for the youth, seniors, and schools. She is certified to train officers in Community Engagement, a Peace Circle trainer/keeper, and active in the implementation of bridging the divide within CPD. Off duty, Jennifer is a doctoral candidate and owner and director of Future Ties, a nonprofit after school and summer program inside Parkway Gardens in the Woodlawn community.

Laura Markin  
**Strategy Implementation Manager, University of Chicago Medicine**  
Laura is a public policy professional dedicated to expanding access to healthcare services to residents of Chicago. Her proudest professional achievements include managing the development of a Community Triage Center and a mental health clinic in Roseland. Laura recently joined the University of Chicago as a strategy implementation manager, where she will support the establishment of a new trauma center. She obtained a bachelor’s degree in Social Work from New York University, and master’s in Public Policy from the University of Chicago. She enjoys cooking with her husband and taking their rescue pup on adventures.

Jessica Marshall  
**Director of Social Science and Civic Engagement, Chicago Public Schools**  
Jessica’s work focuses on expanding social science education and civic learning opportunities for all CPS students. She has served on the Illinois Civic Mission Coalition and Illinois Social Studies Standards Task Force. She began her career in education in 2006, as a teacher in the Bronx, NY. In CPS, Jessica taught at Alcott College Prep, where she co-led efforts to earn the designation of Illinois Democracy School. Jessica, a proud CPS graduate, earned a B.A. in Sociology and Latin American Studies from Dartmouth College and M.S. in Special Education from City College-City University of New York.

Laura Markin  
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Joseph Marshall  
**Director of Social Science and Civic Engagement, Chicago Public Schools**  
Jessica’s work focuses on expanding social science education and civic learning opportunities for all CPS students. She has served on the Illinois Civic Mission Coalition and Illinois Social Studies Standards Task Force. She began her career in education in 2006, as a teacher in the Bronx, NY. In CPS, Jessica taught at Alcott College Prep, where she co-led efforts to earn the designation of Illinois Democracy School. Jessica, a proud CPS graduate, earned a B.A. in Sociology and Latin American Studies from Dartmouth College and M.S. in Special Education from City College-City University of New York.
Daniella K. Pereira  
**Director of Regional Forestry, Openlands**

Daniella leads programs to advance the growth and preservation of Chicago’s regional forest. She oversees the 25-year-old TreeKeepers program and public tree planting initiatives. She is on the State’s Urban Forestry Committee and co-leads the Chicago Region Trees Initiative. A Chicago native, Daniella previously managed forest restoration and green-job training programs for NYC Parks. She was appointed to a federal advisory committee for the Department of Interior, worked as an urban forester and environmental educator, and volunteered for the Peace Corps. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology from UIC and a M.S. in Forestry from Michigan Technological University.

Kelvin Pope  
**First Deputy Chief, Cook County Forest Preserve Police Department**

Kelvin, a law enforcement professional, performs administrative duties and oversees day-to-day operations of his department. Kelvin started his law enforcement career in 1984, as a patrolman, and worked his way through the ranks to his current position. He earned his bachelor’s degree in public safety management in 2009, and master’s degree in police psychology in 2011. In 2007, he attended Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command. Kelvin’s high motivation is guided by bringing awareness to homelessness and injustice.

Mark Sedevic  
**Lieutenant of Police, Chicago Police Department**

Mark has 16 years of law enforcement experience and enjoys building positive police-community relationships. He holds a doctoral degree from Olivet Nazarene University, master’s degree from Lewis University, and bachelor’s degree from St. Mary’s University of Minnesota. Mark is a U.S. Army Veteran and currently the chair of Old St. Mary’s Parish Council. He is happily married with two beautiful daughters.

Martin V. Torres  
**Associate Director, Latino Policy Forum**

Martin guides the Latino Policy Forum’s legislative and administrative advocacy with a focus on education, immigrant integration, and the state budget. In carrying out his responsibilities, Martin regularly convenes Latino service providers, civic leaders, and other stakeholders to develop and promote a common policy agenda. Prior to the Forum, Martin worked in Washington, D.C., at the Alliance for Excellent Education, where he focused on secondary school reform. He also spent a year working for the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans through a fellowship with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute.

Carmen Vergara  
**Director of Quality and Practice Transformation, Esperanza Health Centers**

Carmen graduated from the UIC College of Nursing in 2004. In 2005, she joined the UIC School of Public Health, where she combined research methods, nursing practices, and community health strategies to help children in underserved communities manage their asthma. This included traveling in a mobile unit providing care to CPS students. She credits this experience as her first-hand exposure to the social determinants of health. In 2011, Carmen received her M.P.H. from UIC and soon after joined Esperanza Health Centers, where she has been transforming the model of care. In 2016, Carmen was recognized as a “40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader” in Illinois.