

Bios

Featured Speakers



St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter is the 46th and first African American mayor of the City of Saint Paul, Minnesota's Capital City. Fourth-generation Saint Paul resident, Mayor Carter leads with an unapologetic equity agenda. Since taking office in 2018, his accomplishments include raising the city's minimum wage to \$15/hour; tripling free program in rec centers; eliminating late fines in public libraries; reestablishing an Affordable Housing Trust Fund; expanding immigrant & refugee support resources and launching an Office of Financial Empowerment. One signature initiative is CollegeBound Saint Paul, Mayor Carter's plan to start every child born in the city with a \$50 College Savings Account, starting January 1, 2020.



Dr. Deadric T. Williams is an Associate Professor of Sociology (2020-present) at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Department of Sociology. My research focuses on race & racism, Black families, poverty & economic hardship, stress & health, and quantitative methods (longitudinal and dyadic analyses). My work emphasizes three general themes: (1) Critical Race Theory and Black family life; (2) reciprocity between stress and relationship health in couple dyads; and (3) stress exposure and mental (and physical) health outcomes. (For more information on my research, see the Research tab).

In 2022, I was selected as a William T. Grant Scholar. The Scholars Program supports the professional development of promising social, behavioral, and health sciences researchers who have received their terminal degrees within the past seven years. Scholars receive \$350,000 to execute rigorous five-year research plans that stretch their skills and knowledge into new disciplines, content areas, or methods. I will investigate structural mechanisms, rather than individual characteristics, that sustain poverty among Black, Latino, and White families. Specifically, the study examines whether state-level structural racism, defined as racial inequalities in life chances, and tract-level racialized space, defined as the percentage of a census-level tract that is different racial groups, are mechanisms that maintain inequality.

From 2016-2019, I was an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the Department of Sociology. Before entering the department (2014-2016), I was a post-doctoral research associate with minority health disparities. In 2012, I received the American Sociological Association Minority Fellowship. The honor was also highlighted in The Midwest Sociologist.

I received a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2014), an M.S. in Sociology (2009), and a B.A. (2006) in English from Mississippi State University. 2004, I completed my Associate of Arts degree at East Mississippi Community College.

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Dr. Andre L. Johnson a native Detroit, is the Founder/President/CEO of the Detroit Recovery Project Incorporated (DRP). DRP is a trailblazing multi-service non-profit agency that provides a broad spectrum of prevention, treatment, and recovery support services to the city's recovery community. DRP is Michigan's first recovery community organization designated as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic.

Dr. Johnson has consulted on behalf of the United States President's Emergency Plan Against Aids abroad to the Department of Ministry of Health in Dar Es Salaam, Zanzibar, Tanzania. Dr. Johnson was appointed by Kathleen Sebelius, former U.S. Secretary of Health Human Services, to serve a three-year term (2015-2018) as a National Advisory Council member for the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment/ Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration. Dr. Johnson teaches Psychology classes at Wayne County Community College. He is a pass Advisory member of the Third Judicial Circuit Court Family Division Drug Court Team. Dr. Johnson is a board member of the Wayne Center, an agency that provides services for the mentally ill and the developmentally disabled. The United States President Barack Obama recognized Mr. Johnson as the "2016 Champion of Change for Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery" at the White House. Dr. Johnson completed his clinical internship at an approved American Psychological Association site at Tarzana Treatment Center, treating 12–18-year-olds with substance use and mental health disorders in Tarzana, California. In 2023, Dr. Johnson was appointed by U.S. Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Dr. Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, to serve as a member of the SAMHSA National Advisory Council. Dr. Johnson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Morehouse College, a Master of Arts in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix, and a Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology from Michigan School of Psychology.



Dr. LaVonne M. Moore, DNP, APRN, CNM, BC-WHNP, IBCLC, ICCE Has a Doctor of Nursing Practice from St. Catherine University, a Master of Science in Nurse Midwifery from the University of Minnesota, and a Master of Arts in Health & Human Services Administration from St. Mary's University. She is a certified nurse midwife, certified women's healthcare nurse practitioner, international board-certified lactation consultant, and certified childbirth educator. Dr. Moore is an adjunct faculty at several universities, including Thomas Edison State University, teaching graduate nursing and women's health courses. She practices at NorthPoint Health & Wellness

Center. She is CEO and Founder of Chosen Vessels Midwifery Services and The Chocolate Milk Club, a culturally specific service of Chosen Vessels Midwifery Services that provides breastfeeding education and support for African American families. Dr. Moore's goal is to use the midwife model of care to inspire all women to breastfeed and support all those who do because she believes that good health begins with breastfeeding.



Rena Moran is the current Ramsey County Commissioner of District 4, serving a large section of Saint Paul, including parts of Union Park, Hamline-Midway, Frogtown, Summit-University, North End, Downtown, Summit Hill, Macalester-Groveland and Highland Park. She currently sits on 27 different committees. She is the current Chair of the Economic Growth and Community Investment Service Team Committee of the Whole, and Vice Chair of the Budget Committee of the Whole and Legislative Committee of the Whole.

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She is a former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives and the first African American to represent Saint Paul. She served six terms before retiring to run for Ramsey County Commissioner in 2022. Rena served as Chair of the Ways and Means and Health and Human Services Policy Committees in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

As a legislator, she focused on protecting children in the child welfare system, lead on Early Childhood Education funding, reducing disparities, fighting for affordable housing, economic opportunity for all, and women's rights. She continues this focus as Ramsey County Commissioner and doing county work through a race equity lens.

She formerly served as House Deputy Minority Leader, Chair of the People of Color and Indigenous Caucus and the United Black Legislative Caucus. She holds a B.S. in Early Childhood Education from Southern Illinois University and is the former Director of Prevention Initiatives and Parent Leadership at Prevent Child Abuse MN (dba) Minnesota Communities Caring for Children. Commissioner Moran is a graduate of the Bush Foundation Fellowship, Humphrey Policy Fellowship, and Henry Toll Fellowship.

On a national level, Moran served as Executive Secretary of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), Midwest Region Coordinator for the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL). She is currently the Parliamentarian of the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL). She is a proud mother of seven children and thirteen grandchildren.



Sam Simmons, LADC, behavioral consultant, conference co-creator, and co-host of the "Voices" on KMOJ FM.

Sam Simmons has over 34 years of experience as an alcohol and drug counselor and behavioral consultant specializing in practical, culturally sensitive trauma-informed strategies addressing historical trauma and focused on improving outcomes for African American males and their families. He is an Adverse Childhood Experience Interface Trainer in Minnesota and certified as an administrator of the (IDI) Intercultural Development Inventory.

Sam received the 2016 Healing the Hidden Wounds of Racial Trauma award and the Black Tear Drop Award for his vision and leadership in culturally sensitive trauma-informed work in the community and around the country. In 2018, he received the City of Minneapolis Public Health Hero Award for his unique, innovative, and culturally specific trauma-informed work in the community. In 2020, he was called upon to assist organizations in addressing the challenges of recruiting and retaining African Americans and other staff of Color and developing culturally sensitive, trauma-informed, diverse organizational practices. Sam is the co-creator of the Community Empowerment Through Black Men Healing conference called "Groundbreaking and Visionary." He co-hosts the "Voices" radio show on KMOJ FM, which addresses urban community issues.

Youth Presenters



BLACK YOUTH HEALING ARTS CENTER and the IRREDUCIBLE GRACE FOUNDATION

The Black Youth Healing Arts Center is a safe space in Saint Paul's Frogtown neighborhood for Black youth to receive healing for their un/under-processed historical trauma. Unearthed historical trauma blocks the potential of full humanity and the expression of gifts. The Black Youth Healing Arts Center (BYHAC)

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provides cultural, ancestral, and innovative processes to healing for Black youth foremost while creating safe spaces and healing opportunities for youth of color.



Irreducible Grace Foundation (IGF) is a non-profit focused on creating safe spaces with youth of color. IGF provides mentoring, life skills, employment, self-care practices, and safe spaces for teens and young adults. Through the use of visual and performing arts and movement techniques, we help young people learn new skills for dealing with stress and trauma and fostering their voices.



King Prince, a barber, the owner of Lost Lovers Clothing, and a musician, is a 17-year-old junior in high school from Minneapolis, MN. He is the oldest of three boys, a self-taught barber, and the owner of Lost Lovers Clothing. Growing up in North Minneapolis, music helped him cope with the world around him. He believes that we all have some type of journey and that we all can learn by sharing in some way, shape, or form, and he's here to share a piece of his journey through music.

Workshops



Tikki Brown, serves as the assistant commissioner for Children and Family Services for the Minnesota Department of Human Services. She is responsible for services and policies that promote adoption, foster care, child protection, child support, child care, refugee services, and cash and food support. She will focus on supporting Gov. Walz' and Lt. Gov. Flanagan's stand to make Minnesota the "best place for children to grow up" while advancing equity and inclusion for the children and families we serve.

Before her appointment as assistant commissioner in 2021, Brown served as Economic Opportunity and Nutrition Assistance director. She led housing and shelter, food shelves, nutrition education, outreach, employment and training, community action, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and worked with her team to deliver programs and strategies designed for Tribal Nations, counties, and partner agencies to serve hundreds of thousands individuals and families with low incomes. Under her direction, she also helped expand services for the Indigenous people of Minnesota, including:

- Supporting Bois Forte Band of Chippewa in becoming the first Tribal Nation in Minnesota to access The Emergency Food Assistance Program, which provides free food to food shelves in partnership with a food bank
- Supporting the Lower Sioux Indian Community in becoming the first Tribal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Outreach grantee in Minnesota
- Expanding Tribal Nation administration of SNAP services to Red Lake Nation and White Earth Nation.

Brown is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, Senior Leadership Institute at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs and Enterprise Learning & Development, and a fellow of the Equity Leaders in Action Network, BUILD Initiative. She has volunteered for numerous organizations, including Urban Ventures, where she served on the board of directors. She developed an Equity Council at a local middle school. She currently serves on the American Association of SNAP Directors Executive Advisory Council. At the department, she served as the agency's representative on the Cultural and Ethnic Communities

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Leadership Council and currently serves on the Strategic Anti-racism Team Steering Committee and sponsors the Black Women Employee Resource Group.



Cedrick Frazier, Minnesota House of Representatives, is an attorney and politician serving in the Minnesota House of Representatives. A member of the Minnesota Democratic–Farmer–Labor Party (DFL), he represents District 43A, including New Hope and Crystal in Hennepin County.

After graduating from high school in Chicago, Illinois, Frazier moved to Minnesota to play NCAA football and run track at the University of Minnesota–Morris, graduating with a B.A. in psychology. Frazier went on to attend Minnesota State University, Mankato, where he served as a fellow with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, graduating with an M.A. in urban studies with an emphasis in local government management. After earning his M.A., Frazier enrolled at William Mitchell College of Law. In law school, Frazier joined Phi Beta Sigma and clerked for the Hennepin County Public Defender's Office in Minneapolis and the League of Minnesota Cities in its Municipal Law Litigation Department. After graduating with a J.D. and passing the bar exam, he began his legal career as a public defender in Hennepin County. In 2008, Frazier accepted the Director of Equity and Diversity position for the Minneapolis Public School District and was later promoted to legal counsel for the district. After spending eight years in public education, Frazier joined the legal team at Education Minnesota, the state's largest labor union.



Mujasi and Ayolanda Bandle are family life educators and researchers in the field of family science. The husband and wife partners are the co-founders of Black Family Blueprint, a coaching and consulting group focused on activating historically black families to employ strategies that strengthen parenting, support healthy intimate relationships, and increase the collective capacity to build social capital. They provide



professional development opportunities for people who work within black family systems and offer workshops for black families. Their consulting practice is rooted in over 15 years of professional family development, adjacent to their family science degrees from Concordia University.

Mujasi, the Director of Research and Curriculum Design, accesses current research theory and concepts to inform best practices in family development while Ayolanda, the Director of Educational Innovation and Community Engagement, creates effective education tools to support the health of Black families.



Jimmie L. Heags, Jr., is a seasoned counseling professional with over 20 years of experience in education and therapy. A graduate of Metropolitan State University and Adler Graduate School, Jimmie holds degrees in Individualized Studies and Psychotherapy. He's accredited with three distinct licenses in school, clinical, and drug and alcohol counseling and has certifications in Trauma Informed Practice and Co-Occurring Disorders. As a recognized authority in his field, Jimmie is an LPC & LPCC board-approved clinical supervisor by the Minnesota Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy.

Jimmie's practice primarily serves black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). His counseling approach is marked by genuine curiosity, treating his client's thoughts, feelings, and experiences with

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respect and honor. He is a proficient trainer and consultant in Restorative Practices, Crisis Prevention and Intervention (CPI), and other Social Emotional Learning (SEL) methods. Outside his therapy work, Jimmie is an Adjunct Instructor at the Adler Graduate School and an active Minneapolis NAACP's Integrated Health Committee member. Committed to providing comprehensive mental health services, Jimmie continually incorporates new insights, such as the generational trauma work of Resmaa Menakem, to enhance his practice and better serve his clients.



Latosha Cox, (she, her, hers) is a skilled facilitator, trainer, public speaker, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) practitioner, and strong mental health advocate who always leads with authenticity and vulnerability. As the oldest of 5 children and only daughter, she grew up in St. Paul's Rondo neighborhood and graduated from St. Paul Central High School. Latosha later graduated from Augsburg University as a married student parent. She is happily divorced a mother of 2 daughters (ages 17 and 9), and embraces a healthy co-parenting relationship with her ex-husband. She brings a wealth of knowledge and lived experiences from working in various capacities and roles in nonprofits, philanthropy, education, and finances. Her previous role was in the non-profit sector as Public Allies Twin Cities Director of Learning and Leadership. Latosha launched her public speaking, coaching, consulting, and training business called Black Girl Sabbatical™ after embarking on an 18-month healing and self-discovery journey of prioritizing her mental health and well-being and participating in experiences that brought her JOY! Latosha and her daughters have embraced a healing and therapy journey with their individual black female therapist for the past 2 years. As a leadership development and transition coach, Latosha loves to support people's and organizations' mental health and holistic wellness so that we all can continue to do the work we have been called to do. She believes women do not need to suffer with their mental and holistic health in marriages, domestic violence relationships, in their careers & more.



William Drew, a lifelong meditator, William Drew, simply known as "Drew," is the founder & owner of Mindful i Consulting LLC. As a Mindfulness-Based Consultant and Performance Coach, Drew focuses on seamlessly integrating Reflective Practices and Intentional Movement into the workday as foundational to Emotional Intelligence, Emotional Literacy, and Transformational Change. Through his work in schools, Drew has influenced policy, helped drive down behavior-based student disciplinary actions as well as increased learning time for classroom educators. Clients consistently note increased opportunities for physical movement during the workday, along with expanded "A role model is one who is aware that the babies are watching and acts accordingly." A sense of psychological safety is necessary for clear, empathetic communication and equity, which drive innovation and excellence.

Since 2012, Drew has leveraged his experience in project management with Fortune 500 and Fortune 100 companies, along with over 20,000 hours of teaching yoga and mindfulness/meditation through his registered yoga school, Healing House Yoga LLC, to benefit those in education, government, health care, and for-profit business. As such, Healing House Yoga LLC and Mindful i Consulting LLC are recognized as Continuing Education providers by

- Yoga Alliance
- Board of Social Workers (MN)
- Board of School Administrators (MN).

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Drew's work has allowed him to present the benefits of Reflective Practices and Intentional Movement to school districts, government organizations, community/professional & trade organizations, small and medium-sized businesses, as well as medium and large-sized insurance & health care providers. When not writing or training others on Mindfulness/Mindful Movement, Drew is practicing.



Dr. Altreisha Foster, is best known for her work in Public Health, her contributions to vaccine science, and advancements in infectious diseases. She is the CEO and Founder of Foster-Bentho Scientific Consultants. A firm that aids underserved jurisdictions in vaccine programming, medical sociology, and community engagement.

She has over 10 years of experience in the Infectious Diseases field. Her career in public health and vaccine science began in Washington, DC. Later, she worked in the Caribbean as a vaccine principal. Her research has been published in several prestigious journals, including Nature.

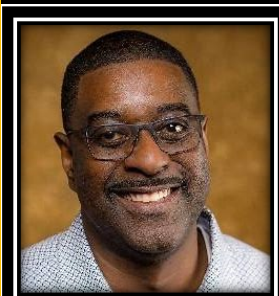
Most recently, Dr. Foster, wife, mother, scientist, and baker, is also now the proud author of the book "Cake Therapy, How Baking Changed My Life", where she highlights the correlation between trauma, her life experiences, and hardships, and overcoming the sweet decadence of baking through her recipes. Premised in purpose, Dr. Foster specializes in baking extraordinary, flavored cakes and goodies. She finds peace, solace, remembrance, and renewal of life in her nurtured craft and has since been sharing it with the world.

She is now a formidable baker and entrepreneur. With just a couple of years of training under her belt, the perfectionist she has quickly mastered the art of baking and baking architecture at record breaking speeds. Born in Jamaica, this Caribbean principled, Minneapolis, Minnesota based resident is now the face and masterful hands behind the cakes of Sugarspoon Desserts, a premier baking and dessert making company in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her desserts are highly sought after and have appeared in local and international media, both print and electronic.

She is also the CEO and Founder of the Cake Therapy Foundation, designed to offer baking as a form of therapy to systems impacted women and girls. She was recently listed among the top 20 female entrepreneurs to watch in 2023.

She is a graduate of Campion College and the University of Technology in Jamaica, as well as Howard University and George Washington University, Milken School of Public Health in the USA.

Dr. Foster is married to Dr. Oladi Bentho, whom she met at Howard University College of Medicine. They currently live in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with their two children, Kende and K'nedey.



Cedric Weatherspoon, is a dedicated professional with a passion for empowering individuals and families through client-centered care. With over two decades of experience in the field, I have earned expertise in Marriage and Family Therapy, program development, and professional leadership. My journey in the mental health field has been marked by a commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as a belief in the transformative power of respectful and client-centered approaches. I proudly serve as the President of Empower Therapeutic Support Services Inc., a practice I co-founded in 2007,

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located in North Minneapolis. In this role, I employ a client-centered service model to support residents in the Twin Cities area who are navigating multiple life stressors. My work is centered on creating a safe and empowering environment for clients to make positive choices about their lives and families.



Deseria Galloway's educational journey has been marked by a pursuit of knowledge and a dedication to empowering others. She holds a Master's degree from the University of Minnesota and a Bachelor's from Central State University in Xenia, Ohio. As the CEO of Wellspring Second Chance Center, Deseria is at the forefront of initiatives aimed at helping youth and adult ex-offenders successfully reintegrate into society. She thoroughly knows re-entry programs, intergenerational incarceration issues, and strategies for improving academic success. Deseria Galloway's life and career are characterized by a profound commitment to service, advocacy, and a genuine dedication to making a difference in the lives of individuals and communities. Her multifaceted contributions reflect a deep sense of purpose and a tireless commitment to creating positive change in the world.



Richard Smith (he/him) is a healing strategist and nationally recognized expert on trauma and healing for survivors of interpersonal and systemic violence. With over two decades of experience developing and leading community-based programs, Richard has helped organizations throughout the country build their capacity to heal and empower BIPOC folks and marginalized communities.

Richard has guest lectured at numerous colleges and universities on issues such as systemic racism, mass incarceration, and trauma and healing. A sought-after keynote and plenary speaker for national victim services, restorative justice, and criminal justice conferences, Richard previously served as the National Director of United for Healing Equity at Common Justice, where he led their national policy and organizing work.

Richard is the co-founder of Alignmeant Global LLC., a social enterprise dedicated to cultivating cultural reclamation, restorative practices, healing justice, and system reform. He is also the founder of Divine Masculinity Aspirational Apparel, a brand promoting positive expressions of masculinity, personal growth, and empowerment through clothing and accessories designed to inspire and uplift.

Richard is the host of the Just Healing Podcast, which takes a deep-dive into the diverse range of perspectives and personal stories about the social and cultural factors that impact healing for male survivors. Each episode explores the intersectional ways that trauma and healing are impacted by racial and gender identities, socioeconomic status, oppression, and white supremacy, emphasizing that sexual trauma does not exist in a bubble, and neither should healing.

He holds a master's degree in Africana Studies from the University at Albany and is currently a doctoral candidate at SUNY Albany's School of Social Welfare. His research focuses on the intersection of the trauma-to-prison pipeline and male survivorship of childhood sexual abuse. A Robert Wood Johnson Forward Promise Fellowship for Leadership Fellow, Richard is the proud father of Kaden and Kaleb. As a descendant of the Gullah Geechee people, he has committed his life to honor his ancestors' legacy of resistance and the liberation of Africans in the diaspora.

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Leo Howard III, M.Ed, is current program manager for the 80x3 initiative with the Greater Twin Cities United Way and adjunct professor of the University of Minnesota.

Growing up, through my own hardships, loss, and struggles, I saw firsthand the importance of having positive support in a young person's life outside of their parents. Organizations like the "Horizons Youth Program" in South Minneapolis put me and countless other young people in a position to be successful in spite of our surroundings. Giving us the support and guidance needed to navigate the myriad of issues we faced on a daily basis. At my core, I am a youth worker, aiming to address the needs of my community through love, education, and tangible resources because of the love and support I received. My goal is not only to give that same support and love to the next generation of kids but to take it a step further to normalize wellness and mental health, especially for our kids of color. I want our youngest learners to develop the self-esteem, confidence, and intrinsic motivation needed to overcome the traps that we have to navigate on a daily basis. I want our families to know that taking care of our mental health isn't only for the Rich, white, and wealthy but something that we deserve as well.

My career, research, and life have been dedicated to finding unique and effective approaches to youth and community work. I have developed, run, and implemented curriculum and youth enrichment programs catered to the young people of color I currently serve. Realizing that there was a void, nothing that truly existed for the youth of my community. Working to normalize and make therapy a viable, realistic option for our kids, I have also developed and taught a community workshop/course that highlights hip hop and rap's therapeutic value for our youth. In the end, all of our youth deserve to be loved, cared for, and supported. I'm living proof that it makes all of the difference. Everything is Connected!



Autumn Mason, is a lifelong Rondo community member who has experienced the systemic impacts on the black family both personally and professionally. Autumn is a Doula, Parent Educator, and Peer Support Professional supporting Justice-Impacted families with the MN Prison Doula Project of Ostara Initiative. Autumn also partners with community organizations such as the Black Birthing Consortium and African American Babies Coalition to identify community frameworks, resources, and supportive programming needed to empower BIPOC and systems-impacted families. Her goal is to disrupt generational patterns of trauma and separation

by creating lasting, systemic change in the communities she is involved in.



Tierre Caldwell serves as a Parent Educator and Peer Support Professional with the Minnesota Prison Doula Project, where he also holds the role of Director of Reentry Services. In this capacity, he educates system-involved parents and youth both inside and outside Minnesota Correctional Facilities, prioritizing family reunification and transformative leadership. Caldwell's pioneering approach, toward dual parenting systems and cultivating healthy relationships underscores his advocacy for fathers' rights and unwavering commitment to catalyzing profound change. His efforts extend to advocacy, fostering employment skills, conflict resolution, and facilitating successful reintegration into society, all fueled by a deep dedication to humanity and redemption.

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Joseph S Bard, for over 25 years, aka Drunken Monkee, is considered to be one of the most influential Hip-hop characters to come out of Chicago, Illinois, and the Midwest United States. Owing his stage name to the HipHop influence of Shaw Brothers-produced Kung-Fu action movies of the 1970s & 1980s, along with the seminal cultural influence of the Wu-Tang Clan in the 1990s, Joseph has been recognized for his energetic and creative live shows and events. Joseph is known for his unforgettable live performances and his freedom to approach all genres of music and performance art. Joseph's repertoire extends from HipHop, experimental, and deep house to nu-wave

and punk rock.

Through his onstage persona, Joseph has opened for a "Who's Who" of hip-hop cultural titans, including The Last Poets, Erykah Badu, Redman & Method Man, and Nuyorican Poets Café. With a heart for community, Joseph continues to serve as a mentor in the Performing Arts space, as he has cooperated with Freedom School and After School Matters over the last two-plus decades in spaces such as Chicago Public Schools.

Currently, as Drunken Monkee, Joseph appears as a full-time radio personality on Tweak Central Lounge Radio. Airing weekly, as it has for over 12 years, Tweak Central Lounge is accessible live online and is broadcast in Chicago, Las Vegas, and Minneapolis. Playing the best in feel-good music from artists, local and around the world, as well as hosting live interviews, Tweak Central Lounge provides a safe space for listeners and guests to check out the widest variety of feel-good music and topics ranging from mental wellness & Self-Discovery to news & information.



Anthony Williams, is a graduate of Edison High School in Minneapolis. He attended the University of MN, where he received his B.A. in Political Science. He also has a master's degree in Public and Non-Profit Administration and a Director of Community Education Administrative License. He has worked his entire professional life in the field of education. He spent 13 years with CDF's Freedom Schools, working his way up from Servant Leader Intern to Executive Director. He also worked with MPS for 14 years, working with students and families in various capacities. As an Associate Educator at Bethune Community School, Anthony worked with parents and educational leaders to develop programming to mentor students on the issues of self-esteem and leadership. Since his days at Bethune,

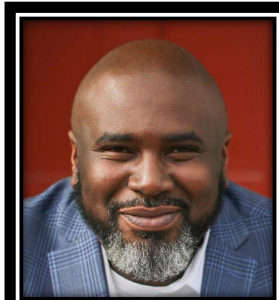
he has worked extensively with Adult Education, going from Career Exploration Navigator to Site Supervisor to Program Manager. In August 2020, Anthony assumed the role of Executive Director of Community Education at Minneapolis Public Schools. Being responsible for over 300 Community Education employees at the beginning of the pandemic, Anthony remained committed to staff well-being, effective community engagement, high-quality programming, and equity. In July of 2021, he accepted the Executive Director of Community Education, Athletics, and Activities position with Robbinsdale Area Schools. Anthony considers himself a servant leader whose main objective is to support children, families, and the community in reaching a level of self-sufficiency through education and access.

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The Panel



Jatón is the Director of Community Wellness with the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ), which is focused on family and organizational wellness, which is aligned with her life's purpose. She works hand-in-hand with partners, families, and scholars to understand their needs related to conflict, social-emotional issues, safety, and other wellness concerns. Jatón began her work at NAZ in 2012 as a family achievement coach, working to increase parent engagement and boost scholar outcomes. Through active engagement with systems, families, and scholars, she adopted a belief that when a person or system seeks healing it should be treated as an emergency — it requires deep, intimate, and personal work and an authentic supportive team. Armed as a trained facilitator in personal empowerment, EQ practitioner, Awareness Coach under the direction of Jodi Pharr, ACE trainer, and Emergent Embodied Coach under the tutelage of Resmaa Menakem, she is able to provide supportive, evidence-based tools to aid in the spaces that have a direct impact on Northside scholars and families.



Edrin C. Williams serves as the Lead Pastor of Sanctuary Covenant Church in Minneapolis, MN. Edrin came to Sanctuary in 2011 to lead MOSAIC, a youth ministry comprised of students from all over the Twin Cities metro. Before joining the staff of The Sanctuary, Edrin served the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN, for six years.

Edrin graduated from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, where he studied African American Studies and U.S. History. He also holds a Master of Divinity degree in Preaching & Communication from Bethel Seminary in St.

Paul, MN.

Edrin is an advocate of the local church and is very passionate about equipping leaders of all ages. Edrin is also a gifted writer and a highly sought-after speaker. He uses biblical teaching, humor, storytelling, and his background in the humanities and the social sciences and theology to shape society and influence others in the ways of Jesus. Edrin writes and speaks often about developing men, especially fathers. His published writing projects include *Father Factor: American Christian Men on Fatherhood and Faith*, a project with White Cloud Press, and *Reclaiming Fatherhood*, which appeared in *YouthWorker Journal*.

Edrin describes himself as a native South Carolinian who loves people, nature, music, cities, history, travel, Bar-B-Que, and SEC football. Edrin has been married to the woman of his dreams, Shanequa, for 17 years. They are parents to two beautiful daughters, Taylor (13) & Harper (7).



Joseph Cole, aka Brother RA, is a member of the Youth Leadership team at the Black Youth Healing Arts Center (BYHAC), aka Brother RA, is a member of the Youth Leadership team at the Black Youth Healing Arts Center (BYHAC), helping co-lead inhouse programs, facilitating workshops, teaching mind-body medicine practices, and also out in community part of the Pop Up team sharing breathing tools, poetry, and playing Bomba; an Afro Puerto Rican drum style alongside other BYHAC members. RA is a youth advocate and Pan-African Community Activist dedicated to the liberation of Black/African people across the globe. RA serves our community as the Vice Chair of YouthLink MN Voices of Youth Advisory Council. He works with the 2nd Chance project as a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist

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and facilitates longitudinal systems transformation assessments as program manager of the Youth Research Task Force, a community participatory action research program offered by the Black Community Board.

**“When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.”
Audrey Lorde**