



Arts & Culture Leaders of Color 2019 Fellows Bios

CHICAGO



Chip Moody is a photographer and arts administrator who works as the Visitor Services Manager at DuSable Museum of African American History in Chicago, IL. Born and raised in Chicago, he has always been tied to the arts community through his work and artistry. At the museum, he implements dynamic processes to engage visitors and cultivates the talent of the staff to inspire them to do their best work. He has traveled the world and gained a diversity of experiences through the initiatives of my family. Chip is passionate about making it his life's work to creative resources back into my community and leverage the experiences of others towards the betterment of the youth.

Chip received his bachelor's degree in Fine Arts - Photography from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



Jose Gibran Villalobos is an administrator, curator, and art historian who works as the Partnerships and Engagement Liaison at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and as an Adjunct Lecturer at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Previously, Gibran was the Exhibitions and Collection Coordinator for the City of Glendale, Arizona. In 2014 he piloted a five-year initiative, The Re:Center Project working closely with Cultural Centers in the Chicago Park District to work with grassroots organizations and shape cultural programming at park sites. He was the inaugural speaker for the Latino Studies Symposium at Northern Arizona University in 2015. In 2016 he was elected to attend the Advocacy Leadership Institute where he was invited to the White House Office of Public Engagement, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to speak to key issues affecting Latinxs in Chicago. He currently serves on the Auxiliary Board for the National Museum of Mexican Art and on the executive board The Association of

American Culture (TAAC). In 2018 he was elected by the Arts Alliance Illinois to represent the arts at National Arts Advocacy Day in Washington D.C.

Gibran earned his bachelor's degrees in Arts History and Public Relations from Northern Arizona University and master's degrees in Modern Art History, Theory, and Criticism and Arts Administration and Policy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



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Sarah Khalid Dhobhany (she/her/hers) is a Chicago-based arts administrator and the Community Engagement Coordinator at Mana Contemporary. Born to Yemeni parents, she is a native of Brooklyn, New York. Prior to working at Mana, she held positions in communications, fundraising, and programming at arts organizations in Chicago and New York City. With a passion for high quality professional development, she works towards being the best resource for emerging and practicing artists within her communities. On a normal weekend, you are most likely to find Sarah at your local Chicago art opening, documenting art encounters for her Instagram micro-blog.

Sarah holds a bachelor's degree in Art History and Museum Professions and an associate's degree in Advertising and Marketing Communications from SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology.



Onyx Montes (she/her/hers) is a writer, social media manager, designer, museum educator and collage artist working as the Marketing & Communications Coordinator at Hyde Park Art Center. She was raised in Mexico where she studied design and performing arts and currently lives in Chicago where she leads private tours at the Museum of Contemporary Art Museum, works with incarcerated women through collage workshops, and works for the Learning and Public Engagement department at the Art Institute. She is currently developing a Summer arts project with refugee teenage girls as a mentor for the non-profit GirlForward. She has lived and studied in London and Amsterdam. Awards include the International Benjamin Gilman Award and being the recipient of the Best Undergraduate Feminist Paper Award.

She received her bachelor's degree in Art History and a minor in Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies from the University of Washington.



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CLEVELAND



Andrew Aaron Valdez (he/him/his) is an actor, director, playwright, poet and educator and is a C.A.R.E. Teaching Artist at Cleveland Playhouse, a Steering Committee Member of the Latinx Theatre Commons, and a 2019-2020 Cleveland Public Theatre Premiere Fellow.

As an educator he has worked with ZACH Theatre, Creative Action, Safe Place, The Indigenous Cultures Institute, and Cleveland Public Theatre. As a theatre artist Andrew focuses on the development of new work at ZACH Theatre, Teatro Vivo, 14/48 Austin Theatre Festival, Paper Boats, Kitchen Dog Theatre, Karamu House, Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse, Dobama Theatre, The Cohen New Works Festival, and on various productions at The University of Texas at Austin. As a playwright his work was a part of the 2015 and 2016 Teatro Vivo Austin Latino New Play Festival, the 2015 Cohen New Works Festival, and 14/48 Austin Theatre Festival.

Andrew is a Terry Scholar and received his bachelor's degree in Fine Arts - Theatre Studies from the University of Texas at Austin.



Aseelah Shareef (she/her/hers) is both a dance artists and administrator and is currently the Director, Operations + Community Programs at Karamu House, Inc., the nation's oldest producing African-American theatre. At Karamu, Aseelah leads efforts for efficiency across the organization's product lines. She also curates and develops culturally responsive programming and facilitates arts education for lifelong learners. She is a dancer who enjoys creating work that celebrates the Black experience while giving voice to untold stories. She performed with Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre under the leadership of Michael Medcalf, and toured the world with Washington, DC-based, Step Afrika!

Her previous experience includes former Dance Director of Cleveland School of the Arts, Project Manager for Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Department of Arts Education, Adjunct Professor of Dance at Cuyahoga Community College and master-teaching artist for the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning. Aseelah is an Ohio

Citizens for the Arts Board Member, a member of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She earned her bachelor's degree in Exercise Science and master's degree in Arts Administration from The Florida State University.



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India Pierre-Ingram (she/her/hers) works as an Associate of Communications and Grants Programs at Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, one of the largest local funders of arts and culture in the nation. India is passionate about equity in the arts and strives to see all people have access to create, take part, and see arts in their communities.

India has always loved the arts especially theatre and starred in the American Premiere of *The Adventures of the Black Girl in her Search for God* at Karamu House. She has also had the privilege of performing at Ensemble Theater, Cleveland Public Theater, Playwrights Local, Dobama Theater, and Talespinner Children's Theatre. India is also a writer for PressureLife Magazine.

India received her bachelor's degree in English with a concentration in Creative Writing and a minor in history from Wells College.



Michele Crawford (she/her/hers) is currently the Project Manager in the Capital, Construction & Facilities Department at Cuyahoga Community College. Michele is also the founder of Initiate Studios, a creative programming and design outreach start-up studio developed to facilitate collaborative crossroads of dialogue and action for community building through human-centered visioning, development, and mentoring. Michele believes that design changes our world and ultimately dreams to make design services more accessible to all communities.

Michele served two service terms in the Americorps Program with the Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Charlotte, North Carolina. She is a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) where she advocates and supports platforms for honest dialogue, and creates programs for professional development, mentoring, and service. In addition, she serves on various boards ranging from youth arts to development and neighborhood organizations. In 2018, Michele was selected as a contributor to lobby's first Racial Justice Toolkit and received the AIA Cleveland's Activism Award in 2015.

She received her bachelor's degree in Interior Architecture from Ohio University and master's degree in Architecture with emphasis in Interiors from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is passionate about people, process and most recently painting!



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INDIANAPOLIS



Channie Jones is Director of Operations at Edison School of the Arts, Inc. where she works alongside community partners including the Arts Council of Indianapolis and Kennedy Center in support of the Any Given Child art education initiative. Channie is an arts administrator dedicated to supporting cultural awareness and community development within the city of Indianapolis. As an arts advocate, Channie wants to promote the use of the arts as tool to combat social issues and foster economic development and she works with organizations whose missions' value art, education and diversity. She is an advisory board member at the Center for Black Literature and Culture, StART board member at Arts for Learning. She is looking forward to strategizing with the Americans for the Arts team and Arts and Culture Leaders of Color cohort on ways that we can model equitable practices to impact the lives of artists and leaders of color within the arts community.

She received a bachelor's degree in Art Education and K-12th Grade Visual Arts Teaching license at Purdue University and is currently pursuing a master's in Arts Administration at Goucher College.



Dancia Monét Malone (she/her/hers) is Program and Facilities Manager at the Purdue Black Cultural Center. She is also an arts and culture ambassador and urban planner pursuing her PhD on the User-Experience of Race. Her work is artistic in nature and based on the context of Race & Space – Growing Critical Cultural Capacity in the Built Environment. As a Vanguard Fellow and 1828 Alumni, she challenges the ideas of public space and place-making to encourage a people-centric status quo. She is a creative director, interaction designer and planner based in Indianapolis, IN with ongoing projects in Monteverde, CR, Dallas, TX and New Orleans, LA.

Dancia holds a bachelor's degree in Urban Planning and Spanish from Ball State University & a master's degree in Nonprofit Management with a focus on global relations and sustainability from Indiana University.



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Devon Ginn (he/him; they/them) is the Visual Art & Entertainment Curator at the historic Madam Walker Legacy Center and facilitates an accessible, inclusive poetry series at the Irving Theatre called Iconoclast. Devon joined the Walker as the Marketing and Events Intern in 2010 and has since worked with notable arts entities including the Asante Children's Theatre, the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, the Indiana Arts Commission/ National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Council of Indianapolis, Pattern Indy, Kenyetta Dance Co., Young Actors Theatre, libada Dance Co., and Conner Prairie before joining the Walker as a full-time employee in 2014.

Arts and nonprofit advocacy have remained at the center of his career and he collaborates with ground-breaking institutions and creatives on the forefront of change. Devon serves on the board of the Indiana Writers Center and as a freelance teaching artist, travels nationally implementing his performance poetry and creative writing lesson plans for high school & college students. His work as a visual artist, writer, nonprofit arts administrator and performance artist is a reflection of all his learned and unlearned experiences.

Devon earned a bachelor's degree in Arts Administration from Indiana University-Purdue University – Indianapolis.



Kavita Mahoney the Arts Center Manager at the Garfield Park Arts Center (part of the City of Indianapolis – Indy Parks). She has held positions at both local and national museums, community art centers, and galleries, honing her skills in curatorial practice, exhibit design and development, arts programming, public art initiatives, and leadership. Kavita has a passion for elevating the arts in the Indianapolis area in ways that will benefit the public good, create a sense of community, connect to the environment, and stimulate awareness of social and cultural issues. She is committed to civic engagement and the advancement of the arts field by providing creative ways to serve, educate, and collaborate with communities in order to provide diverse cultural experiences that are accessible for and inclusive of all audiences.

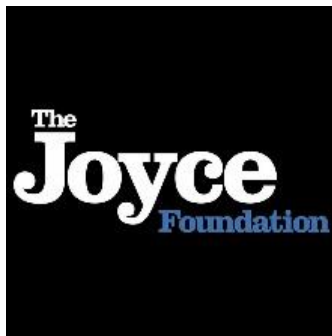
Kavita holds a bachelor's degree in Studio Art & History of Art and a master's degree in Museum Studies from Indiana University.



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