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NEWS RELEASE / BIOS

MEET THE 2019 LEADERS FOR A NEW CHICAGO AWARDEES

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Monica Cosby, leader of the participatory defense work at [Westside Justice Center](#), is a forceful advocate for incarcerated women and the fight for post-incarceration rights in Chicago. She is becoming a key part of the civic dialogue around incarceration and incarcerated rights, moving the community to address the systems and public policies they collectively want to change. Her leadership is rooted in her experience as a formerly incarcerated woman who found agency while in prison to help others and shift policy.

Luis Gutiérrez, founder of [Latinos Progresando](#), which helps Latino immigrants navigate the complexities of the U.S. immigration system, has set the standard of high quality and deep impact that has led to Latinos Progresando's success. His uncompromising commitment to quality has also contributed to the nonprofit sector writ large through its impact on developing skilled professionals and increasing the capacity of partner organizations.

Darryl Holliday is co-founder of and News Lab director at [City Bureau](#), a civic newsroom based on Chicago's South Side. City Bureau brings journalists and communities together to produce media that is impactful, equitable and responsive to the public and employs a shared leadership model among its four co-founders. Holliday's leadership style and the model of City Bureau bring new energy into the idea of what leadership and journalism mean.

Aymar Jean Christian started [Open Television](#) in 2015 as a platform for intersectional media programming by Chicago-based artists. Christian is evolving OTV into an incubator with the goal of creating the first fully funded network run by queer/trans/women of color that can produce new stories, pay and manage artists, develop community (in Chicago and online), as well as promote artists owning and profiting from their own intellectual property in a sustainable, ethical way.

Tonika Lewis Johnson, a [visual artist/photographer](#) from Chicago's Englewood neighborhood, often explores urban segregation and documents the nuance and richness of the black community. As a photographer and teaching artist, she has been engaged in building an artistic legacy that gained citywide recognition in the last two years. Johnson transformed a project, *Folded Map*, into an advocacy and policy-influencing tool that invites audiences to open a dialogue and question how we are all socially impacted by racial and institutional conditions that segregate the city.



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Page May is a co-founder of [Assata's Daughters](#), which creates a space where Black youth can learn political education from Black women and gender non-conforming people. May models new and compelling ways to operate and build capacity, focusing on distributing and ceding power while still maintaining a strong voice in the community she lives in and supports.

Heather Miller (Wyandotte Nation), executive director of the [American Indian Center](#), also serves as a Chicago-based advocate for the American Indian community through an art-centered focus. Miller leads with respect and understanding of older traditions but looks to bring new ideas and technology to highlight these traditions with a contemporary lens. Remaining respectful of and knowledgeable about these traditions and open to new ideas, Miller is able to navigate challenges and bring a diverse community together.

Emmanuel Pratt is a co-founder and executive director of the [Sweet Water Foundation](#). Sweet Water practices Regenerative Neighborhood Development to transform vacant spaces and abandoned buildings in the Englewood and Washington Park neighborhoods on Chicago's South Side into economically and ecologically productive and sustainable community assets, such as farms, gardens and workshops. Pratt brings together community around the goals of highlighting the voices in African, Latinx, Asian, Arab and Native American (ALAANA) communities and developing organizational and community leaders.

Viveka Ray-Mazumder, manager of youth organizing and the KINETIC program at [Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago](#), works to mobilize, coordinate, and encourage civic engagement and grassroots organizing among Asian American and immigrant youth in Chicago. Ray-Mazumder's commitment to community and justice combines direct grassroots action with a longer policy-based vision. Whether through formal trainings and project curricula or a framing and analyses of community issues, Ray-Mazumder urges others to think and act more intentionally in a way that is intersectional — combining racial and gender justice in important ways often not discussed.

Analia Rodriguez is executive director of [Latino Union of Chicago](#) and a lifelong advocate for immigrant, labor and women's rights. Rodriguez's efforts for workers' rights advocacy and justice-based models in Chicago reflect a commitment to the communities she knows and lives in. She challenges organizations in other sectors to consider policy implications on low-wage and undocumented workers and supports her peer executive leaders as they move into greater leadership roles.

Sarah Ross is founder and co-director of [Prison + Neighborhood Arts Project](#), which works at the intersection of art and justice, collaborating with incarcerated artists and writers to produce work, exhibits and dialogue. Ross



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employs collaborative models to build a robust community of educators and learners at Stateville prison that in turn impacts the ecology and dialogues of the Chicago art and justice communities. She promotes community-defined forms of art, creative expression, and creative production, working with artists to adapt their courses to the demands of a prison.

Imelda Salazar is a longtime champion for justice in Southwest Chicago, first as a leader and now as an organizer with the [Southwest Organizing Project](#) (SWOP). Salazar raises and addresses issues of racial equity in the community. She is also known for her understanding of organizing and community issues and for her engagement with others as she works to develop workable and winnable solutions.

Carlos Tortolero is founder and president of the [National Museum of Mexican Art](#), a platform for driving civic dialogue through art exhibitions. NMMA's exhibitions have helped shape conversations about race, immigration, LGBTQ issues, and political repression. While some founders work only to bring attention and audience into their institution, Tortolero crisscrosses the city to work on issues that impact Chicagoans. Tortolero has made culture in Chicago more inclusive by his tenacity and voice.

J. Gibran Villalobos is Partnership and Engagement Liaison with the [Museum of Contemporary Art](#), which specifically developed the position for Villalobos due to his demonstrated track record developing relationships with community-based organizations and artists. Villalobos expands the MCA's mission in response to the needs of the cultural communities it serves. He promotes the need for and value of the arts in ongoing community and neighborhood engagement and works to amplify ALAANA voices in all the outreach and community engagement the institution does, brokering relationships between internal and external stakeholders.

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