

CHICAGODEFENDER APPLAUSE!

Celebrate Chicago's Non-Profit Trailblazers.

The Chicago Defender proudly presents "Applause" a special publication showcasing the 2025 Standout Black Non-Profit Leaders who are making a difference in our communities. This exclusive edition, distributed September 2025, is the perfect opportunity for non-profits, businesses, and supporters to showcase their work or place a congratulatory ad celebrating this year's leaders.

Join us in recognizing these changemakers and amplifying their impact!
#CDApplause25

SHERRI ALLEN-REEVES

Executive Director
Phoenix Foundation

DANIEL O. ASH

President
Field Foundation of Illinois

CHANCELOR BENNETT

Founder
SocialWorks

TORREY BARRETT

Founder/CEO
KLEO Foundation

JAMYLE CANNON

Founder/Executive Director
The Bloc

JAHMAL COLE

Founder
My Block My Hood My City

MAKEDA CRAYTON

Executive Director
Deeply Rooted Dance
Theater/Productions

AIMEE EUBANKS DAVIS

Founder/President
Braven

YOLANDA FIELDS

Executive Director
Breakthrough Urban Ministries

GHIAN FOREMAN

President/CEO
Emerald South Economic
Development Collaborative

JEREMIAH FRAZIER

Founder
The Rae of Light Foundation

TIO HARDIMAN

President
Violence Interrupters, NFP

TIFFANY HIGHTOWER

Executive Director
Illinois Legislative Black
Caucus Foundation

YOLANDA JEFFRIES

Founder/Executive Director
Black Women in Business
and Construction Inc.

BEYONCA JOHNSON

Executive Director/Founder
Lifescore Foundation

O. VICTORIA LAKES-BATTLE

Executive Director
IFF

DIANE LATIKER

President
Kids Off The Block

KEVIN MCFALL

Chief Marketing Officer
PushBlack

JAEMIE NEELY

Executive Director
Federation of Women
Contractors

LYCRECIA PARKS

Chief Risk Officer/Vice President
of Portfolio Management
Chicago Community Loan Fund

MICHELLE REDD

President
Building Blocks Learning
Academy

OMOUZUWA SEYMOUR-EL

Owner/CEO
Raw Talent Performing Arts

SHELDON SMITH

Founder/Executive Director
The Dovetail Project

DR. FRANKIE SWOOPE

Founder/President
Continuing Academic Training

DEBRA VINES

Founder/CEO
The Answer, Inc.