

Q2 2020

play it forward



A quarterly newsletter for the Afterschool Development movement across America.

Dear Afterschool Development Community,

As a Black woman who grew up in poverty, I have lived the pain, despair and tragedy that too often shapes what it means to be poor and to be a person of color in America. I share the deep heartbreak and anger that our Afterschool Development community and millions of other Americans are feeling over the death of George Floyd and too many others. I've spent the past 40 years creating new paths for poor youth to reinitiate their development as young leaders who can both participate in and shape what it means to live and grow in America. Important to the success is bridge building – bringing together inner-city youth with caring adults from all walks of life where everyone grows.

Together we're creating a new kind of America where each person's contribution is valued. Let us be inspired by the enthusiasm, creativity and impact of the protest movement for justice, for change and for a more developed world.

I am proud to share two leadership statements from the All Stars Project.

Dallas we need to talk about the 'knee', an opinion piece published in the Dallas Morning News penned by Antoine Joyce, Vice President and City Leader, All Stars Project of Dallas ([link](#)).

The Road Ahead, a message from All Stars CEO, Gabrielle Kurlander ([link](#)).

Please feel free to share these with your networks.

Enclosed you will find the next issue of ***Play it Forward*** which features some of the innovative and inspiring practitioners, academics, artists, researchers and philanthropists who daily contribute to this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gloria B. Strickland'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Gloria B. Strickland
Chief Youth and Community Development Officer
All Stars Project



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Play it Forward is a quarterly newsletter that introduces you to the builders and influencers of the Afterschool Development movement, offers updates on the latest and most innovative thinking and practices in the field and lets you know how you can become involved. ***Play it Forward*** also provides a forum for exploring some of the latest topics of interest in the Afterschool Development community. To find out more about Afterschool Development [CLICK HERE](#).



In the Field



LaTanya Johnson knows what it is like for kids to “have nothing to do.”

“I grew up in Englewood, on the South Side of Chicago,” she explains. “My mom couldn’t afford to enroll me in afterschool programs.” Driven by a desire to give the kids living in one of the most violent neighborhoods in Chicago something positive in their lives, Johnson launched **LaTanya and the Youth of Englewood** in 2013 to provide free afterschool activities and connections to positive adults for youths aged 5–13.



Being with so many people doing the same thing gives me a sense of hope, knowing I’m not out here alone.



-- LaTanya Johnson

When the coronavirus pandemic hit, and her office closed, Johnson and her team didn’t miss a beat. With donations from local businesses, and in partnership with local organizations, Youth of Englewood fills “COVID-19 Youth Activity Bags” with healthy snacks, games and toys, and an array of educational activities. To date, Youth of Englewood has distributed over 1,200 bags and doesn’t plan to stop until the crisis is over.

A member of the Afterschool Development Working Group in Chicago since 2017, Johnson credits the group for giving her the support and leadership to creatively move forward in these challenging times. “Being with so many people doing the same thing gives me a sense of hope, knowing I’m not out here alone.”



Program Participants - LaTanya and the Youth of Englewood



building the future of afterschool development



The Future of Afterschool class participants



A major takeaway [from The Future of Afterschool class] was the idea that development is an ongoing process that involves taking the risk to create, perform, make mistakes and do whatever it is you need to do in order to get to a higher place of learning.



*Kenya George,
Program Director,
BUILD NYC*

The Future of Afterschool is a five-week online course currently being offered by the All Stars Project to a group of 22 afterschool front-liners and advocates that explores concepts and issues fundamental to creatively advancing the afterschool development field. Though in the works for months before the pandemic, the course is timely as so many organizations in the afterschool field grapple with how to rebuild and re-invent themselves in order to move forward during an extended period of social distancing and disruption.

The Future of Afterschool is being led by Bonny Gildin, Ph.D. (All Stars Project), Gloria Strickland, M.A. (All Stars Project) and Carrie Lobman, Ed.D. (Rutgers University) with participation from leaders from World Vision and Youth Guidance in Chicago, Dallas Afterschool and Big Thought in Dallas, SHE Wins and Dawn of Hope in New Jersey, and Build NYC. The key concept being explored throughout the course is development —what is it and how does it get produced? As one participant shared, “A major takeaway was the idea that development is an ongoing process that involves taking the risk to create, perform, make mistakes and do whatever it is you need to do in order to get to a higher place of learning.” To learn more about future online courses, please email registrar Kathy Fiess (kfiess@allstars.org) and visit our website [here](#).

We also invite you to enjoy *The History of Afterschool in America*, a 60-minute documentary that examines the early pre-conditions and growth of the afterschool movement from the early 1900s to today.



On the cutting edge

Redefining Learning through
Community as a Campus Initiative



**Community as Intellectual Space:
A New Beginning for Participatory Research on Paseo Boricua**

With millions of children out of traditional classrooms, some for the foreseeable future, new kinds of conversations are emerging about education, including education that takes place outside of school. This Spring, some of these conversations took place at a Speculative Education Colloquium (SEC), an online experiment in dreaming up alternative educational futures, organized by Nicole Mirra from the Rutgers Graduate School of Education and Antero Garcia from the Stanford Graduate School of Education. They invited teachers, students, researchers, parents, and community members to come together and “imagine new systems of learning and new ways of interacting...in an era of global pandemic, anxiety, and systemic rupture.” The SEC featured presentations by innovative scholars from around the country, including **Dr. Jonathan Rosa** from the Stanford Graduate School of Education. In his talk, “Schools Were Never Normal/Learning Happens Everywhere: From Return and Recuperation to Reckoning and Reimagination in Education,” Rosa joined with other researchers at the conference in reflecting on the limitations of accumulating knowledge to address the marginalization of youth and communities. “The point of education should be understanding how we live,” he remarked. To view his talk, [click here](#).



Philanthropic Partnerships



Even as the pandemic continues to take an unprecedented social and economic toll on the nonprofit community and the already struggling young people and communities they serve, businesses are stepping up with emergency relief funds in support of afterschool development across America. Leading the way is Gilead Sciences, which created the global Gilead CARES Grantee Fund in April to provide up to \$20 million in donations to nonprofit groups, including youth and afterschool programs facing “an imminent closure or termination of vital services due to losses attributable to COVID-19.” We also want to recognize CBRE, EY, MetLife, Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG), RBC Capital Markets, TM Financial Forensics and Wells Fargo for standing with—and giving hope to—our youth and communities during these very challenging times.



A new conversation about Evaluation

Also stepping up for the nonprofit sector during this time is UpMetrics, which is offering their analytic tools for free through the remainder of 2020 in order to “help nonprofits tell compelling stories that activate engagement and ultimately increase fundraising.”

Founded by a team of former educators, administrators, funders, and parents who believe in the “power of data to transform the philanthropic sector,” UpMetrics partners with over 1,000 organizations, both large and small, across the country

and globally, on analyzing impact, making informed decisions, and effectively telling their stories. To learn more, click [here](#).

See below on how you can join us in building the
Future of Afterschool Development!



Please share your responses to anything in *Play it Forward* and thoughts you have on Afterschool Development and what it means for our communities and country.

Tell Us What You Think



spread the word.

Share *Play It Forward* with others and invite them to subscribe.



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coming up...

In the Next Quarter Issue of *Play it Forward*:

- **In the Field** – Profiles of people on the frontlines in our communities who are changing lives and making a difference.
- **Building the Future of Afterschool Development** – Updates on the issues that practitioners, academics, and business, civic and community leaders are coming together to discuss in Afterschool Development working groups and conferences.
- **On the Cutting Edge** – The latest developments in thought leadership, research and policy helping to shape the conversation about Afterschool Development, education and poverty in America.
- **Philanthropic Partnerships** – Featuring partners and funders who are stepping up and investing in Afterschool Development and its growth nationally.
- **A New Conversation about Evaluation** – Highlights of the growing national conversation about evaluation and the need for new tools.



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