

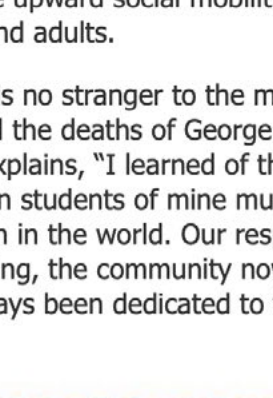


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*Play it Forward* is a quarterly newsletter that introduces you to the builders and influencers of the Afterschool Development movement, offers updates on the latest and most innovative thinking and practices in the field and lets you know how you 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

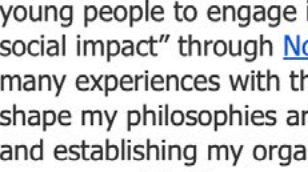


We aim to liberate Oak Cliff from systemic oppression.

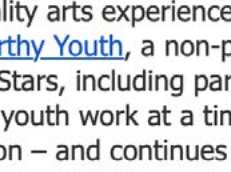
Born and raised in the Oak Cliff community in Dallas, Taylor Toyne has seen “the good, the bad, the ugly and the beauty” of living in one of the city’s most impoverished areas. As co-founder of **For Oak Cliff**, whose mission is to “liberate Oak Cliff from systemic oppression,” this former public school teacher began his community involvement by organizing a Back to School Festival because “I was tired of paying out of pocket for supplies and materials the school system should be providing our young people.” The Festival has since grown into a non-profit that now offers an array of inter-generational programs that use education, advocacy, community building and the arts to “...address the needs of both children and the adults...with the aim of creating a culture of education and to facilitate upward social mobility.” To date, For Oak Cliff has served over 17,000 youth and adults.

Toynes is no stranger to the movement for racial equity and social justice that followed the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others earlier this year. As he explains, “I learned of the death of Emmett Till when I was 6 years old and I’ve seen students of mine murdered in Dallas. We are deeply saddened by what’s going on in the world. Our response is to keep doing what we are doing because, if anything, the community now has a better understanding of why For Oak Cliff has always been dedicated to fighting against systemic oppression.”

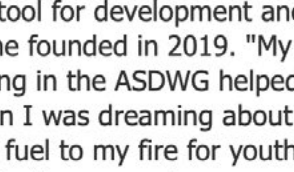
## building the future of afterschool development



LaRhonda Boone



Jenn Thompson

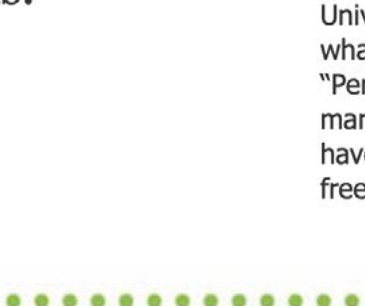


Youth with musical buckets

How are afterschool professionals navigating the current crisis in ways that support their personal and professional growth - and move the afterschool movement forward? For LaRhonda Boone, a consultant with the I Have A Dream Foundation and other NJ-based youth-serving organizations, it means “...staying connected in ways that support me to grow and learn more, which includes delving into online conferences and classes.” This included signing up for [The Future of Afterschool](#) where she deepened her understanding of the concepts and practice of play and performance. Her discovery? “Play and performance are as valuable for adults as they are for kids.” As she explains, “I’m taking more risks these days by reaching out to people I don’t know and wouldn’t ordinarily reach out to. I am a pretty introverted person, but I have the support to create a new performance.”

In Chicago, Jenn Thompson – like LaRhonda a member of an Afterschool Development Working Group (ASDWG) -- is busy “providing an opportunity for young people to engage in quality arts experiences as a tool for development and social impact” through [Noteworthy Youth](#), a non-profit she founded in 2019. “My many experiences with the All Stars, including participating in the ASDWG helped shape my philosophies around youth work at a time when I was dreaming about and establishing my organization – and continues to add fuel to my fire for youth engagement.” Like so many during COVID, she has had to “pause and regroup and figure out new methods for functioning.” She credits the ASP and [My Chi, My Future](#) – a multi-year initiative to connect youth across Chicago to meaningful out-of-school experiences – for “...doing a wonderful job at shifting to virtual programming. They have helped so many of us in the field to change our view of what is possible online, including great ideas for facilitating icebreakers and social emotional check-ins.”

## On the cutting edge



**Free to Perform, Perform to Be Free -**  
A conversation exploring the way performance can impact society

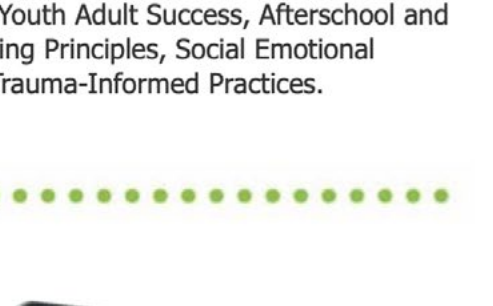
"Performing to be free . . . . is performing to be free of the roles that have been assigned to us."

What role can performance play in bringing diverse groups together to see each other in new ways and build community? How does performance help people of all ages and life circumstances to grow their lives and the world? These were just some of the questions explored at “[Free to Perform, Perform to Be Free](#),” an event sponsored by the Women’s Forum of New York on October 15 as part of a series on racial equality, social justice and inclusion. Created and moderated by All Stars Project (ASP) CEO Gabrielle Kurlander, the event brought together a distinguished and diverse panel for a fascinating and far-reaching conversation: jazz great and MacArthur Genius Award recipient Regina Carter; performance activist and scholar Lois Holzman, Ph.D.; former MetLife EVP and corporate innovator Maria Morris; activist and historian Jared Glenn and Fordham University alumna Ivoryona Williams. When asked what the title meant to her, Dr. Holzman said, “Performing to be free is performing to be free of so many things, including being free of the roles that have been assigned to us. And so, performing to be free is performing to be human.”

## Philanthropic Partnerships



Dara Engle, Chief People Officer



HHC Volunteers

As one of our country’s preeminent developers and operators of master planned communities and mixed-use properties across the country – including Lower Manhattan’s Seaport District – [The Howard Hughes Corporation](#) (HHC) believes that “it is not just the buildings that matter – it’s what we do with them that can truly shape the way people live.” HHC’s Chief People Officer Dara Engle explains, “Our company builds communities; supporting and enhancing the social fabric of these communities is inherent to the way we build.”

Like a growing number of U.S. companies eager to find new ways to strengthen their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion practices, HHC is building community partnerships and supporting programs and initiatives that reflect and advance their impact in this area. Under the umbrella of HHCares, the company’s social responsibility program, employees are given three paid days a year to volunteer in the community. When COVID-19 made in-person volunteering difficult, HHC was one of 143 companies across the country that participated in a new virtual program launched by the All Stars Project called Development Coaching, which paired young people with caring business professionals for a coaching partnership. In total, 13 HHC employees from Texas, Maryland, Hawaii, New Orleans and NYC have enthusiastically stepped up to partner with disadvantaged youth around the country. According to Engle, “What I liked about the program was the opportunity to help mentor and develop the careers of Black, Latino, and other underrepresented young people who are now part of HHC’s future talent pipeline.”

## A new conversation about Evaluation



Sam Piha, Temescal Associates

In a November 2020 paper, [Multiple Reflections](#), Temescal Associates’ Sam Piha and Samantha Fasen provide a comprehensive review of the “new concepts and frameworks issued each year by experts on youth learning and development”. As they write in their opening summary, “The complex and conflicting terminology used in the field can make it difficult to sort through and compare all the information out there to determine which approach works best for you...Without a way to make sense of the words, it becomes easy to misinterpret, overgeneralize, or overlook the science that links evidence to strategies, and strategies to measurement and evaluation.” The paper was released by Temescal and the [How Kids Learn Foundation](#). The frameworks addressed include Youth Development, Youth Adult Success, Afterschool and Summer Learning Principles, Social Emotional Learning and Trauma-Informed Practices.

**Meet and work with some of the dynamic leaders in Afterschool Development!**

You are invited to participate in online workshops and courses from the All Stars Project’s Afterschool Development Initiative. Sign up for our 2021 offerings!

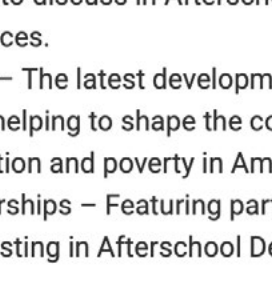
[Click here](#) for detailed information or contact Kathy Fiess at [kfiess@allstars.org](mailto:kfiess@allstars.org) or (212) 356-8487.



let's talk.

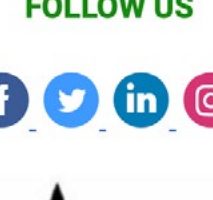
Please share your responses to anything in Play it Forward and thoughts you have on Afterschool Development and what it means for our communities and country.

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK**



spread the word.

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



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.