

CAUSE THE EFFECT

CHICAGO

Young Feminist Conference

October 21, 2017

AGENDA

8:30 AM Registration

9:00 AM **Welcome**, Bridget Gainer

9:10 AM **Performance**, E'mon Lauren, Chicago Youth Poet Laureate

9:25 AM **GET SMART: Intersectional Activism**

Ambar Mentor-Truppa, Joanna Thompson, Erédira "Ere" Rendón & Kat West

Introduction: Kanyinsola Anifowoshe

Moderator: Brandis Friedman

10:20 AM **Standing Up for Yourself and Others in a Hostile Online World**

Julie DiCaro

10:40 AM **GET VOCAL: Owing Your Voice**

Meredith Montgomery, (ashley) Tribble & Laura Washington

Introduction: Anna Wolf

Moderators: Erika Wozniak & Jen Sabella

11:30 AM **Call to Action**, Bridget Gainer

11:35 AM **GET ACTIVE: Breakout Sessions**

Breakout 1: Activism 101:

Mrinalini Chakraborty, Lindsay Miller & Lucy Moog

Breakout 2: I'm too young to vote. How can I make an impact?

Sarah Horvitz & Maxine Aguilar

Breakout 3: No more moments of silence: How to have difficult discussions

Laura Przybysz

Breakout 4: The Future is Local. The Future is Female

Alex Niemczewski & Pat Reynes

12:15 PM **Networking + Engagement Fair + Lunch**

CAUSE THE EFFECT

Bridget Gainer

Bridget Gainer founded Cause the Effect Chicago, formerly Off the Sidelines Chicago, to bring civically-engaged women together to turn their ideas into action. For the past two years, the locally-focused organization has built a community of more than 3,500 women from across Chicago who are motivated to effect change on the issues that matter to them.

Bridget Gainer is Cook County Commissioner for the 10th District, representing the North Lakefront and portions of the Northwest side. Commissioner Gainer comes to Cook County Government with 20 years of experience in the non-profit, public and private sectors, a career that has provided a strong foundation in finance, human services and the workings of local government. Commissioner Gainer has devoted special interest to the women and children in the County's criminal justice system. She eliminated the practice of separating new mothers awaiting trial from their newborns, led the fight to ban shackling pregnant detainees during delivery, created the first citizen advisory Board for the Juvenile Detention Center and continues to lead the fight to reduce the number of non-violent offenders in County Jail. She lives in Chicago, IL with her husband and three children.



Meghan Christiansen

Meghan joined Cause the Effect Chicago, formerly Off the Sidelines Chicago, as its first Executive Director in July 2017. She recently relocated to Chicago after working for Hillary Clinton's Presidential campaign, leading Women's Outreach for the state of Wisconsin. Prior to that, she co-founded the grassroots organization, Milwaukee for Hillary. Meghan is deeply passionate about engaging women through activism and advocacy and remains steadfast in her commitment to electing more women to public office.

Meghan is a graduate of Yale University and is on the board of YaleWomen Chicago and the Yale Basketball Association. Meghan is a New Yorker by birth and a Midwesterner by marriage. She lives with her husband in the suburbs of Chicago.



CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

Kanyinsola Anifowoshe

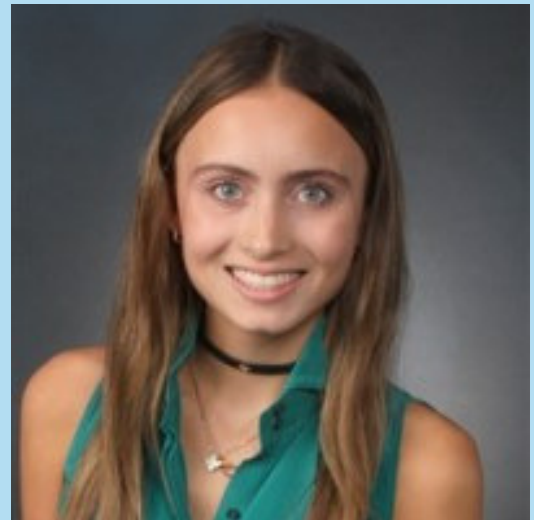
Kanyinsola Anifowoshe is a junior at Whitney Young High School and president of the school's Acting for Gender Equality Club. She is incredibly passionate about intersectional and decolonized feminism, art history, restorative justice (also leading Whitney Young's Students Working Against Prisons club), and increasing accessibility in the art world. She is a co-organizer with Empowerment Chicago and Youth for Black Lives: organizations intended to amplify the voices of young people within activism. She created Wahala Zine as a platform for sharing the work of other young people in the Nigerian diaspora; and she hosts The Now podcast where she interviews young creatives about their work.



Anna Wolf

Anna Wolf is a junior at the Latin School of Chicago. At school, she participates in Model United Nations, Model Congress, and Debate Club. Moreover, since she was a child, she has loved politics and keeping up with current events. As a result, last year, she founded a political blog for teenagers called The Outlook.

Anna believes that it is essential that young people get active in the political world to effect change and she hopes this year's Young Feminist Conference inspires young women around the city to voice their opinions.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

E'mon Lauren

E'mon Lauren is from the South Side of Chicago. She is a Scorpio enthusiast and a firm believer in Dorthy Dandridge reincarnation. E'mon uses poetry and playwriting to explore a philosophy of hood womanism. She was named Chicago's first Youth Poet Laureate. A former Kuumba Lynx Performance Ensemble slam team member and Louder Than a Bomb champion, E'mon has performed in many venues including The Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Festival and The Chicago Hip Hop Theatre Fest. She was a 2016 finalist for The Gwendolyn Brooks Open Mic Award. E'mon has been published in *The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop*, *The Down Dirty Word*, and elsewhere. She has been featured in *Chicago* magazine, *Chicago Tribune*, and on WGN Radio. She is a member of Young Chicago Authors Teaching Artist Corps.



Julie DiCaro

Julie DiCaro is a radio host for 670 The Score and freelance sports columnist who focuses on the intersection of sports and social justice. Julie has written for outlets such as *The Cauldron at Sports Illustrated*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Vice Sports*, and *Deadspin*, and appeared in the viral video "More Than Mean," for which she won a Peabody and a Gracie award.



GET SMART

Intersectional Activism

Brandis Friedman

Brandis Friedman is a Correspondent for Chicago Tonight, on Chicago's PBS affiliate, WTTW Channel 11. Her reporting on education and criminal justice issues has appeared on PBS' NewsHour, and she's recently earned a Peter Lisagor Award, recognizing excellence in journalism, from the Chicago Headline Club. Before joining Chicago Tonight, Brandis worked as a reporter and anchor for WBBM Newsradio 780, and as a producer/reporter for WJLA-TV/ABC-7 in Washington, DC where she earned three regional Emmy Awards. Originally from Mississippi, her work has taken her to numerous cities including Kansas City, Missouri, Little Rock, Arkansas and Wichita Falls, Texas. She currently serves on the board of the Chicago Headline Club, which is the local chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, and is a member of the Education Writers Association. Brandis is a graduate of Dillard University in New Orleans, where she earned a degree in Mass Communications, and Columbia University in New York City, where she earned her Master's Degree in Journalism. Brandis is now happy to call Chicagoland her home.



Ambar Mentor-Truppa

Ambar Mentor-Truppa is Vice President of Communications at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, an anti-poverty advocacy organization. Before that, for twelve years, Ambar worked as a consultant in public relations agencies serving the civic and social sector. For ten years, Ambar has served on the board and chaired the Advocacy Council of women economic justice organization Women Employed. She supports causes connected to education, race equity and public media.

In 2012, Ambar was named as one of "100 Women to Watch" by *Today's Chicago Magazine*. Ambar graduated in 2003 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism and graduated with honors from Lane Tech College Prep High School in 1999.



GET SMART

Joanna Thompson

Joanna Thompson, a mixed-race (half Black/half Latina) and queer female, is the Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator at Center on Halsted. She is also in the process of finishing her PhD with the Department of Criminology, Law, and Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her doctoral research uses critical mixed-race studies to emphasize the intersections between mixed-race identity and interpersonal victimization, specifically bullying and harassment. Joanna is not new to LGBTQ community organizing for she helped to produce the first Hate Crimes Summit two years ago and is still a part of the Hate Crimes Task Force here in Chicago. Her experiences, both personal and academic, have truly led to her to become a voice for the Chicagoland LGBTQ community on both a grassroots and systems level.



Eréndira "Ere" Rendón

Eréndira "Ere" Rendón is the Director of National Partnerships at The Resurrection Project. Ere has served as the organization's lead strategist and manager on local and state-wide campaigns impacting the lives of immigrants. Ere is a DACAmented immigrant from Oaxaca, Mexico and has played a leading role in the successful passage of many pro-immigrant legislations in Illinois including Driver's Licenses for the undocumented and the renewal of All Kids. Ms. Rendón holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology and Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is a graduate of the Civic Leadership Academy at the University of Chicago.



Kat West

Kat West, 18, is a freshman at Roosevelt majoring in Social Justice. She has been an active member of Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH), which is a reproductive justice organization. She's also a mentor and the Director of Education and Training for Rebel Bells, a social justice girls group in the Calumet region. Rebel Bells focuses on providing girls, specifically girls of color, with a safe space to address the social issues they face like the pressure to conform to beauty standards, racism, and environmental injustices/racism through units like Radical Beauty, Black Lives Matter, and Eco Warrior, while also giving them the tools and opportunities to combat these injustices.



GET VOCAL

Owning Your Voice

Erika Wozniak

Erika Wozniak has been a Chicago Public School teacher since her graduation from DePaul University in 2004. Wozniak was chosen as the American Federation of Teachers “Everyday Hero” Award winner this year, a national teaching award that is given out every two years to honor outstanding teachers throughout our country. Wozniak co-hosts The Girl Talk with Jen Sabella at The Hideout which features Chicago women who are doing amazing things in Chicago. She also proudly serves on the Chicago Votes board of directors. She has been a fierce advocate for fair funding and education equality for all students in Chicago and a dedicated public servant for the past twelve years. Wozniak currently resides in Uptown with her husband, Brian.



Jen Sabella

Jen Sabella is the Deputy Editor and Director of Social Media at *DNAinfo Chicago*, a neighborhood news site she helped launch and turn into one of the most popular and cited news sources in the city. Aside from her day job, Jen co-hosts The Girl Talk, a monthly talk show that highlights influential Chicago women working for social justice and writes a weekly newsletter about current events and cocktails, the News & Boozeletter. She also taught digital journalism essentials to graduate students at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. Before joining *DNAinfo*, Jen was the Chicago Editor for *The Huffington Post* and a breaking news reporter at the *Chicago Sun-Times*. She lives in Irving Park with her wife, two obese cats and a surly but lovable feral cat colony.



Meredith Montgomery

Meredith Montgomery is the Co-Founder and Program Director of {she crew}. She serves as {she crew}'s lead instructor. She created the method and curriculum carried out in {she crew}, using a combination of writing, performing, and communal cooking to support, empower and provide safe spaces for adolescent girls and gender non-conformers. For the past four years, Meredith has developed her own method of devised work, centered around youth and individuality. Most recently, she created She Cast, as for-youth-by-youth podcast centered around topics that affect young people today. She holds a BFA in Performance from St. Edward's University.



YOUNG FEMINIST CONFERENCE 2017

GET VOCAL

(ashley) Tribble

(ashley) Tribble is a Chicago transplant by way of Cincinnati, OH. She graduated from The Ohio State University with a BSBA in Business Administration in 2011 and currently works for E.W. Scripps' Stitcher On Demand Radio as a Content Operations Specialist. Tribble feeds her creative abilities by working as a stand-up comedian, host and personality. In 2016 she created, P Power Radio, a podcast that shares the stories of revolutionary millennial women and the history of the world they are working to change, which she also produces and hosts. P Power Radio has featured a range of women artists, activists, entrepreneurs and bosses from Chicago and beyond, and was listed on *Ebony.com* as 1 of 5 Black Podcasts to Have in Your Arsenal. In addition to the podcast, Tribble emcees live events including a monthly womyn's panel called Chit Chat with the Cliche' Collective, trivia nights for Whaddayaknow Trivia Chicago, and more. Tribble is an outspoken advocate for Black liberation and women's rights, and supports and advocates for the LGBTQI community in Chicago and beyond.



Laura Washington

Laura S. Washington is a *Chicago Sun-Times* columnist and political analyst for ABC 7 Chicago. From 2003 to 2009 she served as the Ida B. Wells-Barnett University Professor at DePaul University, and in 2015, a Visiting Fellow at the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics.

Washington was the longtime, award-winning editor and publisher of *The Chicago Reporter*, nationally recognized for its investigative coverage of race and urban affairs. Washington served as deputy press secretary to Chicago Mayor Harold Washington; an investigative producer for CBS-2/Chicago, correspondent for WTTW; and an op-ed columnist at the *Chicago Tribune*.

Washington earned Bachelor's and Master's in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, where she has also taught and lectured. She is widely featured and quoted in the national media, including the Associated Press, *New York Times*, NBC Nightly News, MNSBC, PBS and the BBC.



GET ACTIVE

Activism 101

Mrinalini Chakraborty

Mrinalini is the Head of Field Operations & Strategy for the Women's March. She is a proud immigrant from Kolkata, India, who moved to the U.S. eight years ago to attend Knox College. She is a doctoral student of Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Chicago and specializes in ancient DNA analysis in South American prehistoric civilizations. Mrinalini has been an activist since her teenage years, working primarily on minority rights, and refuses to be a bystander as the rights and safety of immigrants, men and women of color, the LGBTQIA community, and other minorities are threatened. As a teenager growing up in Kolkata, India, Mrinalini entered the world of activism by fighting for the rights of sex workers and victims of human trafficking, and has since continued to work on social justice campaigns focusing on immigrants rights, equitable access to education, gender violence, and mental health advocacy. Working on the Women's March is one of the greatest honors in her life and she is proud to be at the forefront of the largest women-led civil rights movement of our times!



Lindsay Miller

Lindsay is a Staff Attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, where she represents the ACLU and its clients in litigation and policy matters concerning police accountability and prison reform. Currently, Lindsay is involved in enforcing the ACLU's agreement with the City of Chicago and Chicago Police Department regarding the police practice of stop and frisk. She also monitors a federal consent decree concerning unconstitutional conditions and services in Illinois' youth prisons. Lindsay regularly conducts Know Your Rights trainings and provides community education on policing issues throughout the city of Chicago. Prior to joining the ACLU in 2013, Lindsay was a Root-Tilden-Kern Public Interest Scholar at the New York University School of Law.



Lucy Moog

Lucy Moog is a longtime Democratic activist and a 23-year resident of Lincoln Park. Passionate about community action and grassroots organizing, her vision is a ward where citizens are engaged in the political process by advocating on behalf of candidates, issues and causes they care about. As a 43rd Ward Democratic Committeeman, Lucy wants to inspire activism in politics and help build the Democratic base.



YOUNG FEMINIST CONFERENCE 2017

GET ACTIVE

I'm too young to vote. How can I make an impact?

Sarah Horvitz

Sarah Horvitz is a seasoned campaigner for progressive causes and candidates. She currently serves as the National Organizing Director at Run for Something, an organization dedicated to recruiting and supporting talented, passionate, young people running for local and state office. Previously, Sarah worked on the Hillary Clinton campaign where she managed organizing teams through Iowa, New Jersey, and Virginia. She also worked in California politics managing a range of issue-based campaigns for labor unions, community colleges, and local hospitals. Sarah earned a bachelor's degree in government and politics from the University of Maryland—College Park, with a minor concentration in Middle Eastern Studies. She loves skiing, giraffes, and all things grassroots organizing.



Maxine Aguilar

Maxine Aguilar, 18, is a Senior at Jones College Prep and plans to pursue a degree in Computer Science. She is also an activist and co-organizer for a Chicago-based collective called Youth for Black Lives. Maxine believes that we must change the world using action and inclusion of people with different perspectives. During her work with Youth for Black Lives she has spoken at the Women's March on Chicago, led a successful protest in downtown Chicago, and is planning a youth teach-in event for later this month.

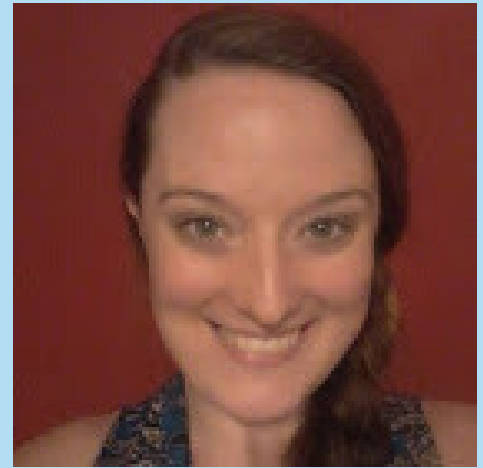


GET ACTIVE

No more moments of silence: How to have difficult discussions

Laura Przybysz

Laura Przybysz joined the leadership of SURJ-Chicago in Summer 2017 as a training committee co-chair. Prior to serving with this organization, Laura had several opportunities to organize colleagues at work and school to highlight practices of institutional racism and oppression. With a Masters in Social Work from the University of Chicago, Laura spent 2 years working with youth from Uptown & Edgewater to design public health issue campaigns and promote youth leadership. She currently works with schools and community-based organizations to evaluate programs and inform best practices for positive and inclusive youth development and is facilitating Accountability Groups for people with racial privilege to talk about anti-racist practices with SURJ-Chicago.



GET ACTIVE

The Future is Local. The Future is Female.

Alex Niemczewski

Alex Niemczewski is CEO and co-founder of BallotReady, an award-winning voter guide to every race and referendum on the ballot. Previously she founded a human-centered design consulting firm and taught coding at the Booth School of Business and The Starter League. She has a background in workforce development and is an alum of the University of Chicago. She was recognized in Crain's Chicago Business "20 in their 20's" list, Techweek100, and as a Bluhm/Helfand Social Innovation Fellow.



Pat Reynes

Pat Reynes is the Midwest Regional Director at EMILY's List. She is responsible for major gift fundraising in a 15 state territory. Pat spent 25 years in the business sector, first as the Marketing Manager of an industrial product line for a Fortune 500 company and then as President of a high tech recruiting company that worked primarily with Silicon Valley start ups. She moved into politics at the request of a previous client, former Congresswoman Melissa Bean, and worked closely with her on her 2008 and 2010 campaigns. During that time, Pat interacted regularly with EMILY's List, taking advantage of the training offered as well as the mentoring provided by the Campaigns department. In 2011, Pat joined EMILY's List. Pat grew up in the Chicago area, is a graduate of Pitzer College and has an MBA from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management.



WiFi at #YFC2017

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Password: Moto@M@rt

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