IRVING HARRIS
FOUNDATION

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Shaping Change

ON THE Horizon

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A NOTE FROM PHYLLIS GLINK

> ***"The arts are a vital part of both our personal and collective lives."***
>
> **-Joan W. Harris**, *2001 commencement speech*

At the Irving Harris Foundation, we believe the arts are not only a reflection of who we are, but a force that strengthens the human condition.

The arts bring us together. They spark imagination. They create space for joy, expression, and connection. For more than four decades, our Arts & Culture work has demonstrated the belief that creativity and justice go hand in hand.

This belief is embodied by Joan W. Harris, whose vision has guided our arts giving from the very beginning. Joan's innovative investments in the arts here in Chicago (and beyond) have made a lasting impact, from transformational projects like the Harris Theater to the small, mid-size, and large organizations that give the arts landscape its richness and diversity.

That includes groups such as Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, the National Museum of Mexican Art, and Uniting Voices Chicago (featured below), as well as Aspen Music Festival and School, Black Ensemble Theatre, Center on Halsted, Chicago Opera Theater, Chicago Public Media, the Sphinx Organization, and many more.

Although we are no longer funding new Arts & Culture projects as part of our sunsetting plans, the Foundation remains deeply committed to celebrating and uplifting the incredible work of our partners.

At a time when artistic expression—and the robust, sustainable funding it deserves—is needed more than ever, we are grateful to all those using art to move us closer to a world that is more just—and more beautiful—for every baby, family, and community.

For more information about the partners highlighted above, visit:
https://www.aspenmusicfestival.com/
https://blackensembletheater.org/
https://www.centeronhalsted.org/
https://www.chicagooperatheater.org/
https://www.chicagopublicmedia.org/
https://www.sphinxmusic.org/

Phyllis Glink
Executive Director

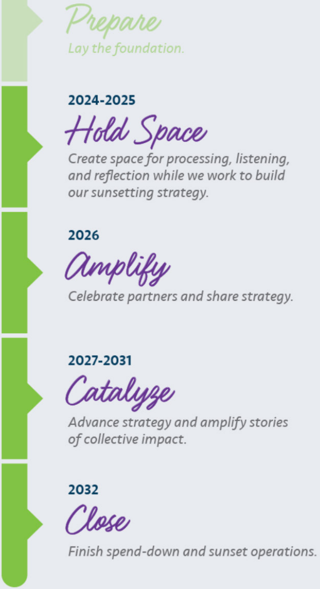
OUR NEXT CHAPTER

Updates on Our

Sunsetting Journey

Last year, we shared with our community that IHF is planning to sunset in 2032. Sunsetting is a way to lean into the Foundation's longstanding commitment to justice, allowing us to shift more resources to communities here and now. You can learn more about this transition here.

Right now, we are working with Frontline Solutions to align sunsetting strategies across our funding priorities. We look forward to sharing more with you in the months ahead!



Prepare
Lay the foundation.

2024-2025
Hold Space
Create space for processing, listening, and reflection while we work to build our sunsetting strategy.

2026
Amplify
Celebrate partners and share strategy.

2027-2031
Catalyze
Advance strategy and amplify stories of collective impact.

2032
Close
Finish spend-down and sunset operations.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Arts & Culture Partners:

Making Our World More Vibrant and Just

UNITING VOICES
CHICAGO

Founded in 1956 as a direct response to the Civil Rights Movement, **Uniting Voices Chicago** (formerly Chicago Children's Choir) inspires children to foster empathy, respect, friendships, and confidence, all through the power of music. What began as a single choir on Chicago's South Side has grown into an internationally renowned network of in-school and after-school programs serving nearly 4,000 children from every city zip code each year.

UNITING VOICES
WE ARE UNITING VOICES

Photo courtesy of Uniting Voices Chicago

School and neighborhood programs open the door for students of all backgrounds to discover the harmony that comes from listening to one another and learning to sing together as one. For those seeking deeper engagement, Uniting Voices Chicago offers two cross-city ensembles that connect singers with peers from different parts of the city whom they might not have met otherwise. The organization's custom-designed curriculum and programming are culturally relevant and financially accessible, thanks to a commitment that no child is turned away for inability to pay. 100% of singers receive subsidized tuition, and 70% pay no fees at all.

> ***"The long bus rides and team building activities give you a lot of time to connect with people you didn't know you needed in your life."***
>
> — **Aaliyah**, *Uniting Voices Chicago participant*

From school classrooms and neighborhoods to performances at Navy Pier, Saturday Night Live, and international tours, **Uniting Voices Chicago** nurtures a generation of musicians and leaders who know how to listen, collaborate, and change the world.

For more information, visit https://www.unitingvoiceschicago.org/

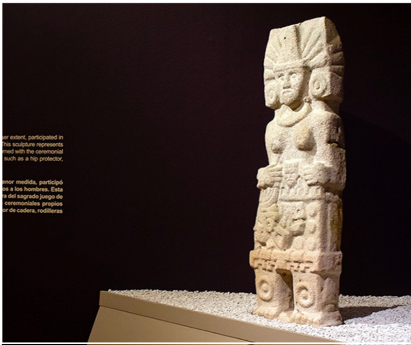
UNITING VOICES CHICAGO
WE ARE UNITING VOICES
CANDY COMPANY

Photos courtesy of Uniting Voices Chicago

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART

In the heart of Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood, the **National Museum of Mexican Art (NMMA)** stands as a treasured cultural anchor and a “love letter to Mexico.” Founded in 1987 by educators, the museum remains deeply rooted in its mission to protect, preserve, and promote Mexican art, culture, and stories. It is for those of Mexican descent and for everyone—and it has welcomed all with free admission since day one.

NMMA has a proud history of pushing artistic and cultural boundaries through landmark exhibitions that spark dialogue and broaden perspectives. Highlights include *The African Presence in Mexico* and the first international retrospective of painter María Izquierdo. In 2024, the museum debuted a rare Mesoamerican statue depicting a woman engaged in an athletic ritual—an important artifact that expands our understanding of gender roles in the ancient civilization.



Photos courtesy of the National Museum of Mexican Art (NMMA)

Huasteca female ballgame sculpture. Postclassic (900 -1521 C.E.), stone, from Álamo Temapache, Veracruz. Courtesy of María Quintana de Pérez. Under the protection of Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, 1AMA00415034. Photo courtesy of National Museum of Mexican Art

Over the years, NMMA's galleries—described as "sacred halls" by some visitors—have welcomed legendary figures such as Octavio Paz and Sandra Cisneros. Its award-winning youth initiative, Yollocalli Arts Reach, offers free visual art and digital media programs to teens in Little Village and Pilsen. The museum also aims to serve as a guiding light on repatriation—the return of cultural artifacts to their rightful communities of origin.

> ***"For us, repatriation is not about ownership, it's about doing what's right. When you lead with trust, respect, and love, the rest will follow."***
>
> **— José Ochoa**,
>
> *President and CEO, National Museum of Mexican Art*

For more information, visit https://nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org/

HUBBARD STREET
DANCE CHICAGO

Founded in 1977, **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago** has grown into one of the most influential contemporary dance companies in the country—and the only major one of its kind outside New York. Today, its mission is to awaken the human spirit through contemporary dance.

Contemporary dance can be defined in many ways, but at Hubbard Street, it's simply the dance of now. The company embraces all forms of dance simultaneously. There's no hierarchy—just movement, expression, and connection. Hubbard Street works to show that contemporary dance is accessible, relevant, and for everyone.

Photos courtesy of the Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

> ***"We have a unique opportunity to change how people in Chicago and around the world think about dance."***
>
> **— David McDermott**,
>
> *Executive Director, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago*

Through its education programs in 50 Chicago Public Schools, Hubbard

Street reaches approximately 2,000 young people each year. Instead of dance technique, students focus on choreography as a tool for building the critical skills of creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving.

A founding partner of the Harris Theater, Hubbard Street proudly performs on the Harris stage, across the country, and around the world. It is also one of only four dance companies in the U.S. to employ dancers on full-time salaries with benefits. With its commitment to excellence, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago continues to shape how the world sees contemporary movement—and bring the art form to new audiences everywhere.

For more information, visit https://www.hubbardstreetdance.com/

LEARNING TOGETHER

Recent Conferences and Convenings We've Attended

L to R: Stephanie Luca, Kirbi Range, Jawania Williams, Iveree Brown Donnell

ABFE's Annual Harambee Conference – Harambee is the largest gathering of Black professionals in organized philanthropy—welcoming allies, co-creators, and co-conspirators committed to supporting Black individuals and communities.

Who Attended: Iveree Brown Donnell, Stephanie Luca, Kirbi Range, Tonia Spence, Jawania Williams

L to R: Leng Leng Chancey, Alma Ramirez, April Luong, Carmen García (IHF), Denise Castillo Dell Isola (IHF), Krystal Ivery, Keami Harris, Rachel Schumacher, Cynthia Dixon, Sherice Brammer, Shannon Rudsill, Rena Large, Syritha Robinson

Early Childhood Funders Collaborative Spring Meeting – We connected with fellow members, policy experts, and other leaders on how philanthropy might support the critical decisions facing young children and families. We also engaged with Raising Child Care Fund and Racial Justice and Equity Fund grant partners around growing

L to R: Kirbi Range (IHF), Iveree Brown Donnell (IHF), Teairra Allen

Black Woman Leading LIVE! – A premier leadership development conference that helps Black women professionals learn, heal, and grow in their leadership capacity.

Who Attended: Iveree Brown Donnell, Kirbi Range

Carmen García

Children's Racial Learning Convening – Embrace Race hosted the first-ever national convening on children's racial learning. The event created space for learning, connection and building a vision center around nurturing children who are thoughtful, informed, and brave about race, racism, and racial justice.

Who Attended: Carmen García

L to R: Phyllis Glink, Kipa Davis

collective power.

Who Attended: Denise Castillo Dell Isola, Carmen García

Phyllis Glink pictured with fellow Justice Journey attendees.

The Justice Journey Experience – In late April, nearly 30 Illinois philanthropy and nonprofit leaders traveled to Atlanta and Alabama for a weeklong pilgrimage to immerse ourselves in the history of slavery and civil rights in our country and to learn in community with each other. The experience was profound, inspiring, and timely. We will continue to work together toward justice in the months and years ahead.

Who Attended: Phyllis Glink

Ballot Initiative Strategy Center's Road Ahead Conference – BISC's annual meeting focused on how ballot measures can build power and make change in our communities.

Who Attended: Ausannette García-Goyette

Economic Opportunity Funders 2025 Budget and Tax Briefing – Funders across subject areas came together to explore timely political developments, federal and state budget/tax battles and opportunities, and the current landscape's impact on families, workers, and communities.

Who Attended: Denise Castillo Dell Isola

Detroit Spend Down Group Convening – A convening for funders that are spending down their assets over the next several years. Hosted by the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy, the Fred and Barbara Erb Family Foundation, The Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, and the Herrick Foundation.

Who Attended: Kipa Davis, Phyllis Glink

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Crossroads Fund Annual Seeds of Change Event

L to R: Ausannette García-Goyette, Denise Castillo Dell Isola, Jacqueline Saldana-Refior, Kipa Davis

Women Employed
WE pursue equity for all.

Women Employed Annual Working Lunch

L to R: Denise Castillo Dell Isola, Ausannette García-Goyette

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

5 Questions with

Jacqueline (Jacky) Saldana-Refior

Administrative Assistant

Since joining our team in 2021, Jacky has brought her exceptional administrative expertise, her people-first mindset, and

her proactive spirit—always looking ahead to the next event, project, or celebration on the horizon.

1. What value or commitment is central for you?

Community. As a daughter of immigrants, I witnessed what it was like to feel removed from your community and struggle to connect. As we met others with shared experiences, it made our lives richer, and we felt a sense of belonging. Now, as a part of the IHF team, I try to lead with empathy and understanding to make decisions that are best for most.

2. What's your favorite part about your job?

Our team’s journey to foster a culture that centers joy! We try to find fun, engaging ways to connect and take a break. It’s been such a delight getting to surprise my colleagues and make them feel celebrated and appreciated.

3. Does your background in theater ever come in handy at IHF?

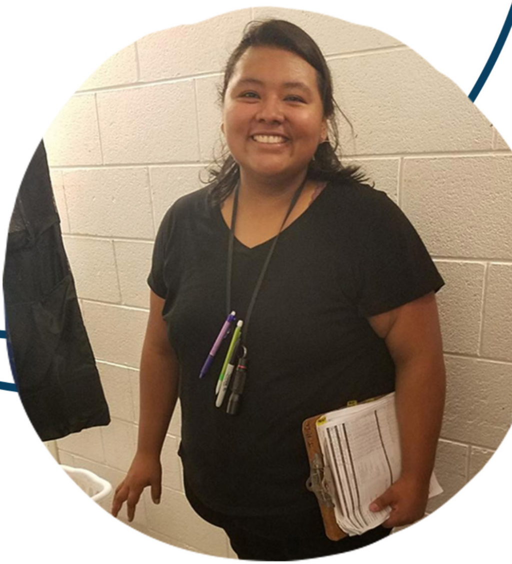
Yes! Stage managers facilitate and maintain a director’s vision, and that takes coordination, troubleshooting, and collaboration. The biggest lesson for me was the ripple effect one decision can have on others. When determining the best way forward at IHF, I try to consider who is impacted and how we can minimize disruption. Is there a better, more creative solution? It’s not always possible, but it’s worth the effort to show your team you care and can be adaptable.

4. What opportunities do you see on the horizon for your professional growth?

I am currently exploring project management certification. As someone with theater training, it has been exciting, and a little overwhelming, to see just how expansive the field is!

5. What’s something people might not know about you?

I love the ocean and aquariums! When I was younger, I dreamed of being a marine biologist. My parents even planned a birthday trip for me to Chicago to visit the Shedd Aquarium! However, after completing a college-level biology course, I realized my strengths lie elsewhere. I still enjoy visiting aquariums and will look into local ones when I travel. If you ever need to distract me, just sit me down in front of a body of water, a water feature, or a fish tank and I will be mesmerized.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to June Matayoshi on her retirement!

We gathered last month to celebrate June's 40 years at IHF and send her off on this exciting next chapter.

Let’s keep working together to build a more just, vibrant world for all.

IRVING HARRIS
FOUNDATION