EVERYONE LEADS
Celebrating 25 Years of Public Allies Milwaukee

APRIL 15, 2019
TURNER HALL BALLROOM
It’s been 25 years since Public Allies launched in Milwaukee and over the years, our alumni have fundamentally transformed our city. With every move, they demonstrate what it means to build community, to shift power, and to do so with authenticity, strategy and a critical love for Milwaukee. The stories of our alumni astound us:

Alumni like Cami Thomas and Lyanne Jordan, co-founders and directors of Maroon Calabash, a Black radical reproductive justice organization committed to strengthening Black communities in Wisconsin through radical reproductive justice.

Like Dakota Hall, founder of Leaders Igniting Transformation, a youth-led organization that engages in values-based issue and electoral organizing, direct action, advocacy for public policy, and leadership development.

Like David Bowen, Jonathan Brostoff, David Crowley, Supreme Moore Omokunde, and Paula Phillips, Public Allies Milwaukee alumni who are changing our city and state through their work as elected officials.

Like Jon Gilgenbach who has remained working within his Public Allies placement organization, The Adult Learning Center, since he graduated in 2004 and recently was appointed as Executive Director.

Like Jenise Terrell, Public Allies’ National Vice President of Program, who graduated from Public Allies in 1998 and has dedicated her professional career toward advancing Public Allies as a national organization.

We could fill pages of books with stories about the ways Public Allies Milwaukee Alumni have changed our city and our country. Tonight is about celebrating them and lifting up the stories of all those who have contributed to and been changed by Public Allies Milwaukee over the past 25 Years.

While much in our city has changed, we’ve remained committed to the core of who we are. We still maintain the same dedication to creating powerful spaces for Allies to learn, heal, make mistakes, and hold one another accountable towards one another and our city. We still believe at our core that communities hold within them the undeniable leadership they need to make lasting social change. And, year over year, we learn and unlearn what it means to trust the process.

This moment in our organization’s story is a triumphant one, and we will celebrate tonight knowing there is much work to be done tomorrow. As
we look towards our future in Milwaukee and nationwide, we know our capacity must grow to continue to support our alumni in their most bold and radical endeavors. We know that we must do more to push on and transform the power dynamics that exist within our city. And year over year we must wrap our arms around each class of Public Allies as they learn what it means to challenge structures while healing and growing self.

There is an undeniable energy you feel when you’re in a room full of Public Allies. There’s something powerful that happens when Public Allies decide to dedicate their minds and time toward changing something. I hope that each of you feel that tonight and know that, whether you’re an Ally, an Alumni, a partner, or a supporter of our program and those within it, you are an essential part of our collective success and strength. We could not and would not be here without you.

In Unity and Celebration,
Ashley Lee, Executive Director, Public Allies Milwaukee
Anthony Espinoza, Program Manager, Director of Community Partnerships
Shavonda Sisson, Program Manager, Director of Alumni Engagement
Todd Wellman, Program Manager, Director of Community Learning
Cocktail Hour
Welcome & Check-In
Dinner
  • Meal catered by The Bartolotta Restaurants
Public Allies 25th Anniversary Video
Everyone Leads: Stories of Public Allies Past, Present, and Future
  • Presented By Ex Fabula
25th Anniversary Award Presentation
  • Honorary Alumni
  • Community Pillar
  • Alumni Catalysts
Closing & Check-Out

Thank you to the Alumni-led and and supported organizations that contributed to tonight’s event.

Music brought to you by Public Allies Alumnus DJ Jene the Jenius by way of True Skool, Inc.

Program is presented by Ex Fabula, founded by Public Allies Alumna Megan McGee

Videography and photography is provided by Urban Misfit Ventures, co-founded and run by Public Allies Alumni Brema Brema and Rob Randolph.
SPEAKERS

- **Tonya Mantilla, Cardinal Stritch**  
  Former Executive Director of Public Allies Milwaukee

- **Megan McGee, Ex Fabula**  
  Public Allies Milwaukee Alumni Class of 2001

- **Jeremy Triblett, Community Advocates**  
  Public Allies Milwaukee Alumni Class of 2010

- **Nicole Thomas, Humana San Antonio**  
  Public Allies Milwaukee Staff Alumni

- **Steve Ohly, Aurora Walkers Point Community Clinic**  
  Public Allies Partner

- **Paul Schmitz, Founding Executive Director**  
  Public Allies Milwaukee  
  Former CEO, Public Allies Inc.

- **Amanda Clark, Community Advocates**  
  Class of 2019 Public Ally

- **Shawn Vega, Boys and Girls Club**  
  Class of 2019 Public Ally

- **Ashley Lee, Executive Director**  
  Public Allies Milwaukee

- **David Bowen, WI State Representative**  
  Public Allies Alumni Class of 2008, 2009

- **Darrin Madison, Youth Justice Milwaukee**  
  Public Allies Alumni Class of 2017, 2018
We would like to thank our event sponsors for their incredible support of Public Allies Milwaukee. We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of support that has come from community organizations, business partners, foundations, and individuals to celebrate our 25th year.

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JOYFUL CURIOUS FRESH
ZED KENZO
MILWAUKEE HIP-HOP ARTIST
FULL ARTICLE AT RADIOMILWAUKEE.ORG
Dr. Monique Liston, a Black Woman who prioritizes Black Women’s leadership, is a freedom fighter for hire. Monique, a joyful militant, fights for and moves toward liberation. She creates space and opportunity, so marginalized voices are valued and advocated for. Honorably, she gives others the tools to do the same.

Monique founded UBUNTU Research and Evaluation to disrupt the daily actions that uphold oppressive power. Since oppression, anti-blackness particularly, pervades our society and affects people from birth through their entire lives, Monique fulfills many roles. She serves a doula, creates radical settings that demand unlearning and behavioral shifts, and teaches community members about the dignity they deserve in the spaces they aren’t used to having power in.

Monique is a proud HBCU alumna, representing Howard University and obtained her Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Black Leaders Organizing for Communities (BLOC), a project of CPD Action, believes in equity, not just equality, so they put the concerns and needs of the communities they represent first. BLOC wants to ensure a high quality of life and access to economic opportunity for the Black community in Milwaukee and throughout Wisconsin.

The voices of Black Wisconsinites, regardless of volume, have been ignored for too long, so BLOC canvasses door-to-door to learn about the issues that are most important to communities. Community-based organizing and face-to-face conversations lead to change and allow BLOC to invite Black residents, leaders, and businesses into political power.

BLOC stands in solidarity with all communities of color because an injustice to one is an injustice to all.
Jeanette Arellano has a clear and steadfast mission to support, protect, empower, and promote the Latinx community of Milwaukee. Through her work as a teacher at Hayes Bilingual School in Milwaukee Public Schools; her volunteer work advocating for public school teachers through the Milwaukee Teachers’ Education Association; and her fight for immigrant rights through Voces de la Frontera, Jeanette weaves a mission to be of service to others.

In Jeanette’s classroom, students feel a sense of pride about their history and culture; experience both a personal and communal context for art making; and feel safe to experiment with new ideas, feelings, and materials. She brings art to life in a way that encourages children to grow with a sense of wonder and critical thinking. Jeanette contributes to community art builds that empower the fight for immigrant rights and brings that work straight back into her classroom, so her students know contemporary applications of art and activism.

Jeanette is never shy about her purpose. Her kind heart, bright spirit, and radiant energy are unstoppable. Her push toward justice inspires everyone around her to continue their fights.

Shavonda Sisson is a two-time alumna of the Public Allies Milwaukee program. After working in other capacities in the nonprofit sector, Shavonda returned to Public Allies Milwaukee in 2017 to lend her talents to the organization as a Program Manager. In her role, Shavonda helps develop an entire class of young leaders, who, upon graduation, go out into the community and uphold the core values of Public Allies.

Shavonda could work for any number of different organizations, but she chooses to do this work because she knows how important it is. Her passion and skills are too big for one place, though, so she also serves as a mother to three children; leads on the board of Leaders Igniting Transformation (LIT); and administers Love on Black Women, a project she founded to get money directly to Black Women in need, not caught in organizations.
25 YEARS OF IMPACT

OVER 25 YEARS, PUBLIC ALLIES MILWAUKEE HAS

Built capacity and transformed culture within 250 unique host community organizations

Graduated over diverse, dynamic 650 Alumni

Served a total of 1,140,270 hours through our AmeriCorps nonprofit apprenticeship program
25 YEARS OF IMPACT

SINCE GRADUATING, PUBLIC ALLIES MILWAUKEE ALUMNI HAVE MADE LARGE IMPACTS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY:

3 Alumni have founded their own organizations and are currently hosting Public Allies Corps Members

15 Alumni have become Executive Directors of organizations

5 Alumni have been elected to public office at local and state levels

6 Alumni have risen to positions as VP’s or CEO’s within nonprofit or private organizations

One-third of last year’s 2018 Class of Public Allies was hired within their partner organization full-time.
MISSION

To create a just and equitable society and the diverse leadership to sustain it.

Program Designed by

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