

Kitchen Table

Global Girls, Inc. Quarterly Newsletter

VOLUME 18 SEPTEMBER 2019 ISSUE



Global Girls snapshot



- This summer, 63 girls ages 3 to 14 and eight boys, ages 5 to 8 participated in our Youth Performance Camp.
- This year marks our 13th year partnering with After School Matters. 32 teen boys and girls took part in our summer program. Thanks to “A Marvelous Creation,” they had their own meeting/rehearsal space.
- We ran twelve school-based arts education programs during the 2018-19 school year and engaged 727 youth.
- Since 2000, we’ve engaged over 5,200 girls and boys in arts programming.
- We now have seven committed, hard-working board members.
- The Hamilton Chicago partnership with Global Girls continues.
- We have 10 on-going partnerships.
- If you know a former Global Girls participant, send us her info so we can include her in a long-term impact research project.

When youth inspire, everyone benefits.

When my younger brother told me that he was considering returning to college but was nervous because he was 50 something, I told him, “Go for it! Time will pass no matter what you do. You might as well have something to show for the time you lived.”

About 18 months later, he graduated cum laude from Olive Harvey College. He planned to go on to Roosevelt University and finish his BS

in business, but cancer derailed everything.

While he was on this plain with me, Graelin was my hero and a faithful, consistent Global Girls supporter. I could call on him for anything, and he would be there. When I needed advice, he offered the wisdom of a sage. If we needed an event emcee, his melodious voice and quick wit would

entertain all. He brought people to our events, supported every fundraiser and trumpeted our cause to any and everyone he met.

If I felt misunderstood by folk who mattered in my life or even doubted my own sanity, my dear brother counseled me back to clarity as only someone who unequivocally loved you could.



Three generations of inspiration— (pictured left to right) Graelin, Charlie and Brandon Woodley.

Graelin is not here in physical form to see us embark on this 20 year celebration, but I know he is with me riding a summer breeze, glistening on a sun soaked lake ripple, floating to the melody of his favorite steppers’ song.

And, he’s gently reminding me, “You had a dream in 1999. Time passed, and look what you have to show for the time you’ve lived.”

“Ravinia in the hood” It’s on 9/8/2019!!

Grab your lawn chair, your favorite “taste,” and your checkbook before heading to 8110 S. Luella for a day of good food, great live music, dancing, interesting conversations and laughter in support of Global Girls programs and activities.

It’s our 15th annual **Artists for Global Girls, Backyard Jam**. The first one was in my jam-packed front room. For 12 years afterward, all were in the yard. We took a four year hiatus because the event never resulted in sufficient income to generate much needed unrestricted income for Global Girls.

In 2018, we listened to popular demand and revived the event. The day was overcast and chilly, but the crowd of diehard and new supporters enjoyed every minute, and evidently contributed in significantly because we’re back!

For over 19 years, Global Girls has nurtured thousands and gained loyal friends who demonstrate their commitment. You were there when we waged the fight to keep our name. We won.

Now, join us as celebrate our longevity and our victories Sunday, September 8 @ 3p. Enter from Luella or the alley. If you’d like to make your donation early,

please do so at our website www.globalgirlsinc.org. We’ll have your name at the door and a little something special for all donations over \$50. VIP packages (*reserved seating, a bottle of wine, priority buffet serving and a tee shirt*) are available for gifts of \$100 or more.

Crosswind be joined by some of Chicago’s finest musicians, singers, poets and spoken word artists.

Come and kickoff our 20th birthday celebration. Call or email for more info 773.902.2359 or info@globalgirlsinc.org.

Leadership Summit 2019

For the 4th year in a row, Global Girls led workshops for 25 girls 15 of them from different countries at the 4th Global Youth Ambassadors Leadership Summit.

The girls got to know one another on a more intimate level through ice breakers and theatre games. They created poems about being a girl and even learned "Hamilton" choreography.



You never know when someone's checking you out and sizing you up.

We've all heard, "You never know who's watching so always do your best." Well, Global Girls was recently reminded of that truism.

The youth company performed at the Whitney M. Young Jr. library, 79th & King Dr. reopening in January. Mr. Smith, library director, had seen the youth perform at another event and asked from our business card.

His daughter, Minka Johnson, was in the reopening audience. She, too, was impressed with our youth and asked about a possible partnership.

"Sure, let's stay in touch," was my reaction. Little did I know that conversation would blossom into 20 new participants in our 2019 summer Youth Performance Camp (YPC).

Once a week girls and boys, ages 5 to 12 joined our youth and learned mind-

fulness lessons, danced, sang and acted. Our only male teaching artist, Gabe Hawkins, was thrilled. He could finally lead and teach his own group.

The KCC youth warmed up to YPC youth and even made friends as the studio buzzed with excitement every Monday. Mr. Gabe connected with all of his eight young charges and impacted them on many levels.

And, all youth sparkled like diamonds in our July 26th showcase at the David and Reeva Logan Center for the Arts!

Parents were amazed when they saw the results of their children's hard work after only four weeks of rehearsal. Thanks KIDZ Creative Concepts.

We'll all remember the words of Sly and the Family Stone, "Somebody's watching you..." always.



Pictured above, Mr. Gabe rehearses the skit he wrote for his boys. He also choreographed their dance.

Global Girls after school and school based programs resume.

First, our longtime partner, Revere, emailed to check on Global Girls availability to work with their 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, five days a week. Next, Fernwood called, followed by CPS office of Social Emotional Learning. Before long, others followed.

2018-19 was a very busy school year considering we run our own after school program. This year promises to be just as busy, and we LOVE it!

Registration is now open for the Young Women on the Move after school program which meets Monday thru Friday, 3p until 6p and Saturday 11a until 2p. Girls ages 5 to 14 learn communication, mindfulness, acting, dance and ensemble

skills. They also prepare to audition for the youth company, Global Girls performance group (pictured right).

Our growing list of school partners includes:

Dyett High School, 551 E. 51st Street

Douglass High School, 543 N. Waller

Fernwood Elementary School, 10041 S. Union

Gage Park High School, 5630 S. Rockwell

Harper High School, 6520 S. Woods

Revere Elementary School, 1010 E. 72nd St.

If you are interested in starting a Global



Girls group in your community, starting a program in your school, booking a performance for your next event or talking with us about our parent training workshops, give us a call (773) 902.2359 or send us an email info@globalgirlsinc.org.

Global Girls Board of Directors

Greetings! Crystal here, one of the newest Global Girls, Inc Board of Directors members. Although my role is serving as the Secretary, primarily recording minutes whenever we have pow-wows, I take my total involvement with this organization very seriously and beyond just “taking notes”.

You see, I’ve been a supporter of Global Girls and its mission for many years, attending fundraisers here and there, and even exercising my performance muscles as a member of the inaugural adult theater group.

Being on the inside, as it was, I got to see just how committed Mrs. Penn was and continues to be to this day to the young girls (and now young boys) who are supported and challenged and stretched and LOVED through her programs... almost 2 decades since its inception!

Why did I step up and decide to now serve in a different capacity? Well, on a fateful cold September afternoon at the return of the Backyard Jam last year (yep, my intention was to just enjoy the entertainment and give them some money), Mrs. Penn started a call for new board members and after about 10 minutes, I started to get that feeling I sometimes get in church! *Oh my God...she was talking only to me; that message was just for me – I needed to hear what she was saying!!* How

did *she* do that?!

Well, like in church, you don’t question how or why – you simply respond as if the universe knows what it’s doing and ask yourself, “Why not me?” So here I am, with a renewed commitment to help grow Global Girls, expand its reach, to get more money, to get more committed board members... to go onward and upward for at least another 20 years.

What else will I do besides record the minutes? I can admit I don’t know everything about EFFECTIVE board involvement, but I can also admit that I’m anxious to learn and put into practice what I learn. I’ll ask questions at every turn so I can understand what is needed, that I will put my mouth, my time and energy where my money is.

I’m serving Global Girls, Inc. from the inside for the next...oh, heck! Who knows how long – the universe will let me know!

Next time, I’ll be the one messaging the need for new board members and YOU’LL be the one feeling the call!



South Side Sisters, Home Videos

One of the many youth company performances so far this year, and one of our favorites was “South Side Sisterhood: As Seen in Home Movies” hosted by Jacqueline Stewart and Sabrina Craig, curators of the South Side Home Movie Project (SSHMP).

We particularly enjoyed this partnership because the girls performed and participated in the panel discussion.

The program included a screening of selected home movies from the SSHMP



archives that feature scenes of sisters, followed by a moderated conversation. The discussion engaged women (sisters) who are featured in the films as children.

Global Girls Inc.

The Global Studio

8151 S. South Chicago Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60617
773 902.2359 phone & fax
info@globalgirlsinc.org
www.globalgirlsinc.org

Board of Directors

Donna Beasley, *Board Chair*
Raymond Stanton, *Vice Chair*
Crystal Stevenson, *Secretary*
Tonay Tucker, *Treasurer*
Lafayette Ford, *Member*
Dorothy Thompson, *Member*
Robert Turner, *Member*

Staff

Marvinetta Woodley-Penn
Executive/Artistic Director
Sherron Hawkins, *Business Manager*
Kiera Jones, *Program Specialist*
Ryonn Gloster, *Program Specialist*
Madison Mosley *Program Assistant*

Teaching Artists

Nura Almateen
Ryonn Gloster
Gabriel Hawkins
Kiara Jones
Ugochi Nwaogwugwu
Taylah Thomas

Junior Facilitators

Symone Stokes
MiaSimone White

Mission Statement

Our mission is to equip girls of color with skills that nurture their individual growth and inspire them to use their talents for positive change in their communities and throughout the world.

2020 Theme

Global Girls, we’re FIRED UP!
Focused. Intentional. Ready. Engaged.
Deft. And, Universally Principled!

SAVE THE DATES!

Artists for Global Girls Backyard Jam

Sunday, September 8, 2019
8110 S. Luella Ave.

3p

*Please bring your lawn chair,
libation and generous spirit*

Young Women on the Move After School

Monday thru Friday

3pm until 6pm

sessions for girls 6 to 14
The Global Studio

Saturday Sessions are back!

Starting Saturday September 7

11a until 2p

Registration required

Dance at the Studio

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

7p til 8:30p

\$6 per class

Prepare to tone!

My Vagina. My Voice

Friday 9/27 @ 7p

Sunday 9/29 @ 3p

SPECIAL PRICE

\$15 in advance

\$20 at the door

Teen Scene Open Mic

Friday, October 11

7pm until 9pm

The Global Studio

\$3 admission, \$1, performers

Camp Duncan Weekend

Retreat

Friday October 25 thru

Sunday, October 27

11am until 3pm

Crafts, hayride, bonfire, wall-climb,
candle-making, team-building activities,
talent show and more

\$275 per girl

Meals, lodging, transportation and
activities included in fee.



Get your own beautiful and warm Global Girls hoodie for cool Chicago nights. Only \$25. Proceeds help Global Girls programs.

I still love Global Girls. *Ava Saunders*

Love. Art, music, writing, plays, theatre, all are reflections of love. I learned that and was exposed to those expressions of love at a very young age.

It happened during my participation in Global Girls where the foundations of theatre, dance, and mindfulness were presented to me. I am forever grateful to this organization for exposing young minds to culture outside of the normal, everyday teachings.

Receiving the opportunity to tour in the United States and perform in India would mean the world to anyone and that happened for me, a young, black girl on the South Side of Chicago.

Art has given me purpose, uplifting my spirits as well as my community. I now attend the University of Minnesota and am going into my senior year at the Guthrie Theatre/BFA Actor Training Program where I study classical theatre including Shakespeare, Meisner and Anton Chekhov.

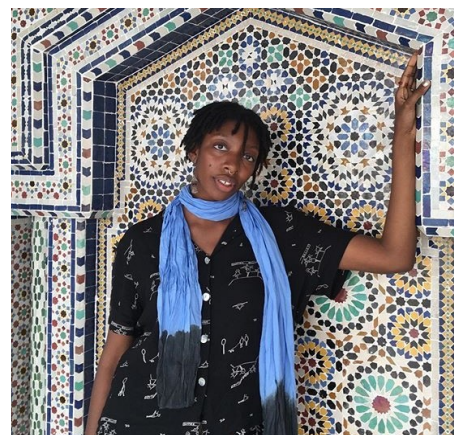
I find being an artist incredibly therapeutic and spiritually fulfilling. Writing music and singing songs help me feel happy and at peace in our sometimes chaotic world. Developing a character role in a play takes energy and self-awareness. It's refreshing to explore aspects of humanity reflected within any story.

I believe art is form of spirituality connecting myself and the world. Every play I've ever been in, or song I've every written has acted as a gateway to divine presence. That's why I decided to go into the performing arts as a full time career.

Life isn't always easy. Things don't always work out. But, I have found my voice and my confidence on stage and off. I plan to continue fine-tuning my craft and inspiring others to shine as I keep smiling at the thought of changing the world, one performance at a time.

The opportunity to travel around the world is one of the reasons I fell in love with Global Girls.

While studying in London recently thanks to my school program, I experienced a deep reflection. I became aware of myself as an American in the



Ava in Morocco, north Africa.

world, how much power I have and how I can cultivate a universal impact on the world.

Most of my time in London was spent in a room across the street from the Shakespeare Globe Theatre speaking passionately with other budding actors. Other times, I was in a writing class or in Kensington with the businessmen or at home in my flat in Camden Town eating cheese or just wondering about the city.

I was on my own with millions of people buzzing from bar, to club, to museum, to restaurant; finding home in a cluster of people of all different upbringing, social class and ethnicities. Hearing people speak in foreign languages I couldn't understand became my new normal.

It felt romantic wandering through the city, getting lost in the architecture, being inspired by the moment.

I was blessed to make worthwhile memories in other countries during the three month stint in England. I traveled to Spain, France, North Africa, and the Netherlands and proved that dreams really do come true.

My advise to everyone to be bold and explore the unknown. There is beauty in being strong enough to follow your heart, even if you don't know where it's taking you.

My family and my community have always been supportive of me and my dreams. I appreciate everything that life has presented to me so far, and I am very excited to launch into the future. Wish me luck, and good luck to all of you!

The Girls' Pages

Destiny Haynes, Global Girl of the month

10 year old Destiny Haynes describes herself as a kind, very talented and flexible. She can do backbends, handstands and flips and has been doing it since she was about 6.

She likes her school, Edward Coles, but feels the students could be more focused. Her favorite subject is science because when she grows up she wants to be a research scientist and study animals.

Destiny's grandfather, Mr. Haynes, first brought her to Global Girls, and she seemed to like it right away. She says she still likes it because it's a place where you can feel safe and the staff will help you out. "They listen and help us work through our problems at home and school. They also teach us about our bodies as we grow up and into young women. In Global Girls I've learned how girls develop. All the things we learn is gonna hap-

pen to us and some sooner than we think."

Destiny continues, "Sometimes it's hard to tell your parents about stuff, but they know how you feel in Global Girls, and you can feel safe talking to them about anything."

Her advice to girls is to tell people how you feel and be honest with them no matter what.

Destiny said she believed she was chosen Global Girl of the month because, "I'm a leader. I make certain that in the after school program all the girls do their jobs. When Ms. Ryonn or Ms. Kiara tell us to prepare to dance, I make sure all the girls are stretched and sometimes I lead the stretch. I'm someone the staff and the girls can depend on. And, I never miss an opportunity to perform. I love it"

Destiny is now a youth company member.

I was just thinking...

They talk. We listen. They write. We share hoping you'll be inspired to listen and learn as children share their thoughts and concerns.

Do I like boys or girls?

Why am I weird?

Am I physically okay?

Am I emotionally okay?

What do boys do when they are home?

How long do you go through puberty?

Do I have to go through puberty?

How does it feel being poor?

How was the first person on earth born?

Why do boys have to "bust the nut"?

Why a man and a woman have to have a baby?

What made you guys do Global Girls and do you get money for doing it?

When a girl starts her period, what should she do?

If a girl ever got raped or abused how should they forget about it because it's stuck in they head?

If a girl give birth early like someone in my family, how should they react?

How long do it go? Till you die?

Does it hurt?

Is it okay to be scared?

How does your butt grow?

I want to know why we have to have periods

Why is it so much blood?

How do your tatas grow?

How do you go from fat to skinny growing up?

I don't want to go through it because I always want to be a child and not have to pay bills.

What if my mother won't talk to me?

Can anybody ever be truly happy?



Destiny the student and Destiny the performer. The difference is being FIRED UP!.



The Girls' Pages

2018-19 school year in pictures. So much more to come and to be done!



Simone Stoke and Victoria Robinson on a trip to Philadelphia representing Global Girls at the 2019 National Youth Leadership Conference.



Our adult play, My Vagina. My Voice. Continues to draw large audiences and bookings. We performed for a national Sexual Health conference in July.



On the last day of camp, Ms. Rynn sat back and enjoyed the fruits of her labor as the camp assistants led the final performance. Having been a participant, Rynn fully understood the girls' joy. She even shed a tear or two.



Global Girls programs with community partners - St. Jude Educational Institute and Fernwood Elementary School.



Our youth went to see "Hamilton" downtown. Members of the Hamilton Chicago cast came to the south side to see Global Girls in 2018.



Workshop for Chicago Links Debs and Escorts March 10, 2019 and performance for Bullying Prevention and Awareness 365 conference October 2018.

AUDITION NOTICE: “She Through Me” 8/30 & 31

Men and women 21 and older are invited to audition for the theatrical reading of *“She Through Me: A Message for the Times”*. This reading will become a stage play.

We seek young adults to seasoned elders...the theatrical novice and the practicing actor. This work is a creative platform for interested souls to create and breathe life into the stories we want to see told within our own communities in a theater setting.

The script is adapted from and inspired by the annual She Through Me™ (STM) Ancestor Soiree and is choc full of Ancestral wisdom nuggets and visuals that take us on an hour long Sankofa...into the past and back to the future.

Written by She Through Me™ annual soiree hosts Pilar Audain-Reed (Nina Simone) and Ugochi Nwaogwugwu (Miriam Makeba), this powerful pros is a catalyst to understanding the connection between the living and Ancestral realms.

The roles include:

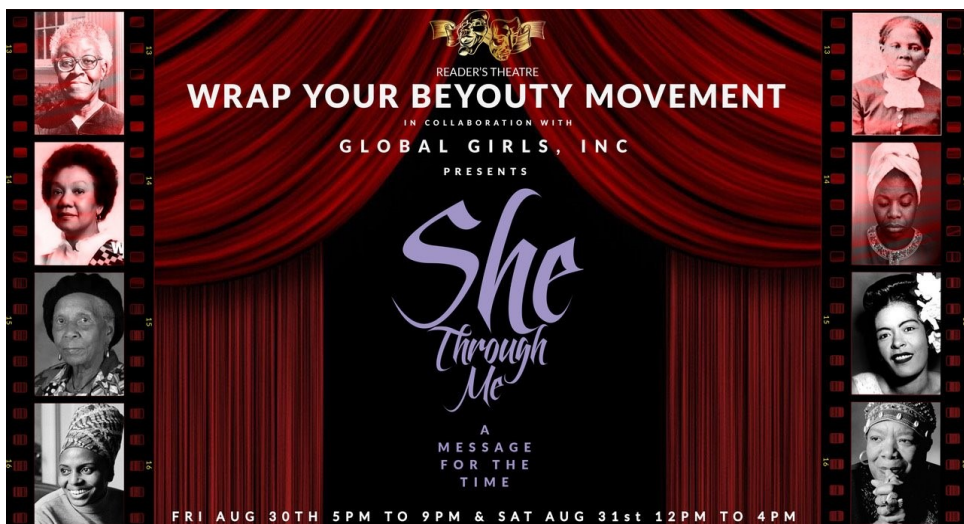
- *Billie Holiday*
- *Dorothy Dandridge*

- *Frances Cress Welsing*
- *Gwendolyn Brooks*
- *Harriet Tubman*
- *Margaret Burroughs*
- *Maya Angelou*
- *Additional Scene Ancestors (men and women)*
- *Four Women for “Four Women”*
- *Classroom Scene (men and women)*
- *Cabaret Scene (men and women)*

Auditions are August 30th 5pm -9pm

and August 31st noon – 4pm at The Global Studio, 8151 S. South Chicago Ave. Be prepared to perform a 1 – 2 min piece of your choice and have the role(s) you’d like to play in mind. Further casting details and ensemble agreements will be shared after auditions.

The STM Reader's Theater will run for 4 shows on 3 consecutive days at the end of October, each night followed by a Q & A and reception .



Global Girls teaching artist, Ugochi Nwaogwugwu



Global Girls is thrilled to welcome Ugochi Nwaogwugwu , the “African Buttafly,” to our staff. A consummate and exceedingly busy performer, Ugochi works

in our After School Matters program.

Ugochi, a Chigerian (Chicago/ Nigerian), recently released a new album with her band The Afro Soul Ensemble. Generally, Ugochi fuses her choreo-poetic style of spoken word with

her unique singing ability in order to generate a more powerful word sound attraction.

A child of Nigerian, West African parents, Ugochi combines elements of her afrobeat influence with jazz, house, reggae and soul aesthetics to further establish a sound, “AfroSoul.”

Her poetry was honored in “A Storm Between Two Fingers,” an international anthology, and in the “Golden Shovel Anthology.”

Ugochi has shared the stage with established artists like Common, Eric Benet, John Legend, Femi Kuti, Edwin McCain, Seun Kuti, Maxi Priest, Malik

Yusef, , Richie Stephens, Blitz the Ambassador, J. Ivy, Queen Ifrika, Luciano, Wayna, Femi Kuti, Shaggy, Richie Stephens, Tony Allen, Bushman, Capelton, Baby Cham, Wayne Wonder and Stephen Marley, King Sunny Ade and Me’Schell Ndegeocello.

Ugochi’s music has taken her to many countries in Europe including Paris, Amsterdam, London, Leeds, Italy as well as Nigeria, Ghana, Brazil, Jamaica and Cuba.

In 2009, Ugochi and the Afro Soul Ensemble were featured on the Africa Channel, Soundtracks at Red Kiva. This hour long, televised performance aired internationally and was one of the highlights of the show series.

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Pay via PayPal to User ID - globalgirls@sbcglobal.net



Global Girls 2019 Youth Performance Camp. Check our website regularly for performance updates. Your company and/or organization can also book your own youth or adult show! Contact us for details.



Kitchen Table is a quarterly publication. Send all comments, questions and inquiries to info@globalgirlsinc.org

Feel free to contact us:
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www.globalgirlsinc.org
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 773.902.2359

**92% of every dollar goes towards our programs.
 Your contributions help us help more girls (and a few guys).**

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State/Zip _____
 Phone/Email _____

Yes! I want to support courageous, talented girls who will change our world.
 Enclosed is my gift: ___ \$10 ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ Other \$ _____
 Please use my contribution for:
 ___ General operating expenses
 ___ The Global Studio Capital Campaign (*your name on the Builders' Plaque*)
 ___ Global Girls performance support (*Get free tickets to shows*)
 ___ Other _____



The Global Studio
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Global Girls, we're FIRED UP!

