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**NEWS RELEASE  
FIELD & MACARTHUR FOUNDATIONS REWRITE THE RULES  
FOR HOW CHICAGO LEADERS REACH NEXT LEVEL**

**CHICAGO** -- Building on a successful 2019, the Field Foundation's innovative *Leaders for a New Chicago Award*, supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, enters its second year of redefining the future of civic leadership and racial equity in Chicago.

Each Leader will receive a no-strings-attached award for \$25,000 in recognition of past accomplishments, and their affiliated organizations each will receive an additional \$25,000 general operating grant. Nominations are open until March 2, 2020, and details on the nomination process, including nomination requirements, eligibility rules, deadline information and application, are at <https://fieldfoundation.org/leaders-new-chicago>. Recipients will be announced in June. The 2020 Selection Committee will include members from the previous year's awardees.

For some inaugural *Leaders for a New Chicago* recipients, this award introduced Chicago to their work; for others it amplified their already growing status.

"This award has given me access to influential people and spaces," said Heather Miller, executive director of the American Indian Center, and one of the 14 inaugural Leaders in 2019. "Our community now has access to political power."

The initiative aims to create the cross-pollination of ideas that can produce innovative solutions for Chicago.

"Having this support to imagine a new kind of cultural project has been exciting," said 2019 Leader Sarah Ross, co-founder and co-director of exhibitions of Prison + Neighborhood Arts Project, which brings art and educational programming to persons who are incarcerated. "We as a society need new models to imagine our way out of problems we have."

Leaders can use the awards as they see fit. For example, Viveka Ray-Mazumder stepped away from their role as manager of youth organizing and the KINETIC program for Asian American Advancing Justice to go to law school.

Ray-Mazumder said that while working at AAAJ to strengthen protections for undocumented and immigrant students in Chicago schools, they found "a dearth of legal expertise at the intersection of immigrant rights and education. We had wonderful lawyers volunteering to help us, but few felt confident navigating the murky, overlapping local, state and federal jurisdictions."



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Ray-Mazumder, who is also a co-founding collective member of Chicago Desi Youth Rising, said their legal career will help them cross those murky waters while engaging more directly with policymakers to shape future guidelines and legislation: “With the *Leaders for a New Chicago*, I can now plan for my future in a way that wasn’t possible before because I was wrapped up in the urgency of doing the work.”

The *Leaders for a New Chicago* general operating grants allow the Leaders’ organizations to be recognized for their role in developing leadership. The unrestricted nature of the individual award allows Leaders to use the dollars as they desire.

In 2019, the *Leaders for a New Chicago* awards and grants totaled \$700,000 and went to 14 community-based visionaries and their organizations, many based on the South and West Sides. The awards and grants help level the playing field in the private, public, and philanthropic sectors so that decision-making in Chicago can benefit from a wealth of diverse ideas.

“Chicago is filled with powerful visionaries,” said Angelique Power, President of the Field Foundation. “The *Leaders for a New Chicago Award* allows us to find where power lives inside our communities, get these folks the dollars they need to dream bigger and then to get out of the way as they continue to create change.”

“We heard a call to elevate the voices of individuals who are leaders in their communities and professional fields and to provide them with unrestricted support to pursue their goals and personal growth,” said MacArthur President John Palfrey.

“In partnership with the Field Foundation, we seek to foster a generation of dynamic leaders, both emerging and established, because we believe that their influence will inform and improve decision-making across the city.

[The 2019 Leaders](#) are affiliated with organizations whose work aligns with the Field Foundation’s grantmaking areas of Art, Justice, and Media & Storytelling. The Leaders’ ability and willingness to draw on diverse influences shaped their approaches for redefining Chicago.

Eight of the 2019 Leaders will sit on the Selection Committee that will recommend the next recipients of the *Leaders for a New Chicago Award*. Committee members are:

- **Aymar Jean Christian: Founder & Head of Development, OTV Open Television**
- **Luis Gutierrez: Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Latinos Progresando**
- **Darryl Holliday: Co-founder & News Lab Director, City Bureau**
- **Viveka Ray-Mazumder: Co-founding Collective Member, Chicago Desi Youth Rising (CDYR)**
- **Heather Miller: Executive Director, American Indian Center**
- **Analia Rodriguez: Executive Director, Latino Union**
- **Carlos Tortolero: Founder & President, National Museum of Mexican Art**
- **J. Gibran Villalobos: Assistant Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago**



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“I’ll be looking for leaders thinking about cross-collaboration,” Villalobos said, “crossing over to other sectors and other communities to figure out how the arts and leadership impact our civic discourse.”

#### About the Field Foundation

Founded in 1940 by Marshall Field III, the Field Foundation is a private, independent foundation that has been dedicated to the promise of Chicago for more than 80 years. The Field Foundation aims its grantmaking toward the goal of Community Empowerment through Justice, Art, Media & Storytelling and Leadership Investment. With racial equity at the center of its giving, it directs dollars to critical organizations working to address systemic issues in Chicago and aims to directly benefit some of our city’s most divested communities. Learn more at [www.fieldfoundation.org](http://www.fieldfoundation.org).

#### About the MacArthur Foundation

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people, effective institutions, and influential networks building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. MacArthur is placing a few big bets that truly significant progress is possible on some of the world’s most pressing social challenges, including [over-incarceration](#), [global climate change](#), [nuclear risk](#) and significantly increasing [financial capital for the social sector](#). In addition to the [MacArthur Fellows Program](#), the Foundation continues its historic commitments to the role of [journalism](#) in a responsible and responsive democracy, as well as the strength and vitality of our headquarters city, [Chicago](#). MacArthur supports Chicago nonprofits, leaders and communities by strengthening organizations, contributing to civic partnerships, investing in vital communities, advancing influential and diverse leaders and cultivating creative expression and art. Learn more at [www.macfound.org/chicago](http://www.macfound.org/chicago)

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