

## THE BLACK CREATIVITY INNOVATOR GALLERY SPOTLIGHTS SEVEN CHICAGOANS THAT ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE CITY

The Black Creativity Innovator Gallery honors Chicago's African-American leaders in science, technology, engineering, art and medicine. This space encourages guests to discover the many ways inventive genius can take place, leaving them inspired to tap into their own creative problem-solving abilities as they enter the Innovation Studio—a space where they themselves become the innovators.

### **Alissa Constable, Founder, emerge/Next**

Ms. Constable brings together people from technology, creativity and business to learn from each other. Through workshops, panel discussions and events, her work aims to cultivate tomorrow's leaders by providing youth with information about careers and educational opportunities.

### **Fabian Elliott, CEO, Black Tech Mecca**

Mr. Elliott is helping to create spaces where the Black community can thrive in technology. He uses data to unleash the power and potential of technology to create Black tech ecosystems that can transform Black communities.

### **Keisha Howard, Entrepreneur and Founder, Sugar Gamers**

Ms. Howard founded Sugar Gamers, a tech advocacy organization for underrepresented demographics in gaming, tech and geek culture. Through events, media outreach and consulting, she hopes to better serve the needs of overlooked communities.

### **Wilbur C. Milhouse III, Chairman and CEO, Milhouse Engineering and Construction**

Mr. Milhouse describes his work as city building—his engineering firm provides civil, mechanical, electrical, environmental and structural engineering as well as construction and program management. The firm offers creative solutions to complex problems around Chicago and the world.

### **Erik “Rico” Nance, Founder and Owner, LiteHouse Whole Food Grill**

Mr. Nance opened his restaurant to bring healthy fast food to his Hyde Park community. LiteHouse has become a neighborhood anchor as it hosts family celebrations, youth poetry events and provides free meals to the hungry. He also is owner of Mikkey's Retro Grill.

### **Shala., Social Impact Artist**

Olusola “Shala.” Akintunde is a Nigerian American contemporary artist, multimedia producer and pioneer in the medium of solar art. He is known for his groundbreaking solar murals and sculptures including the landmark 15-foot-tall *Shala's Bronzeville Solar Pyramid*.

### **Dr. Eric Whitaker, Physician and Investor, Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program (Champs)**

Dr. Whitaker is interested in the care of vulnerable populations, people who need support to stay healthy. His work with the Illinois Black Caucus and Illinois Institute of Technology will restart a program which works to identify minorities interested in science and expose them to health professions.