



THE BLACK CREATIVITY INNOVATOR GALLERY SPOTLIGHTS FOUR CHICAGOANS THAT ARE INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

Each year the Black Creativity Innovator Gallery honors African Americans in Chicago who are leaders in science, technology, engineering, medicine and art. Through innovation these leaders are shifting the narrative around social justice, equity, and Chicago by drawing from their own experiences and environment. The Innovator Gallery encourages guests to discover the many ways inventive genius can take place, showing that in any space they themselves can become the innovators of the future.

Tonika Lewis-Johnson, Creator, Folded Map Project

Tonika uses her skills as a photojournalist to explore the impact of urban segregation through multimedia. Johnson's visual investigation project Folded Map has created a dialogue that counters the narrative around South Side communities. Her photos have been exhibited across Chicago galleries and Museums.

J. Ivy, Poet, Spoken Word Artist

A leader in the Chicago arts community J. Ivy promotes positivity while giving a platform to the artform of self-expression. Through spoken word and his poetry he has won a Grammy, NAACP Image Award and is the President of the Chicago Recording Academy.

Taylor Staten, Founder, TnS Studio

Founder of TnS Studio, architect Taylor Staten serves South Side communities through both architectural and graphic design. Her non-profit extension of TnS Studio, "Be the Change" gives youth the opportunity to participate in architecture summer camps and mentorship programs.

Ian Brock, Co-founder, Dream Hustle Code

At the age of 16, Ian is a computer-science activist, entrepreneur and public speaker. Recognizing the need for more Black and Brown people in the computer science techspace, he founded the non-profit Dream Hustle Code when he was 13. Through Dream Hustle Code Brock has organized after-school coding programs on Chicago's South and West Sides.