

One Lawndale Arts & Activism Incubator

Dear Community & Gente Querida,

OLAAI is singing hello to spring and sharing gratitude for the shift of light, for rising taller after laying roots down over the winter and for you- our community that holds all the possibilities!

The end of April marked an amazing growth milestone for us, watching 10 young people share publicly their artistic expressions about their lives in Lawndale, elevating their research and voicing issues about racial segregation, community pride and historical strengths, and questioning norms and institutions in their life that do not serve them!

The Artivism Project of Lawndale had a stunningly beautiful Youth Showcase studded with engaging Unity Dinner conversations between Lawndale community members and friends seeking learning, healing and creating a more unified future. We saw so many people willing to help, share and step up for our youth and this is such a gift. Recent youth feedback sessions shared powerful ways this work lifted up participants' confidence, awareness and interconnectedness to peers and communities. Thank you Healing Illinois, Professor Kaleb Germinaro of UIC, our amazing community partners and funders for making this possible.

OLAAI is building from this experience and has already applied one lesson into our community engagement strategy: pay youth 50% above minimum wage to engage in Lawndale activations like street festivals/community expos, recruiting peers to OLAAI's emerging programming, and living out- and celebrating- solidarity in action.

In just a few days OLAAI begins a new Youth Design Squad team project working on Chicago Sukkah Design Festival AND a Racial Healing Cohort Pilot with incredible partners! Please consider **donating today** to support this visionary work and its impact THIS SUMMER.

Love,
Cecily

APL Showcase & Unity Dinner Highlight Video



By Elis Langford- Click Below!

[Watch Now](#)

Your donation counts!



OLAAI needs your financial \$upport for summer programming

[Click & Scroll Down on Site](#)

One Lawndale Arts & Activism Incubator **FEIN#: 99-4288801**

Thank you!

Summer Time Chi w OLAAI

OLAAI kicks off One Lawndale Youth Unity Project Summer 2025 with a bang, offering Lawndale youth three paid opportunity strands:

- *Racial Healing Cohort Pilot**
- *Local Event/Festival Community Activators**
- &**
- *Youth Design Squad**

Our model strives to pay Lawndale adolescents 50% above minimum wage for their brilliance! Thank you to



Safe & Peaceful Communities for helping us make this possible.

Want to help? Contact cecily@onelawndalearts.org

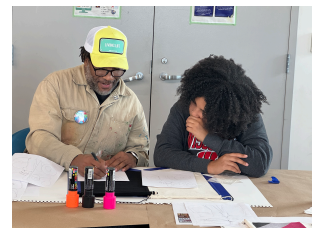


OLAAL is so thrilled to partner with Mara Collazo Salgado and pilot the F.L.Y.L.I.B.R.E. racial healing framework with 12 Lawndalians- North & South- at Principle Barbers this summer. The two week experience will delve into self love, liberation, racial solidarity and somatic healing practices. These youth will have opportunities to practice holding racial healing circles with other peers later in summer, and will provide valuable insights on adapting the curriculum for wider adolescent use & impact! Thank you Healing Illinois for funding this work.

Mara & Cecily visit I AM ABLE's Road to Wellness festival for cohort recruitment & learning about the community landscape

Historic Juneteenth Parade in North Lawndale

OLAAL is honored to be partnering with SAIC Human Square, Lawndale Pop up Spot, Art West & others on the 1st annual Juneteenth parade in North Lawndale June 19th, 2025. We brought youth to create dynamic banners to be held high on 16th street in the community-wide parade at a recent banner making session at Nichols Tower!



Youth Design Squad Meets & Dreams

As part of OLAAl's summer initiative, "One Lawndale Youth Unity Project", a star-studded team of young designers comes together to design a Sukkot for Douglass Park Cultural Center's Makerspace! Along with our partners at Resolver Studio, the Squad will connect and receive stipend for working on three co-design sessions to make a stand/booth/hut/permanent structure that welcomes the public to the space. We are grateful for the collaboration and thank [Chicago Sukkot Design Festival](#) for the support of OLAAl to contribute to this important cultural work within Lawndale!



RESOLVER
STUDIO



May Summertime Chi
be good to us all!



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