June 7, 2024

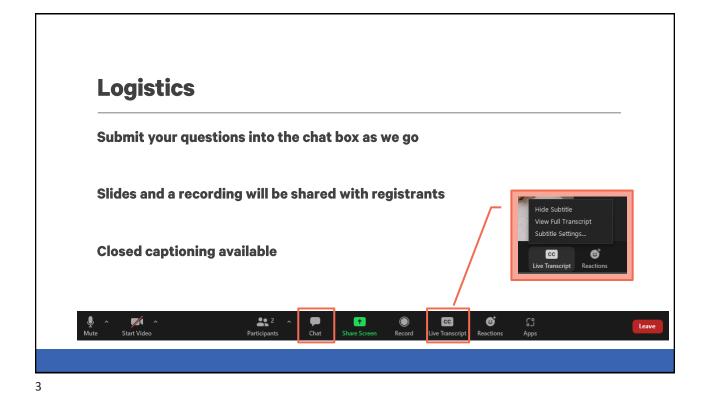


ASA Chicagoland Roundtable

Aging with Pride: Innovative Supports for Chicago Area LGBTQ+ Older Adults

Welcome to the ASA Chicagoland Roundtable

- Longstanding series of bimonthly educational gatherings with professionals in aging in the greater Chicago area
 - Hosted by RUSH University Medical Center Center for Excellence in Aging
 - Organized by local volunteer planning committee
 - Communications support from the American Society on Aging
- Virtual sessions since 2020 available at <u>https://aging.rush.edu/policy/asa-chicagoland/</u>







Alan Factor, Ph.D., Department of Disability and Human Development (Retired), University of Illinois at Chicago

Session framing

Illinois LGBT Population by Age

AGE	NUMBER	PREVALENCE
65+	28,100	1.5%
50 - 64	54,200	2.2
35 - 49	81,500	3.3
25 - 34	132,000	7.5
18 - 24	150,700	12.6
Total 18+	446,500	4.5

Flores, A.R. & Conron, K.J. (2023) Adult LGBT Population in the United States. The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles, CA.



Nina Orlowski, MSW, LCSW, Aging with Pride Program Specialist, AgeOptions AAA Eric Eugenio-Vironet, LCSW, ACSW, CDP, Executive Director, West Suburban Senior Services, Bellwood, IL

AgeOptions – Thrive with Pride cafes



Thrive with Pride by AgeOptions is a program that leverages traditional and non-traditional service partners and affirming churches to broaden the scope of inclusive and accessible aging services.

th Pride



Goals: Decrease social isolation Increase access to info & resources Increase engagement with aging services Improve mental and physical health

Original Funding & Partners

Thrive with Pride began in 2019 with a grant from Community Memorial Foundation. The grant enabled AgeOptions to hire staff and provide small stipends for five project sites within CMF's zip code-specific target areas, mainly west suburban Cook County.

A later grant from The Chicago Community Trust's LGBTQ Community Fund allowed us to look broader geographically. Thus, we sought after partners in both the northern and southern suburbs.



Community Memorial Foundation



THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST

Original Program Design (Jan 2020 pre-COVID)

Cafe partners were asked to meet inperson at least once a month, providing a safe and welcoming space for older LGBT+ adults and caregivers to congregate.

AgeOptions would supply informational programming, bringing speakers and presentations to the cafes. In turn, this would allow our service lines to improve offerings for LGBT+ older adults.





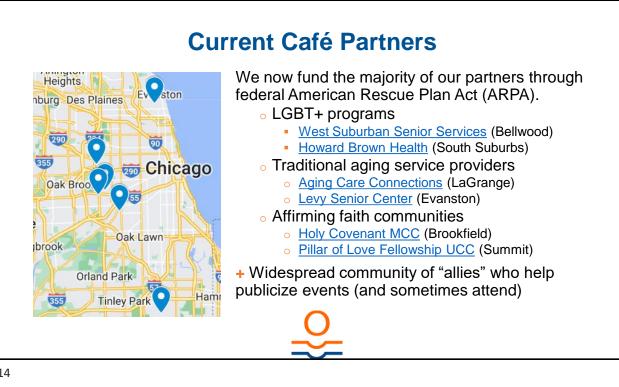


Current Program Design

AgeOptions hosts a monthly online event to provide access to expert presentations on a variety of topics of interest followed by discussion. We then provide our funded partners with event recordings and discussion guides so they can facilitate their own follow-up event.

Café partners are asked to meet at least once a month, providing a safe and welcoming space for older LGBT+ adults and caregivers to congregate and learn more about their local resources in whatever format works best for their participants (in-person, hybrid, virtual).







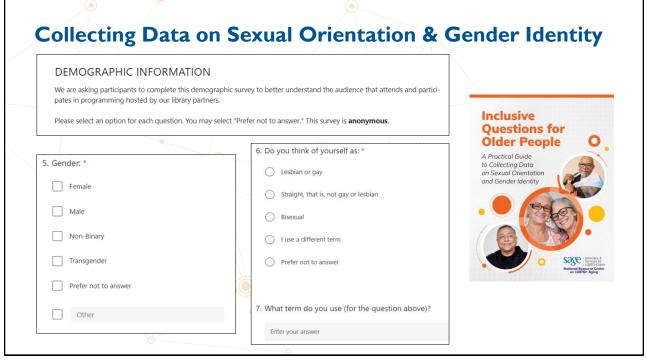
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Other LGBT+ Initiatives: Intergenerational Events

We had great success hosting multiple virtual intergenerational events during the height of the pandemic, with delivery meals & breakout rooms. We were able to host our first in-person intergenerational dinner & dialogue event at our office this past April with funding support from Advocate Health.













West Suburban 439 Bohland Ave Bellwood, IL





- In January 2019, West Suburban Senior Services was acquired by Chicago Methodist Senior Services, a nonprofit organization providing a continuum of care and residences committed to empowering each person we serve to live their best life, while embracing the needs of a diverse and evolving community.
- CMSS is a 125-year-old non-profit organization providing an array of programs, services, and residences to older adults. We offer affordable senior housing, assisted living memory care, non-medical home care, and social and support programs to older adults across Chicagoland.



- West Suburban Senior Services is a welcoming community that offers free, weekday activities and programming for older adults in the western suburbs.
- We offer daily meals in collaboration with Community Nutrition Network, exercise classes, games, educational presentations, an LGBT+ program, and we serve as a trusted resource in the community.







THRIVE WITH PRIDE: An Inclusive Online Café

Honoring LGBTQ+ Chicagoans for Women's History Month



LIVE On Zoom Tuesday, March 26 11am - Noon



Gerber/Hart Library & Archives to discuss several women highlighted in their 2022 podcast Unboxing Queer History, including Lorrainne Sade Baskerville, the founders of Amigas Latinas and the women of the Great Angling Lesbian Society, whose work impacted Chicago LGBTQ+ history.

Founded in 1981 and located in Chicago's Rogers Park Neighborhood, Gerber/Hart is one of the largest repositories of LGBTQ+ content in the world. Join us as we dive into their amazing collections!

Thrive with Pride Cafes provide inclusive and affirming spaces for all older adults. Join a Thrive with Pride Cafe in your area for a follow-up discussion where you can share and receive support, learn more about local services and resources and discuss topics that matter.

For more information on this or past cafe presentations, links to recordings or to find a cafe in your area, go to www.thrvingwithpride.org or email nina.orlowski@ageoptions.org

THRIVE WITH PRIDE: An Inclusive Online Café

Combating Loneliness + Increasing Intimacy





Tues, February 27

your social world. In particular strategies to find and get to know new people, and develop intimacy in your life. Increasing intimacy for you may mean dating, more healthy touch in your life, emotional intimacy or self intimacy, and we'll be covering all these areas together. We benefit in older age from close relationships in our lives, and we are looking forward to discussing these important issues together.

How do we connect and build meaningful

relationships in the post COVID world? This

workshop with Jacqueline Boyd of The Care

Plan will provide insights around how to shape

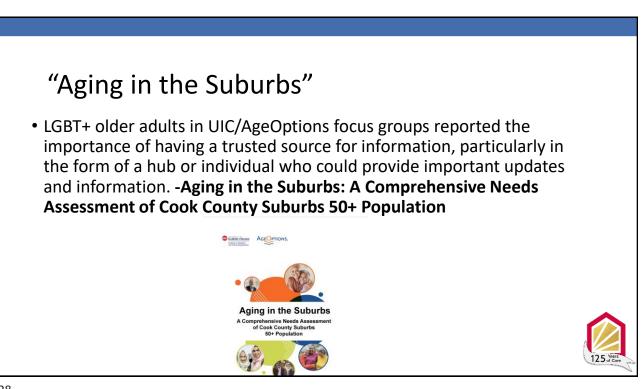
Thrive

with Pride

LIVE On Zoom Ses, February 27 11am-12:30pm Join by clicking or calling: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4208272855? omn=87377550254 312-626-6799 (Meeting ID: 420 827 2855) This event is free; registration is not required.

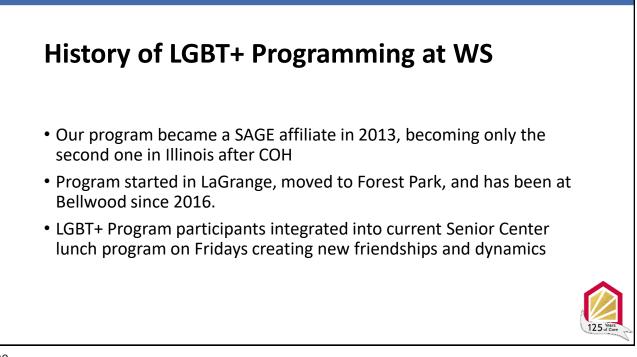
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LGBT+ Program Survey Results

- 92% Strongly Agree: The West Suburban LGBT+ Program is a resource I trust for knowledge about programs and services available for older adults
- 100% Strongly Agree: The West Suburban LGBT+ Program creates a welcoming and affirming space for LGBT+ older adults
- 92% Strongly Agree: The West Suburban weekly LGBT+ Discussion group helps me stay connected with other LGBT+ older adults and reduces my feelings of isolation
- 60% strongly agree, 30% agree, and 10% are neutral on the following statement: It is important to me that aging service providers offer programs specifically for LGBT+ older adults



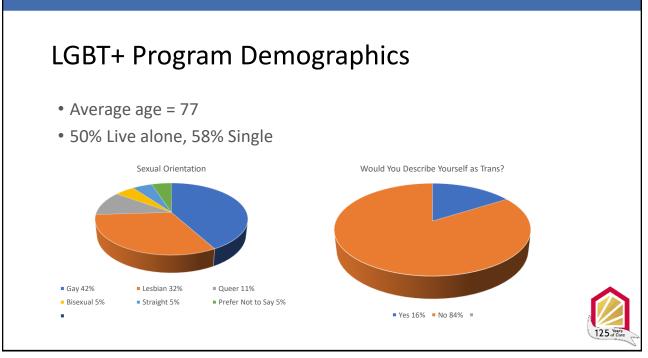


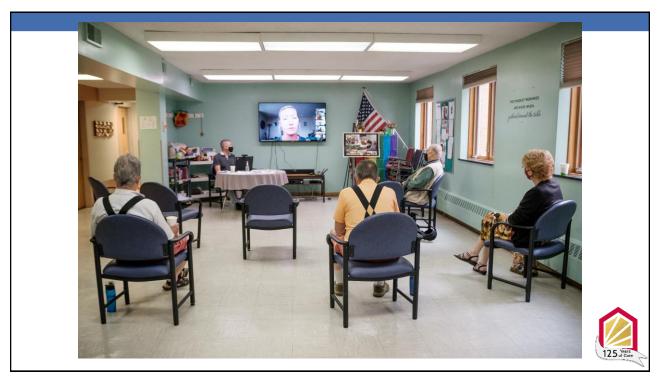
Highlights

- SAGE Affiliation 2013 2022 SAGE West Suburban Senior Services (SAGECollab starting 2023 WSSS LGBT+ Program)
- Participation in the Chicago Pride Parade with AARP Pride Coalition Trolley
- Staff Training SAGECare Platinum Level Training for CMSS staff
- GOLD (GLBT+ Older adults Leading initiatives to Drive change) Program: Storytellers and Advisory Council to increase residents' comfortability in disclosing their LGBT+ identity within long-term care communities
- AgeOptions Thrive with Pride Café Affiliation 2020 now. Connect LGBT+ older adults with information and services from Area Agency on Aging

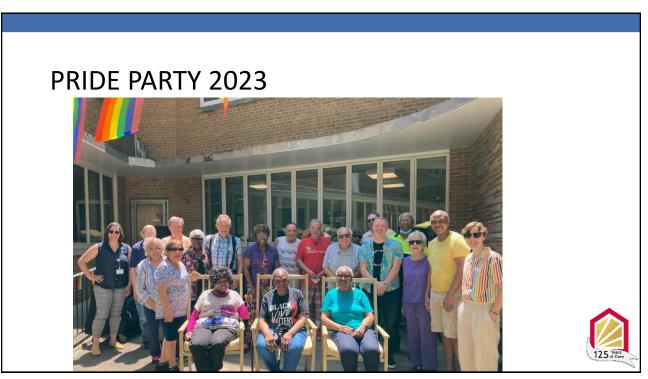
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Pride Party 2023! Resilience







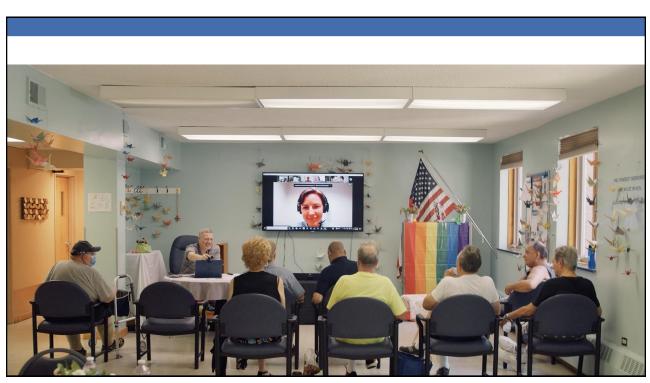


CHALLENGE

Challenges

- Pandemic
- Social Isolation
- Technology/ZOOM
- Integrating LGBT+ programming into mainstream aging provider
- Trust
- Funding







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Karen Morris, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Visual and Critical Studies, School of the Art Institute of Chicago



Adam Greteman, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Art Education, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

The Intergenerational Dialogue Project

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Presentation Outline

- 1. Insights from Research
- 2. Project Overview
- 3. Structure of Dialogues
- 4. Funding
- 5. Insights and Challenges





Research on Challenges for LGBTQ+ Older Folks

Significantly higher rates of

- Social isolation
 - More likely to live alone and have little contact with younger generations
- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Mental & Physical Illness

As a result of a lifetime of

- Discrimination
- Lack of economic and legal protection for employment and same-sex partnerships
- Inadequate access to affirming healthcare and housing
- Estrangement from family

As this population ages, they are confronted with a scarcity of affirming housing and care options for older adults, and face tough decisions to go back in the closet to ensure their safety in nursing homes.

Research on Challenges LGBTQ+ Younger Folks

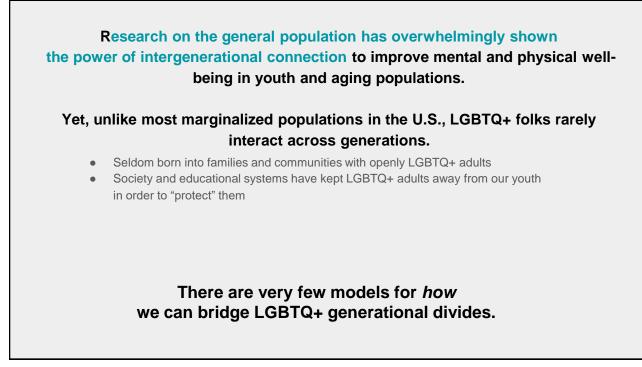
LGBTQ+ teens during the pandemic were four times more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual/cisgender peers and twice as likely to feel persistently hopeless (CDC)

Transgender youth report significantly increased rates of depression, suicidality, and victimization compared to their cisgender peers. In the past year, one in three transgender youth reported attempting suicide. (Trevor Project)

Youth with multiple forms of minoritized experiences along the lines of race, class, disability, spirituality are particularly vulnerable. (NIH) LGBTQ+ K-12 students continue to face hostility in schools (National School Climate Survey)

Many LGBTQ+ students have found higher education settings to be a positive place for identity development

The fury of recent anti-LGBTQ+ legislation - most of it focused on youth - has increased their precarity and anxiety.



What we heard from younger and older LGBTQ+ adults:



- Youngers expressed not knowing LGBTQ+ elders or history (both a political and curricular issue);
- Elders expressed wanting to know and interact with young people out of recognition of the role of youth in advancing LGBTQ+ cultures.

Our Guiding Questions

- How can engagement in LGBTQ+ intergenerational dialogues impact youth and elders' psychosocial development?
 - Specifically, do the dialogues have a measurable impact on participants' LGBTQ+ identity, generativity, sense of community, and perceived collective continuity?
- How do LGBTQ+ intergenerational dialogues support the preservation and generation of LGBTQ+ cultural histories, knowledges, and practices?
 - How can they help LGBTQ+ students of all ages to understand their different identities as situated within larger historical and social frameworks?
- How can intergenerational dialogue between people who have lived through different moments in LGBTQ+ history provide new approaches to intergenerational learning and queer pedagogy that are embodied and community-engaged?



Summer 2019

Karen Morris (SAIC), Adam Greteman (SAIC), & Todd Williams (COH) meet and discuss possible ideas and collaborations.

- 1. To create an opportunity that could be **sustained**.
- 2. To bring **diverse** groups of people together who might otherwise never interact.
- 3. To provide **a meal.**
- 4. To have **a space** that would be welcoming & accessible, particularly to elders.
- 5. To be **community engaged**.





General Structure

Large Group Check-in, story-telling, and discussion

Medium Group discussion on topic/theme with prompts

Topics include: HIV/AIDS, Gender, Activism, Intersectionality

Small Group discussion & work on story (Fall semester) or collaborative art piece (Spring Semester)

A Shared Meal

Student Requested Coursework



Generating Queers

Fall Seminar Course

Content:

LGBTQ+ Histories & Politics

Project:

5 minute story

Event:

Private Storytelling Extravaganza



Regenerating Queers

Spring Studio Course

Content:

LGBTQ+ Art and History

Project:

Collaborative Art Project

Event:

Public Art Show

Collaborative Intergenerational Art Making





2024 Art Exhibition: Queer The Path

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Funding

- Our Academic Institutions
- SAIC
 - Faculty Enrichment
 - Compassion & Belonging
 - Team Teaching
- UIC
 - Creative Activity



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Insights

- Sustained contact over time is essential for developing a sense of self and community belonging.
- Separate intra-generational learning spaces are helpful for both students and older participants to unpack and reflect on LGBTQ+ knowledges and practices that emerge through dialogue.
- Other forms of dialogue such as small group intergenerational art-making and storytelling projects encourage relationship development and offer a different format for self-exploration and self expression.
- Community partnership and trust are key.

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Challenges in Practice

- Attending to Language & Terminology
 - From the Intergenerational Queer Dialogue Project to The LGBTQ+ Intergenerational Dialogue Project
- Complexities of bringing together multiply marginalized people who have rarely had
 opportunities to meet
 - Divisions within LGBTQ+ populations along lines of race, ethnicity, class, geography, and sexual/gender identities
 - Stigma about elder/younger encounters between LGBTQ+ people prompt older adults to distance themselves from youth for fear of being seen as predators.
 - Recognizing that for some folks, the project is not the "right fit."
- Remembering that education, at its best, is a challenge even with the best of intentions.
 - Highs and Lows Some moments are messy and uncomfortable. Others are clarifying and empowering.



Outcomes (So Far)

Participants report improved sense of self-worth and belonging

Alumni step into leadership roles in intergenerational coalition - both in our project and beyond

Long-term relationships form that bridge multiple divides within LGBTQ+ communities (such as race, class, spirituality, sexual/gender identity)

Strong attendance at alumni events & gatherings





Jim Harvey, Executive Director, OneRoofChicago

OneRoofChicago



ONE ROOF CHICAGO

Formally founded in 2019, One Roof Chicago is an emerging initiative to build a welcoming and inclusive intergenerational community for older adults and young people most in need of affirming housing, meaningful connection, and career development.

One Roof Chicago will combine:

•80 units of mixed income housing for LGBTQ+ older adults, as well as older adults living with HIV, with a continuum of care as residents' needs for assistance increase;

•20 units of permanent supportive housing at the same site for LGBTQ+ young adults aged 18+ impacted by homelessness;

•Focused job training and a career ladder in culturally responsive eldercare, a rapidly growing sector of the economy.



VISION

One Roof Chicago envisions that within 3-5 years the One Roof Chicago home will be breaking ground with a sustainable operating and funding plan for long-term success, in a process characterized at every stage by stakeholder inclusion, engagement, and investment.

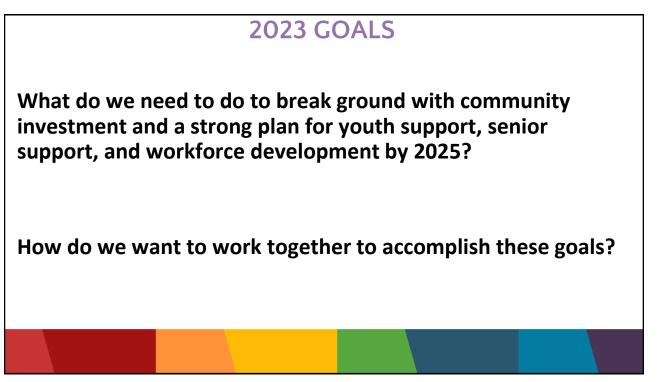
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VALUES

People, Pride and Possibilities. We are in love with our young people and older adults. We desire to create environments where our vibrant LGBTQ+ communities can dream, hope, and pursue their joy. We know that we are embracing a new way of living that combats loneliness, isolation, and invisibility in our communities. We lead with relationship.

Care, Healing and Liberation. We build this table together, and hold the trauma, pain, and resilience that often contributes to a loss of home. LGBTQ+ youth and elders experience many barriers to safety and security. We are committed to a healing justice approach; building safety together, holding each other in care, and keeping the people most impacted at the center of our work. We believe community innovation leads to our collective liberation!

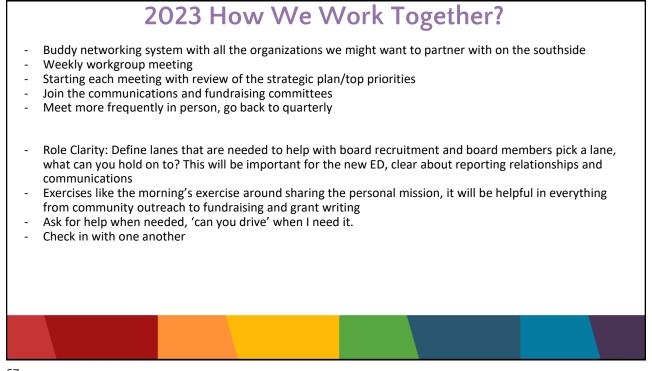
Inclusion, Intersections and Accountability. We enter into community together at many intersections; age, gender, ability, race, sexual orientation, religion, and more. We listen to and act in alignment with the knowledge and needs of trans women of color, black and brown elders and youth, people with disabilities and people living with HIV, young people most in need of affirming housing and meaningful



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2023 GOALS BRAINSTORM

- Youth support
 - space to engage youth
 - Competent facilitators to work with youth
 - Sustainability
 - Case management
- Senior support
 - Case management
 - Education about aging
 - Opportunities to build and sustain relationships
 - Workforce development
 - Integrate youth and elders around workforce development
 - Access to opportunities to build skills, not just have a job







BOARD COMMITMENT

How would you like to support our goals? 'What do you bring?'

What roles would you consider?

How will the work get done?

Committee Leadership

Fundraising Communications Housing Executive Hiring / Staff Support



Join our mailing list!

Visit One Roof Chicago's website at:

www.oneroofchicago.org

Click on the E-Newsletter

Enter your email address to begin receiving One Roof Chicago updates

Discussion

Moderator

 Alan Factor, Ph.D., Department of Disability and Human Development (Retired), University of Illinois at Chicago

Thrive with Pride cafes

- Nina Orlowski, MSW, LCSW, Aging with Pride Program Specialist, AgeOptions AAA
- Eric Eugenio-Vironet, LCSW, ACSW, CDP, Executive Director, West Suburban Senior Services, Bellwood, IL
- The Intergenerational Dialogue Project
 - Adam Greteman, Ph.D,. Associate Professor of Art Education, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
 - Karen Morris, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Visual and Critical Studies, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

OneRoofChicago

Jim Harvey, Executive Director, OneRoofChicago



Thank you!

Please share any announcements in the chat

View recordings from recent sessions at <u>https://aging.rush.edu/policy/asa-chicagoland/</u>

Please join us for our upcoming Roundtable

- Friday August 2, 2024, 8:30-10:30am
- Registration / details will be shared in July via ASA listserv
 - Rush team will also share registration details in follow-up from today's event