



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Beverly Arts Center Welcomes Three Esteemed Professionals to the Board of Directors

Cole, Smith, and Warren Join Premiere South Side Arts Institution

Chicago– June 4, 2024 – The Beverly Arts Center, a multi-faceted organization building community through diverse, quality arts programming, education, and entertainment for all ages and levels on Chicago's South Side, is thrilled to announce the addition of three highly esteemed professionals to its governing board: Jahmal Cole, Scott Smith, and Crystal Warren. Their commitment to community service, advocacy, and cultural enrichment aligns perfectly with the Center's mission to foster artistic expression and community engagement. Each new board member will contribute unique expertise to selected committees, furthering the Center's initiatives and outreach.

"The addition of Jahmal, Scott, and Crystal to our governing board marks a significant milestone for the Beverly Arts Center," said Dr. Carla F. Carter, Executive Director of the Beverly Arts Center. "Their collective experience and unwavering dedication to community service will undoubtedly enhance our efforts to provide diverse and meaningful artistic and cultural experiences to our community. We are honored to welcome them to our team."

Jahmal Cole

Jahmal Cole, Founder and CEO of My Block My Hood My City, is a renowned social justice advocate dedicated to fostering a more interconnected Chicago through service and education. Jahmal has been recognized with honorary Doctorate Degrees in Humanities from DePaul University and Adler University. His accolades include Activist of the Year by the Chicago Reader and Chicago Magazine, and he has received numerous awards for his impactful community work. Jahmal has spoken before President Obama and was named Chicagoan of the Year. His relentless efforts inspire and bring about significant positive change in the community.

Scott Smith

Scott Smith has been an active participant in Beverly/Morgan Park's civic life since 2009. He has served on the boards of the Southwest Chicago Community Collaborative and the Beverly Area Planning Association. Scott is a co-producer and host of The Frunchroom, a live storytelling series about the South Side held at BAC's Baffes Theater. In 2022, he was a Civic Leadership Academy fellow at the University of Chicago's Harris School for Public Policy. As a

writer and digital strategist, Scott has worked for Chicago magazine, Time Out Chicago, and other media outlets, frequently appearing on TV and radio. He is now the Chief of Staff to Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi. Scott resides with his family in the Morgan Park neighborhood.

Crystal Warren

Crystal Warren is a distinguished retired city government professional with a rich background in art curation and organizing citywide events for individuals aged 55 and over. Throughout her career, she has dedicated herself to enhancing cultural and social opportunities for senior citizens, fostering a vibrant and inclusive community spirit. As President of the Morgan Park Community Roots Organization, she spearheads initiatives to preserve local heritage and advocate for residents' needs. Crystal holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology and is deeply engaged in grassroots activism. Her recent accolades include the 2022 Impact Award for her dedication to community service.

Nominating Committee Chair Shanya Gray said, "As the Nominating Committee Chair of the Board of Directors of the Beverly Arts Center, I consider it an honor and a privilege that we were able to onboard such a gifted and distinguished group of new board members. I look forward to working with each of them in the future, as together, we continue to realize the vision of an unparalleled arts center that serves the entire South Side of Chicago and beyond."

The Beverly Arts Center Board of Directors is led by Stacey Recht as President and Chris Wilczak as Vice President. Sonja Brisard serves as Treasurer, while Amy Stickel Dattner holds the position of Secretary. The board consists of dedicated members with expertise in their respective fields: Denise Powell, Ed McGunn, Shanya Gray, Kamilah Parker, Katrina Pavlik, Jim Noonan, and Sandra Leonard.

*Photos of Jahmal Cole, Scott Smith, and Crystal Warren are available upon publishing request.

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About The Beverly Arts Center:

The Beverly Arts Center is a vibrant and multifaceted not-for-profit organization serving the Chicago metro area with high-quality programs in dance, visual arts, music, film, and theater. The 40,000 square foot space houses a 400-seat theater, art gallery, exhibition spaces, music and dance studios, art classrooms, and event rental spaces, including a courtyard and light-filled atrium. Founded in 1967 and located in Chicago's historic Beverly/Morgan Park neighborhood, the BAC is also home to an extensive community outreach program. Learn more about the Beverly Arts Center at www.beverlyartscenter.com.