



The Second City
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



The Second City

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

MISSION STATEMENT

The Second City is deeply committed to creating and advocating for diversity, equity and inclusion at all levels of the institution. We firmly believe that unique experiences, points of view and diverse perspectives are at the core of the art form our artists create, and are reflective of the audiences we serve. We believe that our comedic satire should speak to both the community in which we operate and to the larger world. We are committed to fostering a safe and supportive environment, ensuring that the values of diversity, equity and inclusion are upheld in all areas of our organization from the classroom to the stage.

VALUE STATEMENT

- Fostering community with cultural sensitivity.
- Increasing access to our programs, scholarships, and performances to underserved communities.
- Facilitating and engaging in dialogue across departments on empathy, equity, diversity and inclusion.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Our Diversity and Inclusion division is an ongoing commitment to expose the improv art form to new voices, underserved communities and talent seeking careers at Second City. Our goal is to open doors, create a bridge and make this work accessible and inclusive. We believe everyone, regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation should experience the gift of improv.



A BIT OF HISTORY

1992

In 1992, Second City Training Center established its first Outreach program with summer workshops and shows. The company cultivated multicultural sketch groups Stir Friday Night, Salsation, and GayCo Productions.

These established groups share a twenty-one year history in Chicago's sketch comedy community.

2002

In 2002, Second City took a more aggressive approach establishing a new precedent in theatre engagement and connectivity to reach its audiences. Second City hired a full time Director of Diversity and Inclusion to market, foster and build relationships in underrepresented communities. The new division established year long programming providing scholarship, audition and performance opportunities to talent in the field.

2013

In 2013, the division secured an exciting partnership with NBCUniversal launching a Bob Curry Fellowship, Break Out Comedy Festival and scholarship opportunities to further develop and showcase exceptional emerging, diverse talent at Second City Chicago, Toronto and Hollywood.

YEAR ROUND TALENT CULTIVATION AND SHOWS



REACH



URBAN TWIST



BOB CURRY FELLOWSHIP



REVOLUCIÓN



BREAK OUT COMEDY FESTIVAL (HOSTED BY TIM MEADOWS)



SUMMER DIVERSITY WEEK



BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES



OUR IMPACT & INFLUENCE

15,000+

The hours our teaching artists, talent and directors spent thinking, creating lessons, rehearsing, directing and performing

5000+

The actors, attendees, community members and students we reach during our program year in active engagement and connection

1400

The teens we engaged in our annual festival showcase since we launched it in 2008

300+

The inquiries we receive from actors, theatre professionals and casting industry throughout the year.



Steady career growth for talent with our NBC Universal partnership and Bob Curry Fellowship in Chicago, Toronto

CREATING ACCESS, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AFTER SCHOOL MATTERS

I GROW CHICAGO

ASM 8TH ANNUAL TEEN IMPROV FESTIVAL

DONDA'S HOUSE

REBUILD FOUNDATION

URBAN PREP ACADEMY

CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST CAREER DAY





2017 NEW LAUNCHES

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

“I’VE GOT YOUR BACK” MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Second City employees and talent become mentors to a growing community of Outreach talent/students and alliances

VOLUNTEER ACCESS TO DIVERSITY PROGRAMS

Become a volunteer or guest instructor at one of our schools, community alliances, festival programming

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMEDY TALKS

Join our edgy and funny discourse on comedy and beyond featuring Second City alum and some of the community’s hottest diverse performers and thinkers in the industry

OUTREACH SHOW COLLECTIVE

Network and see some of Chicago’s newest theatre and special events with exclusive VIP invites

STAY CONNECTED WITH DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Throughout the year we produce and host several events, to educate and mentor our growing community about Second City offerings and the comedy industry. Subscribe to e-news and follow us to stay connected.



@secondcityod

secondcitydiversity.com



DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Dionna Griffin-Irons is Director of Diversity and Inclusion for The Second City U.S. and Canada. In 2002, Griffin-Irons expanded Second City’s Outreach program to a yearly program spearheading an aggressive and inclusive approach in attracting diverse talent and communities to Second City. A Second City Detroit alumna with 18+ years experience as a performer, producer and facilitator, Dionna has taught 200+ workshops at colleges, women’s shelters, corporate boardrooms and worked with the United States Embassy in Norway and Latvia introducing improv as a tool for social change.

Griffin-Irons’ diversity and inclusion work has appeared in Diversity Journal publication, on NPR, ABC, NBC, and numerous academic posts including a 2015 TEDx Talk at University of Chicago. Her 2014 published work can be found in Rowan/ Littlefield’s anthology, *Women, Writing and Prison*. Dionna is currently writing a memoir on the intersection of comedy, diversity and women. @dionnagrifons

WORKSHOPS
KEYNOTES
GUEST VISITS

Contact:
dgriffin-irons@secondcity.com

Direct:
312-664-4032 x 3577