



La'Ketta CALDWELL

**INSPIRING INDIVIDUALS TO
WALK IN PURPOSE**



La'Ketta Caldwell is the Arts Director for Arts Education for Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee. During her tenure she has moved up the ranks from a Program Manager to Club Manager to Senior Program Manager of various initiatives. La'Ketta strongly believes that youth should have a voice and under her leadership, she has enhanced an empowering "Youth of the Year" program and other leadership programs that focus on social issues such as sexual violence, and helping youth cope with trauma.

La'Ketta holds a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication and a minor in Theatre from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. She also studied Education and Theatre at New York University. She is an active member of the Society of African American Professionals, and credits them for her growth within the Boys & Girls Clubs Movement. She is also a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs Professional

Association. In addition, she facilitates training for staff at Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee, including One Dream, the Clubs' internal staff training initiative to create One Dream that ensures our members' needs are being met holistically. She participated in the eight-hour Artists as Educators Seminar Anatomy of a Lesson: Designing Instruction developed by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. La'Ketta is thankful for the youth she proudly serves every day, and her family and friends. She was part of the 2015 African American Leadership Program, and the 2015 Milwaukee Business Journal's 40 Under 40 class. Ms. Caldwell was a 2015 MANDI nominee. In 2016, she delivered a TEDx Talk titled "Say Something."

Her first play "COLORS of YOUTH" originated from stories she heard while working with young people around the country, and deals with serious subject matters while articulating the hope and strength of youth. La'Ketta

worked with a group of teens at North Division and LaVarnway Boys & Girls Clubs to create a documentary entitled "Can You Hear Us Now?" These Clubs are located in the 53206 area with a high propensity for gun shootings, low graduation rates, and mob beatings. The zip code has made headlines for being the nation's zip code with the highest incarceration rate for African-American males. In the midst of these circumstances, La'Ketta used theater, poetry, and storytelling to help the students discuss the

incidents that are taking place in their community. In addition, the group works with the community to create solutions to keep their neighborhoods safe. The program has evolved into an annual arts performance which takes place each year on June 3rd, also declared Can You Hear Us Now? Day by City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett in 2014.

From Paducah, Kentucky to Carbondale, Illinois, to the Big Apple, La'Ketta's education and work has taken her around the country, enabling her to use theater education to empower and educate diverse populations.



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