

# ACTIVITY BOOK

*ECLIPSED + SHEroes*



# WELCOME!

## MEET LEAH HARRIS

Women have been making strides in the last few years to say the least. We have seen them marching in the streets, driving climate discussions, drafting policies as new members of congress, and developing scientific breakthroughs. Milwaukee Rep's Director of Community Engagement, Leah Harris, believes it is time to celebrate the women in our own community working to create a better Milwaukee. In conjunction with our production of *Eclipsed*, Harris and her team at Milwaukee Rep are launching the SHERoes campaign.



"This is our way of lifting up women, specifically women of color, in our community," says Harris. This kind of project has truly been a long time coming for Harris. While the themes and subject of the play blend well with the campaign, Harris has always been aware of how important women of color have been to Milwaukee.

"When I first started this job, everyone was telling me who to talk to and have coffee with to help develop community engagement, and I noticed that nine out of ten of these people were women of color," says Harris. When developing this idea, Harris has been motivated by what she has been seeing in her everyday life.

I've been so inspired by the women I see that are up there holding the mantle and rewriting narratives about the city because there is so much good work being done that often times narratives that come from our really troubled history and past continue to dominate how we think and talk about the growth of our city." However, it was her conversation about community engagement with *Eclipsed* director May Adrales that really brought this idea together.

"I'm hoping that people learn something new about some women in our community that we may or may not get to see in the spotlight very often. I'm hoping that it raises awareness about a very important piece of theater that is *Eclipsed*. Most importantly, I'm hoping that people learn and meet some new women throughout this and learn about what people are doing in our community," says Harris

### OUR MILWAUKEE SHEROES ARE:

**Dr. Lisa Edwards**, Professor, Director of Counselor Education; Coordinator of Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program at Marquette University

**Dasha Kelly Hamilton**

**Crystal Harvey**, MPS School Teacher  
**Itzel Hernandez**, Artist

**Katie Avila Loughmiller**, Co-Founder, LUNA (Latina's United in Arts)

**Shayvon McCullum**, Founder, Secure Bridges

**Kai Gardner Mishlove**, Advocate Aurora Walkers Point Clinic, Tables Across Borders & EDOT Midwest Jewish Diversity Project.

**Tina Nixon**, Founder, My Sistas Keeper  
**Shavonda Sisson**, Program Director and Director of Ally Engagement, Public Allies Milwaukee

**JohnRae' Stowers**, Assistant Director of Student Educational Services at Marquette & Founder, Jazzyrae Boutique  
**May yer Thao**, Assistant Deputy Director, Wisconsin Housing & Economic Development

**Diana Vang-Brostoff**, VA Medical Center, Social Worker

# MEET SOME OF OUR SHEROES!

## JOHNRAE' STOWERS

fulfills her passion to empower and prepare future leaders through her roles at Marquette University where she serves as Director of the Freshman Frontier Program (FFP), a summer bridge program that offers students a jump-start opportunity to campus and Assistant Director of the Office of Student Educational Services (OSES) a premier academic support program. She's dedicated the past 20+ years to guiding students throughout their life's journey and to helping them recognize their strengths to achieve their goals.

She has used this platform to create an annual event titled the "DIVA'S BRUNCH." The Brunch is an event that brings over 500 women together to shop, network, connect and leave inspired.



## CRYSTAL HEARVEY

was born and raised on the north side of Milwaukee. She is a graduate of Vincent High School Class of 1991. Crystal's interests in working with children first lead her to work in the childcare field.

Crystal's work with children increased her desire to work with an organization in our community that helps women and children. Crystal began volunteering for the non-profit organization HOPE Network for Single Mothers. An organization that helps to take the stigma away from being a single mother by providing emotional, educational and material support to single mothers.

## KATIE AVILA LOUGHMILLER

is an interdisciplinary social practice artist exploring her own cultural complexity and female identity while also deeply involved in the work of strengthening and building community.

Katie Avila Loughmiller is the co-founder of LUNA (Latinas Unidas eN las Artes), a Latina artist collective and a founding member of Heard Space, a women of color led and focused performance arts collective, both based in Milwaukee, WI.

Lastly, you can listen to her on *We Heard We're Funny* a comedy radio show, on Riverwest Radio 104.1 FM and soundcloud.





### MILWAUKEE REP SHERoes WORD SEARCH



Embracing Generous Cultivating Dedicated Persistent Champion  
Compassionate Resourceful Empowered Passionate Committed  
Powerful Eclectic Inspiring Creative Selfless Authentic Relatable  
Brave Humble Wise Strong Loving Leader



# MEET MORE OF OUR SHEROES!



## LISA EDWARDS

is a licensed psychologist and professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology at Marquette University. Edwards' passion is supporting the mental health of Latina mothers who are pregnant and postpartum. She launched Proyecto Mamá, a community resource and needs assessment of perinatal Latina mothers in the Milwaukee area. Proyecto Mamá is designed to gather information that can be used to ensure that Latina mothers receive the mental health care they need and deserve.

Thanks to a generous Greater Milwaukee Foundation grant, Edwards also recently started Círculo de Mamás, a wellness support group for pregnant and postpartum mothers at Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers.



## MAY YER THAO

(pronounced "mine-za") is the recently Governor-selected Assistant Deputy Director for the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA). As Assistant Deputy Director, May Yer is charged with the organization's equity, inclusion and culture strategies to impact the areas of organizational infrastructure, leadership pipeline development (recruitment/retention) and procurement.



## SHAVONDA SISSON

Black woman, radical change maker, mother, and Black Joy Curator currently works as the Director of Ally and Alumni Programming with Public Allies Milwaukee. Recognizing the strength of network and clarity of her voice, Shavonda has leveraged her social media platform to launch "Love On Black Women", a people-driven fund that disburses 100% of all funds raised directly to Black women of Milwaukee who have identified a need for financial support. Since its launch in February 2019, Love on Black Women has helped families secure housing, educational expenses, access medication, filled refrigerators and provided support for women escaping intimate partner violence.



# THE POWER OR ART

In the book *Women are Heroes*, photographer JR highlights women throughout the world (including Liberia) by creating large scale portraits and then pasting copies of them throughout the communities in which these women live. In *Eclipsed*, Danai Gurira gives voices to thousands of women who had no voices during the war.

## Let's Discuss!

Think about how you can use the arts to bring to the forefront stories of everyday people in your lives. How can we use art to express our experience of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Once you have an idea, create a model/prototype on a smaller scale to present your vision. You can present your vision through writing, visual art, or media to share them with the community! Email your work to [amatson@milwaukeeep.com](mailto:amatson@milwaukeeep.com) to have a chance to be featured on Inside Rep Education Facebook page!

## Ideas Section!

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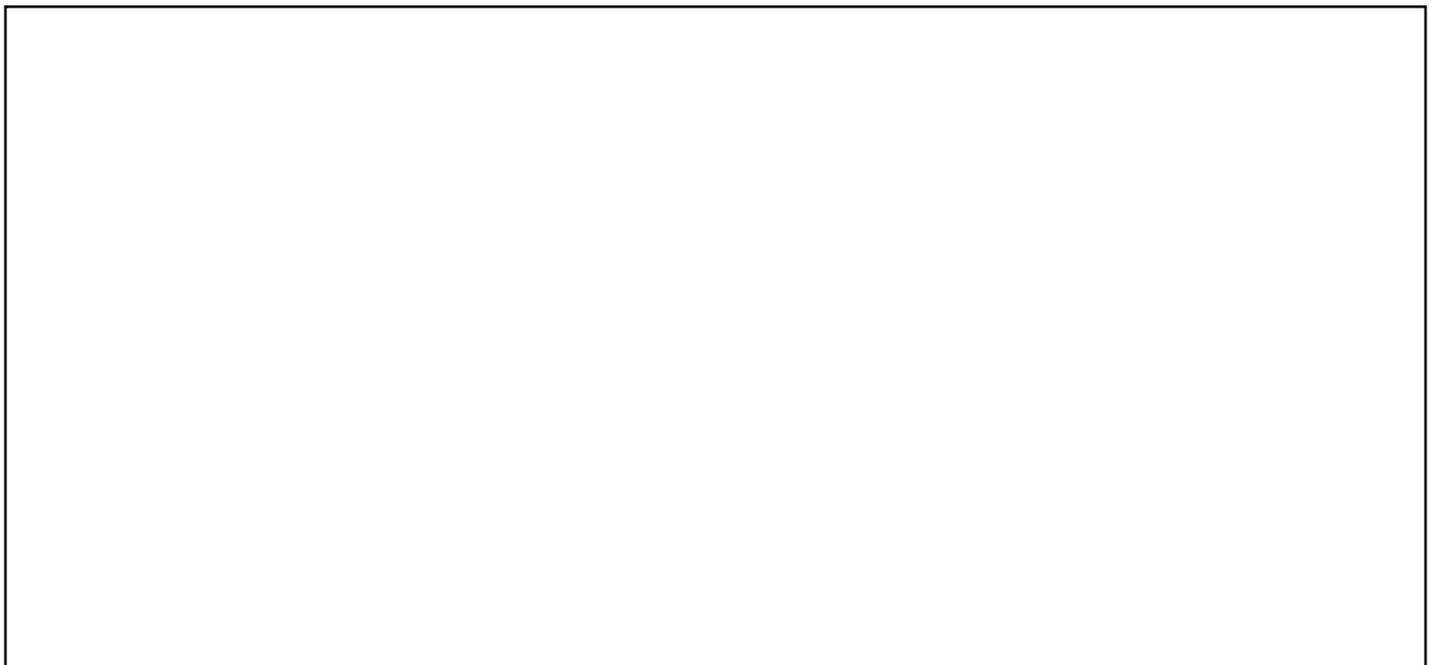
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## Sketch your ideas!



# SHEROES CONTINUED!



## SHAYVON McCULLUM

is a single mother of two children. She grew up in the 53206 neighborhood bouncing between many houses up and down Burleigh. Shayvon has worked in healthcare for 18 years, always making sure the RN's and Physicians have what they need to execute excellent patient care.

Shayvon has created programs for the un-insured and under-insured patient population which help cut down patient re-admissions. Working three jobs at any given time and still being the soul caregiver to two growing children.

## ITZEL HERNANDEZ

Originally from Havana, Cuba, she began training at the Escuela Provincial de Ballet Alejo Carpentier. At age 12, she moved to the United States and earned a full scholarship at the Orlando Ballet School under Peter Stark, where she performed as Clara in Bruce Mark's "The Nutcracker". Hernandez has been contributing to the Milwaukee community for the past six years through many of the programs offered by the Milwaukee Ballet.

She teaches the Glissade (means to glide) wheel-chair class in the "Tour de Force Program", which constitutes in a multi-level program that allows children with a range of abilities to try ballet for the first time in collaboration with the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.



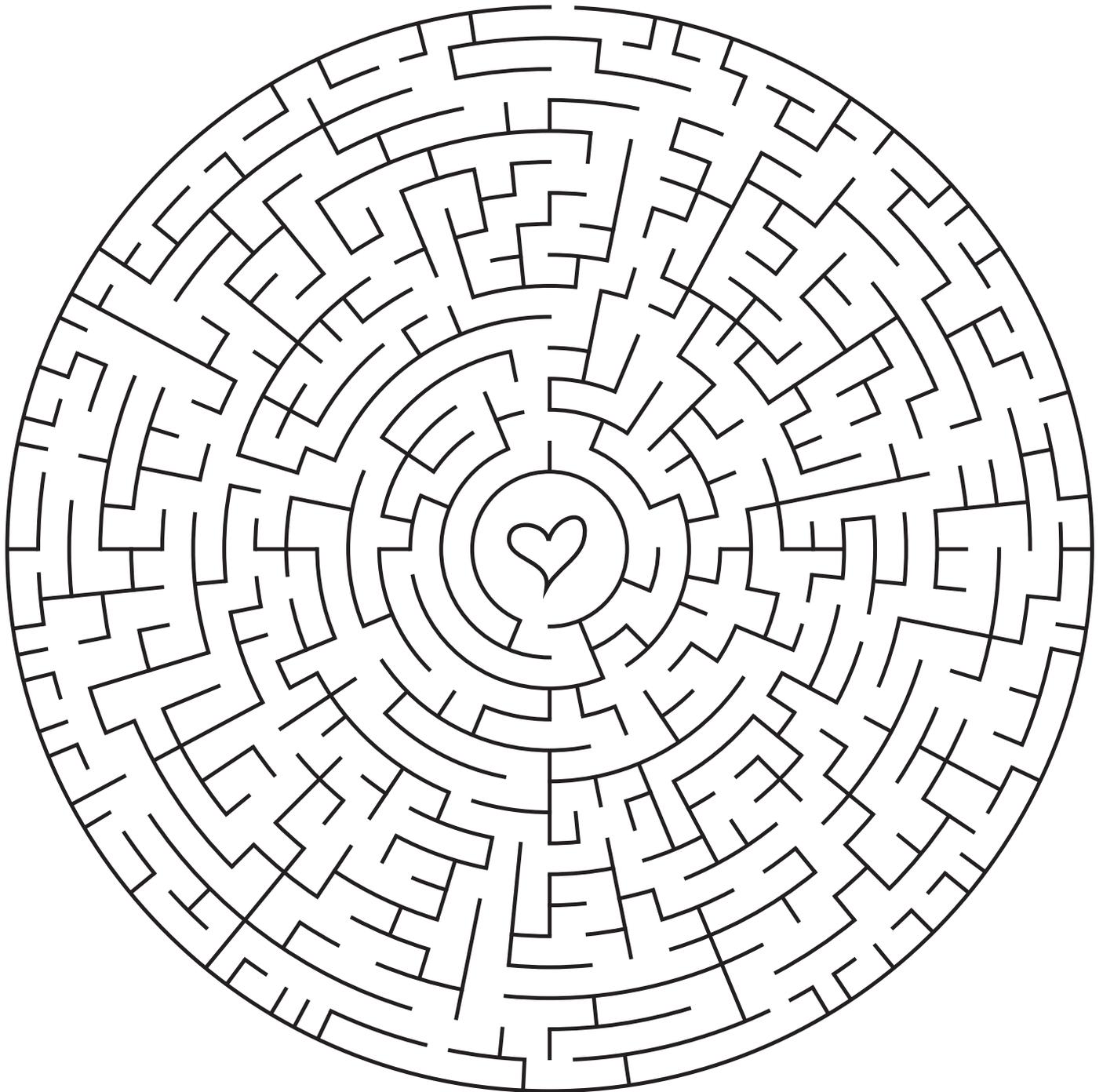
## KAI GARDNER MISHLOVE

She has a long history of advocating for various marginalized and vulnerable communities via her long history of medical and legal services case management. Kai is currently employed as the Program Coordinator of Refugee Health and Social Services at Advocate Aurora, the Milwaukee Community Engagement Director for EDOT and a co-facilitator for Nurturing Diversity Partners. She volunteers and develops projects extensively with refugee, immigrant and differently abled populations. Kai's collaborations include the "Tables Across Borders", a global pop up dining experience highlighting the cuisines of refugee communities resettled in the Milwaukee area and more.



# FIND YOUR WAY TO THE HEART OF YOUR COMMUNITY, LIKE A SHERO!

START HERE



# NOMINATE YOUR SHERO

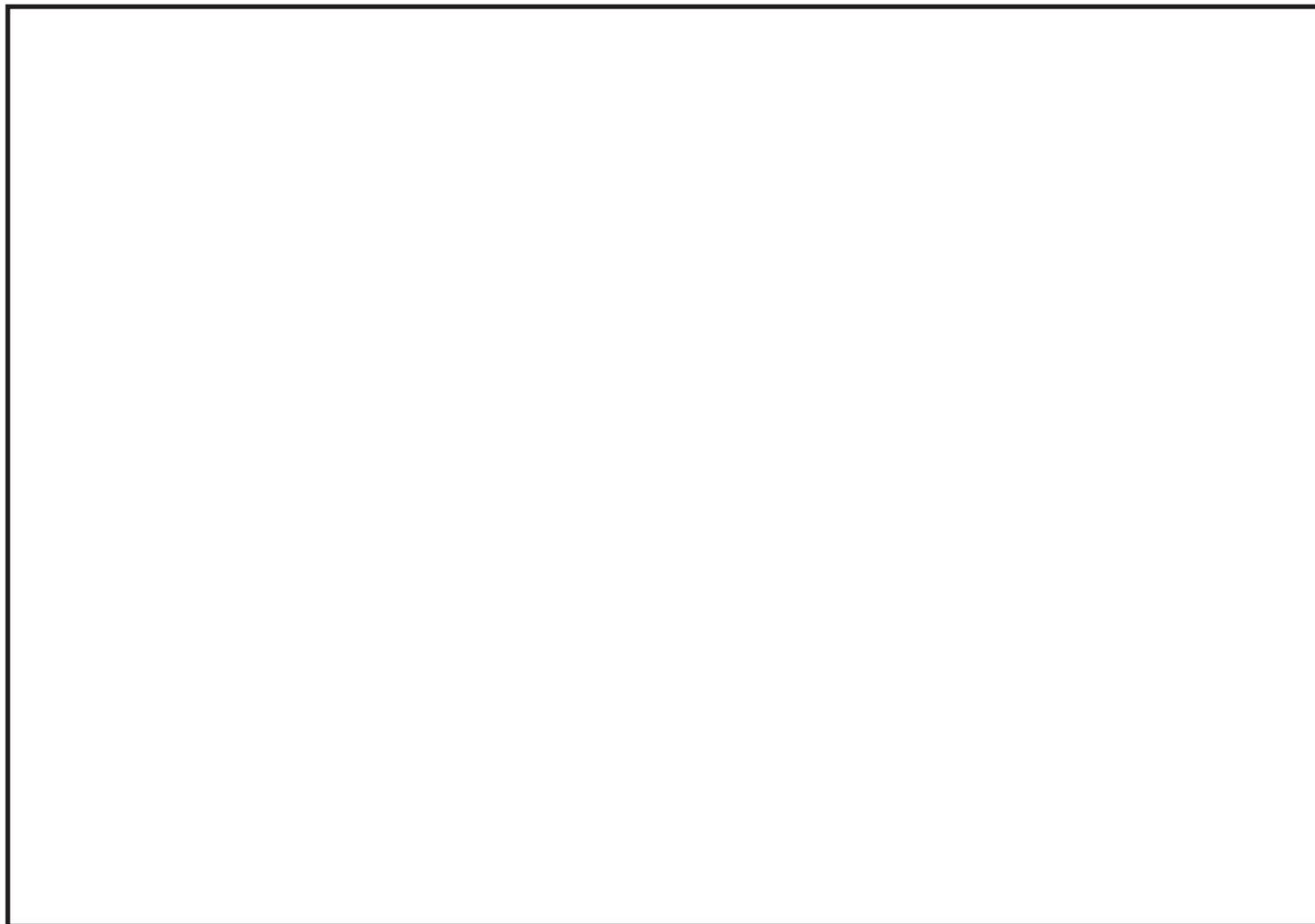
Every week of during the run of *Eclipsed*, Milwaukee Rep highlighted the work of three individual women\* of color who are fighting for the betterment of the community as a Milwaukee SHERo. We had over 100 nominations from the community and selected 12 amazing women who are featured in this activity book.

*Is there someone in your life that has been your SHERo?*

Below, nominate someone who you feel is fighting for the betterment of your life and community in Milwaukee. Draw a picture and tell us why they are a SHERo!

Email your nomination to [amatson@milwaukeeep.com](mailto:amatson@milwaukeeep.com) to have a chance to be featured on Inside Rep Education Facebook page!

**DRAW/NOMINATE YOUR SHERO HERE!**



**\*Women/she - We recognize the limiting nature of the binary use of women. We are explicit in being radically inclusive to those on the gender spectrum who claim identities outside of that binary; trans, non-binary, gender non-conforming, gender queer/fluid are always welcome.**