



**YOUR
WORLD
ON
STAGE**

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Leading the Way in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access and Mentorship

Diversity, Inclusion, Equity

Victory Gardens (VG) cultivates new theatrical work as well as ethnically and culturally diverse playwrights from Chicago and beyond that represent a multiplicity of form, culture and perspective. We celebrate the diversity of our world-class city by developing and producing new plays that reflect its distinctive cultures, challenge audiences, inspire dialogue and civic engagement, and are open to all. Diversity, equity and inclusion are manifest across the organization—from the artists and art on our stages, to the staff, our Board of Directors and audiences.

Playwrights Ensemble

Victory Gardens develops and produces new plays from its Ensemble Playwrights through readings, workshops and productions, and provides necessary resources to further cultivate their individual voices and craft. Through their seven year residencies, the playwrights are involved in the artistic life of the theater. During that time, the playwrights also engage audiences throughout Chicago’s diverse communities and participate in Victory Gardens educational and community programs. After the residency concludes, the playwrights will join the Alumni, whereby they will maintain an artistic relationship with Victory Gardens.

Directors Inclusion Initiative

This initiative, started in the 2015/2016 season, aims to encourage and develop talented and emerging Chicago stage directors who identify as people of color, disabled, women, transgender, gender non-conforming and LGBTQ. We continue our commitment to cultivate a new generation of diverse stage directors who create dynamic theater work from their unique points of view. Selected candidates will have the opportunity to assistant direct one of the five mainstage productions each season.

Next Generation Fellowship

The Next Generation Fellowship is a professional development program for rising career persons of color interested in theater leadership. The Fellowship will work to develop individuals who are the future of theatre. Through hands-on experience, mentorship, and career-guidance, Fellows will be given tools to become our next generation of arts leaders and managers.

Resident Theater Program

Through the Resident Theater Program, we aim to be an incubator for existing storefront theatres in Chicago and further each company’s growth and stability. We are seeking opportunities to collaborate with the resident companies on key projects while maintaining their respective missions and aesthetic identities. During their multi-year residency, Victory Gardens will give each company a physical home to nurture its audience base, develop its respective board, and fully realize the next phases of its own strategic plan.

Access

With 25 years of access services and artistic programming, The Access Project strives to celebrate the richness of disability culture both on and off the stage. The Access Project is a nationally recognized model outreach effort designed to involve people with disabilities in all aspects of theater.

Internships

The Victory Gardens Theater internship program offers exciting opportunities for students and young professionals to gain hands on experience working side-by-side with extraordinary artists, administrators and technicians.

