



# SOULARDARITY

Organizing for Infrastructure in Highland Park, MI

Cast your vote for Soulardarity's 2017-2018 Board! **You must be a Soulardarity member whose dues are paid in full in order to vote.** Each member has one vote for each available board position. Please read the candidate statements and go to the final page to cast your vote.



**Reg Flowers**-Reg Flowers began his career as a theater artist, on and off-Broadway, with several guest starring television appearances. He is founder of Falconworks Theater Company a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) that uses popular theater techniques to build capacities for civic engagement and social change. He received the 2005 BAX10 Award for Arts Education. He is a faculty member at Pace University. As a community activist and organizer, Reg supports several community development projects including the New York City Worker Cooperative Development Initiative and coalition building in Detroit, MI. He specializes in Theater of The Oppressed (TO) facilitation, often in collaboration with Theater of the Oppressed Laboratory and foremost TO practitioner Julian Boal. Reg is a regular panelist at the NYC's Left Forum and offers workshops throughout NYC and Detroit to both English- and Spanish-speaking communities. Reg Flowers is a graduate of University of the Arts where he received his BFA and also holds an MFA from Yale School of Drama. He currently splits his time between Detroit, MI and Brooklyn, NY.

I have enjoyed being engaged with Soulardarity and helping to shift thinking about access to power in the many senses one might take the term. When I

moved to Detroit I was committed to finding ways to make my own life and by extension the lives of others in my community more sustainable by learning to conserve and reuse the resources to which we have been granted access and also finding new ways to harness energy, be it from wind, solar, water or the human resource of those in our community. Soulardarity to me represents that desire put into action. I feel I have skills, will and thought power to offer the organization, but am certain I will grow and learn from being a part of this amazing organization.

**Jeremy Orr**-Jeremy Orr is a civil rights and environmental justice lawyer for the Detroit-based law firm Pierson McNichols. Formerly, Jeremy worked as the Environmental Justice Coordinator for the Transnational Environmental Law Clinic at Wayne State University Law School where he collaborated with the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center to address numerous local, statewide, and federal environmental issues. In that role, Jeremy also served as the statewide coordinator for the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition –a statewide coalition advocating for state and federal environmental justice laws and policies. Prior to joining the Transnational Environmental Law Clinic, Jeremy was the Executive Director of the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council where he led regional efforts to improve environmental and public health through renewable energy, sustainability, green transportation, river protection and restoration, and stormwater management. Jeremy is a member of the American Bar Association's Civil Rights and Social Justice section where he sits on the Environmental Justice committee and is involved in numerous environmental and energy equity efforts. I believe that Energy Justice is just as much a valid social justice issue as any other issues that our community faces. I have worked in the realm of environmental law and justice for a number of years and have increasingly seen the adverse health and financial impacts that we suffer from when we lack access to clean, affordable energy sources. I got into environmental advocacy because I recognized the need for minority representation in the field, as my community generally was not a part of the decision-making process, yet disproportionately shouldered the burden of undesirable outcomes. As I dug deeper into this work, I further realized that the narrow realms of energy and sustainability were in even more dire need of active involvement from communities of color and low-to-moderate income communities. Understanding this, as a Midtown Detroit resident, it would be my honor to aid my neighbors in Highland Park as they seek to educate and organize around people-powered clean energy that results in a "just and equitable system for all."



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## **Cheryl Sanford**

Cheryl Sanford is a workforce development professional with over 25 years of experience serving the Highland Park community. Cheryl is currently the Regional Manager for the Highland Park Michigan Works Service Center which provides workforce development services for employers and job seekers. She serves on various boards including the Highland Park Business Association and is also a proud resident of Highland Park. Cheryl has Project management qualifications include developing and managing large scale hiring projects for companies. She is highly effective at developing strategic partnerships with employers, educational institutions and community based organizations Cheryl was received her Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from Michigan State University. Cheryl Sanford is affiliated with the Highland Park Business Association, the Wayne Metro Community Action Agency Head start Policy Committee, Governor's Leadership Steering Committee and U.S Basics Board. "I am committed to revitalizing my community by developing partnerships to leverage all available resources to make Highland Park a better place to live, work and do business."

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**Minister Ricardo A. Smith (Pastor Rick)**-Minister Ricardo A. Smith or Pastor Rick as he is affectionately known and referred to, has sat under the spiritual tutelage of his biological and spiritual father, Saint Richard A. Smith, since birth. He has also been blessed to be reared by a mother who dedicated her life to the Public-school System, for 45 plus years. Additionally Pastor Rick is a dedicated husband and father. Although, Pastor Rick has formed strong relationships, with like-minded individuals throughout the city of Highland Park, Detroit, and the community abroad, Prayer Temple Of Love Cathedral has always been his home. He has been committed to ministry since his youth. Pastor Rick was ordained as a minister on May 6, 2012 and elevated to youth pastor of Prayer Temple Of Love Cathedral, where he worked diligently with the youth. With much prayer and continued guidance from his spiritual and biological father Pastor Rick was elevated to assistant pastor of Prayer Temple Of Love Cathedral on June 19, 2016. Recently Pastor Rick has expanded his ministry beyond the four walls of the church, and has developed a strong passion for building the community. Not only is Pastor Rick a man of God, but he is also a man for the people. With the help of God, and his favorite scripture to reflect upon, Pastor Rick will continue making great strides for the church and the community. " Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not on Thy own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your path". Proverbs 3:5-6 Light is a sign of hope and life. Anything I can do to help ensure stability to the Re-birth of Highland Park is a honor and privilege.





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## **Nathaniel M. Zorach**

Nat Zorach is an urban development and sustainability professional living and working in Detroit. After graduating from Grinnell College in Iowa, Nat worked in rural economic development before moving to North St. Louis for a residency with Chicago-based conceptual artist Theaster Gates on community arts projects. Following the residency, he moved into affordable housing development, working with a number of partners to convert long-vacant homes back into occupancy and save homeowners from tax foreclosure, working in St. Louis and later in the Chicago area. In Detroit, Nat has provided consulting in finance, construction, and planning for private equity clients in mixed-use real estate development, and, in March of 2017, left a job with Southwest Housing, where he was responsible for the management of partnership housing development programs. He has also contributed to policy, through the Detroit Climate

Action Plan's Homes and Neighborhoods toolkit, attended the SISE2014 forum at the University of Illinois at Chicago on urban energy, and was a 2016 POCACITO Fellow, working to facilitate transatlantic professional exchange on sustainable urban planning. As a resident of the city of Detroit with a longstanding career interest in the role of sustainability in community development, I am interested in working toward Soulardarity's goals of building resilient and sustainable communities. Having worked both in the private sector, the nonprofit sector, and in the development and management of public-private partnerships for housing and economic development, I am well-suited to help guide organizational and program development, especially within the context of Soulardarity's mission. I look forward to the opportunity to join the board and support your important work.