

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SERIES:: THE SISTERHOOD

*"Some people don't even
see us as human."*

-Chicago mother grieving her son

UNSILENCEvoices

Unsilence Voices: The Sisterhood is a community-based initiative designed to spark a national dialogue with brave mothers in Chicago who have lost a child to senseless gun violence.

Renowned artist and educator, Cecil McDonald, will capture the lived truths of these mothers and their journeys through grief, activism, and healing. A culminating interactive exhibition will engage the public in crucial conversations around the intersections of race, violence, media narratives, and collective trauma. A web-based digital version of the exhibition and educational materials will be disseminated to classrooms and communities around the country.

www.unsilence.org



THE CHALLENGE

2,758 people were shot in Chicago last year. Gun violence in Chicago disproportionately affects black and brown communities, particularly, young black men. Their humanity is questioned and their stories go untold.

THE SOLUTION

Amplify their stories through:

- Artist partnerships with underrepresented, grieving mothers to document and lift their authentic voices;
- Interactive experiences (live and digital) to engage local and national audiences in crucial and difficult conversations around gun violence; and
- New public narratives grounded in deep investigation and documentation, representing the full humanity of marginalized voices.

LONG-TERM IMPACT

As the inaugural program in our Unsilence Voices series, we envision this project serving as a model for future collaborations to engage the public in addressing critical issues within society. These collective dialogues are essential to challenging public misconceptions and ingrained prejudices, creating empathetic solutions and dismantling the institutional, cultural, and personal forms of silencing that perpetuate these tragedies. Through community support and collaboration, we will create lasting solutions for social change and community safety.

A PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE

The Sisterhood is a nonprofit organization of mothers whose children have been killed by senseless violence and serve as an action/support group for each other. The Sisterhood focuses on empowering mothers to grieve healthily through meetings, social gatherings, outreach, civil events, and annual retreats. The Sisterhood desires to be a voice for their children and all people that have been affected by senseless violence.

Unsilence is a Chicago-based national nonprofit organization that works directly with communities to unsilence injustices through storytelling, the arts, and game design. In all of our programming, we work to facilitate tough conversations, provide platforms for participants to give voice to untold stories, and give communities the tools to take action for lasting social change.

UNSILENCE
Unsilence is a national 501(c)(3)