

Biography: Dr. Rahsaan Harris



Dr. Rahsaan Harris is the CEO of CitizensNYC, a nonprofit founded during New York City’s fiscal crisis of the 1970s to help New Yorkers —especially those in low-income areas— come together and improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

Dr. Harris has more than 20 years of experience leading nonprofits and international grantmaking, partnering with communities to make local investments and promote community improvement. He is a transformative leader and role model who has been a New York City public school teacher, board member of various Harlem-based organizations, devoted Big Brothers Big Sister mentor, and Peace Corps environmental education volunteer in South America. He received his doctorate in Public and

Urban Policy from the New School, where his dissertation was on understanding how socio-economic diversity in the African-American community affects their philanthropic interests. He also holds a Master in Management and High School Science Education from New York University and Columbia, respectively, and a Bachelor of Arts from Princeton University.

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We want everyone to have economic opportunity. We want people to be well - mind, body, and spirit. If we can find a way to take that energy and work together, we can make a difference. Using our platforms and the voices of our grantee partners to spread that message and their vision of New York City to create understanding and togetherness - I think that is the opportunity in this “George Floyd moment.”

Dr. Rahsaan Harris, CEO Citizens Committee for New York City

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