

Porché Hardy

Arts Advocate

Porché is an arts administrator and philanthropic professional who brings deep expertise and experience working with teams in both government and non-profits to develop programs to help build a stronger arts sector and a more equitable pathway to social change through arts funding and sector leadership. Her work bridges arts organizations and arts education.

She has served with the largest arts funder in New Jersey, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, where, as the Program Officer for Arts Education and Performing Arts Presenters, she was responsible for leveraging \$3 million of state and federal funds statewide to help ensure vibrant and healthy communities through investments in the sustainability and innovation of arts education and performing arts organizations.

Notable accomplishments during Porché's work in New Jersey include redeveloping a statewide Arts Education Professional Development plan for New Jersey teachers and teaching artists and advocating for and executing the expansion of the Americans for the Arts Diversity in Arts Leadership Internship into the state.

Prior to joining New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Porché was the Assistant Director of the Institute of Music for Children in Elizabeth, NJ, where she was responsible for the operations of the organization's major initiatives: The After School Institute, The Summer Institute, The Youth Leadership Institute, Teen Arts Night and The Community Institute.

She began her career at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, completing her tenure there as the Associate Director for Arts Training, where she was responsible for the programmatic management and development of performing arts training initiatives.

Porché is also a singer, actress, and coach who has spent over fifteen years combining her love of performing on stage with her passion for arts advocacy, equity in the arts, financial wellness, and public policy. She is an alumna of the William Esper Studio, The Council of Urban Professionals, the Victoria Emerging Leadership Program, and Leadership Newark. She has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and serves on the steering committee for the NJ Arts & Culture Administrators of Color Network; has served on the Membership Committee of the Council of NJ Grantmakers, and Steering Committee for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) Arts Education Working Group. An active member of her community, Porché served as the President of the Urban League of Essex County Young Professionals.