



Marsalis L. Hammons

Marsalis Hammons is a resilient leader, speaker, and artist. Hammons, being a first generation college student and having an upbringing in Elyria, Ohio, was inspired to start an organization that would lead others towards opportunities to make a positive change within their community. In 2018, Hammons founded Leaders of Today Inc., a registered 501-(c) 3 non-profit organization whose mission is to provide high school students with tools and resources to promote positive leadership in the classroom, locker room, and community.

Hammons earned his bachelor's degree from Cleveland State University in August 2018 where he double majored in marketing and human resources, and minored in Black Studies. Hammons has supported companies in various sectors such as for-profit and nonprofit; currently he is taking part in The Cleveland Foundation Public Service Fellowship in which he is working for Cleveland Metropolitan School District's (CMSD) Human Resource Department. As a Cleveland Foundation Fellow, Hammons supports recruitment, on-boarding, and manages a district-wide employee resource group named Men of Color Shaping Academics (MOCHA) designed to recruit and retain more men of color educators within CMSD.

Hammons co-designed a marketing and engagement strategy for the MOCHA initiative and co-authored a \$28,000 grant received from the Ohio Department of Education within his first month on the job.

Through diverse work experiences, Hammons has built skills in brand design, program development, grant writing, and public speaking. Overall, his up-bringing in Elyria has inspired him to pursue a career in urban planning & community development in order to improve the quality of life and equitable access for underserved residents in Elyria and Lorain. Hammons' is currently earning a Master's degree in Urban Planning and Development from Cleveland State University where he is expected to graduate in spring 2022. Hammons currently serves on the United Way of Greater Lorain County board of directors' and is a devoted community servant who strives to live by the affirmation that we must "be the change that we want to see in our community."