

**Yusef Garcia**

For over 15 years, Yusef has been committed to helping build a more vibrant Chicago region through philanthropy and social impact. As Chief External Affairs Officer, Yusef and his team activate stakeholders with Forefront's work, deepen relationships through cultivating collaborative partnerships, and helping transfer power one relationship at a time. Prior to joining Forefront, Yusef led institutional fundraising and engagement strategies for organizations focused on public media, arts & culture, and human services. Yusef actively volunteers as a Board Member of AFC (AIDS Foundation of Chicago). In addition to his passion for convening partners, building relationships, and influencing social change, Yusef is a trained chef, having graduated from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. Yusef is a native of Chicago, amateur photographer, and lover of House Music. He and his husband live in the Uptown neighborhood with their two dogs.