Girls Inc. of Chicago’s newly created SheShines leadership recognition program highlights female leaders making a difference in the lives of Chicago girls. The 2019-2020 SheShines Honorees include rising stars across various industries - politics, education, architecture, music, and more - all of whom are inspiring girls to break down barriers and pursue their dreams.

The inaugural 2019-2020 SheShines Honorees include the following women:

**Angela Esposito**  
Senior Manager of Education and Experience  
*Chicago Architecture Center*

**Karen Foley**  
President and CEO  
*Juvenile Protective Association*

**Susan Sadlowski Garza**  
Alderman (10th Ward)  
*City of Chicago*

**Veronica Johnson**  
Co-Pastor  
*Hyde Park Union Church*

**Phaedra Leslie**  
Director of Business Relations and Economic Development  
*Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership*

**Leslie L. McKinney**  
Director  
*Black Women in Science and Engineering*

**Whitney Morrison**  
Soprano Performer  
*Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center*

**Lindrea Reynolds**  
Founder  
*Next Level Brand Behavior*

According to Girls Inc. of Chicago CEO Arshele Stevens, SheShines, which underscores the notion that representation matters, was inspired by the adage “if you can see it, you can be it”. The award, Stevens said, “shines a bright light on Chicago’s brightest up-and-coming
female leaders who are making a difference in our city.” Stevens further explained that honorees are changemakers whose stories of creating and opening doors of opportunity for girls have previously been untold.

SheShines Honorees will be recognized at a panel event during Women's History Month on March 31, 2020 starting at 8:30 a.m.

The local affiliate of the national Girls Inc. nonprofit organization, Girls Inc. of Chicago was established in 2017. The organization provides school-based and out-of-school programming to more than 600 elementary and high school girls across Chicago. The organization’s initiatives, Firefighter for a Day, Take Our Daughters to Congress Day, #StrongSmartBold Summer Camp, Bold Girls Society, and more inspire Chicago girls to become strong, smart, and bold.

For more information or to attend the SheShines event, please contact Lindsay Bartlett at lindsayb@girlsincofchicago.org and 312-761-3847.