

Eric B. Johnson, CFRE

Executive Director, Open Books

Eric Johnson joined Open Books as Executive Director in November 2018. Eric most recently served as the Senior Director of Philanthropic Partnerships with Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL), a national organization focused on closing the academic achievement gap among pre-K–8th grade students through evidence-based, out-of-school-time programs. Prior to BELL, he served as the Director of Development and Capacity at the Illinois Network of Charter Schools (INCS), Chief Development Officer at the Golden Apple Foundation, and the Director of Development and Communication for the Inner-City Teaching Corps, now known as the Accelerate Institute.

Eric began his career as an AmeriCorps member with City Year in Seattle, where he led a team of full-time, volunteer corps members to provide after-school and Saturday service-learning programs for middle school youth. After completing his corps service, he served on the development teams with City Year's national headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts and with City Year Rhode Island in Providence.

An advocate of service and volunteerism, Eric continues to dedicate time to several organizations and initiatives. He currently serves as a Board member of the Chicago Brewseum and AFP Chicago, of which he is a past Board President; co-chair of the University of Virginia's Reunions 2019 Fundraising Committee; Steering Committee member of John J. Audubon Elementary School's PTO; and support team member with The Honeycomb Project, with which his family volunteers regularly.

Eric received his B.A. in Sociology at the University of Virginia, his M.S. in Learning & Organizational Change at Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy, and his Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) credential. He lives in the Roscoe Village neighborhood of Chicago with his wife, Anissa, and two daughters, Ella and Isla.