



COOK COUNTY COMMISSION ON SOCIAL INNOVATION



ALDERWOMAN MARIA HADDEN

Maria Hadden is the Alderwoman of the 49th Ward. Maria is one of the first Black Aldermen on the north side of the city as well as the first openly gay women of color on Chicago's City Council. In addition to the Progressive Caucus, Ald. Hadden sits on the Chicago Aldermanic Black Caucus, the Women's Caucus, and the LGBT Caucus. Previously, Maria was the Executive Director of Our City Our Voice, a nonprofit organization supporting civic engagement processes for transformative social justice. Maria is a founding board member of the Participatory Budgeting Project and, from 2010 – 2018, led their technical assistance work in the Midwest and Southern United States.

She earned her B.A. in International Peace and Conflict Studies from The Ohio State University before moving to Illinois to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA. Maria's interests in community voice and the role of civil society were the focus on her graduate studies at DePaul University, where she earned an M.S. in International Public Service Management. Maria serves on the board of directors for Voqal, and she lives with her partner and their two dogs in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood.