



# DANCE | U S A

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 17-19 2020

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CONFERENCE  
GUIDE 2020

# In Memoriam Marcus White

May 17, 1988 – May 14, 2020



Founder and Creative Director of White Werx &  
Assistant Professor of Dance at the School of Film,  
Dance and Theatre at Arizona State University.

Dance/USA Board Trustee.

(Detroit, MI & Tempe, AZ)

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# DANCE/USA VISION & MISSION

Propelled by our belief that dance can inspire a more just and humane world, Dance/USA will amplify the power of dance to inform and inspire a nation where creativity and the field thrive.

Dance/USA champions an inclusive and equitable dance field by leading, convening, advocating, and supporting individuals and organizations. Dance/USA's core programs are focused in the areas of engagement, advocacy, research, and preservation.

## **Engagement.**

Dance/USA engages and activates its network through meaningful programs, convenings, and educational opportunities.

## **Advocacy.**

Dance/USA advocates for the increased visibility of, and engagement in, dance and for government policies that positively impact the dance field on a national, regional, and local level.

## **Research.**

Dance/USA provides rigorous, relevant, and accessible research on the dance field.

## **Preservation.**

Dance/USA provides resources and programs to advance the archiving and preservation of America's dance legacy.



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# DANCE/USA CORE VALUES

## **Creativity**

Creativity inspires change. Dance/USA values our nation's creative capacity and artistry to imagine and build a world we have never encountered and deeply desire.

## **Connectivity**

Dance/USA strives to be a catalytic network enlivened by connection, community, and collaboration. We value calling people in as a practice of leading, listening, learning, and deepening our impact.

## **Equity**

Through the lens of equity, Dance/USA strives to remove the boundaries erected by a legacy of racism, classism, ableism, ageism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, gender bias, and xenophobia and we work to dismantle institutional and systemic oppression that attack the dance field's progress, impede the creation of work, and negatively impact dance audiences and communities.

## **Integrity**

Integrity is critical to our organizational culture and the way we lead, serve, and collaborate with the dance field. We seek to provide transparency about our internal processes, professional resources, and information about the field.

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# ABOUT THE DANCE/USA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Now more than ever, the dance professionals of our nation must unite to discuss and discover, reflect and reimagine, and exchange ideas to repair and rebuild our field. As with our prior Annual Conferences, this reconceptualized virtual model will allow attendees to invest in themselves, their organization, and the future of dance. Together, attendees of the Dance/USA Virtual Conference will uncover innovative approaches to mutual questions, share and access new resources and strengthen relationships among fellow dance professionals in order to create a more unified and sustainable field for the dancers of tomorrow.



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## DAILY EVENTS

Virtual Sessions

Movement Classes

Networking Opportunities

Virtual Happy Hours

# CODE OF CONDUCT

Dance/USA is dedicated to making all members of the dance community feel welcome and safe during our annual convening. Dance/USA is committed to honoring, nurturing, and advancing dance through the lens of diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity in all aspects of its programming, services, and organization. We encourage dancemakers attending Dance/USA events and programs to be sensitive to and aware of issues of equity, inclusion, and diversity.

We are dedicated to providing a safe and harassment-free experience for ALL involved in the Dance/USA Annual Conference. Harassment or offensive behavior (which may include slurs, epithets, sexual advances, discrimination, demeaning comments, exclusion from participation, comments on appearance or disability, threats) will not be tolerated. If you find yourself in a situation where you feel your safety is at risk, or you bear witness to unacceptable behavior, please immediately contact a Dance/USA staff member ([annualconference@danceusa.org](mailto:annualconference@danceusa.org)), Dance/USA Executive Director Amy Fitterer ([afitterer@danceusa.org](mailto:afitterer@danceusa.org)) or Dance/USA Board Chair Malik Robinson ([malik@cleoparkerdance.org](mailto:malik@cleoparkerdance.org)). Dance/USA will investigate all incidents reported with discretion, confidentiality, and urgency. Dance/USA reserves the right to revoke, without refund, access to the Annual Conference and/or Dance/USA membership.

**We invite you to participate in the Virtual Conference with open-mindedness, professional integrity, honesty, curiosity, and respect.**



# BLACK LIVES MATTER

## **Black.Lives.Matter.**

Dance/USA stands in solidarity with our fellow Black administrators, Trustees, supporters, audience members, and allies who bring beauty, joy, friendship, and love into our lives. We see you. We value you. We grieve with you. And we demand justice right alongside you.

Our dance industry and our country are in tremendous pain. A global pandemic has threatened our most basic human needs of physical and mental health, employment, food, and shelter. Racism, bigotry, and xenophobia are running rampant in our national policies. Anti-Asian racism continues to escalate during COVID-19 and Indigenous communities are being disproportionately affected by the coronavirus. And now we have witnessed, once again, more senseless, and heartbreaking murders of innocent lives. We mourn the recent murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor. We mourn Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, Philando Castile, Alton Sterling, Walter Scott, Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, Eric Garner, and the countless others on and off-camera whose skin color alone made them twice as likely to die at the hands of those who take an oath to protect and serve. We call on our local, state, and national leaders to join us in actively opposing all forms of hatred, the institutions that continue to uphold injustice, as well as the mechanisms and the individuals who perpetuate it.

## **Dance/USA's Commitment to Addressing White Supremacy Culture**

This summer, Dance/USA will offer virtual national training(s) on white supremacy culture in the dance industry, open to all regardless of membership. The training will explore how white supremacy culture manifests and perpetuates in our industry and how we each can take constructive steps to counter it. Dance/USA will work with the organization [Service Never Sleeps](#), previously confirmed to lead a session at our 2020 Annual Conference in Denver, to help design and implement trainings for the Dance/USA staff, Board, and field.

During the Virtual Conference, Dance/USA will address white supremacy culture through various panels and sessions geared toward addressing inequity in our industry.

Dance/USA commits to unearthing how white supremacy culture shows up in our daily lives and to implementing the antidotes within our own organization as outlined by [Showing Up for Racial Justice](#).

## **Do The Work**

Dance is a powerful form of human expression that offers us healing, understanding, and hope. Even as we dance in social isolation, we are offering each other and the country inspiration, hope, and reflection through the work. The work is also just as much about the stage or studio as it is about the systems that support it. Amidst the hurt and righteous rage, we hold ourselves accountable to advance on our own equity journey – discarding antiquated racist systems – and accelerate action steps to make our dance world a more inclusive, equitable, and healthy industry.

Below is a list of resources for donations and ways to take immediate action:

- [National Bail Fund Network via the Community Justice Exchange](#)
- [NAACP Legal Defense Fund](#)
- [Communities United Against Police Brutality](#)
- [Black Lives Matter](#)
- [Movement for Black Lives](#)
- [Black Visions Collective](#)

## **Dance/USA Affirms our Vision, Mission, and Values**

At Dance/USA, we are propelled by our belief that dance can inspire a more just and humane world, and we work to champion an inclusive and equitable world. We value creativity, as creativity inspires change.

Dance/USA celebrates our nation's creative capacity and artistry to **imagine and build a world we have never encountered and deeply desire.**

**We value equity.** Through the lens of equity, Dance/USA strives to remove the boundaries erected by a legacy of racism, classism, ableism, ageism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, gender bias, and xenophobia and we work to dismantle institutional and systemic oppression that attack the dance field's progress, impede the creation of work, and negatively impact dance audiences and communities. **We value connectivity.** As Dance/USA strives to be a catalytic network enlivened by connection, community, and collaboration. **We value calling people in** as a practice of leading, listening, learning, and deepening our impact.

# DOWNLOAD THE 2020 CONFERENCE APP!

Conveniently access session information, speaker bios, schedules, and important messages from Dance/USA. The app's networking features let you connect directly with other Conference attendees.

SCAN THE QR CODE  
WITH YOUR PHONE TO  
DOWNLOAD IT EASILY!



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## THE APP IS AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING STORES:



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## CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



[@DanceUSAORG](https://www.facebook.com/DanceUSAORG)



[@DanceUSAORG](https://www.instagram.com/DanceUSAORG)



[@DanceUSAORG](https://twitter.com/DanceUSAORG)

[#DUSAvirtual](https://twitter.com/DanceUSAORG)

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# TECHNOLOGY TIPS

The Dance/USA Virtual Conference will be using different platforms to best facilitate different sessions throughout the conference.



## CONFERENCE SESSIONS:

Most sessions will be livestreamed to a website. You will be provided the links for each day's programming every morning of the conference. Please **do not share** ANY links with others in order to maintain security throughout the event. This website runs best on Google Chrome. If you experience any difficulties or return to the site after a break, please refresh the page.

## COFFEE/TEA HOURS:

Coffee/Tea Hours are opportunities to network with small groups (25 people or less) of dance professionals over Zoom. **Prior registration for these events is required.** Please refer to your email for more information on how to sign up for a Zoom meeting on June 18 and/or June 19. Below are additional tips and information about Zoom Meetings

In order to participate in a Zoom Meeting, you will need an internet connection, and a working microphone and webcam. When you arrive, you will enter a "Waiting Room," please wait, the meeting host will let you in soon. View this link [HERE](#) to understand Zoom controls specifically how to turn your video on/off, renaming your video, and how to chat. If you are unable to join the coffee/tea hours by video, a phone number will be provided to call in by phone.

## MOBILE APP:

- The Virtual Conference has its own Mobile App where you can receive updated information about the Conference, browse sessions and speaker information, and connect with other attendees.
- To download the app, go to your app store and search "Dance/USA Virtual Conference." If you are using the Google App Store, we recommend searching by 'Recent Apps.'
- Once you have downloaded the app, enter your name and email. **Make sure that you use the same email that was used to register for the conference.**
- After entering this information, you will be sent an email to set up your password. If you receive an error message when clicking on this link, please make sure that you **do not** select 'open in browser' and instead allow the link to be opened in the app.
- After setting up your password, you can update your account with a profile picture, connect your LinkedIn account, and check in to interact with other attendees.
- If you experience technical difficulties with the Mobile App, you can contact Guide Book directly at [support@guidebook.com](mailto:support@guidebook.com). If you have not heard back, please feel free to email us at [annualconference@danceusa.org](mailto:annualconference@danceusa.org).
- All computers that support a browser will be able to access the Guidebook service (Preferred browsers are Chrome, Firefox, Safari, and Edge). Mobile phones with iOS 11.0 or later and Android Version 5.0 or later are supported.
- Explore this [link](#) to learn about features in the app.

# SPECIAL THANKS

Dance/USA extends its sincere appreciation to the following for their support of the 2020 Virtual Conference;

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Platinum Sponsor



MDP PROGRAMS

Welcome Sponsor

IADMS International Association for Dance Medicine & Science



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ENDOWMENT  
for the  
**ARTS**  
arts.gov

This project is supported  
in part by the National  
Endowment for the Arts.

## MONDAY | JUNE 15

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM EST

### Dance/USA Institute for Leadership Training (DILT)

Participants of the 2020 Dance/USA Institute for Leadership training will meet during the Virtual Conference.

DILT was piloted in 2011 at the recommendation of the Dance/USA Emerging Leader Task Force to facilitate one-on-one relationships for networking and leadership development for dance professionals. The program was designed to enhance and refine the skills of early-career leaders within the dance field so that they may guide dance organizations through the future's challenges and shifting landscapes. With the guidance of an established, qualified mentor, mentees hone their management skills, as well as recognize and learn from personal strengths and weaknesses.

DILT Virtual Conference Seminar is by invitation only.

## TUESDAY | JUNE 16

11:00 PM – 4:00 PM EST

### Board of Trustees Meeting

Open only to Board Members and invited guests.

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM EST

### DFA Fellows Meeting

Open only to DFA Fellows and invited guests.

**\*All above meetings are Member ONLY**





12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EST

### Opening Welcome

Urban Bush Women & Amy Fitterer, Malik Robinson, Anne Huang

Opening Session

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM EST

### Mental and Physical Health During COVID-19 And Making Work Environments Safe

Moderator: Jennifer Stahl  
Speakers: Dr. Earl Turner, Dana Putnam Fonteneau, Jaamil Olawale Kosoko, Dr. Selina Shah, Danielle Hernandez, Virginia Johnson

Virtual Panel

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM EST

### Dance Break

Pamela Quinn

Movement Opportunity

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM EST

### Dance Performances: Planning & Preparing for the 2020-2021 Season

Moderator: Tara Aisha Willis  
Speakers: Sandy Garcia, Christopher K. Morgan, Ellen Walker, Indira Goodwine, & Tamica Washington-Milller

Virtual Panel

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM EST

### Open Space: An Artist Connectivity Series, Special Edition

Moderator: Shane Fernando  
Speakers: Anne Huang, Claudia Schreier, Assane Konte, & Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

As we move through this crisis together, this Connectivity Series serves as a platform for Dance Artists of Color to share their collective experiences pre-COVID-19 and design and navigate our path forward. The design of this “open connection space” is to create a casual, virtual platform for artists at all stages in their careers to engage in a dialogue about pressing issues affecting the field and dream about what our collective “next” can and will be. This special edition will involve the International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD), KMP Artists, Sheffield Global Arts (SGA), and Dance/USA.

Virtual Panel

Celebrate the first day of the  
virtual conference with us! ↓



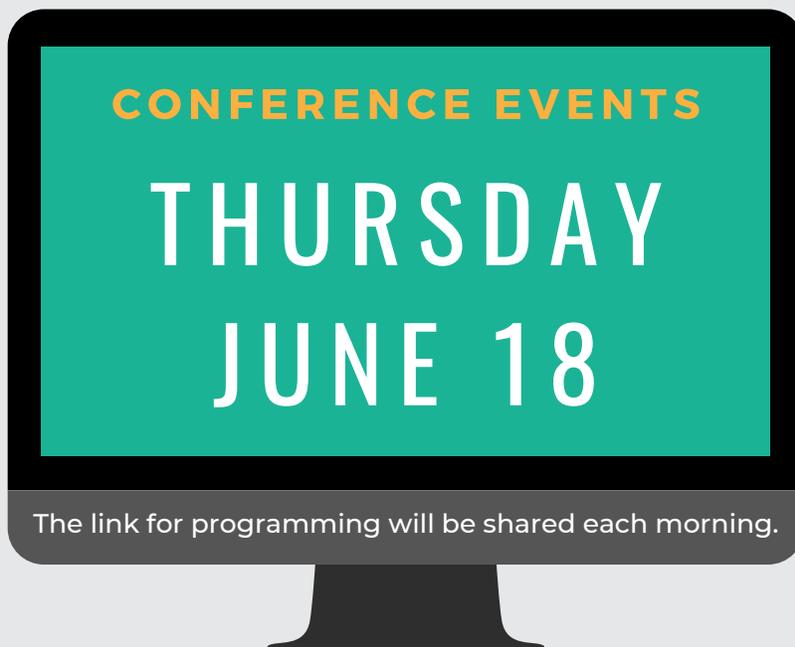
**DJ DANCE  
PARTY**

FEATURING

**The Illustrious Blacks**

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM EST





## 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM EST

### Coffee/Tea Hour

Participate in a morning conversation with dance professionals from across the country. Registration Required.

Networking Opportunity

## 11:30 AM – 11:40 AM EST

### Remarks with the National Endowment for the Arts Chairman

Mary Anne Carter

Virtual Webinar

## 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM EST

### The Virtual Dance World: Sharing and Making Dance During COVID-19 and Beyond

Moderator: Erik Gensler

Speakers: Abdo Sayegh-Rodriguez, Anna Glass, Corey Field, Lia Chiarelli, Lourdes Lopez, Rhett Williams Shead

Virtual Panel

## 2:00 PM – 2:15 PM EST

### Dance Break

Antoine Hunter

Movement Opportunity

## 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM EST

### Speaking from the Heart: Conversations on Art, Inequity, and Hope for Transformation, Part 1

Moderator: Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

Speakers: Edgar Villanueva, Alice Sheppard, Christy Bolingbroke, Sarah Crowell, Thaddeus Davis

Virtual Panel

## 4:30 PM – 5:00 PM EST

### Movement Class

Ananya Chatterjea

Movement Opportunity

## 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM EST

### Speaking from the Heart: Conversations on Art, Inequity, and Hope for Transformation, Part 2

Moderator: Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

Panelists: Iquail Shaheed, Laurel Lawson, & Sean Dorsey, Dena Stanley

Virtual Panel

GRAB A COCKTAIL AND JOIN  
#DANCE/USGAY!





# DANCE/USGAY

## HAPPY HOUR

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM EST

*All Are Welcome!*

#Dance/USGay has been a trending hashtag and a casual party that takes place during the in-person conference.

We are excited to bring this to the virtual platform to celebrate together.



10:00 AM – 11:00 AM EST

### Coffee/Tea Hour

Participate in a morning conversation with dance professionals from across the country. Registration required.

Networking Opportunity

12:30 PM – 2:30 PM EST

### Addressing Climate Change, Business Adaptation, & Community Togetherness

Moderator: John McCann

Panelists: Fahmida Ahmed Bangert, Kanyon Sayers-Roods, Colette Pichon Battle, Maria Luisa Colmenarez, Yvonne Montoya, & Kelly Tweeddale

Virtual Panel

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM EST

### Federal Advocacy During COVID-19

Speaker: Amy Fitterer & Dr. Michelle Ramos

Virtual Webinar

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM EST

### Movement Class

Patrick Makuakāne

Movement Opportunity

12:00 PM – 12:15 PM EST

### Dance Break

Vanessa Sanchez

Movement Opportunity

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM EST

### Celebration of Life

Speaker: Cleo Parker Robinson

Cleo Parker Robinson will offer us a Celebration of Life to close out the Virtual Conference.

Closing Session

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## MONDAY | JUNE 22

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM EST

### Dance Business Bootcamp

Dance Business Bootcamp is a workshop for independent artists, choreographers, and small-budget dance groups looking to accelerate their operations. The session is facilitated by Fractured Atlas, a national organization that empowers artists to succeed as entrepreneurs, in collaboration with Dance/USA.

#### The Workshop:

Planning In Uncertainty: Using Your Values to Make a Theory of Change It's extremely difficult to know what to do next when everything is uncertain. Regardless of the circumstance, however, one's values remain constant. How can you know what your values are? How do you use them to navigate uncertain conditions? This workshop will walk you through understanding and stating your values as well as implementing those values in developing strategic plans. This will provide some tools to figure where you're going even if the path is unclear.

**Sold Out**

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## TUESDAY | JUNE 23

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM EST

### Archiving & Preservation Workshop

#### Part 1: Archiving 101 from 1:00-3:30pm

Participants will be introduced to resources such as Dance/USA's free online Artist's Legacy Toolkit, and will learn the basics of understanding, organizing, preserving, and sharing their archives. Then, attendees will hear case studies of artists and dance companies that have successfully completed projects to preserve their archives and increase their visibility through archives-based exhibitions and programming.

**Sold Out**

#### Part 2: Break-Out Special Topics from 4:00-5:00pm

In small groups, attendees at all stages in their careers and any level of familiarity with archiving will have the opportunity to speak with professional archivists about topics such as digitizing videos, securely managing digital assets, getting started with an archiving project, and partnering with institutional archives and libraries. Bring your questions, goals, and projects, and make real progress in learning how to better manage the records of your work. Part 2 will be limited on a first-come, first-served basis. All Part 1 registrants will receive a follow-up email from Dance/USA after June 1st with the opportunity to register for a break-out topic.

**Sold Out**

# Opening Session



**Anne Huang**  
Executive Director  
World Arts West



**Amy Fitterer**  
Executive Director  
Dance/USA



**Chanon Judson**  
Artistic Director  
Urban Bush Women



**Malik Robinson**  
Executive Director  
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance



**Samantha Speis**  
Artistic Director  
Urban Bush Women



**Bennalldra Williams**  
Movement Coach  
Urban Bush Women

[READ MORE ABOUT  
THE SPEAKERS HERE](#)

# Mental and Physical Health During COVID-19 and Making Work Environments Safe



**Jennifer Stahl** **MODERATOR**

Editor in Chief, Dance Magazine



**Dana Putnam Fonteneau**

Founder & Executive Consultant  
Dana Fonteneau Consulting, LLC  
and The WholeHearted Musician



**Danielle Hernandez**

Director, Furman University  
Outreach Director, Event Safety Alliance



**Virginia Johnson**

Artistic Director  
Dance Theatre of Harlem



**Jaamil Olawale Kosoko**

Artistic Director  
Kosoko | Performance



**Dr. Selina Shah**

Sports Medicine Physician  
BASS Medical Group



**Dr. Earl Turner**

Licensed Psychologist/Assistant Professor  
Turner Psychological & Consulting Services,  
LLC/Pepperdine University

[READ MORE ABOUT  
THE SPEAKERS HERE](#)

# Dance Performances: Planning & Preparing for the 2020-2021 Season



**Tara Aisha Willis**

**MODERATOR**

Associate Curator in Performance  
& Public Practice  
Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago



**Sandy Garcia**

Director of Booking  
Pentacle



**Indira Goodwine**

Program Director, Dance  
New England Foundation for the Arts



**Christopher K. Morgan**

Executive Artistic Director  
Dance Place



**Tamica Washington-Miller**

Associate Director  
Lula Washington Dance Theatre



**Ellen Walker**

Executive Director  
Pacific Northwest Ballet

**READ MORE ABOUT  
THE SPEAKERS HERE**

# Open Space: An Artist Connectivity Series, Special Edition



**Shane Fernando** **MODERATOR**

Executive and Artistic Director  
Wilson Center



**Anne Huang**

Executive Director  
World Arts West



**Assane Konte**

Co-Founder & Artistic Director  
KanKouran West African Dance Company



**Claudia Schreier**

Choreographer in Residence  
Atlanta Ballet



**Jawole Willa Jo Zollar**

Vision Partner  
Urban Bush Women

[READ MORE ABOUT  
THE SPEAKERS HERE](#)

# The Virtual Dance World: Sharing and Making Dance During COVID-19 and Beyond



**Erik Gensler** **MODERATOR**

President, Capacity Interactive



**Lia Chiarelli**

Chief Marketing and Advancement Officer  
Pacific Northwest Ballet



**Corey Field**

Founder  
Corey Field Law Group, P.C.



**Anna Glass**

Executive Director  
Dance Theatre of Harlem



**Abdo Sayegh-Rodriguez**

Managing Director  
TU Dance



**Rhetta Williams Shead**

Director of Administration  
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance

[READ MORE ABOUT  
THE SPEAKERS HERE](#)

# Speaking from the Heart: Conversations on Art, Inequity, and Hope for Transformation, Part 1



**Jawole Willa Jo Zollar**

**MODERATOR**

Vision Partner, Urban Bush Women



**Christy Bolingbroke**

Executive/Artistic Director  
NCCAkron



**Sarah Crowell**

Artistic Director  
Destiny Arts Center



**Thaddeus Davis**

Co Director, Wideman/Davis Dance  
Associate Professor, University of South Carolina



**Alice Sheppard**

Artistic Director  
Kinetic Light



**Edgar Villanueva**

Author, Activist and Founder of  
the Decolonizing Wealth Project

**READ MORE ABOUT  
THE SPEAKERS HERE**

# Speaking from the Heart: Conversations on Art, Inequity, and Hope for Transformation, Part 1



Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

MODERATOR

Vision Partner, Urban Bush Women



Sean Dorsey

Artistic Director  
Fresh Meat Productions &  
Sean Dorsey Dance



Laurel Lawson

Dancer/Choreographer  
Kinetic Light/Full Radius Dance



Iquail Shaheed

Executive Artistic Director  
DANCE IQUAIL!



Dena Stanley

Founder  
Trans YOUning

READ MORE ABOUT  
THE SPEAKERS HERE

# Federal Advocacy During COVID-19



**Amy Fitterer**

**Executive Director  
Dance/USA**



**Dr. Michelle Ramos**

**Executive Director  
Alternative ROOTS**

**READ MORE ABOUT  
THE SPEAKERS HERE**

# Addressing Climate Change, Business Adaptation, & Community Togetherness



**John McCann** MODERATOR

President, Partners in Performance



**Fahmida Ahmed Bangert**

Director, Office of Sustainability  
Stanford University



**Colette Pichon Battle**

Executive Director  
Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy



**Maria Luisa Colmenarez**

Executive Director  
Danzantes Unidos



**Yvonne Montoya**

Director/Choreographer  
Safos Dance Theatre



**Kanyon Sayers-Roods**

Co-Founder and CEO  
Kanyon Konsulting LLC



**Kelly Tweeddale**

Executive Director  
San Francisco Ballet

[READ MORE ABOUT THE SPEAKERS HERE](#)

# Movement Artists



**Pamela Quinn**

Teacher, Choreographer; Founder  
PD Movement Lab



**Antoine Hunter**

Director & Founder  
Urban Jazz Dance Company/Bay Area  
International Deaf Dance Festival



**Ananya Chatterjea**

Artistic Director  
Ananya Dance Theatre



**Vanessa Sanchez**

Choreographer, Dancer, Educator  
La Mezcla



**Patrick Makuakāne**

Director  
Kumu Hula

All movement classes will be conducted by **2019-2020 Dance/USA Fellowships to Artists Fellows**. DFA addresses a decades-long issue in the dance field -- the importance of supporting individual artists. You can find out more about the Dance/USA Fellowships to Artists Program at [danceusa.org](http://danceusa.org).

**READ MORE ABOUT  
THE ARTISTS HERE**

# Closing Session



**Cleo Parker Robinson**

**Founder & Artistic Director  
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance**

**READ MORE ABOUT  
THE SPEAKER HERE**

## AGENTS, MANAGERS, PRODUCERS & PROMOTERS (AMPP) COUNCIL

2019-20 Council Chair Andrew Delicata, President and Partner, KMP Artists

The AMPP Council is discussing virtual engagement strategies and comparing data on what we know based on streamings done to date and determining how best to explore fee structures for such engagements. The Council is also considering how episodic and interactive content may bring communities into the artistic process, deepening virtual connectivity during and post-pandemic. We are seriously considering the ways dance artists and dance companies can and will deliver projects that might include a hybrid of in-person and virtual engagements.

Submitted by fellow Council member and Immediate Past Council Chair, Kristopher McDowell

## ARTISTIC DIRECTORS COUNCIL FOR MEMBER COMPANIES WITH BUDGETS OF \$3 MILLION AND GREATER

2019-20 Council Chair Victoria Morgan, artistic director, Cincinnati Ballet

For the Artistic Directors Council for dance companies at \$3M and greater, it has been difficult to not focus solely on the subject of Covid 19 with its various impactful ramifications. Protests in response to George Floyd's death were starting to light up our country just before our June 1 Meeting. During our conversation, we centered our on these topics:

- Survival without The Nutcracker and other creative options.
- Average decrease from typical budgets – most effective and least painful considerations.
- Board approval to pull from Endowment – not easy.
- What will our new reality be for our dancers and audiences?
- Streaming rights and royalties.
- Adaptive management and how can we change the art form – from privileged to more inclusive? What are those definitive steps?
- A desire for a shared Statement of Support for equity in our art form.

Submitted by Council Chair, Victoria Morgan

## ARTISTIC DIRECTORS COUNCIL FOR MEMBER COMPANIES WITH BUDGETS OF \$2.9 MILLION OR LESS

2019-20 Council Chair Linda Yudin, artistic director, Viver Brasil

During our Council's first call in November 2019 we exchanged ideas surrounding touring and new works being created in a variety of non-traditional spaces. In January 2020, our in-person Meeting focused on touring and its ever changing landscape with thoughtful input from special guests Indira Goodwine, Nikki Estes and Shoni Currier, each with their perspectives as a funders and presenters, discussing strategies and challenges for dance companies and a hard fact that all dance forms are not yet represented in this current and changing touring model.

## ARTISTIC DIRECTORS COUNCIL FOR MEMBER COMPANIES WITH BUDGETS OF \$2.9 MILLION OR LESS (CONTINUED)

The COVID-19 pandemic forced our field to adapt to a reality that literally changed weekly with the uncertainty that produced enormous stress and extraordinary creativity and empathy which we weathered together in weekly joint Council Calls with a common desire to survive.

Most recently, the Artistic Directors of companies with \$2.9M and less gathered to discuss and share practices on the topic: How are companies planning to continue existing in a virtual space for the next 6 months and envision the creation of new work in our new virtual reality? A robust discussion ensued with deep perspective, shared practices, and affirmed we are managing the present and the future with new resolve. Technology has now become a tool to serve as our dance studio, our stage, as a platform for fundraising opportunities so we may continue our commitment to our artists and to serving our communities with our DANCE. We must embrace technology, be nimble, engage our artists as collaborators to maintain our strength as dance makers with an unending resilience to survive creatively.

Submitted by Council Chair, Linda Yudin

## MANAGERS COUNCIL FOR MEMBER COMPANIES WITH BUDGETS OF \$15 MILLION AND GREATER

2019-20 Council Chair Greg Cameron, Executive Director, The Joffrey Ballet

Since mid-March our Council has had weekly meetings that have included company updates, discussions around specific topics, and now invited guests to offer expert counsel on shared concerns such as mental health, equity, protocols for returning to the dance studio, and streaming. A common theme from our very first ZOOM gathering was the health and safety of our teams – both artistic and administrative. We have used this as a lens for all our planning and decision-making.

In addition to health and safety we have offered professional and personal support to each other in areas of financial scenario building, revenue generation, and leading during an international healthcare, financial, and humanitarian crisis. Most currently, we will refocus and renew our commitment to acquiring the tools needed to move from intention to transformative anti-racist change, building on the work we have collectively committed to as participants in the Equity Project.

Submitted by Council Chair, Greg Cameron

## MANAGERS COUNCIL FOR MEMBER COMPANIES WITH BUDGETS FROM \$3-\$14.9 MILLION

2019-20 Council Chair Sue Porter, Executive Director, BalletMet

The predominant topics we have been discussing for weeks are:

- How can our dancers dance while maintaining social distancing?
- How are companies trying to program not knowing when they will have a venue to perform in?
- The health and safety for dancers and staff.
- What to do when a state or local government allows more contact than medical advice would suggest – What are the legal vs moral obligations?
- How will forgiveness of the Payroll Protection funds work?
- How to keep diversity initiatives at the forefront during COVID non-economic and economic challenges?

Submitted by Council Chair, Sue Porter

## MANAGERS COUNCIL FOR MEMBER COMPANIES WITH BUDGETS FROM \$750,000-\$2.9 MILLION

2019-20 Council Chair Abdo Sayegh Rodriguez, Managing Director, TU Dance

There are a total of 18 companies in our Council, and this member year, the Council welcomed a number of dance companies that were in the \$749K and below Council last member year. A sign of growth. It has been wonderful to have several speakers share their wisdom and expertise throughout the year, many of whom are Dance/USA members and part of Dance/USA's Board of Trustees.

In response to the pandemic crisis, many in the Council have participated in the weekly joint Council Calls. During these calls, we acknowledged for some that the effects have been devastating. Conversations about adaptability and what the future looks like are critical. Members have shared great resources with an overwhelming feeling of support and optimism, yet the overall feeling is that we are all in survival mode.

On a personal note, I have been honored to serve as the Council Chair for the last three years.

Submitted by Council Chair, Abdo Sayegh Rodriguez

## MANAGERS COUNCIL FOR MEMBER COMPANIES WITH BUDGETS OF \$749,000 OR LESS

2019-20 Council Chair Iquail Shaheed, Executive/Artistic Director, Dance IQUAIL

The Council has participated in joint Council Calls over the past several weeks. Our conversations have been relevant and responsive to our current events – a global pandemic and the killing of George Floyd. We continue to examine ways in which our companies may continue to thrive and quickly adapt to the ever changing social and funding landscapes.

Submitted on behalf of by Council Chair, Iquail Shaheed

## PRESENTERS COUNCIL

2019-20 Council Chair Linda Shelton, Executive Director, The Joyce Theater Foundation

The Presenters Council has been grappling together with the rapid and eviscerating cancellations caused by the pandemic.

- How to begin the process of recovery?
- How to plan when nothing feels certain?
- How to re-open and guarantee safety for audiences and artists and staff?
- How to negotiate our own grief and loss over our seasons while also holding the losses of income and loss of work for the artistic community, the agents, and everyone impacted by our performance engagements?
- How to address the fears of commitment and ensuring we (too) are practicing some kind of self-care (or acknowledging our failure to do so!)?
- How to galvanize resources around rebuilding our ecosystem?
- What will touring look like?
- How do we keep artists working, how to get them commitments, commissions, resources?
- How might digital / live streaming affect live performance – are we helping ourselves or doing ourselves a disservice in the long term?
- How do we provide artist compensation as part of the digital conversation?
- What does remaining closed until next year look like?
- Who will survive?
- How are we working to combat racism, and prioritizing / re-prioritizing moving the commitments we have made and statements of solidarity into action?
- How are we thinking collaboratively to re-imagine and / or re-build new structures that address what was broken about any of our "pre-2020" ways of working?

Submitted by fellow Council member Aaron Mattocks

## SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS COUNCIL

2019-20 Council Chair Mollie Haven Miller, Executive Director of Dance Source Houston

Our Council's conversations since beginning bi-weekly calls – in response to the pandemic – initially focused on the many relief funds developed by Council members, ensuring individuals and organizations within our communities were connected to necessary information, services and resources, and the collective move to all online programming. The conversation has evolved around how we can use this time to investigate how our organizations might use this chapter as an opportunity to restructure, redirect, and reconsider how we serve and operate. Most recently our Council primarily discussed addressing antiracism within our own communities and organizations, acknowledging the varied current levels of progress and intentionality towards that work within Council.

Submitted on behalf of by Council Chair, Iquail Shaheed

## PRODUCTION DIRECTORS & STAFF

Chaired by Bill Sheffield of Ballet Austin\*

Members of the Production Directors and Staff Affinity Group are concerned about performances with audiences going forward, and how to do them safely for the dancers, crew, audience, and musicians. We worry about our staff and crew and if there will be work for them anytime soon. We have also spent a lot of time talking about how to make our studios safe, as well as how to make costumes that are shared by performers.

Submitted by Affinity Group Chair, Bill Sheffield

## MARKETING DIRECTORS & STAFF

Chaired by Lia Chiarelli of Pacific Northwest Ballet\*

The Dance/USA Marketing Directors and Staff Affinity Group has been meeting bi-weekly since the beginning of the stay-at-home orders. Conversations have focused on budgeting scenarios for next season, supporting and advocating for staff and ourselves through a pandemic, monetizing (or not) streaming content for ballet audiences, and the role of social media in keeping audiences engaged and close in unprecedented times. During our most recent meeting, we focused on our responsibility as individuals and organizations committed to creating a more equitable future for our Black and Brown people inside, a part of, and outside of our organizations.

Submitted by Affinity Group Chair, Lia Chiarelli

## DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORS & STAFF

Chaired by Christi Lotz of Ballet Austin\*

During bi-weekly Development Director and Staff Affinity Group calls, we have discussed some of the following:

- Budget planning for the 2020/21 Season (or however the upcoming fiscal year is being considered) for contributed revenue and how that dovetails with donor benefits – individual and corporate – that are largely delivered in person and / or in the theatre.
- Rescheduling/Cancellation of galas and conversion to virtual – Many have already done this when their gala was scheduled to take place over the past 3 months. While some have been successful, none have raised what the original goal was. Trends are becoming more defined in terms of production quality, length, etc. Those of us with fall galas are unsure of what to do and feel the virtual gala will be a tired model very shortly.
- Relief campaigns – When and how? Some were able to create quickly and have been successful but worry about the expectation to raise those funds again in the next fiscal year. Does your “relief campaign” gift “count” as your annual gift? Do you get benefits?
- Donor reach-out – Many have found success in personalized reach out to donors. This is not surprising, but many still grapple with whether or not it’s appropriate to ask for a gift, etc. We are finding that each person has a different story and a different way they are dealing with the current situation – so listening is key.

Submitted by Affinity Group Chair, Christi Lotz

## COMPANY MANAGERS & THOSE WHOM ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO COMPANY MANAGEMENT

Chaired by Lauren Chadwick of Alonzo King LINES Ballet\*

As with many of the Council and Affinity Groups, COVID-19 remains the leading topic for the Affinity Group of Company Managers, General Managers, and Operations Managers. Our Group calls typically allow for round-robin updates from each company, detailing cancellations, new initiatives, and plans for returning to work. Our most recent call included a guest speaker, Danielle Hernandez, from the Event Safety Alliance. Her presentation and recommendations for reopening allowed us the opportunity to ask questions and receive feedback on the myriad of considerations for both a return to the studio and performance venues.

Submitted by Affinity Group Chair, Lauren Chadwick

## SCHOOL DIRECTORS & STAFF - BOTH ARTISTIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Chaired by Ayisha Cravotta of Charlotte Ballet\*

Dance/USA's School Directors and Staff Affinity Group has been discussing and leaning on one another for support and advice during their bi-weekly calls. Major topics discussed have been focused on school cancellations; best practices on pivoting to virtual classes; parent – school communications; to host or not host Summer Intensives and depending on the decision what is the new, reimagined design of the program; student engagement; student dancer health; and what does the return to the studio look like for students?

In March 2020, The Joffrey Ballet was set to host a joint Summit for the School and Community Engagement and Education Directors and Staff Affinity Groups in Chicago, IL. However, due to the impact of COVID-19, the in-person aspect of the Summit was cancelled and shifted to a virtual convening. Group members participated in three half days of highly curated programming focused on mental and emotional health (for all Summit attendees) and Coalition Building (for members of the Community Engagement and Education Directors and Staff Affinity Group) and actionable steps to be more inclusive of non-conforming / trans / transitioning students (for members of this Group).

Submitted on behalf of Affinity Group Chair, Ayisha McMillan Cravotta

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION DIRECTORS & STAFF

Chaired by April Berry of Kansas City Ballet\*

Dance/USA's Community Engagement and Education Directors and Staff Affinity Group is convening bi – weekly. Major topics that have arisen are cultural relevancy and cultural competency; new funder expectations; best practices on pivoting to virtual classes; acknowledgement of the digital divide and how they are working with school districts to ensure students with the most needs are connected and supported; how to address summer programming; and thoughtful considerations as to how the fall will be reimagined.

In March 2020, The Joffrey Ballet was set to host a joint Summit for the School and Community Engagement and Education Directors and Staff Affinity Groups in Chicago, IL. However, due to the impact of COVID-19, the in-person aspect of the Summit was cancelled and shifted to a virtual convening. Group members participated in three half days of highly curated programming focused on mental and emotional health (for all Summit attendees) and Coalition Building (for members of this Group) and actionable steps to be more inclusive of non-conforming / trans / transitioning students (for members of the School Directors and Staff Affinity Group).

Submitted on behalf of Affinity Group Chair, April Berry

## CFO & STAFF

Chaired by Jay Romano of Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre\*

During bi – weekly CFO and Financial Staff Affinity Group Calls, we have discussed the following:

- Paycheck Protection Program and who applied, how will we meet the guidelines, how will we spend the money, and which fiscal year will our auditors determine the grant should end up in.
- Annual Budgets/Cash Flow – We have talked a lot about the various versions of annual budgets for our 2020-21 seasons. Who is still planning for an October program, what happens if we unable to perform The Nutcracker? Is anyone planning for furloughs or the elimination of positions? Do we have enough cash on hand or lines of credit that can carry us throughout the fiscal year?
- Re-opening plans – What do our re-opening plans look like for our schools, office staff, and what about our theaters? Even if we can open, will our theaters open, and what is that going to look like? How many feet apart will the students be in our schools, do the students have to wear masks and what about our professional company members? How are we going to be able to do classical ballet since it requires so many people on stage at the same time? Is everyone going to be tested to come into our buildings? Are we going to have to add additional cleaning staff to keep our building virus-free?

As you can see, we have many more questions than answers, but the best thing about regularly connecting via ZOOM has been the opportunity to talk through all of these issues with our peers and to let everyone know that they are not in this alone and that we are all here to share information and learn from each other.

Submitted by Affinity Group Chair, Jay Romano

## DEAF & DISABILITY

Co-Chaired by Douglas Scott of Full Radius Dance and Judy Smith formerly of AXIS Dance Company\*\*

For the Deaf and Disability Affinity Group, the importance of connecting and community is a recurring theme in our bi-monthly calls. There is a desire to share resources (such as a list of physically integrated / inclusive virtual classes, etc.), to serve as a catalyst for change in the way academia includes dancers with disabilities, and to create an equitable mentorship program for emerging artists and administrators with disabilities. There is an acknowledgement that more disabled dancers are able to participate in virtual classes than ever show up at studios, further emphasizing a need for continuing access to virtual training. Intersectionality of disability and race has also been a topic of conversation, particularly in light of Black Lives Matter Movement.

Submitted by Affinity Group Co-Chairs, Judith Smith and Douglas Scott

## ARCHIVING AND PRESERVATION

Chaired by Genie Guerard of UCLA Library\*

The Archiving and Preservation Affinity Group has been meeting monthly since the start of the Covid pandemic. Member discussions have focused on how archivists have pivoted in their work in response to the crisis: dance organizations that are drawing on archives to engage their audiences and/or members in the absence of live performances; the creation of new virtual resources, resource guides, and webinars; public libraries working to continue providing resources for and engaging with their communities from home, including addressing the digital divide in access to broadband internet. While members have agreed that many are busier than ever in this time, and that some organizations have turned greater focus on their archives as other activities are curtailed, there is near-universal uncertainty about job security in upcoming fiscal years. In recognition of the increased desire of artists and archives to share work online, member calls have also focused on issues of copyright and intellectual property, and how Dance/USA and member orgs can help the field navigate rights issues in order to increase access to dance recordings.

Submitted by Dance/USA's Director of Archiving and Preservation, Imogen Smith

### ABOUT DANCE/USA COUNCIL & AFFINITY GROUPS

A Dance/USA Council is a peer group generally denoted by a membership category (e.g., Service Organizations Council, Presenters Council, etc.) or job function (e.g., Managers Council, Agents Council, etc.). See below for a complete list of Dance/USA Councils and Chairs.

The Councils, also referred to as "Standing Councils" because they have representation and voting rights on Dance/USA's Board of Trustees, meet in-person at Dance/USA Annual Conferences and connect throughout the member year via member Google Groups, quarterly Council Calls hosted by Dance/USA, and informal meetings in various locations across the country. Councils give members of Dance/USA an opportunity to discuss current issues and trends in the field and how these issues and trends affect their business.

Councils are not used as a marketplace, but instead as a gathering of industry professionals engaged in peer-to-peer networking, career development, and building a collaborative environment. Council agendas are designed by Council Chairs, in consultation with Council members, and are facilitated by the Council Chair.

Affinity Groups function similarly to a Dance/USA Council by providing Group members a forum to discuss current issues and trends within their slice or sector of the field. Additionally by connecting with one's Group, Group members are able to network and strengthen their professional connections with a national scope, hone their leadership skills, learn from others, and share their learning.

# DENVER HOST COMMITTEE

Caitlin Brozna-Smith, Bella Diva Dance

Cleo Parker Robinson, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance

Hillary Harding, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance

Malik Robinson, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance

Rhett Williams Shead, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance

Colleen Curran, Colorado Ballet Board Chair

Christin Crampton Day, CBCA, CEO

Tina Walls, CPRD Advisory, DCPA Trustee

Janelle Ayon, Dancing Across Cultures

Jan Dunn, Denver Dance Medicine Associates

Terrell Davis, DSA Faculty, CPRDE Alum

DeAndre Carroll, Disciples of Funk Hip Hop Festival Founder

Marissa Hollingsworth, Hannah Kahn Dance Company

Rachael Harding, Hannah Kahn Dance Company

Stephanie Rance, Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival

Judi Hoffmeister, CoDEO, Past Chair

Mary Wohl Haan, Programs for Artists | Dance Bridge

Kate Crowe, University of Denver The Dance Archive

Nathalie Proulx, University of Denver The Dance Archive

Martha Brassel, Vail International Dance Festival

Sarah Johnson, Vail International Dance Festival

Arthur Espinoza, Apex Arts Consulting

Lisa Engelken

Adam Sexton, Colorado Ballet

Ali Scrabble, Bella Diva Dance

Elizabeth Bragg

Attiyya Fortuné

Jeanette Trujillo, Fiesta Colorado

*Thank you,  
Denver!*

## PURPLE MOUNTAIN

4 oz Champagne  
½ oz of Elderflower liquor  
½ oz of simple syrup  
Rosemary spring

Gather the ingredients. Pour into champagne flute. Garnish with Rosemary spring. Serve and enjoy!

## MILE HIGH MANHATTAN

2 ounces bourbon whiskey (Maker's Mark)  
1/2 ounce vanilla liqueur  
1/2 ounce orange liqueur (Grand Marnier)  
3 or 4 drops of anise liqueur

Gather the ingredients. In a cocktail shaker filled with ice, pour the whiskey and liqueurs. Shake well. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Serve and enjoy!

## COLORADO SUNSET

(non-alcoholic)  
4 ounces cranberry juice  
2 ½ ounces orange juice  
Splash of lemon juice  
Ginger ale

Gather the ingredients. Blend with ice until smooth. Place in glass. Top with ginger ale. Serve and enjoy!

*Let's raise our glass  
and toast our  
fabulous Denver  
Host Committee with  
these Colorado  
themed drinks!*

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## 2019-2020 DANCE/USA BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFFICERS

Malik Robinson, Board Chair  
Michelle Ramos, Board Past Chair  
Arthur Espinoza, Jr., Vice Chair  
Kim Ondreck Carim, Treasurer  
Jerron Herman, Secretary  
Amy Fitterer, Executive Director

### Programming Committee

Celine Schein Das, Chair  
Janelle Ayon\*  
Debbie Blunden-Diggs  
Amy Fitterer  
Ian Garrett\*  
Pam Green  
Jerron Herman  
Jaamil Olawale Kosoko  
Nathalie Proulx  
Abdo Sayegh Rodriguez

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## COUNCIL CHAIRS

**Agents, Managers, Producers,  
& Promoters Council**  
Andrew Delicata

**Artistic Directors Councils**  
Victoria Morgan  
Linda Yudin

**Managers Council**  
Greg Cameron  
Sue Porter  
Abdo Sayegh Rodriguez  
Iquail Shaheed

**Presenters Council**  
Linda Shelton

**Service Organizations Council**  
Mollie Haven Miller

\*non-trustee

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## AFFINITY GROUP CHAIRS

**Production Directors & Staff**  
Bill Sheffield

**Marketing Directors & Staff**  
Lia Chiarelli

**Development Directors & Staff**  
Christi Lotz

**Company Managers & Related Staff**  
Lauren Chadwick

**School Directors & Staff**  
Ayisha Cravotta

**Community Engagement**  
April Berry

**CFO & Staff**  
Jay Romano

**Deaf & Disability**  
Douglas Scott & Judy Smith

**Archiving & Preservation**  
Genie Guerard



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# 2019-2020 DANCE/USA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Holly Bass

Holly Bass|360  
Washington, DC

## Kathy Brown

New York City Ballet  
New York, NY

## Debbie Blunden-Diggs

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company  
Dayton, OH

## Greg Cameron

The Joffrey Ballet  
Chicago, IL

## Kim Ondreck Carim

Oakland Museum of California  
Oakland, CA

## Thaddeus Davis

Wideman/Davis Dance &  
University of SC - Columbia

## Thomas DeFrantz

SLIPPAGE: Performance|Culture|  
Technology  
Durham, NC

## Andrew Delicata

KMP Artists  
Houston, TX

## Arthur Espinoza, Jr.

Apex Arts Consultants  
Washington, DC

## Shane Fernando

Wilson Center at Cape Fear  
Community College & Thalian Hall  
Center for the Performing Arts  
Wilmington, NC

## Amy Fitterer

Dance/USA  
Washington, DC

## Gina Gibney

Gibney  
New York, NY

## Pamela Green

PMG Arts Management  
Durham, NC

## Genie Guerard

UCLA Library Special Collections  
& Dance Heritage Coalition  
Los Angeles, CA

## Jerron Herman

jerronherman.com  
New York, NY

## Amalia Viviana Basanta Hernández

Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández  
& Mexico en Movimiento & Ballet de México de  
Amalia V.B. Hernández USA  
Mexico

## Anne Huang

World Arts West  
San Francisco, CA

## Antoine Hunter

Urban Jazz Dance Company & Bay Area  
International Deaf Dance  
Festival  
San Francisco, CA

## Rosemary Johnson

Alabama Dance Council  
Birmingham, AL

## Dr. Nancy Kadel

Orthopedic Surgeon  
Bend, OR

## Roger A. Kluge

Dewitt Stern, A Risk  
Management Company  
New York, NY

## Jim Leija

University of Michigan  
Museum of Art  
Ann Arbor, MI

## Stanford Makishi

New York City Center  
New York, NY

## Mollie Haven Miller

Dance Source Houston  
Houston, TX

## Victoria Morgan

Cincinnati Ballet  
Cincinnati, OH

## Jaamil Olawale Kosoko

Kosoko | Performance  
Brooklyn, NY

## Sue Porter

BalletMet  
Columbus, OH

## Michelle Ramos

Alternate ROOTS  
New Orleans, LA

## Malik Robinson

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance  
Denver, CO

## Denise Saunders Thompson

The International Association  
of Blacks in Dance  
Washington, DC

## Abdo Sayegh Rodriguez

TU Dance  
Saint Paul, MN

## Celine Schein Das

Chitresh Das Institute  
San Francisco, CA

## Iquail Shaheed

DANCE IQUAIL!  
Philadelphia, PA

## Linda Shelton

The Joyce Theater Foundation  
New York, NY

## Rosy Simas

Rosy Simas Dance  
Minneapolis, MN

## Doug Singleton

Charlotte Ballet  
Charlotte, NC

## Mary Verdi-Fletcher

Dancing Wheels Company & School  
Cleveland, OH

## Ellen Walker

Pacific Northwest Ballet  
Seattle, WA

## Tamica Washington-Miller

Lula Washington Dance Theatre  
Los Angeles, CA

## Linda Yudin

Viver Brasil  
Los Angeles, CA

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# VIRTUAL CONFERENCE TECH TEAM

## Zoom Gnomes

### Phoebe Ballard

Phoebe Ballard is a movement artist currently based in Brooklyn, NY. Primarily identifying as a 'teaching artist', she hustles between different writing, administration, dance-making, and teaching engagements in both NYC and NJ. Her choreographic work has been presented at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, WAXWorks at Triskelion Arts, Liberty Hall Dance Festival, Dancewave Cafe, Austin Dance Festival, and as part of Current: Take 3. At the center of her making and teaching practice is a deep-seated desire to be together, to make things messy, to not take ourselves too seriously. Phoebe graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2018 with an inspiringly unique cohort, a strong belief in the power of movement, and her BFA in dance.



### Tyesha Hamm

Tyesha Hamm, raised in Baltimore, MD, began her dance training at Baltimore County Youth Ballet under the direction of Laura Dolid. She attended George Washington Carver Center for the Arts and Technology where she studied under Elizabeth Ahearn, Glenna Blessing and Stephanie Powell. She continued her training at Baltimore Dance Tech where she studied further under Stephanie Powell. Tyesha has received her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Dance and Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University. While studying at VCU, she had the pleasure of performing in works created by Autumn Proctor-Waddell, Courtney Harris, Doug Varone as well as an outside project with Johnnie C. Mercer and TheRedproject. Tyesha has attended The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, The American Dance Festival and Urban Bush Women's Generative Dancer for summer programs on scholarship. In 2010, she was awarded a Bronze medal in dance for the NAACP ACT- SO competition. Tyesha is currently an Administrative Assistant and Dance Instructor at The Maryland Academy of Dance.



### Autumn Mitchell

Autumn J. Mitchell (She/They) is a native of the historical city of Savannah, Georgia. Professionally, Autumn occupies her time as freelance stage manager and arts facilitator. Her notable management credits include: Pass Over at The Studio Theatre; The Wiz at the Oregon Shakespeare Theatre; Fences and The Man of Destiny at the American Players Theatre; Acis and Galatea and Face on The Barroom Floor at The Central City Opera House; Lucky Plush Production's The Better Half and Rink Life at Steppenwolf Theatre; and Step Afrika!'s Magical Musical Holiday Step Show at the Atlas Performing Arts Center. Autumn is an alumna of the illustrious Alabama State University and holds a B.A in Theatre with a concentration in Stage Management and Technical Theatre. Along with being a stage manager, she champions authentic and positive representation of black and brown theatre makers in predominantly white institutions.



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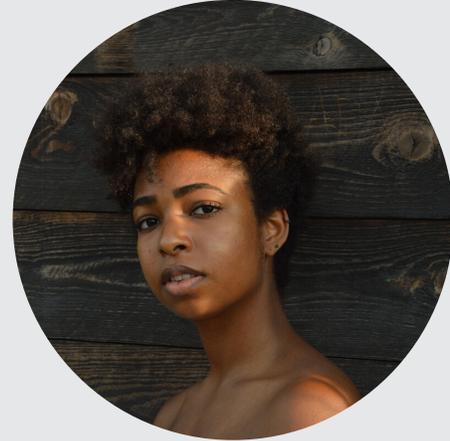
# VIRTUAL CONFERENCE TECH TEAM

## Zoom Gnomes (continued)

### Symone Sanz

Symone is a fourth year BFA candidate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the department of dance, from which she received the Courtney B. Kellogg Memorial Scholarship in 2018. She is an experienced artist in performance, improvisation, and choreography and is interested in dance through the lenses of anthropology and geography. She has previously enjoyed working with artists Jennifer Monson, James Vu Anh Pham, and Lauren Langlois, among many others.

Recently, she spent several months in Perth, Western Australia dancing at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). She was the recipient of the Friends of the Academy Grant from WAAPA, which allowed her the opportunity to second with Sydney Dance Company in 2019. Her work, including her most recent dance film, a photo of a flood, was selected for the Illini Film Festival. Symone also enjoys directing, editing, and photographing dance in her spare time.



## Asst. Stage Manager & Zoom Gnome

### Eric Van Tassel

Eric Van Tassel is an assistant professor of lighting and sound design in the Departments of Dance and Theatre at Hope College and serves in both departments as a designer and technician for a plethora of productions throughout the academic year. Eric has 15 years of experience working on stages ranging from exploratory storefront theaters in Chicago to The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington.

When not in the classroom or on Hope College stages, Eric is a devoted father and huge nerd about a great many things. You may follow along with the antics of his Lego alter ego on Instagram at @legoeric.



## Technical Director

### Ben Doyle, BEND Productions

BEND Productions is a single member LLC primarily operated by Ben Doyle. In 2001 he co-founded Runaway Productions, and now solely owns and operates the video and photography business now known as BEND Productions. Ben received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Radio and Television from Sam Houston State University in 1998. He has over 20 years of experience primarily as an DP, Editor and Photographer, much of which were spent in the corporate video industry. Throughout his career, his work has received numerous awards and accolades, including a number of Telly Award winners. BEND Productions works with top-notch local camera operators, crew, talent, and other staff on a variety of projects from small single camera shoots to live stream multi camera productions and everything in between, and can make any project idea a reality...big or small. BEND Productions has enjoyed working with many individuals, organizations, and corporations over the years. Our work primarily focuses mainly on performance, programs/events, and promotional projects. A majority of BEND Productions clients are in fact 501(c)3 non-profits organizations, and we are proud to support the performing and visual arts in Houston and beyond.



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# DANCE/USA STAFF

## **Executive**

Amy Fitterer, Executive Director

## **Membership**

Kellee Edusei, Director of Membership

Renee Szall, Membership Associate

## **Leadership and Learning**

Rebecca Ferrell, Director of Programs

Shanice Mason, Programs Associate

Rachel Luebbert, Conference Associate

Suzanne Callahan, Dance/USA Fellowships to Artists  
Program Director

## **Research**

Shakira Segundo, Director of Research

## **Archiving and Preservation**

Imogen Smith, Director of Archiving and Preservation

Hallie Chametzky, Archiving Specialist

## **Development**

April Gruber, Director of Development

Sarah Torrey, Institutional Consultant

## **Communications**

Johanna Tschebull, Communications Specialist

Lisa Traiger, Editor, From the Green Room

## **Administration**

Casey McEnelly, Director of Finance and Operations

Jessica Denson, Office Manager and Board Liaison

Gina Kalamaris, Database Manager

The logo features the text "DANCE | U S A" in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The text is centered within a large circle composed of many concentric, thin lines in shades of green and yellow, creating a ripple effect. The background of the entire image is a solid, medium-green color.

**DANCE | U S A**

**Thank you for  
joining us!**