

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Cherie Hill  
chill@lunadanceinstitute.org, 510.883.1118  
Date: May, 20, 2016

## Luna Dance Summer Internship Offers Mentorship & Development for Rising Millennials



**Luna Dance announces the appointment of two new interns, Elle Jansen and Clarissa Ko, both college students at the University of San Francisco, on Friday, May 20th. A growing asset, LDI's internship program attracts young dance educators and administrators who are eager to experience hands-on training with a prominent non-profit arts organization.**

LDI's unique internship program mirrors our business model that employs dance teaching artists with dual roles in administration. LDI's summer interns are given the opportunity to assist LDI faculty with summer dance camp classes, prepare literature and promotional materials for Luna's programs, and to participate in Luna's professional learning courses.

Offering more than summer work, LDI's internship program builds capacity for young leaders with a noticeable future in dance and education. Kira Labuda was accepted into Luna's intern program the summer of 2014 after receiving a BA from UC Berkeley. Her experience opened her eyes to "new philosophies on dance, human development, self-expression and community-building." Upon completion Kira moved to Mexico where she now teaches English to children and is studying to be a dance therapist. Intern Madison Shaw, was accepted the summer before her senior year at Kansas State University 2015. After participating in Luna's Family Dance Institute as part of her internship, Shaw was inspired to start her own dance company in Kansas City. Ohana Dance Company now offers creative dance workshops for parents and their adoptive children.

This year's interns were chosen based on their commitment to dance and children, and alignment with Luna's mission and philosophy. Jansen who began her dance training at the age of nine at Moving People Dance Theater feels that her passion for education began early on, and has flourished at USF.

She is excited to share her creativity and love of dance with the Luna community. Ko, a recent graduate from the USF's Performing Arts and Social Justice department, is an advocate for the potential and function of the arts in communities and culture. Her experience with Yerba Buena Center for the Arts' Young Artist at Work Program, San Francisco Arts Education Project, and Screen Actor's Guild BookPALS has fueled her enthusiasm for work in arts education. She is incredibly grateful and excited for the opportunity to work with Luna Dance Institute, whom she sees as "a highly rigorous and renowned organization in the field of arts education".

LDI program manager Jochelle Pereña is enthusiastic about the possibilities the intern program brings, "We have an opportunity to serve a population that we haven't been able to reach before; college-age/pre-professionals. They are on the brink of stepping into new careers, and through our internship we have the chance to share with them the possibilities of what can be done in dance education."

For press inquiries and more information contact Cherie Hill at [chill@lunadanceinstitute.org](mailto:chill@lunadanceinstitute.org), 510-883-1118. *Photos of Elise Jensen and Clarissa Ko*

## **ABOUT LUNA DANCE INSTITUTE**

Luna Dance Institute (LDI) is the most comprehensive dance education organization on the west coast. We serve children, families, dance artists, educators, schools and organizations through a variety of programs aimed at increasing access to dance for all. LDI's programs include Professional Learning, providing education and support to all who teach dance; Studio Laboratory, the Bay Area's only choreography-based program for children and teens; School and Community Alliances (SCA), supporting schools in our community to build standards-based dance programs; Moving Parents and Children Together (MPACT), providing parent-child dance classes to families in the child welfare system. As an established Institution with a national reputation for expertise and training in dance education—Luna's Building Cultures of Dance initiative offers program planning, implementation, consultation and evaluation to schools, districts, and arts organizations throughout the country. For more information visit: [lunadanceinstitute.org](http://lunadanceinstitute.org)  