

### **Two New Teaching Artists Bring Uniqueness to Luna Dance Faculty**

Berkeley, CA - Luna Dance Institute (LDI) is excited to announce that Carmen Roman and Heather Stockton have been hired to join Luna's faculty as teaching artists. Both choreographers and performers, as well as experienced educators, Carmen and Heather share Luna's mission to bring high-quality dance to all children. This year LDI's Early Childhood Education (ECE) and School and Community Alliances (SCA) programs will expand to serve more partner teachers and students. Carmen and Heather's substantial experience working with children will help increase the organization's capacity to offer outstanding instruction at additional sites.



A U.S. Fulbright Fellowship recipient, Carmen has taught dance to children in the Bay Area since 2009, and has also taught in El Salvador and Peru. She is the founder and Artistic Director of Cunamacué, an Oakland based Afro-Peruvian music and Dance Company. Carmen has published dance research in the African Performance Review, and her first dance documentary Herencia de Un Pueblo (Inheriting a Legacy) will be screening this year at Festival Kutuka, and at the San Francisco Dance Film Festival. Carmen holds a B.A. in Dance from San Francisco State University and an MFA in Dance from Mills College. A conscientious and passionate artist, Carmen brings her dedication to children and equitable arts access to her work in Luna's SCA, ECE, and Studio Lab (SL) programs, and as a Public Relations and Fundraising Associate. Carmen is "excited to be part of a team of great teaching artists and to have the opportunity to see the same students over a prolonged period of time."



Artistic Director and founder of the local dance collective, Wax Poets, Heather became connected to Luna after winning CHOREOFUND 4. Originally from Riverside, CA, she has presented choreographic work in venues throughout the US and danced professionally with Amy O/Tiny Rage (Seattle) and Psuedopod Interactive (Seattle). Heather received her BFA, Summa Cum Laude and MFA from Mills College. An earnest dance educator and advocate, she is thrilled to be joining Luna in its 25th year of bringing dance and creativity to the community. As a teaching artist she brings her lifelong passion for dance, active exploration of collaborating, and ardent love of choreography to her creative practice. Heather joins Luna's SCA and SL programs, and is a Public Relations Associate.

Luna's faculty is pleased to collaborate with these teaching artists and eager to experience the organization's new growth. Cherie Hill, Luna's Chief of Staff states, "Both Carmen and Heather bring a unique and sophisticated perspective to the already robust team. Their curiosity and commitment to dance and children has already proven to be successful in their relationships with our partner agencies and students. I look forward to witnessing their growth."

#### **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)