

## **Luna Dance Institute Announces 18<sup>th</sup> Summer Institute Cohort**

Luna began our Summer Institute (SI) eighteen years ago with the vision of bringing dance artists and classroom teachers together to learn from each other, create community, develop the art of dance teaching, and activate and inspire individual and collective imaginations.

SI participants are selected through a competitive application process and commit to a year of intensive professional development, which includes a week of learning in the summer, a midyear reunion meeting, a Gallery Walk presentation, individualized coaching, collegial exchange and follow-up workshops.

“This year’s cohort is an inspiring group of educators and artists, leaders and community-builders who come from all over California,” says Professional Learning Manager Jochelle Pereña. “I am excited to teach and learn with them, and see how they shape California dance education.”

Using a constructivist approach, SI participants learn about the elements of dance, child development, and contemporary learning theories through critical reflection, dialogue, movement, teaching and writing. They have opportunities to find the dancer within and practice creating and teaching dance activities, and exploring potential for authentic integration between dance and other subjects/goals. As they examine the value and role of creativity in dance, learning and life, they also develop their own teaching practice and advocacy skills to advance the field of dance education.

### **Luna proudly welcomes the following twelve educators to our 18<sup>th</sup> Summer Institute:**

**Amanda Chiado**, teaching artist and program manager of the San Benito County Arts Council

**Daisy Valdivia**, dance educator and co-founder of Alma Rose, a community arts organization in Port Hueneme, CA

**Esmeralda Kundanis-Grow**, early childhood educator at Temple Emanu-El Preschool, and dance teaching artist with ODC, both in San Francisco

**Hannah Ayasse**, dance teaching artist with the Bay Area’s Fitness in Transit, and parent educator trainer with Just Beginning, a program supporting early childhood learning by strengthening relationships

**Jane Real**, dance educator for grades 1-5 and Special Day at Starlight Elementary, Watstonville, CA

**Linda Craig**, dance educator and co-founder of Joy in Motion studio in Moraga, CA

**Nia Fitzpatrick**, dance teaching artist with the Bay Area’s Kids ‘N Dance ‘N Theater Arts

**Olivia Eng**, Bay Area-based dance teaching artist with Performing Arts Workshop, School of the Arts, and SWEAT Dance Academy

**Omar Rodriguez Diaz**, K-4 arts teacher at New School of San Francisco

**Rosalina Macisco**, dance educator and founder of Santa Barbara Dance Institute which provides in- and after-school dance programs

**Sonya Smith**, aerial dance teaching artist with Zaccho Dance Theatre, San Francisco

**Victoria Albaracin**, kindergarten teacher from Ascend Elementary, Oakland, CA

This cohort joins a legacy of over 200 Summer Institute alumni who are positively impacting the world through the art of teaching dance. Discover more about SI alumni at [www.lunadanceinstitute.org/silver-jubilee/pebble-in-the-pond](http://www.lunadanceinstitute.org/silver-jubilee/pebble-in-the-pond), and about the SI at [www.lundanceinstitute.org/summer-institutes](http://www.lundanceinstitute.org/summer-institutes).

## 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)    