

Announcing Southern California Dance Educators Accepted to 2019 Leadership Project

Berkeley, CA – On March 1, 2019 Luna Dance Institute announced the seven California Dance Educators accepted to Your Turn: Next Level Pedagogy for Dance Teacher Educators. This first-of-a-kind institute addresses issues of teacher quality in dance education and the imminent need for teacher educators in light of the new California teaching credential.

Experienced teachers who wish to share what they know with the next generation of dance educators will work intensively as a cohort to develop their skills in adult teacher education methods, learning theories, authentic assessment, pedagogy, and the newly revised California and National Core Arts standards for dance.

These southern California participants were chosen based on their passion for teaching and their readiness to dig deep into their varied and various genres and learn to communicate what they know in a constructivist context.

Your Turn is a project in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Music Center and is funded by the Clarence E. Heller Foundation. The intensive study begins in April and continues through June. The selected participants will practice what they've learned by teaching FREE dance education workshops June 14-15 and 22-23 at the Music Center.

Meet the selected participants:

Tiffany Bong



Tiffany "Jimini" Bong is an international, award-winning Hip Hop dance artist, educator, entrepreneur, and community leader. She draws on her 10-year experience in dance education and active involvement in Hip Hop culture to bring next-level teaching practices and programs into learning institutions. She is a master teaching artist for The Music Center and a lecturer and program director at the University of Southern California. She received a recognition award as the founder and executive director of

UniverSOUL Hip Hop, a community-based, cultural education company that brings cutting-edge K-12 residencies and programs throughout Los Angeles. Within 3 years at the USC Kaufman School of Dance, Bong launched the university's first ever Hip Hop dance education conference (The Cypher Summit) and community engagement program (Kaufman Connections). She will be designing and teaching a new pedagogy course in Fall 2019, titled "Hip Hop in the Community."

Samad Raheem Guerra



Samad Raheem Guerra is a multidisciplinary performing artist and arts educator based in Los Angeles. He received his B.A. in World Arts and Cultures/Dance from UCLA in 2014. During this year, he was also rewarded a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad scholarship to study Arabic and Gnawa culture in Morocco. He collaborated with local artists on a multimedia project featured in his thesis work. Since graduating, he has worked as a teaching artist and toured internationally with CONTRA-TIEMPO Urban Latin Dance Theater, performed at the Hollywood Bowl and Ford Amphitheater with Viver Brasil and Sergio Mendes, and co-produced his own work at the LACMA, Main Museum in downtown Los Angeles and Hamburger Bahnhof Museum in Germany. Currently, Guerra works full-time as a dancer, arts collaborator and teaching artist with CONTRA-TIEMPO Urban Latin Dance Theater. He is also excited to begin training as a teacher

educator with Luna Dance Institute's 2019 cohort.

Rosalina Macisco



Rosalina Macisco, Executive Director of Santa Barbara Dance, is a Latinx professional performer of more than 12 years and has been teaching dance for more than 15 years. She has appeared in Off-Broadway plays, regional theater productions, television commercials, and has toured with several musical productions throughout Europe, including the Off-Broadway production of *Brotherly Love* and the European tour of *Cabaret*. Macisco received her teacher certification from The National Dance Institute and attended Finis Jhung's Teacher Training at the Inland Pacific Ballet Academy and Luna Dance Institute's renowned summer teaching institute. She founded SBDI in 2005, growing the organization from an initial 80 students to 400+ per year in direct service, and over 2,000 through SBDI's new Dance Infusion Program. SBDI creates an annual original

dance performance involving 200+ dancers from public schools in Santa Barbara. Macisco holds a B.A. in drama and Spanish from Fordham University.

Ashley Rogers



Ashley Rogers is an elementary dance educator and peer coach for the Los Angeles Unified School District. She received her B.S. from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in dance education and is a National Board Certified teacher. She is also a member of the National Dance Education Organization. Originally from North Carolina, Rogers moved to Southern California in 2004, after falling in love with the weather during a middle school family vacation and declaring she would live here someday. Since a young age, she knew she had a passion for dance and for working with children, and in her position she is able to have the best of both worlds. One motto

that drives her teaching is "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge" - Einstein. She is excited to have been accepted for this project to learn and grow with fellow dance educators.

Meg Terán



Meg Terán is a dance-teaching artist, bilingual educator, and curriculum writer who has worked with dancers of all ages in schools and community settings. Her students build dance vocabulary through creating and responding to each other, while also developing individual strengths and collaborative skills. In 2010, Meg received the Elementary Dance Educator of the Year award from the OC Music and Arts Administrators. She holds a B.A. in World Arts and Cultures from UCLA and an M.A. in Education from

Chapman University.

Daphne Trager



Daphne Trager specializes in teaching dance to PreK to 3rd graders at Walden School in Pasadena, where she has taught since 2000. She considers this age group to be the most important population to reach for dance. A lifelong dancer and performer, Trager has studied many forms of dance, with an extensive background in classical music and a degree in Art History from Wellesley College. She is certified in Orff Schulwerk Level One and has received extensive training from national and local chapters of the American Orff Schulwerk Association, the National Dance Education Organization, the Music Center of Los Angeles County, the Creative Dance Center in Seattle, and numerous folk, modern, and creative movement teachers and organizations. Increasingly, Daphne discovers that dance

is an essential part of student life, preparing children for classroom and academic success, and providing opportunities for behavioral regulation.

Myra Joy Veluz



Los Angeles based dance artist, Myra Joy Veluz, better known as Joy to her dance family, has taught at various universities most notably, Scripps College, Harvard University, and the University of Arizona School of Dance. Growing up as a competitive dancer, she became highly aware of preserving the body's longevity at a young age. She began cross training with Pilates and now holds a Fletcher Pilates © Mat License Certification. Moreover, to expand her research regarding holistic teaching approaches, she currently utilizes her UCLArts Social and Emotional Certificate for her work with children with special needs throughout the San Marino and Los Angeles school districts. Joy is proudly signed with Blue13 Dance Company and Deborah Rosen & Dancers.

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    