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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2022

Jochelle Pereña to lead Luna's Programs

Berkeley, CA – Luna Dance Institute announces the promotion of **Jochelle Pereña** to the position of **Programs Director**. After seven years of managing Luna's Professional Learning department, Pereña's new responsibilities extend to directing Luna's faculty and leaders to serve children, families, artists, and teachers through the art of inclusive and equitable dance practices, projects, programs, and inquiry.

Since first joining **Luna** in **2011**, **Pereña** has taught in Luna's studio, school and MPACT programs, facilitated workshops and teacher trainings, coached teaching artists, coordinated Luna's Summer Institute (which she attended as a 2008 cohort participant), and managed the Space, Studio Lab and Professional Learning Departments. Following her personal inquiry, she has co-developed Luna's Early Childhood Education programs for children, families, parents, and teachers. In 2015, Pereña was named [Dance Teacher of the Year, K-12 Sector by Dance Teacher Magazine](#) and since then is credited for the creation of several innovative dance education products including [Perfect/Imperfect Lessons](#), the [Dance Inquiry Podcast](#), and an extraordinary monthly [Dance Educator Newsletter](#).

An improviser by nature and in her art, Pereña has augmented Luna's equity practices through her inquiry of multicultural communication tools and dance improvisation. She has presented her work at National Dance Education Organization, and through participating in industry cohort panels with Create CA, California Alliance for Arts Education and McGill University.

Pereña has been a dance artist her entire life and holds a Professional Diploma in Dance Studies from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, London (2005) and an MFA in Choreography and Performance from Mills College (2011). She co-directs the dance theatre collective the Thick Rich Ones and has published articles on butoh, improvisation, and teaching to young children.

Pereña's supervisor and Luna's founder, Patricia Reedy, states, "as a learning organization, Luna is pleased to support Pereña's growth as a leader. Her empathy and compassion have supported our clients for years and she has inspired artists and teachers, including her co-workers, to mine their creativity to its fullest capacity. As she enters her second decade with the company, she is poised to strengthen our infrastructure so that we can expand our ability to bring dance to all children."

"Those who have worked with Jochelle," Reedy continues, "know that staying connected is one of her core values. While she will be reaching out to Luna's community over the next few months, she can be contacted at any time at jperena@lunadanceinstitute.org."

About Luna

Founded in 1992, Luna has become the most comprehensive dance education organization on the West Coast. Luna is a recognized arts leader and nationally acclaimed institution that supports families, artists, teachers, leaders, schools, community and cultural arts organizations through programs that promote creativity and self-determination through the transformative power of dance. Locally, Luna serves children and families through partnerships with schools, social service agencies, and arts and culture organizations. Luna re-opens its new fully ADA-accessible dance studios in 2023 for in-person dance learning. Discover more at lunadanceinstitute.org.