

# SHAWN RENEE LENT

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## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE - PROFESSIONAL

### CHICAGO DANCEMAKERS FORUM | CHICAGO, IL

#### PROGRAMS AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR (PART-TIME) | AUG 2016 - PRESENT

- Manage the operations of the annual grant programs to individual artists: four-to-ten \$4,000-15,000 cash awards combined with mentorship and collegial exchange. Coordinate the program application processes and selection panels including one-on-one meetings with finalists. Support the awardees as they research, develop and present new dance works through retreats, roundtable gatherings, and work-in-progress showings. Facilitate community partnerships that provide professional and artistic development for artists. Monitor artists' progress toward their project goals. Convene final program evaluation with artists. increased attendance and racial/geographic diversity of applicants.
- Coordinate with the Executive Director for the development and execution of large-scale events (Elevate Chicago Dance Festival 2017 and 2018) and Public Programs (symposiums, panel discussions, choreographic workshops, public dialogues and professional development workshops). Arrange for space and disability support. Supervise contractual staff, interns and volunteers.
- Oversee marketing and press relations. Update and maintain the Chicago Dancemakers Forum website, social media and press relations various communication portals.

#### PROJECT COORDINATOR (PART-TIME) | APR – AUG 2016

- Coordinated all logistics for both tracks of the Regional Dance Development Initiative (RDDI Chicago): Intensive Laboratory Retreat for dancemaking artists and a convening of regional & national presenters at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in conjunction with the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA)'s National Dance Project.

### CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL PUPPET THEATER FESTIVAL | CHICAGO, IL

#### CONSULTANT (CONTRACTUAL) | OCT 2018 – FEB 2019

- Managed all aspects of social media and e-marketing for the Festival, selling 70% of capacity and \$206,000 in gross revenue.
- Investigated, proposed, and delivered on a pilot of a text-to-donate campaign and end-of-year appeal.
- Box Office Manager for ten major performances, using the Spektrix platform.

### CREATEQUITY | VIRTUAL ORGANIZATION, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FRACTURED ATLAS

#### ALLIANCE BUILDING LEAD AND EDITORIAL TEAM MEMBER (PART-TIME) | AUG 2015 – DEC 2017

- Pioneered a new model of public interest journalism in the arts alongside an editorial team of 11.
- Head writer for article investigating the driving forces behind the growth of nonprofit arts sector and history of the arts ecosystem.
- Proposal co-writer for \$110,000+ grant funding in 2015; grant manager using Trello and Google Apps, and lead for sub-team of 8 staff on audience engagement, public programming, and cultivation of alliances with individuals and organizations.

### AMIDEAST | HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. (WORKING WITH AMIDEAST EGYPT)

#### INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR | JUL 2015 – JAN 2019 (REMOTE, CONTRACTUAL)

- Created original workshops and curricular materials for public scholarship program of U.S.–Egypt Higher Education Initiative (HEI).

#### EDUCATION USA COORDINATOR (FULL-TIME IN CAIRO, EGYPT) | DEC 2013 - JUL 2015

- Planned, led, oversaw, budgeted, created, implemented, evaluated and reported on all Egypt activities for EducationUSA, a U.S. Department of State global network of educational advising services; supervised advisors (in Cairo and Alexandria) and interns.
- Increased number of Egyptians studying in the U.S. to 2,974 (highest total ever with undergrads increasing 8%) by developing stronger relationship with Egypt Desk at State, AMIDEAST HQ in D.C., and U.S. Embassy, as well as a healthier team environment.
- Tripled attendance of in-house workshops (from 150 to 450 average monthly), creating one of top 5 most vibrant EducationUSA centers in the world. Coordinated fairs, info sessions, individual advising, and national outreach for 10,000+ students annually.
- Boosted engagement on social media i.e. Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Slideshare (from 3,000 to 20,000 engaged users monthly on Facebook, with 120,000 fans total) to develop a community of peer-support and provide virtual advising to students in remote areas.
- Designed and facilitated 70 original workshops and presentations on study in the U.S., including unique events like Pre-Exam Yoga, Pre-Departure Orientation was highlighted as a regional example and requested by Fulbright and U.S. Embassy Cairo Exchanges.

### COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO | CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIPS | CHICAGO, IL

#### ARTS INTEGRATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST (FULL-TIME) | AUG 2006 – JUL 2012

- Overhauled systems, plans and tools (including budgeting and contracts) to provide fiscal transparency, efficiency and connection to strategic priorities of the U.S. Department of Education, Chicago Public Schools, and Columbia College Chicago.

- Managed arts integration programs in 45 middle-school classrooms for *Translations: Multi-Directional Learning in Arts, Literacy, and Math* project. Supervised the teaching artist cohort (15 contractors) of Project AIM (Arts Integration Mentorship).
- Coordinated logistics and content of 3 summer institutes for 100+ public school teachers and teaching artists.

## SELECTED ARTS EXPERIENCE

### COMMUNITY-BASED AND SOCIALLY-ENGAGED PRACTICE

- Dance Peace, arts programming to help Syrian refugees integrate and build a stronger neighborhood, Chicago, IL, 2016-present.
- Marshall Field Garden Apartments (Section 8 housing), dance program lead and instructor, Chicago, IL, 2017-present.
- Hanna Sacks Bais Yaakov High School, consultant for musicals at North Shore Performing Arts Center, Chicago, IL, 2017-present.
- Global Water Dances-Flint, MI, one-day international event preceded by a year of planning – Flint, MI, June 2017.
- Multi-campus *Networks of Excellence* project for the State University of New York (SUNY) on the role of dance in peacebuilding and diplomacy (including research, pilot programs in Yonkers and internationally), working across dance, visual arts, peace & conflict studies, psychology, and philosophy – Yonkers, NY, Fall 2016 and Fall 2017.
- Red Line Services, movement workshop for 25 adults currently experiencing homelessness – Chicago, IL, July 2016.
- Open AIR (Artist-in-Residence) for The 606, Chicago Park District– Chicago, IL, April-July 2016.
- Syrian Community Network, dance and writing workshop series for Syrian refugees – Chicago, IL, February 2016-present.
- Mercy Home for Girls and Boys, workshop on the Harlem Renaissance for girls in volatile life situations– Chicago, IL, February 2016.
- U.S. Embassy Cairo, jazz dance workshops as diplomacy, 2014-2015.
- 57357 Children's Cancer Hospital, various dance experiences with the patients, families and staff– Cairo, Egypt, 2012-2015.
- Workshop for teaching artists, In Movement: Social Change Through the Arts – Kampala, Uganda, January 2013.
- *Seussical*, all-female project for conservative Jewish community – Chicago, IL, November 2011.
- Most Mira: Bridge of Peace Festival – Prijedor, Bosnia-Herzegovina, May 2011.

\*Work featured in *PBS P.O.V. series, Atlantic Media, Newcity, DEMO Magazine, Dance In Community, and Forever a Dancer.*

### DANCE EDUCATION

- Old Town School of Folk Music, dance classes for children and teens including a student with autism – Chicago, IL, 2016-present.
- Educare Chicago / Ounce of Prevention Fund, tap dance residency for 85 preschool children – Chicago, IL, 2018-present.
- Performing Arts Limited, teaching dance classes for children and adults – Chicago, IL, 2005–2012 and 2016-2018.
- Cairo Contemporary Dance Center, teaching in professional certificate program and community classes – Cairo, Egypt, 2014-2015.
- Easy Talent Academy, teaching ballet, and tumbling lessons for children – Cairo, Egypt, 2013-2015.

### FACILITATION AND CONSULTATION

- Research consultant for Cerqua Rivera Dance Theater's project on refugee/immigration – Chicago, IL, May 2017 - present.
- Cross-Departmental Meeting at Columbia College Chicago with all full-time faculty in Theatre and Dance, – Chicago, IL, May 2017.

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE - VOLUNTEER

### 57357 CHILDREN'S CANCER HOSPITAL EGYPT | CAIRO, EGYPT | 2012-2015

- Spearheaded 57357 Arts Day Festival, involving and training 10 Egyptian artists to work in a community-based setting.
- Secured funding and in-kind donations from the U.S. Embassy Cairo, Consul General of Egypt in Chicago, American dance schools and individuals to bring 300+ dance costumes and experiences to children with cancer.

### LINK'S HALL | CHICAGO, IL | 2007-2012

- Engineered and launched sustainable Associate Board for Link's Hall, Chicago's incubator for independent dance and performance since 1978. Served 2-year term as Founding Chair. Associate Board is currently thriving in its 6<sup>th</sup> year, under the direction of 3<sup>rd</sup> chair.
- Led growth of annual gala from 80 to 800 attendees, creating Chicago's largest ballyhoo for artists and donors.

### OTHER RELEVANT VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

- House Manager, "Midwinter" presented by Pitchfork at the Art Institute of Chicago, February 2019 (Chicago, IL)
- Sponsorship and Event Lead, Young Associates Board at Children's Memorial Hospital (now Lurie's) 2009-2012 (Chicago, IL)
- Advisory Board for the Chicago Arts Educators Forum 2010-2012 (Chicago, IL)
- Youth and Community Worker in a predominantly Muslim immigrant neighborhood in East London 2001-2003 (London, U.K.)

## SELECTED HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

## **U.S. FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR | CAIRO, EGYPT | AUG 2012 – JAN 2013 | PROJECT TITLE: ARTIST AS CATALYST**

- Served as visiting lecturer in American modern/jazz dance at the Egyptian High Institute of Ballet, implementing new curricula, pedagogy and evaluation methods. Provided additional workshops on community arts for the first time in the Institute's history.

## **AWARDS**

- Best of Chicago 2017: Best Use of Dance as Political Protest | *Newcity* – Chicago, IL, October 2017.
- Iftar Dinner Honoree "For service to refugee families" | Syrian Community Network – Chicago, IL, May 2017.
- U.S. Embassy Cairo Award "For innovation and excellence in using technology and personally engaging tools to inform Egyptians about the benefits of studying in the U.S." Presented by Ambassador Beecroft, June 2015; *unique honor for non-embassy employee*.
- Seriously Badass Woman (first ever honoree) | Seriously Badass Women – June 2013.

## **GUEST LECTURES, PANELS AND PUBLIC SPEAKING**

- Brigham Young University, multiple guest lectures and workshops in dance and international studies – Provo, UT, January 2018.
- UN Alliance of Civilizations Alumni Event at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations, "The Role of Media and Civil Society in Fostering Peace" – New York, NY, December 2017.
- The Dance + Social Justice Conference, New York University's Gallatin School and Gibney Dance – New York, NY, December 2016.
- National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) Conference, "A Place for Dance in New Diplomacy and Peace" with Jill Staggs of the US Department of State and Junious Brickhouse – Washington, DC, October 2016.
- State University of New York (SUNY) at Purchase, "Movement/Movements" with Doug Varone, Jonathan Hollander, social practice artists, and social sciences faculty – Purchase, NY, January 2016.
- Universal Exposition, "Celebrating Cultural Diplomacy and Intercultural Dialogue through the Arts" – Milan, Italy, July 2015.
- The University of Maryland, "Hostilities, Reconciliation, and Interventions through Dance" – Maryland, October 2014.
- Commencement Address for Millikin University – Decatur, IL, May 2014.

## **HONORS AND PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES/SUMMITS**

- U.S. Department of State's Alumni Thematic International Exchange Seminar (Alumni TIES), Kansas City, March 2019
- American Express Social Purpose Leadership Academy - Inaugural International Alumni Summit, New York, NY, March 2015.
- 2nd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, in partnership with UNESCO – Baku, Azerbaijan, May 2013.
- 36th Annual Fulbright Conference, poster presenter – Washington, DC, October 2013.
- British Council's Transatlantic Network 2020, with summits in Northern Ireland 2008, Chicago USA 2010, and Kosovo 2012.
- National Performance Network – Mentorship and Leadership Initiative (MLI) grant recipient, Quebec, Chicago and New York 2012.
- "Wanted Now: International Conference on Cultural Rights" – Paris, France, February 2011.
- United Nations Alliance of Civilizations International Fellowship Program as one of 12 North American and European leaders selected – Doha, Qatar; Rabat, Fez, and Casablanca, Morocco; and Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt; March 2010.
- "Conflict Prevention and Resolution: A New Role for Cultural Relations", NATO/British Council Summit – Brussels, March 2010.

## **GRANT SELECTION PANELS**

- City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Individual Artist Program, grant selection panel, January 2017.
- National Endowment for the Arts, research grants selection panelist, December 2016 and January 2017.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- Contributing Editor for *ClydeFitchReport.com*, 2015-present.
- "Inclusion Strategies for Conservative Dancers." Peer-reviewed *Journal of Dance Education*, December 2016.
- "Am I A Dancer Who Gave Up?," blog post selected as a feature for *Huffington Post Arts*, 175K+ hits / 29K+ likes, posted July 2013 to *shawnlent.com*. First blog post ever admitted to *Dance Education Literature and Research (DELRedi)* national archives.

## **EDUCATION**

### **MASTER OF ARTS MANAGEMENT | COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO (CHICAGO, IL) | GRADUATED MAY 2006**

Concentration: Arts in Youth and Community Development | Internship: About Face Youth Theatre for LGBTQ+ teens (Chicago, IL) | Full Tuition Fellowship | Albert P. Weisman Grant for Master's Thesis Project | Department award for distinguished graduate post-graduate certificate in professional practice | goldsmith's college (london, uk) | JUNE 2002 Program: Youth Arts Development

### **BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS | MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY (DECATUR, IL) | GRADUATED MAY 2000**

Major: Theatre with a concentration in Acting | Minor: Dance | First ever Freshman selected to choreograph for the Dance Concert

## **TRAINING COURSES/CERTIFICATES:**

- Equity & Inclusion E-Certificate | Nonprofit Leadership Alliance | May 2018
- Interfaith Conflict Resolution | United States Institute of Peace | September 2013

- Conflict Analysis | United States Institute of Peace | August 2013