

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 logistics for both tracks of the Regional Dance Development Initiative in partnership with the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project: intensive retreat for artists and convening of regional & national presenters at University of Illinois.

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 three summer institutes for 100+ public school teachers and teaching artists.

SELECTED ARTS EXPERIENCE

SOCIALLY-ENGAGED PRACTICE

- Dance Peace, arts programming to help refugees integrate and build a stronger neighborhood – Chicago, IL, 2016-present.
- Marshall Field Garden Apartments (subsidized housing) and Art On Sedgwick, dance program lead – Chicago, IL, 2017-present.
- Mercy Home for Girls, hip hop dance workshops for girls in volatile life situations – Chicago, IL, April-May 2019.
- Global Water Dances (Flint, MI site), one-day international event preceded by a year of planning activities – Flint, MI, June 2017.
- Multi-campus *Networks of Excellence* project for the State University of New York (SUNY) 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 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-August 2016.
- Mercy Home for Girls, dance workshop and virtual, international peer-learning – Chicago, IL, February 2016.
- U.S. Embassy Cairo, jazz and social dance history workshops as cultural diplomacy – Cairo, Egypt, 2014-2015.
- 57357 Children's Cancer Hospital, various dance experiences with the patients, families and staff – Cairo, Egypt, 2012-2015.
- Most Mira: Bridge of Peace Festival – Prijedor, Bosnia-Herzegovina, May 2011.
- About Face Youth Theatre "Home Project" with LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness – Chicago, IL, March-July 2006.
- High/Scope Teen Educational Institute, workshops in folk dances, choreography, Shakespeare and Harlem Renaissance literature and history – Ypsilanti, MI, July-August 2002, 2003 and 2004.
- Froud Community Center, youth and community work with arts programming – East London, UK, 2001-2003.

DANCE EDUCATION

- Music House, tap and ballet dance classes for children – Chicago, IL, 2018-present.
- Educare Chicago / Ounce of Prevention Fund, dance residency for 85 children in Headstart – Chicago, IL, 2018-present.
- Le Ballet Petite, acrobatics classes for children and teens – Chicago, IL, 2018-present.
- Old Town School of Folk Music, ballet classes for children including students on the Autism Spectrum – Chicago, IL, 2016-2018.
- Performing Arts Limited, dance classes for children, teens and adults – Chicago, IL, 2016-2018.
- Cairo Contemporary Dance Center, jazz classes for professional certificate and recreational programs – Cairo, Egypt, 2014-2015.
- Easy Talent Academy, ballet, and tumbling lessons for children – Cairo, Egypt, 2013-2015.
- Egyptian National Academy of Ballet, American modern and contemporary dance – Cairo, Egypt, 2012-2013.
- Performing Arts Limited, dance classes for children, teens and adults – Chicago, IL, 2005–2012.

COMMUNITY THEATER AND DANCE

- Hanna Sacks Bais Yaakov High School, consultant for musicals at North Shore Performing Arts Center – Chicago, IL, 2017-present.
- *Seussical*, choreographer for all-female project in the Orthodox Jewish community – Chicago, IL, November 2011.
- Open House Dance Collective, choreographer for community-dance productions, Vittum Theater and Ruth Page Dance Center, Chicago, IL, July 2006, 2007 and 2008.
- *It's a Wonderful Life*, choreographer for Pit & Balcony Community Theatre – Saginaw, MI, December 2005.

CONSULTATION, CONTRACT WORK, AND FACILITATION

- Fundraising/Communications Consultant, Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival, – Chicago, IL, October 2018-March 2019.
- House Manager, "Midwinter" presented by Pitchfork at the Art Institute of Chicago – Chicago, IL, February 2019.
- Research consultant for Cerqua Rivera Dance Theater's project on refugee/immigration – Chicago, IL, 2017-2018.
- Cross-Departmental Meeting at Columbia College Chicago with all full-time faculty in Theatre and Dance, – Chicago, IL, May 2017.
- Workshop for teaching artists, In Movement: Social Change Through the Arts – Kampala, Uganda, January 2013.
- Community Dancemakers' Lab, week-long professional development program as masters thesis project hosted by the Dance Center at Columbia College Chicago – Chicago, IL, July 2006.

HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

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

AWARDS AND HONORS

- What Do You Bring to This World, celebrating 20 remarkable women who make a difference in their communities | Traffic Stops Where Love Begins – Chicago, IL, October 2018.
- Best of Chicago 2017: Best Use of Dance as Political Protest | *Newcity* magazine – Chicago, IL, October 2017.

- Iftar 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 woman ever featured) | SeriouslyBadassWomen.com – June 2013.
- Awarded two full fellowships for graduate study at Columbia College Chicago; Also awarded the Albert P. Weisman Award to fully support graduate thesis project on Community Dance – Chicago, IL, May 2006.

GUEST LECTURES, PANELS, AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

- Columbia College Chicago, lectures in social practice for Dance Teaching courses – Chicago, IL, once per semester 2016-present.
- Brigham Young University, multiple guest lectures and workshops in dance diplomacy and social practice – 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 – 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.
- Arts Education Partnership National Forum “States of Change: New Leadership in Arts and Education” – Washington, DC, April 2010.
- European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA) Symposium “Claiming Creativity: Art Education in Cultural Transition,” *Playing with Uncertainty: The Role of the Artist in the Third Millennium* – Chicago, IL, April 2010.
- “No Child Left Behind” National Title Conference, *New Relationships in the Arts and Learning* – Chicago, IL, February 2009.
- National Dance Educators Organization Annual National Conference, *I Meant to Do That: The Art of Designing and Facilitating Community Dance Workshops* – Mobile, AL, June 2007.
- One State: Together in the Arts, *Rethinking Community Engagement through the Arts* – Urbana, IL, May 2007.

SPONSORED PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES, SUMMITS, AND TRAINING

- U.S. Department of State Alumni Thematic International Exchange Seminar (Alumni TIES) on “Stronger American Cities: Closing the Skills Gap and Building Entrepreneurial Ecosystems” – Kansas City, March 2019. Top Winner of peer-voted pitch competition.
- 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 – Northern Ireland 2008, Chicago USA 2010, and Kosovo 2012.
- National Performance Network – Mentorship and Leadership Initiative (MLI) – Quebec, Chicago and New York 2012.
- “Wanted Now: International Conference on Cultural Rights” – Paris, France, February 2011.
- NATO/British Council Summit, “Conflict Prevention and Resolution: A New Role for Cultural Relations” – Brussels, March 2010.
- 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.
- American Express Nonprofit Leadership Academy – New York City, October 2009.
- Selected participant for Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival: Choreographer’s Lab in community practice, led by Celeste Miller and Liz Lerman – Becket, MA, July 2004.

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 panel, December 2016 and January 2017.

BOARD ACTIVITY

- Advisory Board for the Chicago Arts Educators Forum – Chicago, IL 2010-2012.
- Sponsorship and Event Lead, Young Associates Board at Children’s Memorial Hospital (now Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago) – Chicago, IL, 2009-2012.
- Core Member of Americans for the Arts’ Emerging Leaders Network – Chicago, IL Chapter, 2010-2012.
- Designed and launched the Associate Board for Link’s Hall; Served 2-year term as Founding Chair; Led growth of annual gala from 80 to 800 attendees – Chicago, IL, 2007-2012.

PUBLICATIONS AND WRITING

- ClydeFitchReport.com, Contributing Editor for online publication in arts and politics, 2015-present.
- ShawnLent.com, blog essays, 2012-present.
- “Gallant Forty Twa: The National Theatre of Scotland’s Black Watch as Exemplary and Relevant Political Theatre“, Essay Contributor to *Theatres of War: A Contemporary Perspective*, Lauri Ramey, PhD, editor, California State University at Los Angeles, Methuen Drama/Bloomsbury, 2019.
- “Inclusion Strategies for Conservative Dancers,” peer-reviewed *Journal of Dance Education*, December 2016.
- Createquity.com, multiple research-based articles in the arts and equity, 2015-2017.
- “Am I A Dancer Who Gave Up?“, blog post selected as a feature for Huffington Post Arts, 200K+ hits / 30K+ likes; First blog post ever admitted to Dance Education Literature and Research (DELRdi) national archives, 2013.
- “AIMprint: New Relationships in Arts and Learning,” Assistant Editor for 300-page compilation of essays, curricula examples, and templates, Cynthia Weiss and Amanda Lichtenstein, editors, Columbia College Chicago, 2008.
- “The Art of the Workshop: A Guide to Vibrant and Valuable Community Dancemaking,” masters thesis project, Columbia College Chicago, 2006.

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

TESTIMONIALS AND DESCRIPTIONS

“On the topic of dance and global peacemaking, there may be no one more knowledgeable and aware on the topic. Shawn is a natural global and cross-boundary thinker and a true change agent.” – Karen Bradley, Associate Professor of Dance Emerita at University of Maryland, 2018

“A bold artist who continues to break through barriers in her personal arts practice and her overall arts advocacy.” – Creative Placemaking @4creativeplaces, 2018

“My daughter is always excited for dance class. Ms. Shawn is an excellent and patient teacher. Always goes above and beyond to ensure that all of her students have the steps. Ms. Shawn truly cares about her students and extends herself beyond the classroom. I am grateful to have found such a formidable instructor for my daughter. Overall, makes learning a fun experience and has the ability to keep my daughter captivated. Ms. Shawn is an inspiration.” (translated from Arabic) – Nacera, mother of Dance Peace student, 2018.

“As a dancing, critical political conscience of the city, she’s also a phenom always already all-in. One of those few worthy of the claim to have honored a commitment that conjoins artistry and activism, Lent choreographs the best in us as a city that won’t give the time of day to our lesser angels.” – Newcity, Best of Chicago 2017.

“Shawn Lent is a surprising force; when she leads a workshop, her calm demeanor gives way to the kind of energy that sparks excitement and encourages all involved to engage with every activity. She immediately creates a safe, communal space with her practiced and authentic facilitation skills. As a speaker, Shawn brings unique perspectives to discussions and clearly demonstrates a deep expertise of her fascinating field.” – Sydney Skov of the Dance + Social Justice Conference, 2016.

"Many thanks for your most inspiring activities in Cairo as well as here in America. That's what's most needed." – The Honorable Maged Refaat Aboulmagd, Consul General of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Chicago, 2013

"As a Fulbrighter, we think your experience in Egypt has been unique and exceptional where you clicked the right note on both the academic and cultural levels." "We're lucky to have you as one of our ideal Fulbright alumna. Thank you for being such a great cultural ambassador to the U.S. in Egypt!" – Staff at the Binational Fulbright Commission in Egypt, 2013.

"As Shakespeare said, ' There are no other words I can say but thanks and thanks.!!' Your participation at our first ever camp was pivotal to its being a success. Thank you for sharing your time and great talents, seeking us out all the way from Chicago and spreading the international language of dance to our children." – Nurse at 57357 Children's Cancer Hospital Egypt, 2013.

"Shawn is the rare individual that excels at both the visionary and operational work of running a program. She is trained as a teacher and choreographer and is also a consummate, professional manager. She can access the best from both worlds and offers an expansive new model of leadership well suited to the needs of the culturally diverse global economy." – Cynthia Weiss, former Assistant Director at the Center for Community Arts Partnerships, Columbia College Chicago, 2012.