

# SHAWN RENEE LENT

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## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE - PROFESSIONAL

### CHICAGO DANCEMAKERS FORUM | CHICAGO, IL

PROGRAMS AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR | AUG 2016 - PRESENT

- **Granting Programs:** Managed the operations of grant programs for individual dancemaking artists: \$270,000 USD grants budget, with up to 21 artists selected across programs annually. Coordinated the programs' promotions, applications, and selection processes including application work sessions, one-on-one coaching with finalists, and feedback calls with applicants. Garnered the largest and most diverse applicant pool in the organization's 17 year history. Worked closely with program mentors to monitor and support awardees' progress toward their project goals as they research, develop, and present new dance works. Coordinated artist retreats, convenings, and work-in-progress sharings. Facilitated community partnerships that support artistic development for dance creators. Conducted program evaluation with members of the Board of Directors.
- **Public Programs:** Coordinated with the Executive Director for the development and execution of large-scale events (two city-wide forums, Natural Encounters 2019, and Elevate Chicago Dance Festival 2017 and 2018, and Regional Dance Development Initiative RDDI Chicago) and multiple public events (symposiums, panel discussions, choreographic workshops, public dialogues, artist convenings, and performances). Arranged for space and accessibility services. Supervised contractual staff, interns, and volunteers in the planning and implementation of public events.
- **Partnered Programs:** Closely collaborated with institutions such as American Dance Abroad, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, The Nature Conservancy, New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) National Dance Project, Rebuild Foundation, and Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center on special projects and residencies for dancemaking artists.
- **Communications:** Served as lead liaison with designers on organizational rebranding and development of a new website. Oversaw the compilation, editing, and sending of monthly e-newsletter. Updated and maintained the website, social media platforms, media relations, and e-marketing. Regularly distributed information on opportunities and resources available to local dancemaking artists.

### CREATEEQUITY | 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 individuals.
- Head writer for four long-form research-based articles.
- Lead of audience engagement, public programming, and cultivation of alliances.

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

EDUCATION USA COORDINATOR | 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 advising team in both Cairo and Alexandria.
- Increased number of Egyptians studying in the U.S. to 2,974 (highest total ever at the time, with undergrads increasing 8%) by developing stronger relationship with Egypt Desk at State, AMIDEAST HQ in D.C., 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 (from 3K to 20K engaged users monthly on Facebook, with 120K 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.

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

ARTS INTEGRATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST | 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 DANCE 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.
- *Les Miserables*, choreographer for all-female project in the Orthodox Jewish community – Chicago, IL, December 2019.
- Educare Chicago / Start Early, dance residency for 85 children in Headstart – Chicago, IL, 2018-2020.
- Global Water Dances (Flint, MI site), one-day international event preceded by a year of planning activities – Flint, MI, June 2017.
- 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.

### DANCE TEACHING

- Music House, tap and ballet dance classes for children – Chicago, IL, 2018-present.
- Old Town School of Folk Music, ballet classes for children including students on the Autism Spectrum – Chicago, IL, 2016-2018.
- Cairo Contemporary Dance Center, jazz classes for professional certificate and recreational programs – Cairo, Egypt, 2014-2015.
- 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.

### CONSULTATION, CONTRACT WORK, AND FACILITATION

- Communications Consultant, Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival, – Chicago, IL, October 2018-March 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.

## SELECTED HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

### GRANTS, AWARDS AND HONORS

- U.S. Department of State – AlumniTIES Grantee | *Project Title: New Neighbor Arts Entrepreneurship* (Supporting Migrant and Refugee Artists in Chicago, IL) – August 2019 – January 2020.
- New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) National Theater Project | Writer's Travel Grant– San Francisco, CA, September 2019.
- U.S. Fulbright Scholar | Cairo, Egypt | 2012–2013 | *Project Title: Artist As Catalyst*
- 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.
- 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.*

### BOARD ACTIVITY

- Co-Director of Professional Development, Illinois chapter of the National Dance Education Organization – 2021-present
- Advisory Board for the Chicago Arts Educators Forum – Chicago, IL 2010-2012.
- 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.

### GRANT SELECTION PANELS

- Chicago Dancemakers Forum, Digital Dance Grants, January 2021.
- City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Individual Artist Program, January 2017.
- National Endowment for the Arts, Research Grants, December 2016 and January 2017.

### GUEST LECTURES, PANELS, AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

- 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.
- Independent Sector, Our Common Future Conference, "Title: Breaking Down Barriers to Provide Arts and Culture for All" – Detroit, MI, October 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.
- Dance/USA National Conference, “Social Relevance at the Heart of Practice: The Role of American Dance Companies in Cultural Diplomacy and Peace” with Reggie Harris and Stacie Williams – Austin, TX, June 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.

#### **SPONSORED PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES, SUMMITS, AND TRAININGS**

- 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.
- Grantmakers in the Arts, Annual Conference – Detroit, MI, October 2017.
- 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.
- British Council’s Transatlantic Network 2020 – Northern Ireland 2008, Chicago USA 2010, and Kosovo 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.

#### **PUBLICATIONS AND WRITING**

- ClydeFitchReport.com, Contributing Editor for online publication in arts and politics, 2015-2019.
- “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, 200K+ hits / 30K+ likes; First blog post ever admitted to Dance Education Literature and Research (DELRdi) national archives, 2013.

## **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 | 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**

Concentration: Youth Arts Development

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

Major: Theatre with a concentration in Acting | Minor: Dance

#### **TRAINING CERTIFICATES:**

- Supporting Individual Artists | Americans for the Arts | January 2021
- The Experts’ Guide to Marketing the Arts | Americans for the Arts | January 2021
- The Equity Journey E-Certificate | Nonprofit Leadership Alliance | August 2020
- Mental Health for the Arts | Center for Creative Arts Therapy | July 2020
- Safety & Wellness Certification | Youth Protection Advocates in Dance | January 2020
- Equity & Inclusion | Nonprofit Leadership Alliance | May 2018
- Interfaith Conflict Resolution | United States Institute of Peace | September 2013
- Conflict Analysis | United States Institute of Peace | August 2013