

SHAWN RENEE LENT

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RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

CHICAGO DANCEMAKERS FORUM | CHICAGO, IL

PROGRAMS AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR | AUG 2016 - PRESENT

- **Granting Programs:** Manage the operations of granting programs for local dancemaking artists: average annual grants budget of \$270K USD. Coordinate program outreach, applications, and selection processes including application work sessions, one-on-one coaching, review panels, and feedback calls. Work closely with program mentors to tailor support systems for each grantee and monitor grantees' progress toward their goals. Organize retreats, convenings, and work-in-progress showings. Establish and cultivate partnerships that support artistic development for dance artists. Propose (re)design of granting programs to work toward racial and cultural equity.
- **Public Programs:** Design, manage, and direct (in person, virtual, and hybrid) public events which include Elevate Chicago Dance festivals, citywide summits, symposiums, commissioned performances, panel discussions, workshops, Greenroom Reunion, and partnered programs. Serve as the organization's 504 accessibility coordinator. Supervise contractual staff, interns, and volunteers in the planning and implementation of events.
- **Internship Programs:** Develop, recruit, manage, and evaluate all internship programs (high school, college, graduate, and professional levels) with 4-8 interns per year. Serve as supervisor and coach.
- **Program Evaluation:** Evaluate all programs and provide documentation, data, data analysis, and reports.
- **Communications:** Manage all outward facing communications. Maintain the organization's website, grant application portals, social media, media/press relations, and e-marketing. Regularly distribute information on opportunities and resources for local artists. Oversee the compilation, editing, and sending of monthly newsletter.

MUSIC HOUSE | CHICAGO, IL

MANAGER OF DANCE EDUCATION (PART-TIME) | AUG 2023 – PRESENT

- Create all dance curricula and progress reporting tools.
- Monitor and coach dance faculty. Design and facilitate professional development offerings.

CREATEQUITY | ONLINE NATIONAL THINK TANK IN THE ARTS | WORKING REMOTELY

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.
- Served as head writer for four long-form research-based articles regarding systemic issues in the arts.
- Lead activities related to audience engagement, public programming, and cultivation of partnerships.

AMIDEAST EGYPT | HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. (REMOTE, CONTRACTUAL)

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR | JUL 2015 – JAN 2019

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

AMIDEAST | HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. (POSTED AT AMIDEAST EGYPT) | CAIRO, EGYPT

EDUCATION USA ADVISER AND NATIONAL COORDINATOR | DEC 2013 - JUL 2015

- Planned, managed, oversaw, evaluated, and reported on all Egypt-based activities for EducationUSA, the U.S. Department of State's global network of educational advising services. Created and tracked project budgets.
- Supervised advising team in both Cairo and Alexandria.

- Contributed to an increase in the number of Egyptians studying in the U.S. to 2,974 (highest total ever at the time), with undergrad enrollment increasing by 8%.
- Tripled attendance of in-house professional development and applicant support workshops (from 150 to 450 average monthly), creating what a U.S. Department of State described as "one of Top 5 most vibrant EducationUSA centers in the world" at the time. Coordinated fairs, information 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.

**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 better 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+ school teachers and teaching artists.

SELECTED HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

GRANTS, AWARDS AND HONORS

- *Newcity* | "The Fifty People Who Really Perform for Chicago" – Chicago, IL, January 2019 and January 2022.
- U.S. Department of State – AlumniTIES Grantee | Project supporting immigrant artists – Chicago, IL, August 2019 – February 2020.
- U.S. Fulbright Scholar | Project: "Artist as Catalyst" – Cairo, Egypt, 2012–2013.
- Iftar Honoree "For service to refugee families" | Syrian Community Network – Chicago, IL, May 2017.
- U.S. Embassy Cairo Award presented by Ambassador Beecroft "For innovation and excellence in using technology and personally engaging tools to inform Egyptians about the benefits of studying in the U.S." – Cairo, Egypt, June 2015.

SELECTED DANCE TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND SOCIAL PRACTICE

- Ralla Klepak Performing Arts Program, for adults with learning and developmental disabilities (LDDs) – Chicago, IL, 2022-present.
- LBP School of Dance, acro and neurodiverse dance classes for children – Chicago, IL, 2018-present.
- Music House, tap and ballet dance classes for children – Chicago, IL, 2018-present.
- Founding Lead of Dance Peace, arts programming for refugee children and teens – Chicago, IL, 2016-present.
- Marshall Field Garden Apartments (subsidized housing) dance program lead – Chicago, IL, 2017-2020.
- U.S. Embassy Cairo, jazz and social dance history workshops as cultural diplomacy – Cairo, Egypt, 2014-2015.

- Cairo Contemporary Dance Center, jazz classes for professional certificate and recreational programs – Cairo, Egypt, 2014-2015.
- 57357 Children’s Cancer Hospital, dance experiences patients, families and staff – Cairo, Egypt, 2012-2015.
- Most Mira: Bridge of Peace Festival – Prijedor, Bosnia-Herzegovina, May 2011.
- Performing Arts Limited, dance classes for children, teens and adults – Chicago, IL, 2005–2012 and 2016-2018.

SERVICE AS A GRANT SELECTION PANELIST / NOMINATOR

- Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), January 2017 and April 2022.
- Americans for the Arts, 2022 Johnson Fellowship for Artists Transforming Communities, July 2021.
- Chicago Dancemakers Forum, 2021 Digital Dance Grants, January 2021.
- National Endowment for the Arts, Research Grants, December 2016 and January 2017.
- Binational Fulbright Commission in Egypt, Fulbright Scholar Program, December 2012.

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND LECTURES

- Columbia College Chicago, guest lectures, every semester – Chicago, IL, Fall 2012 – present.
- Brigham Young University, guest lectures 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.
- 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” – College Park, Maryland, October 2014.
- Commencement Address for Millikin University – Decatur, IL, May 2014.

SPONSORED PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES, SUMMITS, AND LEADERSHIP 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.
- 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.

CONSULTATION, CONTRACT WORK, AND FACILITATION

- Facilitator for launch of the Artistic Council, Sarah Siddons Society foundation – Chicago, IL (virtual), June 2021.
- Communications Consultant, Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival, – Chicago, IL, 2018-2019.
- Research Consultant, Cerqua Rivera Dance Theater’s refugee/immigration project – Chicago, IL, 2017-2018.

VOLUNTEER BOARD / COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

- Entertainment/Arts Committee Lead for World Refugee Day Chicago – 2019-present.
- Co-Director of Professional Development, Illinois Dance Education Organization – 2021-present.
- Mentor, MENTEE, virtual mentorship for marginalized & oppressed groups around the world – 2021-2022.
- Core Member of Americans for the Arts’ Emerging Leaders Network – Chicago, IL Chapter, 2010-2012.
- Founding Chair of Link’s Hall Associate Board for– Chicago, IL, 2009-2012.

PUBLICATIONS AND WRITING

- *Gallant Forty Twa: The National Theatre of Scotland's Black Watch as Exemplary and Relevant Political Theatre* “Theaters of War: Contemporary Perspectives,” Scheyer, Lauri. Bloomsbury Publishing, October 2021.
- “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 AND TRAINING

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

Concentration: Arts in Youth and Community Development | Internship: About Face Youth Theatre's Home Project with LGBTQIA+ teens experiencing homelessness

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

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

TRAINING COURSES / CERTIFICATES

- Grantmakers in the Arts, Racial Equity in Arts Funding | March 2023
- Youth Protection Advocates in Dance, Safety and Wellness Certificate | January 2022
- Healing Forward: Journey Into Allyship, designed by Marc Bamuthi Joseph and Rika Iino | June 2021
- Supporting Individual Artists | Americans for the Arts | January 2021
- Human Rights: The Rights of Refugees | Amnesty International | September 2020
- Mental Health for the Arts | Center for Creative Arts Therapy | July 2020
- EducationUSA Adviser Training | U.S. Department of State | September 2014
- Interfaith Conflict Resolution | United States Institute of Peace | September 2013