

## EDUCATION

**Antioch University** • Los Angeles, CA • 2023

Doctor of Education: Educational and Professional Practice, Social Justice Leadership specialization

**University of New Mexico** • Albuquerque, NM • 2010

Master of Arts (with distinction): Theater Education and Community Outreach

**Hampshire College** • Amherst, MA • 2006

Bachelor of Arts: Performing Arts Pedagogy and Community Cultural Development

**Escola Circo Picolino/Fundacao Cultural do Estado Da Bahia** • Salvador, Brazil • 2005

Semester abroad: Community-Based Performance & Street Theater/Circus Arts

**Union Nacional de Escritores y Artistas Cubanos** Havana, Cuba • 2003

Semester abroad: Performance Studies, Theatre History & Criticism, Contemporary Dance

## PROFESSIONAL

**The Entertainment Community Fund** • 7/24 – present

### **Arts Education Specialist**

Manage the Career Center's Teaching Artist Program, designed to prepare entertainment industry professionals for work in teaching artistry. Coordinator and co-facilitator of multi-week training intensive, and supervising coach for lesson plan development and teaching placements in LA classrooms. Producer of annual Creative Classroom Symposium, a national gathering highlighting arts education leadership nationwide. Responsible for program administration and grant reporting.

**Laurel Butler Consulting, LLC** • 7/21 – present

### **Owner / Principal**

Provide a wide range of consulting services including workshop facilitation, creative program design and implementation, curriculum development, event production, writing, research, and strategic planning for arts education and social justice organizations. Full client list available at end of CV.

**Everyday Arts** • 8/20 – present

### **Director of Youth Programming**

Develop and implement educational programming fostering social emotional learning through inclusive arts integration for educators of students with diverse abilities. Lead designer, facilitator and director of yearlong devised theater program at iLEAD Empower Generations Innovation Studios school for pregnant & parenting teens and lead writer of all middle & high school curricula. Facilitate workshops and in-class coaching for multiple public school districts as well as the Beacon Day School for students with autism and related disorders. Member of the Everyday Arts strategic planning committee and racial equity task force; founding member of the Board of Directors.

**Loyola Marymount University • 1/20 – present**

**Faculty Lecturer: Arts Education Approaches for Social Emotional Learning**

Instructor of undergraduate course connecting theories in creativity, multidisciplinary arts education, social justice youth development and expressive arts therapy to the design and facilitation of socially and emotionally supportive learning environments for diverse individuals and communities through best practices in visual art, dance, music, and theater with a focus on culturally responsive pedagogies and trauma-informed/healing-centered practice.

**Instructor: Helen B. Landgarten Art Therapy Clinic Summer Arts Workshop**

Designed and implemented a multidisciplinary weeklong curriculum for LMU Art Therapy faculty, graduate students, alumni, and students from Dolores Mission Middle School to create an original music video about their experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic, culminating in a live online screening and youth-led public talkback.

**Summer Retreat Facilitator: First to Go Program**

Led original theater and dance-based community building workshops focused on individual identity and collective empowerment for LMU's first generation student group's orientation programming.

**The Royal Frog Ballet • 5/06 – present**

**Artistic Ensemble Member**

Devise original, creative, multidisciplinary performance work in collaboration with artistic associates nationwide, to be performed annually at the Royal Frog Ballet's *Surrealist Cabaret*, a site-specific theatrical festival and land-based autumnal ritual situated on New England farmland.

**Founding Co-Director of Education Programs**

Oversee all programming of the Royal Frog Ballet's education and community outreach wing including summer camps, in-school residencies, live & virtual workshops/summits, and online curricula. Responsible for marketing and outreach, client relationships and budget management.

**4C LAB • 8/20 – 5/22**

**Program Development Specialist**

Provided strategic advisement and administrative support to the Executive/Artistic Director of social justice theater and dance program for Los Angeles youth. Co-facilitator of community professional development workshops, youth arts residencies, and culminating performances. Designed and implemented social justice performing arts curricula and teaching artist trainings, and conducted quantitative and qualitative research and evaluation to support funding initiatives and project proposals. Associate producer and artistic consultant for theater and dance performances.

**Los Angeles County Office of Education • 2/15 – 3/20**

**Arts Education and Social Emotional Learning Specialist**

Facilitate arts-integration professional development workshops with upwards of 1000 teachers and administrators throughout Los Angeles County, teaching culturally responsive theater and dance strategies to connect California Visual and Performing Arts standards in to the Common Core,

social emotional wellness, and English language learning. Lead coordinator of the multidisciplinary teaching artist team, and lead writer for all online SEL curriculum content which has since been integrated into the teacher training program for students at California State University, Los Angeles.

**Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network (AIYN) • 4/18 – 5/19**

**Youth Development & Leadership Specialist / Program Manager: Young Artists Lab**

Supported and facilitated the creation and coordination of AIYN's Re-Entry and Diversion programs, including multidisciplinary arts workshops, community-based activities, youth development clinics and project-based learning in a range of creative disciplines within an art-as-activism framework. Produced large-scale community events showcasing creative work and original performances by formerly incarcerated and systems-impacted youth.

**UCLA Visual and Performing Arts Education (VAPAE) Program • 3/16 – 5/18**

**Associate Director**

Oversaw multifaceted university-level arts education program, including undergraduate coursework, community-based programming, public event production, outreach, grant reporting, budget management, staff supervision, and collaborative partnerships. Faculty advisor for the Art as Resistance student group as well as numerous undergraduate independent study & research projects.

**Professional Development Coordinator**

Observed and provided feedback to VAPAE student teaching artists on-site in their community teaching placements. Designed and implemented large-scale professional development training sessions for VAPAE student teaching artists to build competencies and share best practices.

**Lecturer: The Arts Education Teaching Sequence**

Instructor of three course series - *Introduction to Arts Education for Multiple Publics: Theory and Practice*, *Arts Education Teaching Practicum* and *Arts Education Capstone Project* - providing an overview of basic theories of arts education and human development alongside hands-on experience developing and implementing standards-based lessons emphasizing social justice and the creative process at practicum placements throughout Los Angeles County schools and community sites.

**Lecturer: Arts Programs in Correctional Institutions: History, Theory and Practice**

Instructor of undergraduate course examining the rise of mass incarceration in the United States and the resulting artistic projects and program models taking place locally and nationally in collaboration with incarcerated and systems-impacted populations, as well as a pedagogical understanding of best practices for teaching artists in the field. Class culminated with community-based theater workshops at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall and David Gonzales Probation Camp of Los Angeles County.

**Lecturer: Foundations of Dance Education (World Arts & Cultures/Dance department)**

Instructor of undergraduate course providing the theoretical and pedagogical basis upon which creative and educational dance experiences can be structured and implemented with a range of student populations, including practicum teaching experiences with kindergarden students at the UCLA Laboratory School, middle school students at Emerson Middle School, and a dance-on-film intensive with high school students at University High School.

**UCLA Prison Education Program • 3/17 – 12/17**

**Faculty Advisor: UCLA Justice Work Group**

Supported the mission of the UCLA Justice Work Group, a student organization for on-campus leadership and engagement around issues of justice and the movement to end mass incarceration.

**Lead Facilitator: Beyond the Bars LA 2017 Fellowship Committee**

Coordinated, organized, and supported the 2017 Beyond the Bars LA Fellowship, an interdisciplinary cohort of scholars, activists, and formerly incarcerated community members selected to collaboratively produce the sold-out Beyond the Bars LA: The End of Mass Incarceration Conference at UCLA in 2017. Curator of the *Arts in Corrections & Abolition* panel.

**Lecturer: Narratives of Agency: Arts in Corrections Practicum**

Instructor of undergraduate course, cross-listed with VAPAE course Arts Ed 101, that engaged UCLA students in the development and implementation of culturally relevant, multidisciplinary, social justice arts-education lessons and culminating theatre performance with incarcerated youth at Barry J Nidorf Juvenile Hall, who also received UCLA Extension Credit for their participation.

**Agency Arts • 1/17 – 3/18**

**Founding Co-Director/Lead Artist**

Coordinated and led the ACT ONE & ACT TWO performing arts programs funded by California Arts Council's Re-Entry Through the Arts grant. Designed and facilitated weekly performing arts workshops for formerly incarcerated and systems-impacted youth; hired & trained all teaching artists and managed all grant reports. Directed and produced the sold-out ACT TWO theater production at UCLA, and executive produced *ACT TWO: The Movie*, funded by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox Social Impact program, which premiered at the Rosenthal Theater at Inner City Arts in April of 2019.

**Windward Preparatory School • 9/14 – 6/16**

**Social Justice and Service Learning Coordinator**

Facilitated curriculum-based service learning and community outreach projects for middle and high school students, including collaboratively devised theater programming with housing-insecure young people living at the Salvation Army Transitional Village. Social Justice and Service Learning course instructor for grades 6-12 and faculty advisor for the student service coordinator committee.

**St. James Episcopal School • 1/15 – 6/16**

**Head of Dance Program**

Dance instructor for grades K – 6. Designed and implemented year-long dance curriculum, facilitated weekly dance experiences for all grade levels in a variety of genres throughout the school year, and oversaw the choreography and production of the end-of-year dance performance.

**The Unusual Suspects Theater Company • 8/14 – 1/16**

**Teaching Artist / Script Supervisor**

After-school theater instructor for middle school youth at Maclay Academy for Social Justice and

incarcerated high school youth at David Gonzales Probation Camp of Los Angeles County. Facilitator of collaborative ensemble workshops implementing a comprehensive performing arts curriculum ranging from drama games to playwriting to original devised performance.

**Bluepalm • 9/14 – 2/15**

### **Artist Educator**

Instructor of movement-based arts integration program within Montebello Unified School District. Facilitated dance and theater arts curriculum integrating Common Core standards and academic content. Provided arts integration professional development training for Montebello elementary school teachers and conducted participatory student/parent workshops in English and Spanish.

**San Francisco Arts Education Project. 1/14 – 4/14**

### **Teaching Artist**

Musical Theater instructor and choreographer for grades 6 - 8 at Claire Lilienthal Charter School. Instruction and classroom management for over 50 middle-school youth. Production included numbers from *Annie*, *Matilda*, *Newsies* and *West Side Story*. Curriculum included performance technique, choreography, and discussion-based historical context/dramaturgy.

**Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) • 1/11 – 4/14**

### **Youth Arts Manager**

Program manager of multidisciplinary art-as-activism residency for San Francisco Bay Area high school teens. Developed and implemented year-long curriculum for up to 30 teenage artists-in-residence. Event producer for youth performances, exhibitions, community engagement activities, and youth retreats. Responsible for all program materials, partnerships, grant/budget management, hiring/supervision of staff, and program representation at local and national conferences.

### **Performing Arts Educator**

Facilitator of the creation of original performance works, including *Truth Be Told*, collaboratively created by the youth of the YBCA Young Artists at Work program and men of the Resolve to Stop the Violence Program at San Francisco Jail #5. Developed and implemented curriculum comprised of acting, movement, choreography, poetry, and vocal and physical performance technique.

### **Education and Engagement Specialist**

Manager of the YBCA: YOU aesthetic development and education program. Individual arts counselor and case manager for over 150 adult participants. Responsible for outreach, recruitment, and turning pilot program into YBCA's new membership model. Created and facilitated the *Smart Night Out/Dance Savvy* performance appreciation and contextualization workshop series.

**University of San Francisco Performing Arts & Social Justice Dept. • 5/12 – 4/14**

### **Faculty Instructor: Performing Arts and Community Exchange**

Introduced undergraduate students to the field of community arts and collaboratively devised performance including facilitation techniques, art-as-activism, and community-based theater, as well as practicum classes working with incarcerated men at San Francisco Jail #5. Directed and produced

final performance at the jail for a community audience including the SF Sheriff's Department.

**Faculty Instructor: Minds in Motion**

Co-coordinated and co-facilitated bilingual study-abroad program in Tacna, Peru. Working closely with Tacna-based teachers/administrators and USF undergraduate dance students, designed movement classes to support elementary-level academic curriculum at Colegio Miguel Pro. Taught after-school classes with secondary students exploring conflict resolution through performance.

**Faculty Instructor: Dance in the Community**

Led discussion-based curriculum on contemporary theories of dance pedagogy, with a dual focus on creative movement and academic integration through dance. Co-facilitated and oversaw students' hands-on practicum training in dance pedagogy and collaborative facilitation of movement-based lessons with San Francisco Unified School District afterschool programs and elementary schools.

**Stanford University • 8/13 – 9/13**

**Visiting Faculty: Journeying Inside and Out - The Arts and Incarceration**

Presented an overview of collaborative community arts theory and best practices. Facilitated daily classes with combined cohort of Stanford students and students from Hillcrest Juvenile Detention Facility. Classes included community-building exercises, theater activities, movement exercises, and creative writing. Organized and produced final performance at Hillcrest Juvenile Detention Facility.

**Boy Scouts Southwest Council Scoutreach Juvenile Diversion Program • 5/10 – 1/11**

**Program Specialist**

Administrated and managed after school community engagement and youth development program for teens impacted by the juvenile justice system. Developed and implemented curriculum on positive youth development and creative skill-building, and coordinated weekly community service projects and youth meetings. Case manager/mentor for youth in three New Mexico counties.

**Comienzos, Inc. • 4/10 – 1/11.**

**Director: The ActorInside Theater Program**

Taught acting and theater classes to incarcerated men at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center. Created and implemented bilingual movement and poetry curriculum within a nonviolent communication framework and facilitated the collaboratively created performance piece *Lucid Dreaming/Soñando Lucido*, which premiered at the Revolutions International Theater Festival.

**Keshet Dance Company • 8/09 – 1/11**

**Outreach Faculty**

Taught elective-credit dance classes to students at Foothills High School inside the New Mexico Youth Diagnostic and Development Center facility for adjudicated youth as well as elementary school students in the Title I Homeless Program. Facilitated customized curriculum and culminating performances integrating dance idioms with academic subjects and positive youth development.

**University of New Mexico College of Fine Arts • 8/08 – 5/10**

**Instructor: Theater for Education and Social Change**

Designed and implemented lecture and practicum course curriculum including Theater of the Oppressed, history of theater for social change, and techniques for devising collaborative theater. Coordinated and produced three student-led social justice theater projects at community sites including the VSA North Fourth Arts Center for adults with disabilities, the Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Center, and the University of New Mexico Queer-Straight Alliance Festival.

**Director: The ActorInside Theater Program**

Taught theater to incarcerated youth and coordinated and trained volunteers to teach theatre classes in the Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Center. Responsible for scheduling, program development, ensuring volunteer competency and acting as liaison with Juvenile Justice Services. Funded by a graduate assistantship through the UNM College of Fine Arts Partnership for Learning through Arts and Community Engagement (P.L.A.C.E.) program.

**Artistic Director/Coordinator: The Street Theatre Brigade performance ensemble**

Developed original, collaborative works of theater and performance including flash mobs, clown shows and invisible theater, designed for public spaces, schools, hospitals, and community events in the city of Albuquerque. Funded by a graduate assistantship through the UNM College of Fine Arts Partnership for Learning through Arts and Community Engagement (P.L.A.C.E.) program.

**Instructor: University of New Mexico Theater Classes for Young People**

Taught weekend classes to pre-kindergarden through middle school students in acting technique, improvisation, playwriting, and creative drama, culminating in a stage performance for the public.

**Theatre-In-The-Making • 12/08 – 8/10**

**Executive Director**

Coordinated city-wide theater program for young people including workshops, full-scale productions and contract-based community projects. Oversaw organizational administration, public relations, marketing and grant/contract agreements, including partnerships with Albuquerque Public Schools & 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers and the Playwrite at PB&J project for children of incarcerated parents. Lead teaching artist for summer camp programs at Albuquerque Little Theater.

**Harwood Community Arts Center • 7/09 – 8/10.**

**Theater Teacher**

Developed and directed original stage plays with elementary and middle school students of Harwood's Summer Arts Camp in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Facilitated drama, theater, and movement workshops; curriculum included ensemble-building techniques, theater games, character development, playwriting, improvisation, stage combat, and physical/vocal performance.

**National Hispanic Cultural Center • 1/09 – 10/09**

**Acrobatics and Clown Instructor**

Developed and implemented circus arts curriculum for elementary and middle school students at the Circo Latino summer circus camp. Assistant director, writer, choreographer and artistic advisor for final performances. Presented original interactive performance/workshops for Albuquerque Public Schools elementary-school students and families through the Artes los Martes outreach program.

**Cuidando Los Ninos • 1/08 – 6/09**

**Early Childhood Teacher**

Provided child care to children experiencing homelessness in and around Albuquerque, New Mexico. Developed, supervised and encouraged child-initiated creative activities. Received training in early childhood social-emotional development and case management. Facilitated meals, naps, recreation, and educational engagement for infants, toddlers, and pre-school-aged children.

**Explora Children's Museum • 3/08 – 9/08**

**Bilingual Educator**

Facilitated interactive science and arts exhibit experiences for museum visitors. Taught inquiry-based exhibition explorations to students of all ages. Received training in bilingual science pedagogy. Designed and taught Summer theater camp and performed in educational theater productions.

**Working Classroom. Inc. • 9/07 – 3/08**

**Theater Program Education Coordinator**

Lead administrator of theater program at non-profit arts education and social action organization. Developed and implemented bilingual acting curriculum for middle and high school students based in physical theater and improvisation. Recruited students through interactive presentations in Albuquerque public schools. Responsible for data maintenance and promotional/outreach materials.

**Idyllwild Arts Academy Summer Program • 6/05 – 8/08**

**Junior Artists and Multi-Arts Theater Program Co-Director**

Children's Center Faculty Member. Taught principles of theatre, acting, movement and performance to elementary and middle-school students in summer arts program. Co-wrote, co-directed and choreographed original youth musical theater productions. Resident advisor/counselor, 2005.

**Enchanted Circle Theater • 2/05 – 5/07**

**Teaching Artist and Company Member**

Stage performer in original touring theater productions including *Page to Stage* and *Leah Enters Late*. Resident teaching artist for kindergarten through 8th grade students in Northampton, Holyoke and Springfield public schools as well as Holyoke YMCA and Boys & Girls Club after-school programs. Assisted with booking and administration, archives and database, promotional and educational materials, and developing creative arts program curricula.



**Hadley School District • 9/06 – 11/06**

**Drama Advisor, Hopkins Academy**

Director and producer of fall play. Taught improvisational theater, acting, character development and physical comedy to students grades 7 through 12. Facilitated the creation and development of original sketch comedy theatre show and produced final culminating performance.

**Hampshire College Children's Center • 9/02 – 5/07**

**Lead teacher**

Child care provider for infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children. Coordinated and supervised creative activities including arts and crafts, outdoor events, storytelling, music and creative drama.

**CREATIVE / ARTISTIC**

**SURREALIST CABARET • Performance • Creator/Performer • 2010-2022**

Multidisciplinary outdoor site-based community performance festival with new original works created annually by the The Royal Frog Ballet, Northampton, Massachusetts.

**SHARON is KAREN • Performance Salon • Producer/Curator/Performer • 2018-2022**

Originally a live annual platform for multidisciplinary performers to share works-in-progress at Pieter Performance Space in Los Angeles, CA, which has since evolved into an Instagram account to share monthly performances of cover songs in alignment with the lunar cycle.

**Zo0m Tru+h C@p\$ule: 2045 • Online Performance/Video • Director/Producer • 2021**

Original online theater performance piece devised by the students of iLEAD Empower Generations Innovation Studios high school in Lancaster, CA working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, blending elements of science fiction, time travel, and documentary theater.

**BETTER THINGS SERIES FINALE • Television Episode • Choreographer/Performer**

Choreographer and puppeteer/performer for the *Wake Up Looking* music video intro sequence for the Season 5 finale episode of the FX/Hulu show *Better Things*. Also choreographed the original video by Gideon Irving, voted one of the top 25 music videos of 2019 by *Rolling Stone* magazine.

**POSTMAN • Performance Project/Newsletter • Creator/Performer/Author/Curator • 2019**

Series of solo concerts and community workshops accompanied by an interdisciplinary online periodical investigating future-speculative themes through a postmodern and feminist lens. West Coast tour included El Rio (SF), Flock/Bunk Bar (PDX), Studio Current (SEA), CounterPulse (SF) and The Satellite (LA). Producer/choreographer/dancer of original music video for *Sun/One*.

**ACT TWO • Short Film • Producer • 2019**

Cinematic adaptation of a script written and performed by formerly incarcerated and system-impacted youth. Supported by the Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox Social Impact grant. Premiere screening & talkback at the Rosenthal Theater at Inner City Arts, April 2019.

**THIS IS OUR FUTURE / LET US TAKE OVER • Community Arts Event •**

**Producer/Curator • 2018**

Live poetry, pop-up zine shop, and podcast listening booths created by the Young Artists Lab and presented with the Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network, the Latino Producer's Action Network, Homeboy Art Academy, WriteGirl/Bold Ink Writers and the Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory.

**ACT TWO • Play • Director/Producer/Facilitator • 2018**

Original theatrical performance created and performed by systems-impacted Los Angeles youth supported by the California Arts Council Re-Entry through the Arts grant program. Sold-out opening night performance and talkback at UCLA's Northwest Auditorium, March 2018.

**FOR CRYING OUT LOUD • Album & Tour • Artistic Director/Lead Performer • 2017**

Full-length album by the band Cassandra, premiered on Huffington Post. Live performances at Silverlake Lounge (Los Angeles) Blonde Bar (San Diego) & Moustache (Tijuana, Mexico).

**NARRATIVES OF AGENCY • Performance • Director/Producer/Facilitator • 2017**

Multidisciplinary performance collaboratively devised by incarcerated and non-incarcerated students, presented by the UCLA VAPAE and Prison Education programs at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall.

**SO WILD • Music Video & Tour • Director/Producer/Lead Performer • 2016**

Music video by Cassandra, directed by Cool Cat Productions. Live performances at the Bootleg Theater, The Echo, and El Cid, Los Angeles CA.

**LADY STARDUST • Band • Lead Performer • 2012-16**

All-female David Bowie cover band. Live performances at Bottom of the Hill, Café Du Nord, El Rio, The Garage, the Contemporary Jewish Museum, Thee Parkside, Public Works/Roll Up Gallery, and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco CA.

**MAMMOTH • Play • Performer • 2015**

Performed lead role of Tusk Hunter in original play by Adam Burnett directed by Anne Cecelia Haney, presented by Buran Theater at Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica CA.

**STELLAR TEARS • Album & Live Show • Artistic Director/Lead Performer • 2015**

Debut EP by Cassandra. Live performances at REDCAT's NOW festival at the Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theater, the Virgil, and the Women's Center for Creative Work, Los Angeles CA.

**TOXICITY IN THE FAMILY • Play • Director/Script Supervisor • 2015**

Original play created and performed by incarcerated youth at David Gonzales Probation Camp, presented by The Unusual Suspects Theater Company, Los Angeles CA.

**SEPTEMBER • Performance • Creator/Producer/Performer • 2014-15**

Original multidisciplinary dance-theater show collaboratively created and performed with husband Ewen Wright. National tour included The Silent Barn (NY) Bedlam Theater (MN) Nomad Theater (CO) The Box Theater (NM) the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (CA) and the Revolutions International Theater Festival (NM).

**TRUTH BE TOLD • Performance • Producer/Director • 2014**

Multidisciplinary performance collaboratively devised by YBCA Young Artists at Work and the San Francisco Jail #5 Resolve to Stop the Violence Project, presented at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts using video technology to bring incarcerated and non-incarcerated performers together onstage.

**SING THE BODY ELECTRIC • Performance • Creator/Performer • 2014**

Improvisational movement and song-based performance piece collaboratively created with Ron Ragin for the YBCA Body Politic Creative Ecosystem Field of Inquiry and SALTA.

**WILD BEASTS SLEEP IN MY FOREST • Performance • Creator/Performer • 2013**

One woman song cycle exploring themes of desire, rural isolation, and the domesticity of the housewife. Premiered at the International Home Theater Festival, Oakland CA.

**WE ARE THE ONES • Performance • Director/Producer • 2012**

Original performance collaboratively devised by incarcerated adults and students from the University of San Francisco's Performing Arts and Social Justice Program at San Francisco Jail #5.

**HOT MESS • Dance Performance • Choreographer/Performer • 2011**

Four-woman dance piece investigating cognitive dissonance, repression, composure, and mania. Presented at Second Sundays at Counterpulse, San Francisco CA.

**CELL BLOCK DANCE THEATER • Performance • Choreographer/Performer • 2011**

Site-specific community-based dance-theater performance on Alcatraz Island exploring incarceration's impact on the body. Presented by We Players on Alcatraz, San Francisco CA.

**LUCID DREAMING • Performance • Director/Producer • 2011**

Original theater collaboratively devised by incarcerated men at the Bernalillo County Detention Center. Premiered at Tricklock Company's Revolutions International Theater Festival.

**THE GREAT NEGOCIO • Play • Director/Performer • 2010**

Master's Thesis project in collaborative ensemble theater, exploring clown technique as anticapitalist critique. Presented by the University of New Mexico Department of Theater and Dance's Theater X, and awarded Best Original Script and Best Choreography by the department.

**PUBLICATIONS**

"Cultivating Abolitionist Praxis through Healing-Centered Engagement in Social Justice Youth Arts Programs." *AURA/Ohiolink Electronic Theses and Dissertations*, December 2023

"The Transformative Power of Youth Arts Programs." *Antioch Voices*, March 2023

"New Arts Integration Efforts Address Healing-Centered Engagement, Transformative Agency." *Getting Smart Magazine*, October 2020

“LA’s Most Inspiring Stories: Meet Laurel Butler of the Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network ACT TWO Program.” *Voyage LA Magazine*, June 2018

“Cassandra’s ‘For Crying Out Loud’ is the Power-Ballad Soundtrack for the Resistance.” *Huffington Post*, 2017

“Redefining the Young Artists at Work Program as an Art as Activism Residency for Teens.” *Journal of Museum Education*, September 2014

“Customize: Maker Culture, Youth, Creativity.” *National Convening for Teens in the Arts Report*, 2014

“State of the Art: Teens & Technology.” *National Convening for Teens in the Arts Report*, 2013

“Everything Seemed New: Clown as Embodied Critical Pedagogy.” *Theatre Topics*, March 2012

“Occupy as Form.” *Arts Research Center at the University of California, Berkeley*. February 2012

## **PRESENTATIONS**

“Cultivating Abolitionist Praxis Through Healing-Centered Engagement in Social Justice Youth Arts Programs.” Teaching Beyond the Curriculum Conference. University of Glasgow, 2023

“Reclaiming Embodiment as an Emotional Centering Technique.” The Getty Museum, 2023

“The Self as Teaching Artist.” California Institute for the Arts, 2023

“Mark / Make / Work” (with the Royal Frog Ballet). Hampshire College, 2021

“Transformative Social Emotional Learning in Teaching Artistry.” Artworx LA, 2021

“Collective Power & Movement.” Loyola Marymount University First 2 Go Program, 2021

Host of “Creative Teaching: The Talk Show” on YouTube. May – September 2020

“Adolescent Youth Development in Arts Education.” Inner City Arts, Los Angeles, 2019

“Creative Teaching for the Teaching Artist.” Women’s Center for Creative Work, Los Angeles, 2019

“PERMISSION // PRACTICE.” Flock (Portland, OR), Studio Current (Seattle, WA), CounterPulse (San Francisco, CA) and Pieter Performance Space (Los Angeles, CA), 2019

“Art and Activism.” Loyola Marymount University Department of Art Therapy, Los Angeles, 2019

“Arts & Social Emotional Learning: A Shared Experience.” LA County Arts Commission, 2018

“The Personal is Political.” Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, 2017

“Arts in Corrections & Abolition.” Beyond the Bars LA. University of California Los Angeles, 2017

“How can we co-design systems with youth whose outcomes are justice?” Arts for Incarcerated Youth & Carnegie Hall Create Justice Conference. Armory for the Arts, Los Angeles, 2017

“Recruiting & Training Teaching Artists to Work on the Inside.” Arts-In-Corrections: Building Bridges to the Future conference, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles 2017

“Making Art During Fascism.” Women’s Center for Creative Work, Los Angeles, 2016

“Radical Failure; Rigorous Fun.” Boulder Circus Center, Boulder, Colorado, 2014

“Young Artists at Work.” ICA Boston, National Convening for Teens in the Arts, 2013 and 2014

“Artivism as Power.” Allied Media Conference, Transformative Arts Practice Space, Detroit 2013

“Dance Savvy.” Engaging Dance Audiences Learning Exchange at Dance USA Conference, 2012

## **AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS**

California Arts Council Impact Projects and JumpstArts Grant Award Recipient, 2021

Invited Guest Artist, UT Austin Department of Theater Cohen New Works Festival 2021

Board Member, Everyday Arts, 2018-2020

Founding Advisory Board Member, New Mexico Arts and Justice Network, 2018-2020

21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox Social Impact Grant Award Recipient, 2018

Arts for LA ACTIVATE Fellowship Recipient, 2017

California Arts Council Re-Entry Through the Arts Grant Recipient, June 2017

Official Selection, Revolutions International Theater Festival and REDCAT NOW Festival, 2015

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Innovation and Opportunity Fund Recipient, January 2014

Creative Capacity Fund Next Gen and Quick Grant Awards, 2014

Full Scholarship Recipient, Anna Deveare Smith Acting as Empathy Intensive, 2013

San Francisco Board of Supervisors Certificates of Recognition (for contributions to the SF Youth Arts Summit), 2012 and 2013

“Most Likely to Run Their Own Arts Organization.” YBCA Staff Award, 2011

University of New Mexico Partnership for Learning through the Arts and Community Engagement (P.L.A.C.E.) Program Graduate Assistantship Recipient, 2008 - 2010

Best Choreography & Original Script: UNM Department of Theatre & Dance, 2010

President Obama's Committee on the Arts and Humanities' Coming Up Taller Award for Cultural Excellence (Keshet Dance Company Youth Development and Diagnostic Center Program), 2009

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVISM**

Member, AWARE LA / White People for Black Lives. 2016-present

Los Angeles County Captain, Movement for Black Lives Election Defense program. 2020

Organizer, Justice LA / Reform LA Jails / Yes on Measure R campaign. 2019-2020

Organizer, Here to Stay LA Deportation Defense Rapid Response Network. 2017

## **CONSULTING CLIENTS**

4C LAB • Antioch University MA in Teaching program • ArtworxLA • Arts 4 LA • Brimmer Street Theater Company • CalArts Community Arts Partnership • Everyday Arts • The Getty Museum  
GROUND SERIES Dance Company • Hammer Museum • Helen B. Landgarten Art Therapy Clinic • Feminist Center for Creative Work • iLEAD Charter Schools • Inner City Arts • Junkyard Social Club • Keshet Dance Company/New Mexico Arts and Justice Network • Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture • Loyola Marymount University First To Go Program  
Object As Subject • PonySweat Dance Aerobics • ScaleUp Academy • Sonic Connections  
Tyler School of Art & Architecture Creative Scholars Program at Temple University • Twinkle Toes Dance Company • UCLA Urban Humanities Initiative • University of California at Berkeley  
University of New Mexico Masters of Education program • UT Austin Department of Theater  
That Being Said Productions • Vessels Performance • Claremont, Hacienda La Puente, Huntington, Monrovia, Mountain View, Pasadena, Walnut Valley and Whittier School Districts