

2020 Diversity in Arts Leadership Program Mentors



Dr. Anne Desrosiers (she/her) is the Director of Education at Sing for Hope, and will be supervising Isaiah Shaw this summer. She has used education, experiential learning, and culturally responsive pedagogy as a platform for social justice, and to support inner city youth in her eight-year career as an educator. Going from Flatbush to the Ivy League as a former K-12 public school student, Anne uses her experiences as a commitment to harnessing Black and Brown student voices.

After supporting her students' true leadership and intellectual potential inside the classroom as a History teacher, the stars aligned to bring Anne to Sing for Hope, where she joins an amazing cast of characters as passionate about access to the arts and equity as she is. Anne's

experiences as a teaching artist, teacher, scholar and entrepreneur have led her to the Director of Education role supporting access to the arts and activism for public school students throughout the city.



Alex Scoolis (he/him) is the Development and Special Events Coordinator at Opening Act, and will be supervising Carol Loja this summer. When he was eight-years-old growing up in San Luis Obispo, California, Alex found himself cast in the show-stopping role of Lollipop Guild Munchkin #2 in an elementary school production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Hooked, he continued to audition for the school musical every year. When Alex was 13, his mom gave him great advice: find what you love and do it for a living. When he turned 18, he graduated high school and left home for UC Berkeley, where he obtained a dual Bachelor of Arts degree in Media Studies and Theater & Performance Studies. There he had the opportunity to

work at San Francisco Playhouse and Aurora Theatre Company, as well as serve on the Board of Directors for student-run Barestage Productions, all of which were experiences that he looks back on as formative. He also made some deep friendships, began work in special events, and was spoiled by the weather. When he was 22 and wide-eyed, Alex packed up what he could fit into two large suitcases, moved to New York City, began working in special events at Manhattan Theatre Club, and survived his first real winter. When Alex was 23, he accepted the Development and Special Events position at Opening Act, an organization he's very proud to call home.



Candace Thompson-Zachery (she/her) is the Manager of Justice, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives and will be supervising Noah Weiss this summer. Born in Trinidad and Tobago, now local to Brooklyn, NY, operates between the spheres of dance, cultural production and fitness and wellness, with a focus on the Contemporary Caribbean. She has had an established career as a performer, choreographer, fitness professional, cultural producer, teaching artist, community facilitator and Caribbean dance specialist.

She graduated from Adelphi University's BFA program for Dance, and has presented, performed and taught at major venues including: Queen's Hall (T&T), John F. Kennedy Center, New York Live Arts, Brooklyn Museum, and The Ohio

State University. As a cultural producer and strategist, Candace has worked with many organizations and artists bringing their works and visions to life.

Ms. Thompson-Zachery is currently a candidate in the M.A. in Performance Curation program at the Institute for Curatorial Practice in Performance at Wesleyan University and recently completed the Executive Program in Arts & Culture Strategy at University of Pennsylvania with National Arts Strategies. Of tantamount importance to her is the vital role dance plays in our communities and she is eager to see dance artists of various styles, practices and traditions thrive in New York City.



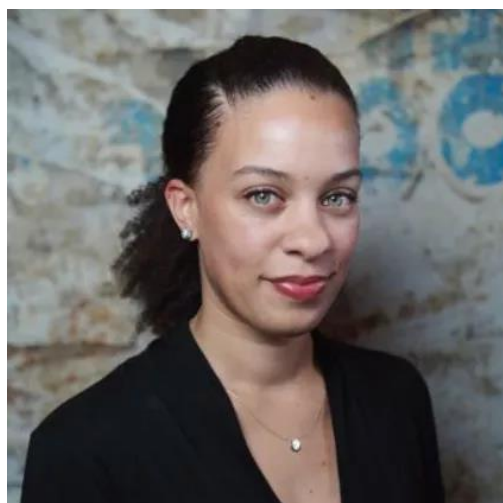
Constanza Valenzuela (she/her) is the Programming Assistant at Creative Time and will be supervising Chayna Yoshida this summer. After earning a BFA in Sculpture from Pratt Institute, she pursued a Masters in Visual Arts Administration from NYU Steinhardt. During her time as a student, Constanza was the Curatorial Assistant at NYU's affiliate contemporary art gallery 80WSE. Constanza has curated independent exhibitions and programs around the city over the years, from gallery shows in Manhattan to underground, DIY shows in Brooklyn.

Constanza is interested in time-based media such as performance and video. She is a big fan of camp and humor in art, especially when it challenges tradition and conventional standards of taste. Outside of the office, Constanza can be found painting in her Bushwick studio.



Fordham University.

Elise Drew León (she/her) is Manager of Diversity and Inclusion at the School of American Ballet (SAB) at Lincoln Center, and will be co-supervising Nailah Williams this summer. In her role, she works to ensure that SAB is a diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization according to its behaviors, policies, and practices. Prior to joining SAB, Elise served as The Ailey School's Summer Housing Coordinator while dancing professionally with the Limón Dance Company and Mark Morris Dance Group, among others. She's a recipient of a 2014 Princess Grace Dance Honorarium and was recently selected for the 2020 CUP Fellows Program (Council of Urban Professionals). Elise received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance from



Studies at Cornell University and Master's in Public Administration at Baruch College where she was a National Urban Fellow. She is also the co-founder of BlackSpace, a Black Urbanist Collective and a commissioned mixed media visual artist.

Emma Osore (she/her) is the Director of Community at NEW INC and will be supervising Rebekah Boggs this summer. believes in cultivating original and radical communities that make a more creative and just world. People are at the core of her work at NEW INC where she guides the Annual Open Call process for members, curates the experiences of over 175 mentors, and makes spaces to co-design and activate community values. Prior to NEW INC, she has created and operationalized inclusive, human-centered ecosystems, alongside various institutions like Americans for the Arts, City of Beverly Hills, Made in Brownsville, and DC Public Schools, that poise early-stage leaders for broad social impact. She earned her undergraduate degree in Urban and Regional



Jessica Stern (she/her) is the Private Sector Initiatives Program Manager at Americans for the Arts and will be supervising Truth Murray Cole this summer. Jessica creates and executes field education programs that build the capacity of local arts agencies to establish meaningful relationships with the private sector, namely through the [pARTnership Movement](#). Prior to relocating to New York, Jessica worked as the Membership and Resources Manager for the Nonprofit Association of Oregon (NAO), providing oversight of NAO's statewide membership program while curating and reinventing its online platform of nonprofit management best practice resources. Previously, Jessica spent nearly five years working with Portland's local business committee for the arts, Business for Culture & the Arts (BCA), delivering programs that

engaged employees from BCA's 200+ business members, managing all marketing and communications strategies, and retaining and cultivating corporate and community partnerships.

Jessica graduated from Portland State University with Master's in Public Administration and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management, and from Lewis & Clark College with a BA in Ethnomusicology and French Studies. She co-founded Portland Emerging Arts Leaders and helped design and grow its emerging leader mentorship program. Aside from thinking about how to celebrate all forms of human creative expression, Jessica enjoys cycling, hiking, travel, cooking, and listening to music from all over the world.



Juan Ramirez (he/him) is the Human Resources and Administration Manager at MoMA PS1 and will be co-supervising Julia Lee this summer. Most recently Juan served as the Manager of Human Resources and Operations at the *New York Immigration Coalition*, a not-for-profit focused on advocating for the rights of all immigrants in New York State, and held positions of increased responsibility there during a 12 year tenure. For seven years he served as a mentor with iMentor, supporting high school students to achieve college readiness. He is graduate from Cornell University, and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree



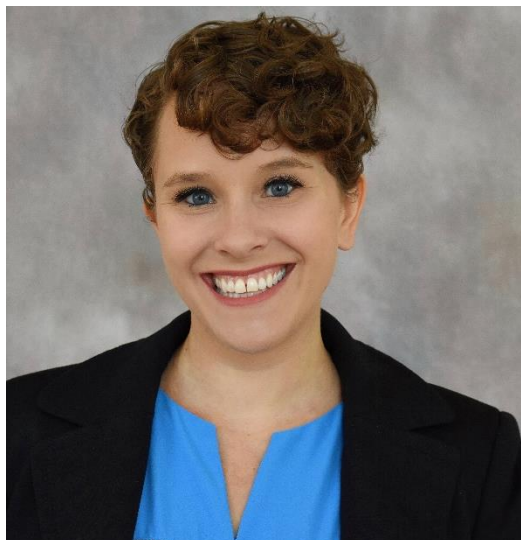
Jose Ortiz (he/him) is the Chief Operating Officer at MoMA PS1 and will be co-supervising Julia Lee this summer. He is a seasoned museum professional who has held leadership positions at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, The Harvard Art Museum, The Smithsonian Institution's Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden and The Cloister of The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Jose holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Pace University in International Management, and a Master of Arts degree in Liberal Studies/Museum Studies from New York University.



Kamaria Brisseau (she/her) is the Director of Finance and Administration at the National Academy of Design (NAD) and will be co-supervising Noemi Mangual-Rosa this summer. Prior to the NAD, she was the Director of Budget and Administration for Columbia University's Office of Government and Community Affairs. As the department's head of finance she also provided strategic planning efforts for the new Columbia University Manhattanville Campus est. 2016.

Kamaria holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from Columbia University and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Finance from CUNY Brooklyn College. She is a Board Member for the Metropolitan

Lighthouse Academies Charter School and the Finance Chair for Columbia University's Black Alumni Council. Kamaria is also a volunteer Financial Literacy Teacher with the National Association of Black Accountants and provides technical assistance and consulting services for Financial Management Associates and Trooper Fitness Inc.



Koren Rife (she/her) is the Marketing & Communications Manager at ArtPride New Jersey and will be supervising Kayla Colon this summer. She is responsible for implementing ArtPride’s overall communications strategies, including press relations, marketing outreach and social media engagement, particularly for the Discover Jersey Arts program. Koren also serves as editor for JerseyArts.com’s feature stories, videos and podcasts, determining story topics, assigning writers and editing content for online publication. Prior to joining ArtPride, Koren had PR and communications gigs in a variety of arenas – from educational technology to RVs and addiction recovery to hot tubs and saunas. However, her heart has always been in the arts.

Koren is extremely passionate (which is a much nicer word than emotional), and has literally cried at the beginning of (almost) every professional musical she’s ever attended. She loves to read (mostly fluffy fiction), write (she frequently puts her foot in her mouth otherwise) and play (you’ll often find her at rehearsal at a local community theatre). When not at the office or on stage, you can find Koren at her home in Riverside, NJ, where she enjoys snuggling with three cats (George, Jacques and Byng), one dog (Winston) and sometimes her husband, Jeff.



Kristen Barrett (she/her) is the Director of Development and will be co-supervising Nailah Williams this summer. Ms. Barrett has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from the University of Florida, and she earned her Master’s Degree in Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy from New York University. She was promoted to her current position in May 2016 after four years as the School’s Director of Institutional Giving and Capital Campaign. Ms. Barrett previously worked as a nonprofit fundraising consultant, as Director of Development of the Mid-Florida Division of Children’s Home Society of Florida, and in positions at

Kids In Distress and Broward Housing Solutions in South Florida.



Xenia Tiajloff (she/her) is the Manager of Membership Engagement at the National Academy of Design (NAD) and will be co-supervising Noemi Mangual-Rosa this summer. Her experience in the art world extends to the private sector with time spent working with the Communications teams at PULSE Art Fair and the Affordable Art Fair. In 2016, she graduated from Hamilton College with a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Art History. Her academic focus on Russian Abstractionists stemmed from spending her foundational years dancing ballet pre-professionally, which developed her broad appreciation of aestheticism and movement.



Yidan Zeng / 曾一丹 (she/her) is the Programs Coordinator at Eyebeam and will be supervising Allie Li this summer. She is an intimacy investigator currently wandering/wondering through New York. She uses fabric, movement, and touch to explore multi-sensual forms for deep connection. Currently a resident artist at Textile Arts Center, she is experimenting with how natural dyes and weaving can be a conversation between the self and the natural environment. In addition, she works as the Programs Coordinator at Eyebeam, where she interweaves questions of agency, wellbeing, and refusal into programming for youth and public events around technology. She's been a Create Change Fellow with The Laundromat Project, a Digital Accessibility Fellow with Lincoln Center for the Performing

Arts, and a visiting glass artist at The University of Hawai'i in Mānoa. She loves finding unexpected ways to fit things into small spaces.

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