

2018 DIAL Labs Cohort



Aryana Alexis Anderson has worked with independent artists, nonprofit organizations, as well as large media corporations to develop brand-aligned, mission-centered, digital and video content. Prior to her role in Educational Media and Technology at Carnegie Hall, Aryana was an Associate Producer at Amplify, developing industry-leading K-12 online learning experiences. Aryana has organized play festivals, reading series, and professional development events for artists in various disciplines. Her background includes work as a projection and sound designer, video editor, and media arts educator. In 2012, Aryana was elected to serve on Americans for the Arts Emerging Leaders Advisory Council and assisted in developing programs and resources to promote the growth, development, and sustenance of emerging arts professionals nationwide. She currently supports her local arts community as a junior board member of the Queens Council on the Arts. Aryana received her

training in screenwriting and production at the Conservatory of Theater Arts and Film at SUNY Purchase. She holds a certificate in non-profit management from Fordham University. Highlights from her professional development experiences include completion of the Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service at NYU Wagner and Innovative Cultural Advocacy Fellowship at the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute.



Bernardo Mazón Daher is a border-bred brat boy grown from Chula Vista, California. He was born of loving Mexican parents and brave Arab grandparents. He recently graduated from San Diego State University in double honors for Literature and Theatre Performance. While in school, Bernardo became a professional actor, director, dramaturg, educator, and producer. He also was developed in the artistic, literary and production departments at the La Jolla Playhouse and San Diego REP. He just finished a residency with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival through the FAIR program as an emerging leader, followed by a fellowship with the Advocacy Leadership Institute at the National Association of Latino Arts & Cultures in Washington, D.C. He is currently dedicated to building a home for Latinx artists and audiences in the San Diego region. Bernardo is a storyteller driven to create spaces where different peoples can intersect to listen, learn, labor, love, and play together.

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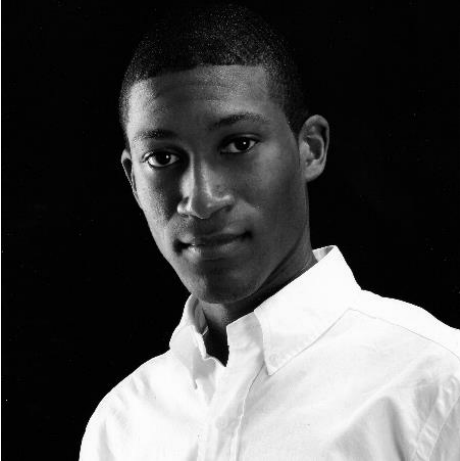
Brenda L. Huggins is a stage director, puppeteer, singer, dramaturg and teaching artist. With a deep interest in new work development, Brenda has directed several world premieres of new plays, operas, and puppetry works as well as contemporary opera repertoire at Emerson College, the Boston Playwrights Theater, the Longy School of Music, Juventas New Music Ensemble, Opera del West, Puppet Showplace Theater, and the National Puppetry Festival Fringe. As a passionate teaching artist with ten years of experience and an M.A. in Theatre Education from Emerson College, Brenda has served as a resident artist at many elementary and middle schools, creative youth development programs and summer intensives. Brenda is the co-creator and puppeteer of Puppet Showplace Theater's Puppet Playtime, an interactive puppetry performance series with live music for very young audiences that performs on tour across the East Coast. Ms. Huggins has taught puppetry and arts education

techniques at the Urban College of Boston and is currently creates professional development opportunities for opera educators as the Learning and Leadership Manager at OPERA America in NYC.



Claire Gohorel joined the OPERA America staff in 2017. In her role, she manages the application and adjudication processes for all eight of OPERA America's grant programs, totaling more than \$2 million in annual awards. Using her experience as a fundraiser for some of New York City's most beloved cultural institutions, such as the Lower East Side Tenement Museum and the Museum of the City of New York, Gohorel provides personalized support to applicants and encourages innovation in the field. A trained anthropologist, Gohorel has completed fieldwork in Ghana and India, most recently to study the textile traditions of Kutch, Gujarat. She holds a B.A. in anthropology and international and global studies from Brandeis University and an M.A. in museum anthropology from Columbia University.

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Colby Mullen is an arts advocate who is based in Washington, DC. His day job is working in development for public broadcasting and he is also a freelance vocalist. Active in the Washington, DC metro area, he is a frequent church musician and guest soloist for choral and operatic works. Current and previous membership organizations include the DC chapter of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network, Washington National Opera Chorus, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and Emerging Arts Leaders DC. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree with distinction from Virginia Commonwealth University's School of the Arts.



Eva R. Barajas is a Brooklyn-based artist working primarily in photography. She earned a BFA in Photography from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design and is currently the Marketing Coordinator for the Trisha Brown Dance Company. She was a Freedom Forum Chips Quinn Scholar earning a certificate in Multimedia Reporting from Belmont University. She is currently working on a long-term photographic and installation project collaborating with "men of color" exploring issues of race, gender identify, and our shared human desire to be seen.

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Hanna Oravec has been the Assistant Director for Programs at Wesleyan University's Center for the Arts since 2011. Working with students, faculty, and staff, she produces over 300 events each year that represent multiple disciplines and identities. In addition, she serves as a co-chair for Women@Wesleyan, a faculty/staff group that aims to help women thrive through community, education, and mentoring. Hanna also serves as Treasurer for New England Presenters Consortium and participated in APAP's Emerging Leaders Institute in 2017. She holds a BFA in Theater/Stage Management from Penn State University.



Iyvon Edebiri is a writer, producer and arts administrator. Born in Nigeria, Iyvon grew up in Brooklyn and went on to attend LaGuardia High School for the Arts, where she studied classical vocal music. She graduated from Brandeis University in 2013, where she earned a degree in International & Global Studies and Italian Studies. Shortly after receiving her degree, Iyvon was awarded a Fulbright Graduate Scholarship to conduct research in Italy, where she conducted ethnographic research with Italian natives and African immigrants to Italy and later assistant directed and dramaturged two American musicals in the city of Bologna, including the Italian National Premiere of Ragtime and Sweeney Todd: Il Barbiere di Fleet Street. Upon her return to the United States in 2014, Iyvon began working at Sundance Institute as the Producing Coordinator of the Theatre Program, where she was responsible for coordinating producing aspects of the program's various labs, retreats,

readings and workshops, including the first Theatre Lab in the MENA region and a reading of Carol Burnett's Hollywood Arms, to name a few. In 2015, Iyvon co-founded and launched The Parsnip Ship, which is a series of new play readings that are recorded live in front of audience and released shortly to the public afterward. In fall 2018, Iyvon was chosen for The Do School's Future of Audio Entertainment Fellowship in Berlin, where she and her extraordinary cohort spent ten weeks developing and launching a new app and a radio platform in Germany. Iyvon holds a master's degree in Arts Administration from Baruch College of the City of New York (CUNY). She currently works at The Public Theater as an Assistant Company Manager.

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Brooklyn native, **Jamila Woolford**, is passionate about arts and culture in the City. Jamila is Senior Coordinator of Institutional Funding at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, working with the Garden's corporate membership/sponsorship program. Jamila Woolford's background is in Non-Profit Development and Fundraising as well as Communications and Public Relations. Jamila holds a MA from the New School and a BA from Iona College.



With works described as "visceral" (Lucid Culture), "propulsive" (Bachtrack) and "austere" (New Music Box), composer **Leaha Maria Villarreal's** output includes music for dance, film, opera, and the concert hall. She has worked with organizations and ensembles such as Beth Morrison Projects and the Los Angeles Philharmonic; ETHEL and Friends concert series at The Metropolitan Museum of Art; andPlay; Contemporaneous; JACK Quartet; Experiments in Opera; and TRANSIT New Music, among others. Past composition teachers include Roger Reynolds, Steven Kazuo Takasugi, and Chinary Ung. Villarreal holds a B.A. from the University of California, San Diego and an M.M. from New York University where she studied with Julia Wolfe and Michael Gordon. She is a co-founder of contemporary music ensemble Hotel Elefant; a Jerome Fund for New Music recipient; and taught composition with New York Philharmonic's Very Young Composers Bridge Program. Villarreal is currently pursuing a D.M.A.

at the University of Southern California.

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Lesley Hunter is an experienced musician, dancer, program coordinator and educator with over twenty years of experience working in the arts. Her resume boasts of successful years as a music teacher and marching band instructor in Central Virginia and as a Dance and Music Instructor for numerous non-profit organizations in New York City. Ms. Hunter has taught all genres and levels of music and dance, provided private instrumental instruction, as well as taught theory and general music along with various styles of dance. (ballet, jazz, modern, African, Latin and hip-hop). Additionally, she has served as a Program Developer, Coordinator and Manager for programs across the five boroughs of New York City. Ms. Hunter has served the arts community through work with such organizations as the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) and continues to enhance her ability to serve the non-profit community by pursuing her MBA at

New York University in Performing Arts Administration and Management. Her passion for music and her love of the arts makes her consistently strive for opportunities to apply her gifts in a way that will bring the arts to her community.



Mallika Bhargava is a former Bharatanatyam dancer and is highly passionate about the arts. Originally from New Delhi, India, Mallika worked at the Indian Council of Cultural Relations in the cultural diplomacy team before moving to New York to pursue a Master's degree in Performing Arts Administration from NYU. She worked in the development team at Jazz at Lincoln Center where she founded the young patrons program before working in the Executive Office at 21st Century Fox. Mallika is currently managing strategic partnerships for a music-tech start-up in Brooklyn, NY.

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Mara Vlatković is a communications professional and arts manager, currently working as Campaign Specialist at The Juilliard School in New York City. With previous experience in cultural diplomacy and international development in Washington D.C., she has turned her focus to organizations that support artists and creatives in fulfilling their full potential. She has a M.A. in Culture, Policy, and Management from City University London and a B.S. in Sociology from the London School of Economics. Mara has previously worked at the New York Foundation for the Arts and is also the Co-Founder of Young Professionals in the Arts (YPA), providing a forum for collaboration, support, and professional development for arts administrators in NYC.



Melissa Liu started her journey working in the nonprofit arts as a program intern for the Getty Foundation through the Getty Multicultural Undergraduate Internship Program. Since then, Melissa has worked as an arts administrator with the Fowler and Hammer museums in Los Angeles, the Terra Foundation for American Art in Paris, Columbia University's School of the Arts and Center for Oral History (for the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation's Archive). Melissa also had a short stint working with Columbia Business School. During her time at Columbia, Melissa also served as a union shop steward for United Auto Workers 2110. Melissa is also involved in the arts and social justice community as a cultural organizer, activist, oral historian. Through her creative work as an artist, she explores culture, identity, place, and trauma in the Asian Diaspora. Professionally and artistically, Melissa organizes with other artists, workers, and activists to advocate for better representation and equity for people of color in

cultural institutions.

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Mira Hart is passionate about global health and the arts. At a very young age, Mira attended dance class in many genres including Ballet and Hip Hop. She danced all four years in college and was the Executive Director of Dance 2XS Michigan during her senior year. Ms. Hart graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies with a concentration in Global Health and the Environment. Just recently, Mira performed at the MTV/Viacom NewFront Presentation and accepted a job at a real estate investment firm in New York City.



Nikki Kirk is the PRESTO Program Manager at El Sistema USA, a national organization that aims to effect social change through music. She received her bachelor's degree in political Linguistics from Pitzer College in southern California, where she solidified her interests in language, human rights, and cross-cultural understanding. She also holds a graduate degree in Arts, Festival, and Cultural Management from Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh, Scotland. Nikki developed a strong connection to and understanding of the intersection of arts education and social justice programming while writing her master's dissertation on the subject. Throughout her professional and personal life, Nikki has been passionate about the arts and about social change and is happy to be able to merge the two in her work with El Sistema USA. Her previous work experiences include organizations across the US, like the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Berklee College of Music, and The Musical Theatre Project, among others.

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Pablo Anaya is an arts advocate and fundraising professional based in Portland, Maine. He has professional experience in non-profit audience building, stewardship, and fundraising in museums and alternative learning environments. Most recently, Pablo worked at the Portland Museum of Art building broad strategy for a diverse annual giving program. Prior to moving to Maine, he was at the Art Institute of Chicago cultivating relationships with trustees and donors. Additionally, he has development communications, membership, and annual fund experience from his time at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and Adler Planetarium in Chicago, IL. Pablo received a BS in Art History and Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a passionate cook, enjoys exploring new hiking trails in Maine, and collects admission tags from every museum he visits.



Quanice G. Floyd is a renaissance woman who wears many capes. Born and raised in NYC, she has spent over a decade in Washington, DC where she has received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Education from Howard University and Kent State University respectively. Her passion for arts administration led her to pursue her second Master's degree in Arts Management at American University and is currently a doctoral student at Drexel University. Quanice is a public-school music educator where she teaches elementary school general music, chorus, band, and orchestra. She is also the Founder & Director of the Arts Administrators of Color Network, an organization committed to empowering artists and arts administrators by advocating for access, diversity, inclusion, and equity in the arts in the DC and Baltimore metropolitan areas. Quanice also serves as a board member for two DC arts organizations, and is an alumna of the ArtEquity Facilitator Cohort, Baltimore

Symphony Orchestra's Music Educators Academy, Arts Administrators Academy, 4.0 Schools Essentials Program, and the Arts Education Collaborative's Leadership Academy. She is working endlessly towards her goals of becoming an arts education expert and advocate by providing a quality education to DC's at-risk student populations by establishing and leading a school dedicated to the arts.

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Sarah Koehler is a New York City based arts administrator, and her focus is commercial theater. She works as a group sales agent at Group Sales Box Office, which is part of the John Gore Organization. Group Sales Box Office is Broadway's premiere group sales agency. In addition to her ticketing experience, Sarah has worked in stage and production management for shows including *Wicked* (2nd national), *Irena's Vow*, *Hairspray* (Troika), *Legally Blonde* (NETWorks), and *FringeNYC*.



Sharlene Chiu has been with the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) for over three years as the Customer Loyalty and Strategy Manager. In her role, she champions the customer and drives loyalty through implementation of the institution's CRM system. Before her time at BAM, Sharlene has worked in marketing sales roles at Nature Publishing Group, KQED and CBS. Working across a myriad of audiences in her career, she loves getting to know people behind the products and shows she has the pleasure of marketing.

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Stephanie Rolland is a producer based in Princeton, NJ where she is the Artistic Line Producer for McCarter Theatre Center. She is a member of Theater Communication Group (TCG)'s inaugural Rising Leaders of Color cohort, TCG's National Awards Committee and the League of Resident Theater's Diversity Committee. She co-founded Interfest, a Harlem-based arts and ideas festival focused on intersectionality and mutual liberation. She holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and an MFA in Theater Management from Yale School of Drama. Her work as an artist is fueled by connection, experimentation and laughter. She finds her joy in bringing multi-faceted, swirling, human universes together in space to make magic.



North Carolina native, **Tatiana Thomas** is a graduate of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. She is a mid-career professional who is balancing her career in not-for-profit arts, as well as her entrepreneurial business as a visual artist. In both facets she seeks to diversify the community using all methods of art through human interaction. She currently works in the office of the COO at the Lincoln Center of the Performing Arts in New York, NY. While at the Lincoln Center, Tatiana also collaborates with staff to lead the organization's diversity initiatives.

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Victoria Shadle is originally from Central Pennsylvania and now lives New York City where she is the Manager of Individual Giving at Ballet Hispánico. Victoria graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Hofstra University with a B.A. in Dance and a minor in International Business and is currently pursuing her Masters in Nonprofit Management at Columbia University. She is on the Artist Committee of National Choreography Month and is an Advisory Board Member of the National Dance Education Organization. As an arts administrator, she has worked at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Dance/USA, New York City Ballet, and The School of American Ballet.



Anese Jackson – Marquez is a strategy consultant and administrator to creative arts organizations and cultural institutions, with diverse experience in program development, marketing, project management, HR, and finance. She combines a rich artistic history in arts administration and performance, with a deep understanding of the corporate business environment and organizational development. As a creative consultant, she works with artists and arts organizations on cultural programming, marketing and brand strategy, social media, fundraising and development, project management, and event production. Anese brings a strong cultural competency gained through extensive experience working with international organizations and maintains a niche specialty in Cuban travel and tourism programs. She is a founding member of OYU ORO Afro Cuban Dance Ensemble, and has worked with many other illustrious dance professionals, performing in the US and Cuba. Anese is

a graduate of Baruch College's Master's Program in Public Affairs with an undergraduate degree in political science. She attended the University of the Andes in Venezuela as part of the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship Program in International Relations. She is also a former board and committee member for the Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families Foundation.

DIAL Labs mid-career professional development series and mentorship is generously supported by:

