

## 2022 DIAL NYC Mentors



**Mark Cardwell** (he/him/his) is the Owner and Principal Consultant for Cardwell Communications LLC, a full-service marketing consultancy as well as the founder of the Ohio Marketing Association (OMA). Mark is a board member for the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations (OANO) and serves as a member of its council of consultants. Mark is currently on faculty with the Americans for the Arts project ARTS U as well as a part of AFTA's panel of experts. Mark is currently a member of the Americans for the Arts AEP 6 Equity Task Force. Mark is also board member for Indiana based nonprofit multi-store retailer Global Gifts. Mark has 30 years of experience in arts marketing, operational leadership, executive level management, media sales and communications. Mark has a long history of board level community service and has been recognized for his work with local and national awards. Mark is also an artist and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Columbus College of Art and Design.



**Alana Harper** (she/her) is a strategist and writer specializing in content, brand positioning, digital experiences, and arts and culture. As a strategist for the boutique consulting firm LaPlaca Cohen, she guides clients across the creative and cultural sector toward clarifying their purpose, improving how they communicate, and maximizing their impact. Alana has a multidisciplinary background that spans work in the performing arts, human rights, and public radio. She has previously worked for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Jewish World Service, and WNYC Radio on digital marketing, content creation and strategy, and digital and audio production. She began her career as an arts journalist specializing in covering popular music. As a cultural omnivore, Alana loves to stay on top of happenings across the creative spectrum and has deep knowledge of music, theater, and food. She also loves to discuss content strategy and cultural criticism. Alana earned a B.A. from the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at New York University and an M.A. in arts journalism from Syracuse University.



**María Huiza** (she/her) is a cultural strategist and passionate advocate for arts and culture. She has spent her career promoting the essential role that art plays in strengthening communities and catalyzing social change. At BerlinRosen, she helps develop communication strategies and manages media relations for a wide portfolio of culture and public affairs clients. Previously, she worked at LaPlaca Cohen, where she collaborated with cultural organizations to maximize their impact and reimagine the future of culture through research, strategy, and creativity. María brings to her work a wealth of experience working at various cultural institutions. Over the years, she has worked with a range of international organizations including the Museum of Modern Art, New Museum, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Collezione Peggy Guggenheim (Italy), Centro

Cultural Cultura Chacao (Venezuela), and NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. She brings an in-depth understanding of the cultural nonprofit world, the nuances between big and small scale institutions and the challenges and opportunities they face. María holds a Master of Public Administration in Urban Policy and Nonprofit Management from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and Bachelor's degrees in Communication Design and Visual Arts from Parsons and The New School. She was born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela and calls New York City her second home.



**Danielle Iwata** (she/her) is a Japanese/Filipina-American arts administrator and practitioner. She is the Special Projects Manager at LaPlaca Cohen, a mission-driven consultancy that magnifies the impact of culture. She previously worked in programming at Americans for the Arts and development at Jacob's Pillow Dance, where she had the opportunity to perform an excerpt of José Limón's A Choreographic Offering on the Inside/Out stage. Danielle was honored to serve as Co-Chair for the 2019-

2020 term of Dance/NYC's Junior Committee, a cohort of emerging leaders dedicated to creating a more equitable field. She is also a graphic notetaker and has been commissioned by organizations like Monument Lab and Artists Thrive to create visual representations of keynote presentations, panels, and more. She holds a BA in History from Colgate University and unaccreditedly continues her education through organizing local AAPI efforts and facilitating spaces for visioning and healing.



**Kimaya Karnawat** (she/her) is a Product Specialist at Instagram, where she analyzes user feedback to inform product roadmaps for the Feed and Relevance teams. Before that, she was a Product Development Specialist for Facebook Reality Labs where she managed beta testing programs and pre-release quality efforts for new devices. She spent six months managing operations for the New Product Experimentation team during the launch of an app for crowdsourced predictions, Forecast. Prior to Facebook, Kimaya worked at a consulting firm providing market research for pharmaceutical and biotech companies. She graduated from the University of Southern California with a major in Business Administration. Outside of work, she teaches at CorePower Yoga. A recent transplant in New York City, she enjoys exploring different cuisines and live music events.



**Leah Krauss** (she/her) joined the Mertz Gilmore Foundation in 2009 and is currently the senior program officer for Dance and Special Projects. The Dance Program provides operating support for contemporary dance presenters located throughout the five boroughs and makes discrete investments to advance the dance field by improving conditions for individual artists. In addition, Leah is an advisory board member for Dance/NYC and served as co-chair of New York Grantmakers in the Arts. Prior to Mertz Gilmore, Leah was senior program officer at the New York Community Trust, where for 12 years her areas of responsibility included arts and culture, arts-in-education, and historic preservation. Additional experience in the arts includes five years at the Arts and Business Council where she recruited, trained and placed business executives as pro-bono management consultants with nonprofit arts organizations. Leah graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in art history from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from University of Pennsylvania Law School. For three years, she practiced bankruptcy law, and also served with Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts in Philadelphia.





**Tiffany Lin** (she/her) was born to two immigrant parents in Virginia and has worked in arts education in both Virginia and NYC for over a decade. She has taught visual arts and media arts at Title 1 schools ranging from pre-K to high school, in addition to senior centers and community centers. Tiffany has also worked in design leading communications and design team for non profits. She spearheaded an arts education initiative into 20 schools in Brooklyn for visual, digital, performing, and culinary arts along with Arts Internships for high school students in partnership with Center for Arts Education, Summer Youth Employment Program, Work Learn Grow, and as a mentor for arts programs across the city. Tiffany holds her BFA in Drawing & Design from Old Dominion University, as well as a pre-K — 12 visual arts teaching license. She is an alumna of the National Art Education’s School for Art Leaders and also serves as the inaugural Commissioner for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for NAEA’s Supervision and

Administration Division. She is also on the Equity Taskforce for the Arts in Education Roundtable in NYC. She currently works at Exploring the Arts, where she builds equitable arts programming in Title 1 schools across the 5 boroughs in NYC.



**Shruthi Mukund** (she/her) brings more than 20 years of experience in arts programming, research, special events, and grassroots methods together with an equity lens to inform her work in socially accountable community engagement. As a curator, consultant, and speaker, she creates dynamic experiences through arts programming, reaches new audiences through grassroots marketing and strategy. She has shared her knowledge and experience on many panels and presentations. She sits on grant panels regularly to lend a diverse viewpoint and mentors emerging arts administrators especially women of color.



**Emma Osore** (she/her/hers) is a Brooklyn-based participatory designer and social entrepreneur with an interest in community building to create more just public systems. Today, she is a founder and Co-Managing Director of BlackSpace, where she leads creative strategy and operations for its national platform for civic designers and public projects that center the Black experience. Previously, she was the Director of Community at the New Museum of Contemporary Art's creative business incubator, NEW INC -- cultivating its first majority-BIPOC community of artists, futurists, and designers exploring the future of digital and physical space. As a former Program Manager at Americans for the Arts', she built its first \$.5M national portfolio of programs investing directly in multidisciplinary BIPOC culture workers to shift national arts policy and practice.



**Linda Ryan** (she/her) is a Brooklyn-based choreographer, facilitator, and arts researcher. She is currently the Research Coordinator at LaPlaca Cohen and an accessibility consultant in the All Senses Go extended network. Her artistic work pulls from movement, video art, and immersive media to explore digital embodiment and situational discomfort through a disability-focused lens. She holds a BA in dance from The George Washington University, where she studied under Dana Tai Soon Burgess, Maida Withers, Anthony Gongora, and Matt Reeves. She is a former artist-in-residence at PlySpace, Keshet Dance+ Center for the Arts, the Institute for Electronic Arts at Alfred University, and Nimbus Dance Company's OFFLINE Thrive performance series. She served as co-chair of the Dance/NYC Junior Committee from 2020-2021, where she facilitated several critical conversations on disability justice and the role of community care in artistic practice. She has presented her work in dance/technology at the National

Dance Educators Organization (NDEO) annual conference and the 7th International Conference on Movement in Computing (MOCO), and has taught dance/technology to children and adults across the country. Prior to joining LaPlaca Cohen, she worked for the Harkness Center for Dance Injuries, where she conducted medical research in biomechanics, injury epidemiology, and the psychosocial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on performing artists. In her spare time, she enjoys teaching her friends about somatics (against their will) and making silly little memes on the internet.



**Kevin Seaman** (they/them) is a San Francisco-based artist and cultural strategist that scrutinizes and expands the complexities of LGBTQIA2S+ identity and culture. Their videos exploring queer history, symbolism and intersectionality were presented on Salesforce Tower in June 2021 in collaboration with Jim Campbell's Studio. They have also been presented at The Stud, Brava, CounterPulse, Frameline, the Tank NYC, the Austin International Drag Festival, SATTELITE ART SHOW Miami, the National Queer Arts Festival, Stockholm's Stolt Scenkonst, Atlantic Center for the Arts, and Yale School of the Arts. They were an inaugural Association for Performing Arts Professionals Leadership Fellow, are a four-time San Francisco Arts Commission individual artist grant recipient, and received the 2017 Americans for the Arts Emerging Leader Award and the 2019 Theatre Bay Area Legacy Award. They have presented on queer identity and culture at APAP|NYC, Grantmakers in the Arts, Americans for the Arts,

National Performance Network, UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University's Center for Research and Education on Gender and Sexuality, and are continuing to work with the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to create additional safety for queer and gender nonconforming people using Lyft after they were denied a ride home in 2017. As the founder and artistic director of queer arts organization Diamond Wave, they lead the MASCellaneous series exploring queer masculinities, the THEYFRIEND nonbinary performance festival and the Artists' Adaptability Circles seed funding and leadership development program.