Kimberleigh Costanzo (Co-Chair)

Kimberleigh Costanzo (she/her/hers) is a New York-based dance and performance artist whose choreography has been presented at venues throughout New York City. Kimberleigh is the Grants Manager of the Howard Gilman Foundation, a private funder of nonprofit performing arts organizations in New York City, where she has worked since 2015. She is an alumna of Philanthropy New York’s Young Leaders Breakfast Club, a former Steering Committee Member of Philanthropy New York’s Philanthropic Assistants and Coordinators Network, and a member of Grantmakers in the Arts, Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy, and PEAK Grantmaking. Kimberleigh graduated from Iona College’s Honors program with degrees in philosophy, dance, and sculpture. She joined the Dance/NYC Junior Committee in 2018.

Danielle Iwata (Co-Chair)

Danielle Iwata is a Program Associate at Americans for the Arts, where she focuses on partnerships between the private sector and the arts. Prior to that, she was the Development Coordinator and Board Liaison at Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, MA. While living and dancing in the Berkshires, she had the opportunity to perform a Limón excerpt on the Inside/Out stage. Before working at the Pillow, she interned at Lar Lubovitch Dance Company and the National Museum of Dance. In addition to dancing, she continues to collaborate with other artists on photography projects. Danielle holds a BA in History from Colgate University and enjoys using the research and analytical skills gained to question/challenge the arts field.
Rebecca Fitton (Secretary)

Rebecca Fitton is an improviser, facilitator, and citizen. Born in England and raised in rural Wisconsin, her work as a community organizer and participatory artist is largely informed by her experiences as a bi-racial immigrant. Her projects have been presented in New York City at ShowDown/Gibney, Open Performance/Movement Research, Chez Bushwick, Staten Island Arts, Triskelion Arts, LIVEART.US at the Queens Museum and Abrons Arts Center, in addition to many non-traditional performance spaces across New York, New Jersey, Florida, Wisconsin, and Salzburg, Austria such as bars, grocery stores, rooftops, gardens and the perimeter of Manhattan. She has been an Artist-in- Residence at Center Space in Grand Rapids, MI, a fellow in the Hemispheric Institute's EMERGENYC program and is currently a LEIMAY Subsidized Fellow at CAVE in Brooklyn, NY. In addition to her performance work, Fitton is an administrator at Pentacle and with independent artists, Edisa Weeks/DELIRIOUS Dances and Will Rawl's. She has been a member of Dance/NYC's Junior Committee since 2018. Fitton holds a BFA in Dance from Florida State University.

Kelsey Kramer (Committee Coordinator)

Originally from Virginia, Kelsey Kramer (she/her/hers) is a Brooklyn-based performance artist and administrator. Kelsey developed her passion for dance and social change working at Cora Dance, a pay-what-you-can dance school and company in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Currently, she is Program Manager in the Belfer Center for Innovation & Social Impact at the 92nd Street Y. Kelsey is half of JACKS - a moving, making duo with collaborator Lexie Thrash. JACKS’ performance and film work has been presented at venues and non-traditional performance spaces in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Berkshire County, MA. Since moving to New York, Kelsey has worked with choreographers and artists LuisalnnesFree Dance, Emily Kohl Mattingley, KIT DISTRICT, Eric Gotshall, and is company member of Shannon Hummel/Cora Dance. Kelsey holds a B.A. in Dance and Communications from James Madison University.

Loren Sass (Communications: Social Media & Email)

Loren Sass: A New Jersey native, Loren graduated magna cum laude from Muhlenberg College with a double major in Dance and Business Administration in 2017. In 2012, Loren participated in the Nativ College Leadership Program in Israel, studying at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and volunteering on the Kfar Hasidim Youth Village. Loren spent four summers at the American Dance Festival, first as a student performing works by Nicholas Leichter and Teena Marie Custer, then as the Development and Special Events Intern, and finally as the Development Assistant. Loren currently serves as the Senior Manager of Institutional Giving at Gibney, where she manages a portfolio of over 65 institutional partners and is a proud member of the Equity Action Committee. Shifting towards academia, Loren's work focuses on the intersectionality of contemporary dance, anthropology, conflict and peace studies, and religion. Her work
reflects her experiences living in Israel, witnessing the clash of cultures, and the agony of passivity. Loren is also largely influenced by childhood experiences and the evolving nature of the family unit. In October 2018, Loren presented research at the Jews and Jewishness in the Dance World Conference at Arizona State University, as well as at The Conney Conference at the 92 Street Y in April 2019. Loren’s research explores how the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict has affected the development of contemporary dance in Palestine, and how information about Palestinian choreographers can become more accessible. In the next few years Loren hopes to pursue a master’s degree in Performance Studies, Nonprofit Management, or Social Work, and is interested in exploring curation as well as critical writing and discourse. www.lorenass.com

Brittany Wilson (Communications: Blog & Site)

Brittany Wilson is a Queens native who began her training at the Edge School of the Arts. She later pursued a double major in Dance and Exercise Science at Lehman College in the Bronx. She has been choreographing original pieces for 12 years which includes producing her first evening length concert in 2011 entitled “Fresh”. In 2014 she was appointed Artistic Director of Herbert H. Dance Company at Lehman College in which she was an active member since 2010. During this time, Brittany created work inspired by, but not limited to, her journey as a woman. Her journey as an arts administrator began in 2016 when she applied for Pentacle’s “Cultivating Leadership in Dance” internship. The experience led to opportunities such as interning with Dance Films Association, Abraham.In.Motion and now Program Director at Bridging Education & Art Together. Her passion for the arts exceeded the stage when she discovered there were more ways to contribute. Aside from her administrative duties, Brittany is a teacher at the Edge School for the Arts, a Company Manager for ModArts Dance Collective and member of the 2019 Queens Council on the Arts, Art Producer. In September 2018, Brittany successfully launched her organization, B. Wilson Producing Scholars; a grant organization that benefits emerging dance producers/choreographers. For information please visit www.bwproducingscholars.com

Members

Joy Douglas

Originally from Flint, Michigan, Joy Douglas is a Brooklyn based choreographer, artist, and dancer. They hold a BFA degree in dance and a minor in Spanish from Adelphi University where Joy was also in the Levermore Global Scholars program and in Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish honor society). In the Fall of 2017, during Joy’s final year at Adelphi University, they established their own company, Douglas & Co. In addition to this Douglas has been showcasing her work with Douglas & Co. at various institutions throughout NY and NJ, including but not limited to 2018 Dumbo Dance Festival, Northeastern Conference of the American College Dance Association at Montclair State University (2018), Gibney’s “I <3 GDC” benefit performance (2018), Adelphi University, OUTSIGHT summer festival 2019. Joy Douglas dances with Sameena Mitta’s MeenMoves, as a Community Actionist with Gibney’s Hands are for Holding program. Currently, Joy is a 2018-2019 LEIMAY Artistic Process Fellow at CAVE, Brooklyn, NY.
Veronica Jiao

Veronica Jiao is a second-generation Filipina from Charleston, SC currently living in Brooklyn, NY. She is a 2015 graduate Magna Cum Laude from Florida State University and an alum of the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts & Humanities. Veronica is a dance artist, educator, and activist. She is currently a Teaching Artist with Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center in Bronx, New York and formerly an instructor at New York Kids Club DUMBO, with emphasis on developmental milestones. She is currently a company member of the dance activism group BABEL Movement. Her recent endeavors include various gigs in the New York area, performing aboard the Disney Dream with Disney Cruise Line, and writing an op-ed for DanceMagazine.com.

Nadia Khayrallah

Nadia Khayrallah is a dancer, choreographer, improviser, filmmaker, writer, drag artist, and general menace. Since graduating from Columbia University with a B.A. in Dance and Psychology, she has performed with Gotham Dance Theater, Trainor Dance, Artists by Any Other Name, SHIFT Dance Collective, eSKay Arts Collective, the Cunningham Trust, and with musical artists Roxiny, and NAXÔ. Nadia has presented her choreography through Dancers Unlimited, Sacred Circle Theater, Artists by Any Other Name, Dixon Place, Queensborough Dance Festival, and YallaPunk. She has written for The Dance Enthusiast, The Huffington Post, Sukoon Magazine, and Reductress. www.nadiak.tk

Debbie Mausner

Debbie Mausner is a performer, choreographer, curator, and teaching artist from Brooklyn, NY. She holds a B.A. in Dance from Barnard College, where she performed works by Pam Tanowitz, Mark Morris, Caitlin Trainor, Trisha Brown, Lucinda Childs, and Joanna Kotze. Since then, she’s performed with Trainor Dance, Stephanie Nelson, Bryce Dance, JACKS, and visual artist Eric Gottshall. Debbie has showcased her performance and film work in NYC and Boston. She has taught movement throughout Brooklyn with Kinderdance, Mark Morris Dance Center, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, and Dancewave. In 2018, Debbie co-founded Current Showcase, an interdisciplinary showcase that brings together artists working in different mediums. She is excited to be a member of the 2019-20 Dance/NYC Junior Committee!
Anna McDunn is a dance artist, administrator, and technician. She grew up in Pittsburgh and earned a BA in Choreography from Seton Hill University in 2015. Among others, Anna has stage managed for Kate Weare Company, New York Theatre Ballet, and Jillian Sweeney. She was the Wardrobe Supervisor at Jacob's Pillow in 2016 and 2017, and returned as the inaugural Program Fellow & Assistant to the Director for the 2017-18 season. She joined Gallim in 2018 as Company Manager. Anna has created and performed work in New York City, Jersey City, Allentown, PA, and Durham, NC. When not in the studio or the office, Anna loves to bake, bike, and pet other people's dogs.

Linda Ryan is a dancer, choreographer, technology artist, and biomechanics researcher. She works with movement and time-based media to confront the simultaneously familiar and odd systems that govern the way we interface with the world around us. She has created choreography with velcro suits, heat-sensitive floors, and her largest body of work incorporates GoPro action cameras into choreography to grapple with intimacy, embodiment, and gaze. After growing up in upstate New York, she relocated to Washington, DC, where she graduated summa cum laude from the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design (GWU) with a BA in dance. Her previous performances include work by The Maida Withers Dance Construction Company, Vladimir Conde Reche, Annika B. Lewis, Anton Ovchinnikov, and I-Fen Tung. She has completed residencies at PlySpace in Muncie, Indiana (where she taught at Cornerstone Center for the Arts and Ball State University); Keshet Dance & Center for the Arts; and the Institute for Electronic Arts at Alfred University. Linda joyfully relocated to New York City in May of 2019, where in addition to artmaking, she is the Rehab Research Coordinator at the Harkness Center for Dance Injuries.

Ami Scherson (she/her/hers) is an arts administrator, musician, and self proclaimed "mover". She is fascinated by the intersections of social justice and the arts, and strongly believes in using creativity to create positive change. Ami works for Americans for the Arts as the Equity in Arts Leadership Program Associate, creating opportunities and initiatives to pursue cultural equity throughout the field. She is passionate about community development, and has pursued projects throughout urban, suburban, and rural regions of the United
States. Most recently, she conducted research in Nelsonville, Ohio to understand the impact of nonprofit arts programming on rural Appalachian communities. Ami holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Ohio University. She is a proud Japanese-Chilean, and Cleveland native.

Jenée-Daria Strand

Jenée-Daria Strand is an arts advocate, researcher, and Brooklyn native. Upon graduating from Florida State University, in May of 2018 with a BFA in Dance, she became Company Manager and Project Coordinator for Meredith Monk/The House Foundation. Currently, Jenée dually serves as the Curatorial Intern for the Brooklyn Museum's Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, and the Administrative Assistant for Alice Sheppard/Kinetic Light. She aims to expand her understanding of art history, and integrate her knowledge of performative practices, to examine performance in the museum setting.

Christine Wyatt

Christine Wyatt is a D(MV) artist who was born and raised in Baltimore, MD. She moved to Richmond, VA in 2014 to attend Virginia Commonwealth University. She began her dance journey at the age of 9. After attending a performing arts summer camp at Flair Dance Studio in Baltimore, she never stopped dancing. Christine studied dance, music, and theatre at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School, continued to train in ballet and modern at the Baltimore County Youth Ballet Summer intensive, and performed in many youth companies, youth theaters, and school musical productions throughout middle school and high school. Christine received her B.F.A. in Dance & Choreography from VCU in May of 2018. Thirteen years of a multitude of experiences in dance (and music/musical theatre) she has sought out opportunities and knowledge to develop a clear philosophy about dance. Christine is currently a freelance dance artist and teacher in VA, certified in Scott Putman's Elemental Body Alignment Systems (EBAS 1), and just recently finished her first year as a Teaching Artist for the Richmond Ballet’s Mind In Motion program. She has worked with professional modern dance artists like Liz Lerman/Dance Exchange, Jawole Jo Zollar/Urban Bush Women, MK Abadoo, Maria Bauman, Melanie Richards, Ching-I Chang Bigelow, Autumn Proctor, Dr. Gaynell Sherrod, and Alicia Diaz/Agua Dulce Dance Theatre. Her experiences have inspired her passion for community based work in dance and fueled her desire to decolonize her dance practice. Inspired by africanist movement values and aesthetics in American dance forms (such as Jazz, Tap, and Modern), Christine explores movement and performance as a means for liberation in the body and spirit of the individual and collective.
Maya Simone Z.

Maya Simone Z. is a Brooklyn-based multidisciplinary artist and choreographer from suburban Georgia. She is committed to work that deepens her connection to experimental creative practices, Black radical imaginations, and QTPOC artistic communities. Maya dances with The Rogue Dancers and with SLMDances starting this fall. She recently completed a residency for women of color with ModArts Dance Collective and has created work for NACHMOx and previously with ATTN: Dance in Boston. After completing the Cultivating Leadership in Dance Internship Program at Pentacle last fall, Maya recently joined the PURPOSE Productions team and is excited to continue pursuing new work and collaborations in NYC and beyond. She is especially interested in project/program management, dance film production and movement direction. In addition to art administration, Maya is an experienced barre fitness instructor, aspiring art educator, and writer. Follow her journey @maya.simone.z on Instagram.