

# DENISE D. SAUNDERS THOMPSON

## GLOBALLY FOCUSED ACADEMIC & EXECUTIVE

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### SENIOR ACADEMIC AND EXECUTIVE

A passionate, dynamic, entrepreneurial, and results-oriented Academic and Chief Executive, with over 30 years of broad industry experiences in art, dance, music, and theatre arts within the non-profit and for-profit sectors. Hands-on management style, proven fundraising, awareness and networking skills, and practices of large-scale events management. Creative results driven methodology has led to extensive achievements in the arena of community building and fruitful partnerships and collaborations with industry constituents and clientele. Utilize team approach to drive organizational improvements and implementation of best practices. Ability to executive multiple strategic initiatives efficiently while meeting deadlines. Advisement on administrative, programmatic, and fundraising issues including strategic plans, policy and procedures, communications programs, budgeting and contracts. Superior interpersonal skills, capable of resolving multiple and complex issues (human resources, legal, financial, operational) and motivating staff to peak performance.

### KEY SKILLS AND CORE COMPETENCIES

- Leadership, Organization, Communication
- Strategy, Vision & Mission Planning
- Presenting, Programming
- Programs, Services & Products
- Finance, Budgeting & Cost Management
- Contract Negotiations & Strategic Alliances
- Information Technology
- Government Regulations & Relations
- Marketing, Public Relations & Media Affairs
- Policy & Procedure Development
- Human Resources Management
- Team Building & Performance Improvement

### Fields of Expertise

- Arts Administration
- Dance
- Theatre
- Artist Management and Representation
- Board Governance
- Contract Negotiation
- Event Planning and Management
- Finance and Budgeting
- Fundraising
- Grant Writing
- Marketing and Public Relations
- Non-Profit Management
- Producing
- Production Management
- Stage Management
- Strategic Planning

### Courses Taught

- Arts in Experience
- Capstone
- Cultural Leadership
- Cultural Policy and the Arts
- Drama Internship
- Entrepreneurship in the Entertainment Industry
- Fundamentals of Arts Management
- Facility Management
- Fundraising for the Arts
- Master's Portfolio Seminar
- Performing Arts Management
- Production Management
- Special Event and Volunteer Management
- Stagecraft
- Stage Management
- Tech Production Lab: Costume
- Theatre and Production Management
- Theatre Arts Administration Lab
  - (Producing, PR/Marketing, Finance/Budget, Box Office, Front-of-House, Usher)
- Theatre History
- Theatre Management I, II

## EDUCATION

<b>Ph.D. (classes)</b>	<b>Dept. Of Human Communication Studies</b> <i>Organizational Communications</i> Howard University, Washington, District of Columbia	<b>1999</b>
<b>Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Honors</b>	<b>The Producer's Program</b> <i>School of Theatre, Film, and Television</i> University of California, Los Angeles, California	<b>1994</b>
<b>Bachelor of Fine Arts Cum Laude</b>	<b>Theatre Arts Administration</b> <i>Department of Theatre Arts</i> Howard University, Washington, District of Columbia	<b>1992</b>
<b>Diploma</b>	<b>General Studies</b> East Catholic High School Manchester, Connecticut	<b>1987</b>

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

**Professorial Lecturer, Arts Management Program** **2018 – 2019 & 2015 – 2017**  
American University, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Performing Arts  
*Faculty Member* in the Department of Performing Arts. Lecture and teach courses on the Graduate level in Arts Management, advising students, supervising graduate capstones, overseeing events and other non-classroom related activities. Serve on committees of the Department and the University.

**Chair & Member of Master's Portfolio Seminar Committee**

*Saunders Thompson, Denise.* (2015 – 2019) I have chaired or served on the Master's Portfolio Seminar committees of 29 students (Jennifer Amis, Aileen Beringer, Laurel Broomes-Rogers, Alexa Cantalupo, Karyn Castro, Benjamin Douglas, Quanice Floyd, Amy Foreman, Sarah Goodwin, Kimberly Holland Gormley, Erika C. Hawthorne, Emily Hirsch, Simin Jiang, Kaylee C. Lindahl, Anna Lipowitz, Zhen Liu, Christie McKinney, Monica Medina-Porro, Samantha Misurell, Alyssa Montchal, Shruthi Mukund, Stephanie Ogden, Kaylin Peachey, Jaime Paige Pierce, Laura Pittman, Haley Powell, Zenia Simpson, Feby Varghese, Tomora E. Wright).

**Instructor/ Lecturer/ Program Coordinator/ Producing Artistic Director/ Theatre and Production Manager** **1997 – 2015**  
Howard University, College of Arts and Sciences, Division of Fine Arts  
*Program Coordinator* for the Theatre Arts Administration Program, *Interim Coordinator* for the Dance Program and *Production Manager/Producing Artistic Director* for the Department of Theatre Arts' theatrical season of plays and dance programming. Lecture on the subjects of theatre arts, dance, and non-profit management. Serve on numerous committees of the University. Grant writer/fund raiser for Theatre Arts.

**Director, Summer Theatre Program** **1994**  
Mississippi Cultural Crossroads, Port Gibson, Mississippi

**Graduate Teacher's Assistant** **1993 – 1994**  
University of California, Los Angeles, School of Theatre, Film, and Television

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

### ***Assistant Dean for Administration***

**2021 – Present**

#### **Howard University, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts**

- Administer 22 graduate and undergraduate programs with 579 graduate and undergraduate students
- Established the Center for Student Success; the academic resource center for the college
- Created the Take Care of Yourself: Health Passion Life, social-emotional health and wellness program for the college that includes a clinical practitioner-in-residence
- Created and implemented the annual College-wide retreat for faculty and staff
- Manage \$14M college budget; \$10M in Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarship and Enrichment Funds
- Set priorities and make direct asks in Celebration Tour of the College and Inaugural Dean \$20M development campaign as well as the college's \$75M development campaign for a new Center for Fine Arts and Communications
- Supervise more than 45 staff, including directors, advisors, coordinators, and administrative staff
- Responsible for day-to-day operations of the college
- Advise the Dean on hiring and strategic planning decisions
- Provide support to the Dean and other senior academic staff
- Coordinate and manage faculty and staff activities
- Develop and implement academic policies and procedures
- Provide guidance and advice to students, faculty and staff on university policies and guidelines
- Serve in leadership role on University-level and College-wide committees (task forces related to student affairs and academic affairs)
- Manage marketing and communications for the college

### ***Producing Artistic Director***

**2010 – Present**

#### **Images of Cultural Artistry, Inc., Washington, D.C.**

Manage producing, exhibiting, and performing artistic events including visual arts displays, musical concerts, dance concerts, and theatre productions. Develop and provide training classes for youth adults and professionals in arts administration.

### ***President & Chief Executive Officer***

**1999 – Present**

#### **D.d.Saunders & Associates, Inc., Washington, D.C.**

Founder/Chief Executive Officer of a comprehensive fine arts advisory firm, which offers its clients the full range of arts services in artist representation and production management. The organization represents established, mid-career, and emerging local, national and international artists (i.e. Mike Malone, Reggie Ray, Sherrill Berryman Johnson).

### ***President and Chief Executive Officer***

**2017 – 2023**

#### **The International Association of Blacks in Dance, Washington, D.C.**

Oversaw the day-to-day operation of the Association including hiring, training, evaluating, and supervising the work of staff and volunteers. Led a staff of 10 and managed a 20-person Board of Directors in all of its functions including orientation, recruiting, communications, development and committee work. Directed the financial and accounting operations; facilitated the creation and implementation of an annual budget. Developed membership recruitment and retention program including the implementation of new technologies. Cultivated, researched, and met with potential funding sources and manage existing ones. Wrote grants (Grant funds received in between 2017 – 2023 totals over \$20 million). Led all marketing initiatives including brand strategy and identity, internal marketing campaign, all organization promotion and related materials and PR/media relations. Launched and maintained a new website, researched, and integrated new technologies including all social media and monthly news communication. Worked with and cultivate relationships with local, regional, and state representatives on advocacy issues. Worked closely with the founding Directors.

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

### **President and Chief Executive Officer**

**2017 – 2023**

**The International Association of Blacks in Dance, Washington, D.C.**

#### **Notable Accomplishments:**

- Recipient of the **2021 National Medal of Arts** for the Association presented by President Joe Biden March 2023
- Recipient of the **2022 Anthem Award** developed by The Webby Awards for *Reframing the Narrative: Blacks in Ballet*
- Exhibit tireless energy, positive attitude, and visionary leadership.
- Delivered revenue growth, in a 4-year timespan, from \$80,000 to \$6.5 million.
- Presented first ever analytical report, *The Black Report*, on the financial and organizational health of the Black dance sector.
- Push for constant growth among management team and general staff.

### **Executive Director**

**2016 – 2024**

**Hinton Battle's DANZEOFF, Washington, D.C.**

Responsible for all financial aspects and management of the organization and its budget. Produced and coordinated the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual DANZEOFF Dance Convention and Competition. Supervised staff of five along with 25 volunteers.

### **Chairperson/Executive Director**

**2009 – 2017**

**The International Association of Blacks in Dance, Silver Spring, MD**

Provided leadership to the Board of Directors, set management policies, upheld the organization's mission, implemented strategic planning. Chaired meetings of the Board and serve as an *ex officio* member of committees. Appointed chairpersons of committees and helped guide and mediate Board actions with respect to organizational priorities and governance concerns. Developed and monitored financial reports of the organization and played a leading role in fundraising activities.

### **Manager, Cramton Auditorium**

**2002 – 2010**

**Howard University, Washington, D.C.**

Manager for a 1,500-seat auditorium on the University's Campus with \$750K+ budget. Handle programming, scheduling, booking, budget, staffing of technical, box office, administrative personnel. Coordinate special events on University campus.

### **Gala/Production Coordinator**

**2001**

**Alliance Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA**

Gala/Production Coordinator for the annual spring gala fundraiser, "Swing With The Stars." Oversaw planning and implementation of fundraising events. Provided on-site coordination for gala activities, which included two celebrity golf tournaments along with any evening of performances. Coordinated PR and advertising campaign. Facilitated communication and planning with volunteers and staff.

### **House Manager**

**1998 – 1999**

**Lincoln Theatre, Washington, D.C.**

Responsible for logistical coordination of all events at the theatre. Supervised and maintained a staff of forty volunteers. Dealt directly with the public on a daily basis while working under pressure.

### **Business Manager**

**1997 – 2007**

**The Malone Group, Inc., Washington, D.C.**

Managed all secretarial and financial aspects of the organization, including the preparation of budgets, fundraising, filing tax forms, etc. Serve in the capacity of Business/Company Manager for the co-production of *Black Nativity* with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

### ***Development Events Manager***

**1996 – 1997**

#### **Alliance Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA**

*Managed* operations for the Development area, including fundraising, events management, budget functions and calendar maintenance. Assisted the Development Director with enrolling new corporate sponsors through research as well as active solicitation to reach established financial goals. *Coordinator and Production Manager* for the annual spring gala fundraiser, "Laughter and Reflection with Carol Burnett." Oversaw planning and implementation of fundraising events. Maximized the income potential of fundraising and special events for the Alliance Theatre and the Volunteer leadership to generate operating revenue. Met an established financial goal for each event. Provided on-site coordination for events. Coordinated PR and advertising campaigns for all special events. Facilitated communication, planning with volunteers and staff.

### ***Ticket Seller***

**1996**

#### **1996 Olympic Arts Festival, 1996 Olympics, Atlanta, GA**

Dealt directly with the public on a daily basis while working under pressure. Sold theatre and event tickets by telephone and window. Provided information related to performances, events and the Olympiad and its programs.

### ***Development Associate***

**1996**

#### **Alliance Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA**

Supervised development intern. Researched and wrote grants for funding of all areas of the theatre (production, children's theatre, general operating expenses). *Coordinator and Production Manager* for the annual spring gala fundraiser, "A Conversation with Gregory Peck and Friends." Created and managed *The Leadership Circle*, a gift giving program for small businesses.

### ***Producer/Managing Director***

**1994 – 1995**

#### **Several Dancers Core, Atlanta, GA**

Responsible for all financial aspects and management of the organization's budget. Produced and coordinated the annual dance festival. Researched and wrote grants for funding of all programming, presentations, and initiatives. Supervised staff of three.

### ***Box Office Manager***

**1994 – 1995**

#### **Horizon Theatre, Atlanta, GA**

Received cash, credit cards and maintained a daily balance of the number of tickets sold per performance and prepared end of the week close-out for deposit. Trained volunteers for ushering and box office assistant positions. Dealt directly with the general public on a daily basis while working under pressure.

### ***Project Coordinator/Atlanta Dance Initiative***

**1994 – 1995**

#### **Several Dancers Core, Atlanta, GA**

Liaison between arts consultants, *Arts Action Research*, and twelve dance organizations during the two-year initiative. Responsible for management of the project budget. Handled all administrative aspects of the dance initiative.

### ***Producer, WHat AbOUt Us? Productions***

**1994**

#### **University of California, Los Angeles, CA**

Theatrical producing group based at UCLA, which presented a theatre festival for young people entitled *The Living Drama of Youth*. Handled financial and administrative aspects of the organization. Contacted youth organizations and organized panel of entertainment industry guest speakers.

### ***Project Administrator/Young Audiences Program***

**1993 – 1994**

#### **Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles Music Center, Los Angeles, CA**

Liaison between the Education Programs Director and the Teacher Contacts for each school. Responsible for all administrative aspects of the program. Coordinated arrival of buses to the site, scheduled educational conference meetings and attendance dates for over fifty Los Angeles County and surrounding area schools.

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

### **Box Office Manager**

**1993 – 1994**

#### **University of California, Los Angeles, CA**

Oversaw operation of four theaters on campus. Received cash, deposited, and verified all sales of the front window. Maintained daily balance of the number of tickets sold per performance. Taught graduate and undergraduate students the daily operations of the box office.

### **Box Office Manager**

**1992**

#### **Shakespeare Theatre, Washington, D.C.**

Supervised staff of eighteen and responsible for all administrative aspects of the box office. Handled over 4,000 tickets and dealt with the public while working under pressure. Provided information about the "Shakespeare Free For All", the theatre and its programs.

### **Project Coordinator/Associate Producer**

**1991 – 1992**

#### **Howard University's 125th Anniversary Gala, Washington, D.C.**

Liaison between the Project Director, the principal actors, and their agencies. Supervised staff of five and cast of one hundred twenty-five. Duties included group sales, general and production stage management. Responsible for budget, accounting ledger, equipment orders and general information about the project.

### **Assistant to the Managing Director**

**1991**

#### **Living Stage Theatre Company, Washington, D.C.**

Liaison between Arena Stage, Living Stage Managing Director, and Board Committee members. Maintained communication with the Assistant to the Director. Performed data entry and administrative support.

### **Box Office Assistant**

**1989 – 1992**

#### **Arena Stage, Washington, D.C.**

Dealt directly with the public daily while working under pressure. Sold theatre tickets by telephone and window. Provided information related to performances, the theatre, and its programs. Performed data entry on the ArtSoft System.

## CONSULTANT EXPERIENCE

### **Arts Consultant: Board Governance**

**2020**

Hill Dance Academy Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA

### **Arts Consultant: Advancement of racial equity in professional ballet companies**

**2018 – 2023**

#### **The Equity Project: Increasing the Presence of Blacks in Ballet**

Dance Theatre of Harlem, New York, NY

Dance/USA, Washington, D.C.

The International Association of Blacks in Dance, Washington, D.C.

### **Arts Consultant: Board Governance**

**2017**

libada Dance Company, Indianapolis, IN

### **Arts Consultant: Strategic Planning**

**2015 – 2018**

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, Denver, CO

Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Dallas, TX

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Dayton, OH

Hill Dance Academy Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA

Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Los Angeles, CA

Philadanco!, The Philadelphia Dance Company, Philadelphia, PA

Cleveland Dance Movement, Cleveland, OH

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

<b><i>Racial Equity Training</i></b> Every Level Leadership	<b>2023</b>
<b><i>Racial Equity Training</i></b> Nicole Lee Inclusive Live & NLC	<b>2023</b>
<b><i>Racial Equity Training</i></b> Whiteness at Work	<b>2023 – 2022</b>
<b><i>Racial Justice Training</i></b> Race Forward	<b>2020</b>
<b><i>Racial Equity Training</i></b> Racial Equity Institute	<b>2019</b>

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

<b><i>Hill Dance Academy Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA</i></b> Keynote Speaker Sustaining Black Dance at Predominantly White Institutions of Higher Education	<b>2023</b>
<b><i>Joe's Movement Emporium</i></b> Moderator Maria Fenton's Softly Softly	<b>2023</b>
<b><i>Dance Magazine Awards, New York, NY</i></b> Presenter 2023 Dance Magazine Awards	<b>2023</b>
<b><i>Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, Miami, FL</i></b> Panel Discussion on <i>Jamea Richmond-Edwards: Ancient Future</i> The Art of Influence: An Artist's Journey	<b>2023</b>
<b><i>Hill Dance Academy Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA</i></b> Keynote Speaker The Impact of COVID-19 on the Black Dance Field	<b>2022</b>
<b><i>John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.</i></b> Panel Discussion: Reframing the Narrative, Blacks in Ballet Let's Talk Dance: A Curator's Conversation	<b>2022</b>
<b><i>Arts Administrators of Color Network, Washington, D.C.</i></b> Conference Presenter Performing Arts Readiness	<b>2022</b>
<b><i>John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.</i></b> Summer Dance Lab Panel Discussion Career Paths to Professional Dance	<b>2022</b>
<b><i>Thomas R. Pickering Fellowship Program, Washington, D.C.</i></b> Panel Discussion Arts in Diplomacy	<b>2022</b>

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

<b><i>Lincoln Center, New York, NY</i></b>	<b>2022</b>
Panel Discussion In Conversation with Hope Boykin, Taryn Kaschock Russell, and Denise Saunders Thompson	
<b><i>Dance/NYC, New York, NY</i></b>	<b>2021</b>
Dance/NYC Symposium Justice. Transformation. Education	
<b><i>Pennsylvania Dance Education Organization, Philadelphia, PA</i></b>	<b>2021</b>
Social Justice Webinar Equity and Inclusion through Financial and Funding Resources	
<b><i>Maryland State Arts Council, Baltimore, MD</i></b>	<b>2021</b>
MD Arts Summit Panel Discussion Arts Organizations & Advocacy	
<b><i>John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.</i></b>	<b>2021</b>
Summer Dance Lab Panel Discussion Career Paths to Professional Dance	
<b><i>#DeafWoke – Urban Jazz Dance Company and Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival, San Francisco, CA</i></b>	<b>2021</b>
Panel Discussion Guest Speaker	
<b><i>John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.</i></b>	<b>2021</b>
Arts Summit: Know Better. Do Better. Panel Discussion Episode 2: The Arts	
<b><i>Collage Dance Collective, Memphis, TN</i></b>	<b>2021</b>
Guest Speaker Building Dedication and Opening	
<b><i>What's Up Roadie: How You Doing? Washington, D.C.</i></b>	<b>2021</b>
Virtual Panel Episode 9: Dance & Regional Theatre	
<b><i>Good Morning America – ABC Television, New York, NY</i></b>	<b>2020</b>
Morning Interview Arts in a Pandemic	
<b><i>WHUR 96.3, Washington, D.C.</i></b>	<b>2020</b>
Panel Discussion Remembering Howard University's Own Chadwick Boseman	
<b><i>Movers and Shapers: A Dance Podcast, Pittsburgh, PA</i></b>	<b>2020</b>
Guest Speaker for The Moving Architects MSP 106: Denise Saunders Thompson	
<b><i>Arts Midwest &amp; Western Arts Alliance, Minneapolis, MN</i></b>	<b>2020</b>
Virtual Conference The State of Black Arts	



## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

<b>Arts Administrators of Color Network, Washington, D.C.</b> Virtual Conference Presenter For Us By Us	<b>2020</b>
<b>Dance/USA, Washington, D.C.</b> Dance/USA Dance Forum Speaker Creative Collaborations	<b>2020</b>
<b>APAP365, New York, NY</b> APAP Conference Presenter The Black Report Presentation	<b>2019</b>
<b>Dance/NYC, New York, NY</b> Dance/NYC Symposium Presenter A Dance of Race and Representation	<b>2019</b>
<b>Wolf Trap Performing Arts Center, Vienna, VA</b> Fellowship Program Speaker Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace Panel	<b>2019</b>
<b>The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.</b> Summer Dance Lab Panel Discussion Training Dance Leaders of Tomorrow	<b>2019</b>
<b>Dance/USA Conference, Los Angeles, CA</b> Dance/USA Conference Presenter Dismantling Privilege: The Opportunities and Benefits for the Entire Field	<b>2018</b>
<b>Arts Administrators Network, Washington, D.C.</b> Art Accordingly Podcast Speaker Do The Work	<b>2018</b>
<b>The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC</b> ArtChangeUS National Conversations Dancing Histories, Dancing Futures with Rulan Tangen & Denise Saunders Thompson	<b>2018</b>
<b>Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP), New York, NY</b> APAP Conference: MAKERS IABD Kitchen Table Talk: Preservation of Legacy	<b>2016</b>
<b>Dance/NYC, New York, NY</b> Dance/NYC Symposium Presenter Race and Dance	<b>2016</b>
<b>Apollo Theater, New York, NY</b> Panelist: Women in Dance Women of Color in the Arts (WOCA)	<b>2016</b>
<b>Dance/USA, Washington, D.C.</b> Annual Conference in Austin, TX Presenter: Cultural Equity and Common Ground: Exploring the redistribution of funding resources for culturally specific arts organizations	<b>2016</b>

## PUBLICATIONS, POPULAR PRESS AND PAPERS

"Episode 1. Our America: In The Black," directed by Nzinga Blake aired February 1, 2024 on ABC7, New York.  
<https://abc7ny.com/our-america-in-the-black-generational-wealth-financial-health-microsoft-philanthropy/14302730/>

Mattingly, Kate and Iyun Ashani Harrison. "Antiracism in Ballet Teaching," 1<sup>st</sup> ed., (Routledge), 2023: Chapter 18.

Saunders Thompson, Denise. "The Black Report: What You Thought You Knew About Black Dance." Breakaway Press, 2022. <https://www.ladancechronicle.com/the-international-association-of-blacks-in-dance-announces-the-release-of-the-black-report/>

"Beauty Size & Color," directed and interviewed by Hope Boykin aired June 14, 2022 on All Arts TV, New York.  
<https://www.allarts.org/2022/06/the-first-twenty-hope-boykin-interview/>

"FOX 5 Field Trip: Kennedy Center hosting black ballet artists," interviewed by Kevin McCarthy aired June 14, 2022, Fox 5, Washington, D.C. <https://www.fox5dc.com/video/1081409>

"Our Globally Connected Voice." *HOOTFOOT Autumn 2021 | 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition*, OneDanceUK, November 9, 2021. [https://issuu.com/onedanceuk/docs/hotfoot\\_autumn\\_2021/32](https://issuu.com/onedanceuk/docs/hotfoot_autumn_2021/32)

"MacKenzie Scott's multimillion-dollar message: Art is essential everywhere, not just in museums and theaters," interviewed by Sarah L. Kaufman, *The Washington Post*, August 28, 2021.  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater\\_dance/mackenzie-scott-arts-grants/2021/08/26/266ac8b2-04e3-11ec-8c3f-3526f81b233b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater_dance/mackenzie-scott-arts-grants/2021/08/26/266ac8b2-04e3-11ec-8c3f-3526f81b233b_story.html)

"Making the Most of the Pause for the Black Dancer." *San Francisco Classical Voice*, February 22, 2021.  
<https://www.sfcv.org/articles/feature/making-most-pause-black-dancer#>

"International Association Of Blacks In Dance President Denise Saunders Thompson Speaks — Black Lives Matter." *Picture This Post*, July 17, 2020. <https://www.picturethispost.com/black-lives-matter/>

"30 | #DeniseSaundersThompson – IABD." *kNOwBOX dance*, February 26, 2020.  
<https://www.knowboxdance.com/post/30-denisesaundersthompson-iabd>

Chatterjea, Ananya. "Heat and Alterity in Contemporary Dance: South-South Choreographies (New World Choreographies)," 1<sup>st</sup> ed., (Palgrave MacMillan) 2020: 232.

"Preserving, Promoting and Expanding Black Dance." *Stance on Dance*, February 14, 2019.  
<https://stanceondance.com/2019/02/14/preserving-promoting-and-expanding-black-dance/>

"Global Partnerships & Infrastructures." *HOOTFOOT Online | Autumn 2018*, OneDanceUK, November 23, 2018.  
[https://issuu.com/onedanceuk/docs/hotfoot\\_online\\_autumn\\_2018/42](https://issuu.com/onedanceuk/docs/hotfoot_online_autumn_2018/42)

## PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

**2024** *Executive Producer*, Disney Storytellers Fund Project at Howard University Showcase, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**2023** *Executive Producer*, *Hattie's Come Home: The Return of Hattie McDaniel's Oscar* to Howard University Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.

*Producer and Curator*, *Bison at Basel*, 2023 Miami Arts Week, Cadillac Hotel & Beach Club, Miami, FL

**2022** *Co-curator*, *Reframing the Narrative: Blacks in Ballet*, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Opera House, Washington, D.C.

## PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

**2022** ***Executive Producer**, The Oscar's at Howard University, 94<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards Nomination Announcement for Best Actor by Howard University Students, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, D.C.*

**2017** ***Executive Director**, Hinton Battle's DANZEOFF Convention Competition, Washington, D.C.*

**2016** ***Producer/Event Manager**, Howard University, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, D.C.*

***Stage Manager**, Debbie Allen's FREEZE FRAME: STOP THE MADNESS, The Kennedy Center, Eisenhower Theater, Washington, D.C.*

***Executive Director/Press Representative**, Hinton Battle's Soul Dance and BBQ, Dance Place, Washington, D.C.*

***Producer**, SARAFINA!, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Millennium Stage, Washington, D.C.*

***Producer**, SARAFINA!, The Mann Performing Arts Center, Philadelphia, PA*

***Conference Co-coordinator**, Conference Festival/1st Annual Ballet Audition for Women of Color, The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD); 28th Annual Conference and Festival in Denver, CO*

***Production Manager**, Dance Theatre of Harlem Auditions for *Ballet Summer Intensive Program*, Howard University Dance Program, Washington, D.C.*

***Presenter/Host**, Annual Dance Concert, Hill Academy Dance Theatre, August Wilson Center, Pittsburgh, PA*

***Production Manager**, Benefit Dance Concert, I.AM.WE. Dance Company, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, D.C.*

***Coordinator**, #dyeingtomatch National Social Media & Awareness Campaign, The International Association of Blacks in Dance, Washington, D.C.*

***Production Manager**, Orchestra Concert, DC Youth Orchestra, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, D.C.*

***Production Manager**, Greyhound Diaries Project, Play Reading by Doug Levitt, Actor/Musician of Los Angeles, CA, Environmental Theatre Space, Washington, D.C.*

***Production Manager**, Kasaun Wilson Live at HU Comedy Show, Kasaun Wilson, Comedian/Actor/Writer, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, DC*

**2015** ***Production Director**, Katzen Art Walk, American University, Washington, D.C.*

***Producer and Press Representative**, Hinton Battle's Soul Dance and BBQ, Edgewood Arts Center, Washington, D.C.*

***Producing Artistic Director**, 2014-2015 *Anything Goes*, *Annual Spring Dance Concert*, Howard University, Washington, D.C.*

**2014** ***Producing Artistic Director**, 2014-2015 Theatre and Dance Season, *Spunk*, *Fall Dance Showcase*, *Not About Nightingales*, Howard University, Washington, D.C.*

***Production Stage Manager**, Debbie Allen's *Brothers of the Knight*, *National Tour*, Los Angeles, CA, Boston, MA, Philadelphia, PA, Washington, DC, Charlotte, N.C.*

## PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

- 2014** *Production Stage Manager*, Mayor's Arts Awards, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Lisner Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
- 2013** *Producing Artistic Director*, 2013-2014 Theatre and Dance Season, *Hurt Village*, *Fabulation*, or the Re-Education of Undine, *Fall Dance Showcase: Pathways and New Directions*, *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*, *Spring Dance Concert: Hamdan: Through the Gate of Tears*, Howard University, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
- Project Administrator*, 3-Day Dance Intensive, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- 2012** *Producing Artistic Director*, 2012-2013 Theatre and Dance Season, *Breath*, *Boom*, *Venus*, *I Too Sing America: The Life and Poetry of Langston Hughes*, *Annual Spring Dance Concert: For the Love of Dance...*, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- Stage Manager*, Howard University Homecoming, *Midnight Madness*, *Celebrity Basketball Game*, *International Yard Fest*, *R&B Concert*, *Step Show*, Howard University, Burr Gymnasium, DC Armory Washington, D.C.
- Project Administrator*, 3-Day Dance Intensive, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- 2011** *Producing Artistic Director*, 2011-2012 Theatre and Dance Season, *Miss Evers' Boys*, *For Colored Girls...*, *Fall Dance Showcase: Unleashed*, *Passing Strange*, *Spring Dance Concert: Body Voice: Equilibrium* *Soldier's Play*, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- Stage Manager*, Howard University Homecoming, *Midnight Madness*, *Celebrity Basketball Game*, *International Yard Fest*, *R&B Concert*, *Step Show*, Howard University, Burr Gymnasium, DC Armory Washington, D.C.
- Project Administrator*, 3-Day Dance Intensive, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- Venue Manager*, DC Jazz Festival, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, D.C.
- 2010** *Production Stage Manager*, Debbie Allen's *The Hot Chocolate Nutcracker*, UCLA Royce Hall, Los Angeles, CA
- Production Manager*, *A Soldier's Play*, Ira Aldridge Theater; *One-Act Play Festival*, Environmental Theatre Space, *The All Night Strut!*, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, D.C.
- Venue Manager*, Howard University Homecoming, Cramton Auditorium, Blackburn Center, Burr Gymnasium, Washington, DC; *New Student Orientation*, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.; *Charter Day Convocation*, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
- Stage Manager*, Howard University Homecoming *Step Show*, DC Armory, Washington, D.C.
- Project Administrator*, 5-Day Dance Intensive, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- Production Coordinator*, Howard University 2010 Commencement, Washington, D.C.
- 2009** *Production Stage Manager*, Debbie Allen's *OMAN*, *Oman!*, UCLA Royce Hall, Los Angeles, CA
- Project Administrator*, 5-Day Dance Intensive, Howard University, Washington, D.C.

## PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

- 2009** ***Venue Manager**, MSNBC Town Hall Meeting “About Our Children w/Bill Cosby”, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, DC; Charter Day Convocation; Spike Lee “Refresh The World Symposium”; Howard University Homecoming; Opening Convocation; New Student Orientation, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.*
- Producer**, Howard University 16<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inaugural Jazz Concert, Andrew Rankin Chapel, Washington, D.C.*
- Production Coordinator**, First Lady Michelle Obama Panel Discussion, "Home, Work, Community: The Role of the African American Women As Change Agents", Howard University, School of Business; Howard University 2009 Commencement, Washington, D.C.*
- 2008** ***Production Coordinator**, Howard University 2008 Commencement, Washington, D.C.*
- Project Administrator**, 5-Day Dance Intensive, Howard University, Washington, D.C.*
- Production Stage Manager**, Debbie Allen’s *Brothers of the Knight*, Eisenhower Theater, Washington, D.C. and UCLA Freud Playhouse, Los Angeles, CA*
- Venue Manager**, CNN Black in America HBCU Tour; NBC Town Hall Meeting “Meeting David Wilson”; Charter Day Convocation; Howard University Homecoming; Opening Convocation; New Student Orientation, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.*
- 2007** ***Production Coordinator**, Tavis Smiley All-American Presidential Forum, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, DC; Howard University 2007 Commencement, Washington, D.C.*
- Venue Manager**, Charter Day Convocation; Howard University Homecoming; Opening Convocation, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.*
- Production Stage Manager**, Debbie Allen’s *Alex In Wonderland*, Freud Playhouse, Los Angeles, CA and The Terrace Theater, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.*
- Venue Manager**, New Student Orientation, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.*
- 2006** ***Production Manager**, Jay-Z, *The Jaunt Tour*, Howard University, Washington, D.C.; Dwight Andrews Benefit Concert, Howard University School of Divinity, Washington, D.C.*
- Project Administrator**, 5-Day Dance Intensive, Howard University, Washington, D.C.*
- Production Coordinator**, Howard University 2006 Commencement, Washington, D.C.*
- Venue Manager**, Charter Day Convocation; Howard University Homecoming; Opening Convocation; New Student Orientation, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.*
- Production Manager**, *Where Eagles Fly*, Lincoln Theatre, Washington, D.C.*
- Producer**, *Sweet Honey In the Rock*, Howard University Blackburn Center, Washington, D.C.*
- 2005** ***Producer**, A Tribute to August Wilson, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.*
- Project Administrator**, 5-Day Dance Intensive, Howard University, Washington, D.C.*
- Production Coordinator**, Howard University 2005 Commencement, Washington, D.C.*

## PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

- 2005** **Venue Manager**, *Charter Day Convocation*, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
- Production Manager**, *Richard Smallwood* in concert, Jericho City of Praise, Landover, MD
- 2004** **Producer**, *Kevin Liles, Make It Happen Tour*, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
- Venue Manager**, *Howard University Homecoming; Opening Convocation; New Student Orientation; Charter Day Convocation*, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
- Executive Producer**, *Wasn't That A Mighty Day*, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
- Production Coordinator**, *Howard University 2004 Commencement*, Washington, D.C.
- Production Stage Manager**, *Debbie Allen's Pepito's Story*, Terrace Theater, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.
- Project Administrator**, *5-Day Dance Intensive*, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- Director**, *A Liberating Prayer: A Love Song for Mumia*, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
- Lighting Designer/Production Stage Manager**, *Washington Performing Arts Society's Children of the Gospel* *Richard Smallwood*, Concert Hall, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.
- Producer**, *Lil' Scrappy* in concert; *Ashford & Simpson* in concert, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
- Venue Manager**, *Howard University Homecoming; Opening Convocation; New Student Orientation*, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
- 2003** **Production Stage Manager**, *Debbie Allen's Brothers of the Knight*, Terrace Theater, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.
- Producer**, *Erykah Badu, Fertile Ground* in concert; *Smokey Robinson* in concert, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
- Venue Manager**, *Charter Day Convocation; Howard University Homecoming; Opening Convocation*, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
- Director**, *A Liberating Prayer: A Love Song for Mumia*, Environmental Theatre Space, Washington, D.C.
- Project Administrator**, *5-Day Dance Intensive*, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- Production Coordinator**, *Howard University 2003 Commencement*, Washington, D.C.
- Production Assistant**, *Choral Arts Society of Washington*, Concert Hall, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.
- 2002** **Venue Manager**, *New Student Orientation*, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
- Production Stage Manager**, *Debbie Allen's Pearl*, Terrace Theater, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.
- Executive Producer**, *Mike Malone's Black Nativity*, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.

## PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

**2002**    **Production Coordinator/Stage Manager**, *Choral Arts Society of Washington*, Concert Hall, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.

**Production Manager**, *The Piano Lesson*, Ira Aldridge Theater; *Before It Hits Home*, Environmental Theatre Space; *SPUNK*, AFI Theater, ACTCo.; *Timbuktu!*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Ira Aldridge Theater; *The Vagina Monologues*, Environmental Theatre Space, Washington, D.C.

**Gala Coordinator**, *Swing With The Stars*, Alliance Theatre/Country Club of the South, Alliance Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA

**Project Administrator**, *5-Day Dance Intensive*, Howard University, Washington, D.C.

**Production/Stage Mgr./Transportation Coordinator**, *AmeriCartes: The Arts of Latin America*, Concert Hall, Millennium Stage, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.

**Stage Manager**, *American College Theater Festival XXXIII*, *Irene Ryan Awards*, Terrace Theater, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.

**Event Coordinator**, *Making the Connection: Professional Alum*, Howard University, Washington, D.C.

**2001**    **Production Manager**, *Buffalo Hair*, AFI Theater, ACTCo.; *2000 Voices*, Lincoln Memorial, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.

**Production Assistant**, *The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Olender Foundation Awards*, Terrace Theater, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.

**Transportation Coordinator**, *12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Benefit Concert for Mary's Center*, Warner Theatre, Washington, D.C.

**Technical Coordinator/Stage Manager**, *Dancing in the Millennium*, Millennium Stage, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.

**Sound Consultant**, *Leaving the SummerLand*, DC Jewish Community Center, Washington, D.C.

**2000**    **Stage Manager**, *An Evening with Ray Romano*, *Opera House*, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.

**Artistic Consultant**, *Hip Hop Theater Fest 2000*, AFI Theater, The Kennedy Center, Wash., DC; *Fo' My People Productions*, Washington, D.C.

**Artistic Consultant, Grant Writer/Developer**, *I'm Ready Productions*, Houston, TX

**Production Stage Manager**, *New Visions 2000: One Theater World*, Theater Lab, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.

**Production Manager**, *Black Broadway*; *Romeo and Juliet*, Ira Aldridge Theater, Howard University and Hartke Theater, Catholic University, Washington, D.C.

**Stage Manager**, *Harlem*, Theater Lab, The Kennedy Center; *Debbie Allen's Dreams*, Terrace Theater, The Kennedy Center; *Island: Arts from Ireland*, *A Kennedy Center Festival*, AFI Theater, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.

**1999**    **Artistic Consultant**, *Inkle & Yarico*, Affinity Marketing International LLC, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, D.C.

## PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

- 1999** *Stage Manager*, *Debbie Allen's Soul Possessed*, Eisenhower Theater, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.
- Production Manager*, *Hieroglyphic Graffiti*, *Iola's Letter*, *Rhyme Deferred*, *Bootleg Blues*, Environmental Theatre Space; *Flyin' West*, *The Shadow Box*, *Tambourines to Glory*, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, D.C.
- 1998** *Production Manager*, *Impassioned Embraces*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, Environmental Theatre Space; *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Purlie Victorious*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, D.C.
- 1997** *Coordinator and Production Manager*, *Laughter and Reflection with Carol Burnett*, Alliance Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA
- 1996** *Coordinator and Production Manager*, *A Conversation with Gregory Peck*, Alliance Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA
- Venue Manager*, *Having Our Say*, National Black Arts Festival, Atlanta, GA
- 1994** *Stage Manager*, *Talking With...*, 14th Street Playhouse, Atlanta, GA; *Community Alliance of Stage & Theatre (CAST)*, Cultural Arts Center, Douglasville, GA
- 1993** *Stage Manager*, *Latino Theatre Lab*, Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles, CA
- Production Stage Manager*, *Fate of a Cockroach*, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- 1992** *Production Stage Manager*, *Howard: The 1st 125 Years*, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
- Stage Manager*, *Workshop with Phylicia Rashad and Clinton T. Davis*, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, D.C.
- 1991** *Production Manager*, *1991 Theatre Season*, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- Stage Manager*, *To Be Young, Gifted and Black*, Environmental Theatre Space; *Lord, I'm Coming Home*, Cramton Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
- 1990** *Stage Manager*, *ACE*, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Washington, D.C.
- Production Stage Manager*, *NADSA: Through the Years* National Association of Dramatic Speech Arts), John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.
- 1989** *Publicity Director*, *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men*, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, DC; *Life Is A Song*, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, D.C.
- Production/Tour Manager*, *A Soldier's Play*, National Association of Dramatic Speech Arts (NADSA), Miami, FL
- Stage Manager*, *A Soldier's Play*, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, D.C.
- 1988** *Stage Manager*, *The Colored Museum*, Environmental Theatre Space; *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Environmental Theatre Space, Washington, D.C.; *The Noonday Talent Showcase*, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- House Manager*, *Voodoo*, Environmental Theatre Space, Washington, D.C.



## PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

**1988**    **Box Office Manager**, *Center for Creative Youth*, Wesleyan Univ., Middletown, CT

**1987**    **Master Electrician**, *Agnes of God, Livin' Fat*, Ira Aldridge Theater, Washington, D.C.

## COMPETITIVE GRANTS AND MAJOR PHILANTHROPIC GIFTS

**2022**        **Grant awarded by Pilot House Philanthropy** for General Operating Support of The International Association of Blacks in Dance (\$1,000,000)

**Grant awarded by the National Endowment of the Arts** to support existing jobs, new jobs, and to restore jobs that were furloughed or eliminated due to the pandemic for the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts (\$150,000)

**Grant awarded by Microsoft Philanthropies** to support renovations and technological equipment for the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts (\$100,000)

**2021**        **Grant awarded by a Donor Advised Fund, MacKenzie Scott** for General Operating Support of The International Association of Blacks in Dance (\$3,000,000)

**Grant awarded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Ford Foundation** for Phase II of the Comprehensive Organizational Health Initiative, designed to strengthen the organizational health of small and mid-size arts institutions through comprehensive financial analysis and capacity building financial support. (\$4,538,500)

**Grant awarded by Maryland State Arts Council** for General Operating Support of The International Association of Blacks in Dance (\$22,502)

**Grant awarded by the Harkness Foundation for Dance** for General Operating Support of The International Association of Blacks in Dance (\$10,000)

**2020**        **Grants awarded by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts** for the IABD Emergency Fund and General Operating Support. (\$250,000)

**Grant awarded by National Endowment for the Arts** for the 2021 EVOLVE, regional dance summit. (\$50,000)

**Grant awarded by National Endowment for the Arts** for the 2020 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Conference and Festival of Blacks in Dance. (\$40,000)

**Grant awarded by the Council on Library and Information Resources** for the establishment of the IABD Black Dance Archive project, "Preserving the Legacy of Black Dance in America." (\$53,000)

**Grant awarded by the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County** for General Operating Support of The International Association of Blacks in Dance (\$85,000)

**Grant awarded by Alternate Roots** for General Operating Support of The International Association of Blacks in Dance (\$20,000)

**Grant awarded by the Harkness Foundation for Dance** for General Operating Support of The International Association of Blacks in Dance (\$5,000)

## COMPETITIVE GRANTS AND MAJOR PHILANTHROPIC GIFTS

- 2019**      **Grant awarded by Ford Foundation** for general operating support for The International Association of Blacks in Dance. (\$140,000)
- Grant awarded by Lyrasis/Performing Arts Readiness** for the Emergency Preparedness Circuit Rider and Business Continuity Plan. (\$70,250)
- Grant awarded by Pew Center for Arts & Heritage** for General Operating Support of The International Association of Blacks in Dance (\$25,000)
- 2018**      **Grant awarded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** for Phase I of the Comprehensive Organizational Health Initiative, designed to strengthen the organizational health of small and mid-size arts institutions through comprehensive financial analysis and capacity building financial support. (\$2,636,000.00)
- Grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts** for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual International Conference and Festival of Blacks in Dance taking place in Dayton, OH. (\$15,000)
- 2017**      **Grant awarded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** for the Comprehensive Organizational Health Initiative, Phase I, designed to strengthen the organizational health of small and mid-size arts institutions through comprehensive financial analysis and capacity building financial support (\$500,000.00)
- Grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts** for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference and Festival of Blacks in Dance in Dallas, TX. (\$15,000)
- Grant awarded by American Dance Institute** for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Women of Color Ballet Auditions in Denver, CO. (\$10,000)
- 2016**      **Grant awarded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation** for the IABD Learning Magnet, co-presented with National Arts Strategies, a series of educational and leadership development experiences to strengthen the field of dance, specifically focused on Black Dance (\$85,000.00)
- Grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts** for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference and Festival of Blacks in Dance in Denver, CO. (\$10,000)
- Grant awarded by American Dance Institute** for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Women of Color Ballet Auditions in Denver, CO. (\$10,000)
- 2014**      **Grant awarded by the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of African Art** for The Oman Project – Connecting the Gems of the Indian Ocean, to create the ballet “Hamdan: Through the Gate of Tears” (\$250,000.00)
- National Endowment for the Arts** for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference and Festival of Blacks in Dance in Dallas, TX. (\$10,000)
- 2013**      **Personal philanthropic gift awarded by Reginald Van Lee** to support the 2013-2014 Theatre and Dance Season for the Department of Theatre Arts (\$25,000.00)
- 2012**      **Personal philanthropic gift awarded by Reginald Van Lee** to support the 2012-2013 Theatre and Dance Season for the Department of Theatre Arts (\$50,000.00)
- 2011**      **Personal philanthropic gift awarded by Reginald Van Lee** to support the 2011-2012 Theatre and Dance Season for the Department of Theatre Arts (\$100,000.00)

## COMPETITIVE GRANTS AND MAJOR PHILANTHROPIC GIFTS

- 2000-2010**      **Grant awarded by the Association of Performing Arts Presenters** for the Creative Campus Innovations Grants Program planning grant entitled "Cross Disciplinary Study of the Diversity of African American Voice Through an Artistic Process" (\$7,000.00)
- 2000-2001**      **Grant awarded by the St. Paul Companies Foundation, Inc.** for the Howard University/Alliance Theatre Company Internship program (\$25,000.00)
- Grant awarded by the Howard University Faculty Research Grant Program** for the development of the "Fine Arts Walk of Fame" (\$10,000.00)
- 1999-2000**      **Grant awarded by the St. Paul Companies Foundation, Inc.** for the Howard University/Alliance Theatre Company Internship program (\$25,000.00)
- Grant awarded by the Fund for Academic Excellence** for the "Professional Spotlight Series" at Howard University (\$5,000.00).
- 1998-1999**      **Grant awarded by the St. Paul Companies Foundation, Inc.** for the Howard University/Alliance Theatre Company Internship program (\$35,000.00)
- Grant awarded by the Fund for Academic Excellence** for the Howard University Repertory Touring Company (\$5,000.00)

## AWARDS, HONORS AND RECOGNITION

- 2023**              **2021 National Medal of Arts Award**, Presented by President Joe Biden (March 2023), National Endowment for the Arts, Wash., D.C.
- 2023**              **Achievement Award for Service**, The International Association of Blacks in Dance, Wash., D.C.
- 2022**              **Anthem Award in the category of Film, Video, Television or Show** under Education, Art & Culture, developed by The Webby Awards for "Reframing the Narrative: Blacks in Ballet"
- 2021**              **Project1Voice Honors**, Outstanding Service in the Arts, New York, NY
- 2020**              **Community Ambassador Award**, Dayton Convention and Business Bureau, Dayton, OH
- 2019**              **Cultural Advancement Award**, Arts For Our Children, Wash., D.C.
- 2016**              **Outstanding Contributions to an Inclusive Community**, American University, Wash., D.C.
- 2016**              **Best Documentary**, "Hamdan (Back Stage)", San Diego Black Film Festival, San Diego, CA
- 2008, '09, '10, '11**      **Appreciation Award**, Howard University Homecoming Steering Committee, Wash., D.C.
- 2007**              **Staff Impact Award**, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Howard University Chapter, Wash., D.C.
- 2005**              **Certificate of Appreciation**, State Farm Insurance Company, Wash., D.C
- 2000**              **Howard Players "Impact" Award**, Howard Players, Department of Theatre Arts, Wash., D.C
- Certificate of Appreciation**, Executive Office of the President of the United States, Wash., D.C
- 1998-99**          **Distinguished Alumni Award**, Howard University, Department of Theatre Arts, Wash., D.C

## STUDENT AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 1998**      ***Nominated for an Excellence Award*** by the Howard University Student Association, Wash., D.C
- 1993-94**      ***Chancellor's Graduate Opportunity Fellowship*** from the University of California, Los Angeles for Graduate study in Theatre
- 1993**      ***National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Corps Project Grant*** to write, produce, market and direct a play in Port Gibson, Mississippi for six weeks
- 1992-93**      ***Graduate Opportunity Fellowship*** from the University of California, Los Angeles for Graduate study in Theatre
- 1992**      ***Chairman's Award***, Howard University, Wash., D.C  
***Outstanding Senior***, Howard University, Wash., D.C
- 1991, '92**      ***All-American Scholar Award***, Howard University, Wash., D.C
- 1991**      ***Outstanding Development in Theatre Arts***, Howard University, Wash., D.C
- 1989**      ***Golden Key Honor Society***, Howard University Chapter, Wash., D.C
- 1988**      ***Outstanding Sophomore***, Howard University, Wash., D.C.
- 1987, '88, '89, '90, '92**      ***Dean's Honor Roll***, Howard University, Wash., D.C
- 1987, '88**      ***Outstanding Academic Achievement***, Howard University, Wash., D.C.
- 1987**      ***Outstanding Freshman***, Howard University, Wash., D.C

## INTERNSHIPS

- Arts Administration** **1992 - 1993**  
**Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles, CA**  
 Assisted the Staff Producer for the Young Audiences Program. Provided administrative support, developed mailing list of area high schools, scheduled open rehearsals for schools attending the curriculum production during the theatrical season.
- Technical Theatre** **1990**  
**Harrah's Marina Hotel Casino, Atlantic City, NJ**  
 Worked as a Stagehand for the theater. Many duties included striking a show, running a Xenon follow spot, repairing lighting equipment, sound equipment set-up for the Atrium and preparatory measures for shows in the theaters of the casino.
- Marketing** **1989**  
**John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC**  
 Responsible for the distribution of The Kennedy Center newspaper to various departments, box offices and subscribed mailings every two months. Worked closely with the Assistant to the Director of Sales and Marketing. Processed the Weekly Sales Summaries and Daily Percentage Capacity Report for Sales. Also compiled mailing lists for area schools and universities.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Internet, Web Design and Webmaster, HTML (Dreamweaver, Wordpress, Customizer)
- Microsoft Office Suite (Access, Excel, One Drive, Power Point, Teams, Word)
- Google Applications & Workspace
- Adobe Suite, Acrobat Pro, Fireworks, Photoshop
- Quicken, QuickBooks, Wave, and other financial software platforms
- Navigator Composer, Data Entry, Calendar programs
- Acting, Dancing, Music, Singing, and Visual Arts

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

D.I.V.A. Divine Intelligent Versatile Artists, The Society for Women in the Arts Incorporated  
*Honorary Member (2023 – present)*  
<https://ladiesofdivainc.org/>

Friends of Theatre and Dance at Howard University  
*President/Founder/Board of Directors Current Member (2015 – present)*  
[www.fotdhu.org](http://www.fotdhu.org)

Actors' Equity Association  
*Current Member (1997 – present)*  
[www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)

Theatre Communications Group (TCG)  
*Current Member*  
[www.tcg.org/home](http://www.tcg.org/home)

Women of Color in the Arts (WOCA)  
*Current Member*  
[www.womenofcolorinthearts.org](http://www.womenofcolorinthearts.org)

Performing Arts Alliance  
*Vice Chair/Board of Directors Member (2020 – 2023)*  
[www.performingartsalliance.org](http://www.performingartsalliance.org)

Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County Maryland  
*Board of Directors Member (2018 – 2020)*  
[www.creativemoco.com](http://www.creativemoco.com)

Dance/USA  
*Board of Trustees Member (2015 – 2020)*  
[www.danceusa.org](http://www.danceusa.org)