Danielle Brooks
Danielle C. Brooks is a creative professional with over 16 years of experience as a marketer and nearly a lifetime of experience in performance and entertainment. She is currently the Marketing Manager for Denver Public Library and holds a Masters from the University of Denver in Arts and Culture Management. As an arts advocate, D. Brooks has served as the Marketing Coordinator for the 2011 Women of the World Poetry Slam; as an alternate for Denver's 2012 Slam Nuba team; and as the co-chair/Marketing Director for the 2017 National Poetry Slam. She is also an alum of the Urban Leadership Foundation of Colorado (2011), a Colorado Change Leader (2015), a WESTAF Emerging Leader of Color (2013), and a minister ordained by Global Change Network, U.S.A.

Kesha Bruce
Kesha Bruce is an artist, curator, and storyteller whose work explores the complex connections between history and magical-spiritual belief in the African diaspora. Born and raised in Iowa, she completed a bachelor of fine arts in painting at the University of Iowa before earning a master of fine arts in painting from Hunter College. In addition to her studio practice, Kesha has been the Artist Programs Manager at the Arizona Commission on the Arts since 2019. She also serves as the Board Chair of Tessera Art Collective, a nonprofit organization that supports and elevates the work and practices of BIPOC women artists.

Jessica Ceballos y Campbell
Jessica Ceballos y Campbell (she/they) was born and raised in Northeast L.A. A writer, editor, publisher, and community advocate, she has over 20 years of experience working at the intersection of media and literary arts, design, and social justice. Her written work has been published in several anthologies and journals, and has published two poetry chapbooks and one workbook on how to cultivate equitable art spaces in an era of gentrification. She’s received awards from the California Arts Council (CAC), Cal Humanities, The Poetry Foundation, the L.A. Dept. of Transportation, the L.A. Dept. of Cultural Affairs, among others, for her work in the arts.

Her interest in organizing, advocacy, and utilizing the arts for policy change to support people over profit has been the driving force behind her time with AmeriCorps, the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council, and the L.A. Tenants Union (and mutual aid efforts there), and this work has been recognized by the State of Alaska, the California State Assembly, the LA County Board of Supervisors, and most importantly—by her peers and the community she works alongside. She has received fellowships from the Fractured Atlas Artist Campaign School, Arts for LA ACTIVATE Cultural Policy Leadership Program, and the WESTAF Emerging Leaders of Color program, where she currently sits on the Advisory Committee. She is the founding director of the poetry library, resource center, and small press, Alternative Field.
Andrea Edwards
Andrea Edwards (artistically known as Drea E.) was born, bred, and educated in Seattle, Washington. She graduated Cum Laude from Seattle University, earning a bachelor’s degree in photography. She recently celebrated six years with Breckenridge Creative Arts, where she works as the Arts Education Manager. Drea recently participated in the first annual National Leaders of Color Fellowship under the Western States Arts Federation. As a creative, Edwards has shifted from photography to more interdisciplinary work. Her work has been exhibited in Washington, Georgia, Texas and Colorado.

Nathaniel Edwards IV
Nathaniel Edwards is a standup comedian, actor and writer with extensive experience in arts administration, producing and hosting events, fundraising and community programs.

Olisa Enrico-Johnson
Olisa Enrico is an artist, educator and administrator who engages the unique power of art to cultivate community and culture. Olisa spent her childhood writing music and performing, traversing genres and rooted in hip hop as her primary form of expression. She branched out to theater and found passion for the power of story to reveal and heal. A performing artist who prioritizes connection to emotional, spiritual and cultural truth, Olisa writes, produces and performs in a multidimensional magical manifestation of each moment.

Candace Eros Diaz
Candace Eros Diaz (she/they) is a writer, arts and culture administrator, and racial equity advocate. She has received fellowships and support from Emerging Arts Professionals, San Francisco Writers Grotto, VONA, The Steinbeck Fellows Program, and Lambda Literary, where she edited Emerge: Lambda Literary Fellows Anthology. Her work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and appeared in Craft, Huizache, Arroyo Literary Review, Under the Gum Tree, and elsewhere. From 2018-2022 she was a grantmaker for the Community Investments program at the San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC). At the SFAC she co-designed the infrastructure to administer over $12 million in grant investments annually. She imagined and developed unique grant opportunities and community engagement activities geared toward historically underinvested San Francisco artists and arts organizations with a focus on accessibility and decolonizing practices.

She currently supports arts organizations with programming and grantmaking initiatives as an Arts & Culture Development consultant. Recent clients include the African American Arts and Culture Complex in San Francisco and 18th Street Arts Center in Los Angeles. Candace has over a decade of experience in program management for racial justice and is a fierce advocate for equity, change-making, and belonging. Originally from Fresno in California’s Central Valley she is currently based in unceded Lisjan Ohlone territory, also known as Oakland, CA.

Nurieh Glasgow
Nurieh Glasgow is an artist and mental health therapist who serves all ages, including BIOPIC and LGBTQA+ in Casper, Wyoming. She is a writer, playwright, and actor, but is primarily a
therapist who uses expressive arts to help heal trauma. She was looking for a way to give back to WESTAF as it had been incredibly helpful in her own personal and professional development.

**Anna Gonzalez**

Anna Gonzalez (she/her) is the Community Engagement Coordinator at American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Anna holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Lawrence University, a master of arts in Shakespeare Studies from the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon, and a master of fine arts in Shakespeare in Performance at Mary Baldwin University. Previous theatre production experience includes working as Wardrobe Supervisor at Glimmerglass Opera, American Shakespeare Center, and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Before returning to the midwest, Anna worked as a first grade teacher in Las Vegas, Nevada for eight years, teaching six-years-olds how to read and be kind. Gonzalez strives to support inclusion, representation, and belonging in order to make theatre more accessible for historically excluded audiences and is passionate about engaging in collaboration to bring audiences into community together around the shared experience of theatre.

**Makaveli Gresham**

Makaveli Gresham is a multidisciplinary artist and designer that was born and raised in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Gresham graduated with a bachelors in Architecture from Portland State University in 2020, focusing on the representation and historicization of black identity in the built environment. During their time at PSU, they were the Cinema Manager for 5th Avenue Cinema, nominally the primary leadership position. They managed operations and staff utilizing a flat hierarchy, fostering a cooperative work environment. Since 2021, they have worked as an arts administrator for Western Arts Alliance, an association for performing arts professionals that hosts an annual conference and provides programs for professional and market development.

In 2022, they relocated to Omaha, Nebraska to support their partner while they paused their career to care for their late mother. Gresham’s artistic practice focuses on magical realism and quotidian folly, obsessing over the documentation and surreal nature of everyday life they create work with diaristic attention to my experience as it is shaped by bureaucracy and other structures of power. They are currently an Inside/Outside Fellow with the Union for Contemporary Art.

**Marissel Hernandez**

Marissel Hernandez is a former professor and independent scholar, currently working as Senior Program Manager undertaking a variety of administrative and program design duties, including the development, planning, implementation, and management of new activities and program and grant proposal writing. She is also the editor of the book De Coco y Anis. Un proyecto de Amor para Rafael Cortijo.

**Blanca Herrada**

Blanca Herrada is a Queer, Mexican American Artist living and working in Lawrence, Kansas. Blanca enjoys working within the intersections of art and activism and is passionate about their
community. In 2022, Blanca was chosen as one of 52 BIPOC arts and culture leaders selected for the inaugural National Leaders of Color Fellowship. In 2024, she was selected for the fourth cycle of the artsEquity BIPOC Leadership Circle. Blanca enjoys working with diverse communities to spread her love for the arts and strives to make art spaces more accessible and welcoming to everyone.

Delia Ibañez
Delia Denise Ibañez is a multidisciplinary artist and administrator from and of the Northern Neck of Virginia. Delia’s personal body of work, Process in Place, has four branches — workbooks, residencies, collections, and workshops — which all intertwine to form networks of inquisitive creative action directly impacted by geographical context. Process in Place’s Podcast has a special series of interview episodes with cast and designers of Stories from Home. As the child of Alvaro Ibañez, a Colombian-born visual artist and graphic designer, and Denise DeVries, a writer and translator, Delia gained the family value for supporting access to the arts in rural communities.

Delia holds a bachelors in Performance and Movement and received a certification in Socially Engaged Practice in Design and the Arts from Arizona State University which has supported them in their administrative work with Arizona Commission on the Arts, Safos Dance Theatre, and the family business: A-Ibañez Art Design. Delia has been a member of the 2022 Latinxtensions National Cohort by David Herrera Performance Company and the Anti-Oppressive Dialogue for dancers.

Amir Jackson
"Amir Jackson, a USAF veteran and Weber State Alum, is the Founder and Director of Nurture the Creative Mind, a youth nonprofit that empowers and establishes self-value in youth through the vehicle of creativity. Through his work with Nurture the Creative Mind, Amir has positively impacted more than 25,000 young people.

Amir has received numerous awards, including two Ogden Mayor’s Awards, The Newman Civic Fellows Award, The Red Cross Hero’s Recognition Award, Governor's Change Leder, and the WSU Salutes Award. Amir is a TEDx fellow, one of the founding members of TEDx Ogden and former TEDx Project Manager, Former Ogden Arts Festival Director, Founder/Director of Dia De Los Muertos Ogden, Co-Founder of the NAACP WSU Chapter, current Board WSU Alumni Board Communication co-chair, and the ACLU Utah Board Development Director.

Dana James
Dana James, Founder of Collective Experience Solutions, provides coaching and consulting dedicated to supporting folks’ working to dismantle white supremacy culture within their own practices. Recognized as an expert in workflow design, engagement strategies, and power dynamics in collective spaces, Dana has been a featured speaker at Dreamforce, the Annual Emergency Preparedness Summit, Impact Nation, We Give Summit, and more. She is a passionate data nerd, a classic music theater kid, and an unapologetic voice celebrating the bittersweet symphony that is the human experience.
Kelly Jung
Kelly Jung is the assistant director for Haverford College’s John B. Hurford ’60 Center for the Arts and Humanities. Her work focuses on building inclusive communities in higher education settings by advocating for the arts and supporting students. As a first generation Korean immigrant, creating a sense of belonging is at the core of her work. In her current role, she is focused on bridging the gap between the institution, community partners, alumni network and students by launching new programs such as the Philadelphia artist-in-residency, Arts and Culture Mentorship, VCAM club-in-residence program and more. Previously, Jung worked as a middle school English teacher, and still continues her passion for teaching by volunteering at organizations such as the Welcoming Center and the Asian Arts Initiative.

Patricia Mareham
Patricia Mareham is a full time artist, working well with community in promoting culture and educational experiences. Mareham also collaborates with her state agency for any outreach for youths, equity and community events.

Janissa Martinez
Janissa Marie Analissia Martinez is passionate about crafting quiet, visceral, character-driven writing inspired by the rural spaces of their upbringing. Their writings aim to reshape perceptions of Wyoming and what it means to live in rural spaces. They love to knit, play board games with their family, and bullet journal. Janissa is a passionate advocate for the arts and arts education specifically.

Ashlee McKinnon
Ashlee McKinnon identifies as a dancer by passion and a teacher by purpose. She is committed to advocating for equitable arts enrichment, education, and youth development through her many endeavors. Ashlee is an alumnus of the University of Maryland at College Park and Princeton Theological Seminary, where she earned a bachelors of arts in Dance and a Master of Divinity degree respectively. Currently serving as the Director of Education Programs at DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative, Ashlee has worked for over 15 years in K-12 schools and prominent arts organizations such as Dance Place and Imagination Stage, as a dance educator, teaching artist, and program administrator.

Her participation with Arts Administrators of Color Network, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Maryland Dance Education Association, Maryland State Arts Council, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and National Advisory Committee for the Teaching Artists Guild shapes her perspective on how to initiate and support equitable and relevant arts programming models for future generations. At her core, Ashlee believes in the uplifting and transformative power of the Arts in all stages of life. Through her personal endeavor, The Rehearsal Room, she hopes to provide a space to identify, cultivate, and sustain the creative nature inside each of us. Forever immersed in the Arts world, Ashlee has been blessed to dance at The Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage, to be featured on CBS This Morning as a teacher, and to be published in Black Dance Magazine as an arts advocate.
Monique Michel
Monique N. Michel is a bilingual WESTAF Emerging Leaders of Colour Alumni, WESTAF Fellow, educator, teacher, and the owner and director of the Mexican folk-dance company, the Ballet Folklorico Mexico Lindo, located in Southwest Idaho. The group was established in 2003 in Nampa, Idaho. Currently, they have over twenty Mexican states in their folklorico repertoire that they perform regularly. Ballet Folklorico Mexico Lindo have performed in five states in the Pacific Northwest and will celebrate twenty-one years of existence in March 2024.

Monique is a former Diversity Equity and Inclusion director, English Language Learner teacher, educational arts director and is active in both the Boise and Canyon County area arts communities. Monique has traveled and performed both in and around the United States because of her dancing. She has won numerous community awards for her work in the Latino community in Idaho as well.

In January 2023, Studio Alma Folklorica was opened in Boise, Idaho. It is the only dance studio in Idaho dedicated exclusively to the teaching and preserving of traditional Mexican folk dancing. Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, with Northern and Central Mexican roots, Monique began dancing at age 6 and moved from Los Angeles to Idaho in 1997. Since then, despite multiple dance injuries, she’s never stopped being a passionate educator, instructor, dancer and arts advocate. When she’s not teaching or dancing, you can find Monique either reading, meditating, practicing yoga, listening and dancing to all genres of music while cooking, and spending time with her favorite German Shepherd, Pirate. Her biggest achievement after the creation of the Ballet Folklorico Mexico Lindo, is successfully raising her two beautiful adult children in a wildly uncertain world.

Qiana Moore
Nominated by a previous colleague, their words on Qiana Moore were that they are a thoughtful leader. After being colleagues at the California Arts Council and knowing her for the past six years, Moore is a powerful advocate for equity and access in the arts, in particular in her role in Communications. She served on two internal adjudication panels for California's prison arts program.

Ruby Morales
Ruby Morales is committed to equity, facilitating life-affirming spaces, and cultivating community relationships that are rooted in reciprocity, trust, and love. She does this through the life she leads and her artmaking. She is a dance artist so she is always investigating culturally-informed teaching methods and her relationship with movement as a bgirl and Mexican-influenced cumbia Sonidera. After receiving a bachelor of fine arts from Arizona State University, she completed Urban Bush Women's Summer Leadership Institute, The People's Institute for Survival, and Beyond's Undoing Racism Training, and is continuously training in breaking and learning about hip hop philosophy/theory. She is currently working with internationally-renowned creative Liz Lerman, CONTRA-TIEMPO Activist Dance Theater, and Tucson, Arizona based choreographer Yvonne Montoya. Ruby recently toured her own grant-funded evening length show, Breaking Pachanga locally in Arizona. She is a 2021
National Association of Latino Arts and Culture Advocacy Leadership Fellow, and a 2021 Intercultural Leadership Institute Fellow.

**Renato Olmedo-González**
Renato Olmedo-González is a proud queer immigrant who is passionate about the arts and social change. Born and raised in Guadalajara, México, Renato came to the United States as an undocumented immigrant when he was 15 years old. Currently, he serves as Public Art Program Manager for the Salt Lake City Arts Council and acts as lead curator for public art projects across Salt Lake City.

Prior to this, he worked in a variety of roles for Mestizo Institute of Culture and Arts, the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, the Consulate of Mexico in Salt Lake City, and Artes de México en Utah, where he began his professional career. Outside of work, Renato enjoys collecting art, music on vinyl, a fun pair of shoes, reality tv, books by Spanish and Latin American authors, tequila, video games, and spending time with his partner, Andy, and their bendición, a Papillon mix dog, Diego.

**Chelcie Porter**
Chelcie S Porter is a traveling artist and executive director of KijijiSanaa.com, a digital platform dedicated to bringing resources to BIPOC artists.

**Jennifer Quinto**
Jennifer Quinto is an adoptee, Alaska Native, Japanese artist with many more cultural identities. She works in fiber, beading, photography, digital art, and writing. She travels as a speaker advocating for trauma-responsive education, providing cultural and diversity training, and speaking at schools about surviving and coping skills achieved through cultural, cold water training to be able to apply to their lives to shift into their own power.

**Joseph Valencia**
Joseph Valencia is a museum curator, writer, and historian of art, design, and visual culture. As Curator of Exhibitions at the Vincent Price Art Museum, he oversees the museum’s exhibition calendar, organizes contemporary art and historical exhibitions, and supports new acquisitions to the museum’s collection. He has led or co-organized over 150 public programs and 20 exhibitions at VPAM since 2016, including Sonic Terrains in Latinx Art (2022), Laura Aguilar: Show and Tell (2017-2021), Tastemakers & Earthshakers: Notes from Los Angeles Youth Culture (2016), and solo projects by emerging and mid-career artists from Southern California. Joseph is a rising expert in U.S. Latinx art and has lectured and published on the subject across local and national art institutions. He earned his M.A. in Curatorial Practices and the Public Sphere from USC and a bachelors in Art History from California State University, Fullerton.

**Courtney Young**
CC Young is a writer (of fiction, screenplays, popular culture criticism and creative nonfiction) and a creative entrepreneur. She is the recipient of writing residencies from Willapa Bay Air, Vermont Studio Center (VSC), Faber, Hambidge, Hedgebrook, The Studios of Key West, the
Key West Literary Seminar, Bainbridge & Chateau D’Orquevaux. She is the founder of Quitman Studios, an entertainment studio designed to curate exceptional storytelling experiences across space, technology and medium. She is completing her first narrative feature entitled This Savage Life Makes Us Hard to Kill and her first collection of short stories entitled Scar Tissue of the Extraordinary. A graduate of Spelman College & New York University, she received her bachelors in English and her masters from the Gallatin School of Individualized Study, completing an interdisciplinary program combining Entertainment Business, Performance, & Africana studies. She was born and raised in Southwest Louisiana.