

VIVER **BRASIL**



2022
**ANNUAL
REPORT**



Welcome to our Year in Review

In its 25th year, Viver Brasil Dance Company continued its mission to redefine how we honor Brazil's African legacy through dance, community engagement, arts education, and global cultural exchange.

A significant development was the global CEO search, masterfully led by Ashley Walden Davis of Unlock Creative. During this period, Natalie Marrero served as the Interim Executive Director, providing crucial leadership.

By year-end, Natalie Marrero was appointed permanent Executive Director, and Vera Passos was named Co-Artistic Director, collectively poised to carry forward Viver Brasil's legacy.

Our team also expanded:

Bryce Taylor joined as Marketing Associate, Nicolea Pettis as Productions & Programs Associate, and Donna Carter of Carter Services, Inc. assumed the role of Bookkeeper & Accounting Services, while Kai Richardson served as Temporary Executive Assistant.

A Defining Year

Amid our concert performances, community engagement, arts education residencies, and rich cultural exchange spanning the U.S. and Brazil, we had the privilege of dancing alongside both new and familiar faces.

Our social media presence further reflected our vibrant journey:

5,020

Instagram Followers

3,500

Facebook Followers

45

Youtube Followers

Our Global Reach



65

CA Zip Codes

850

US Zip Codes

12

Countries

12

US States



Arts Education Programs

Viver Brasil's significant impact in LA County and across the U.S. is deeply rooted in our commitment to arts education and **spreading cultural awareness through K-12 and college residencies. We specialize in Afro-Brazilian dance and percussion**, crafting our own educational materials and study guides. Through dance, music, and culture **Viver Brasil teaches radical social change**, encouraging students to question prevailing power structures and foster independent thought from an early age.

In addition to in-school residencies, Viver Brasil held 3 after school offerings for young people through the **Teens in the Park** and **Juveniles for Justice** in partnership with the **LA County Department of Arts & Culture**. Additionally, we performed at **Conga Kids** annual end of year celebration at LA Live to over 10,000 students across 15 LA County school districts.

During this time, **Co-Artistic Director Vera Passos taught a class at Loyola Marymount University** where students performed in The Collegium African Diaspora Dance Scholars, "Connecting the Dots: Bahian Blocos Afros and Alabama Social History" as part of a panel alongside Founder & Co-Artistic Director, Linda Yudin. Beyond that, **we taught classes at 6 different colleges in Indiana, California, Alabama, and Missouri.**

Viver Brasil's educational outreach is one of the largest & most important piece of programming that we offer, seamlessly connecting with our other initiatives such as "Celebrating Samba" and "Samba in the Streets," both in Los Angeles and throughout the U.S



Celebrating Samba

Originally, Cooking Samba, our signature family program, was named Celebrating Samba in 2019. **Celebrating Samba is our signature family program performed for all ages in which we offer as a culminating performance for in-school residencies** or as a free offering to school and community partners. Thanks to our beautiful cast of dancers and musicians, students and family members get to see a reflection of themselves on stage.

Celebrating Samba is about more than a performance, but also about the spirituality of movement, as **it works to teach people of all ages about the historical and religious significance of Afro-Brazilian dance, music and culture.** At the core of Celebrating Samba is the preservation of ancestral African traditions that were brought to Brazil by enslaved peoples, and preserved as a form of rebellion and devotion to their cultural roots. Brazilian culture is filled with songs, dance and music. Brazil's African ancestors, the Yoruba, Fon and Angolan peoples, developed a belief system that held nature as their high power. They understood the necessity to respect and honor the relationship between nature and human beings and honored that important relationship by performing their stories.

This program was provided at 11 schools in Los Angeles County in partnership with both LA's Best and LA Unified School District. In partnership with LA's Best in order to offer programming while people transitioned from a pandemic social distance to an in person space, Celebrating Samba was produced in an online edition which included Bloco Afro dance workshops in both Los Angeles and Salvador, Bahia. Additionally, Viver Brasil taught classes and offered our Celebrating Samba performance across Alabama during the Samba in the Streets tour.



Ìyá Àgbà Cici

In 2022, Viver Brasil hosted the illustrious storyteller Ìyá Àgbà Cici in the US for the first time since 2018.

She is a storyteller and vessel of knowledge about Afro-Brazilian history and culture including its dances, songs and mythic legends.

We are profoundly grateful for her extraordinary love and openness to VB's innovation of Afro-Brazilian culture while respecting the traditions of her African ancestry. She believes that "Africa lives in Viver Brasil."



Slam Poetry

Viver Brasil hosted **“Samba Poetry”** on December 3rd at Brasil Brasil Cultural Center in Los Angeles. This event consisted of three separate dance workshops, multiple performances, and culminated in a samba party. **Vera Passos taught Samba de Caboclo, Rachel Hernandez taught Samba Reggae, and Marina Magalhães taught Samba Fusion.** The event was a teaching experience and a fundraising event for Vera’s Casa So Movimento Campaign.

Workshops

We hosted **“Symbology of the Orixás Dance Workshop”** teaching Silvestre technique on May 29th in Seattle WA. In addition to this workshop, Co-Founder Luiz Badaró taught **“Orixá Traditions Workshop”** in Berkeley California on May 26th. Orixás are the deities or the divine forces of nature found in the spiritual practice descended from Brazil’s African ancestors, the Yoruba and Gege, from Nigeria and Benin. Orixas include both the Kings and the Queens from former workshops.

In 2022 Viver Brasil also worked to create Orixá **films** with the help of **filmmaker Eliciana Nascimento** from Arizona State University. The films focused on Oxum, the golden goddess of the Orixá tales, who is proud of her beauty and the beauty of the natural world she has power over, the rivers and the waterfalls which parallel her unflinching strength.

Furthermore, in October, Candomble Scholar and Ìyá Àgbà Cici held a night of Orixá tales, movements, and stories in addition to her **learning workshops.**



Dancing at The Source

For over 20 years, **Dancing at the Source** has provided travelers with **curated cultural tours, along with daily Afro-Brazilian culture classes** taught by experienced faculty, who are among Bahia's most influential dancers, musicians, visual artists, researchers, and culture makers.

Over the years, the trip leaders have developed deep professional and personal involvements with the arts and spiritual communities of Bahia and are committed to providing travelers with **a unique opportunity to experience Afro-Brazilian culture outside of the typical tourist context.** Through first-hand experiences, travelers connected with and learned from many of **Bahia's top performing artists, spiritual leaders, visual artists, socially conscious thinkers, and educators to advance their historical understanding of Afro-Brazilian traditional and contemporary culture.**

In 2022 Viver Brasil returned to Salvador, Bahia for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic caused travel bans and quarantines across the world. In collaboration with Co-Artistic-Director Vera Passos' Casa de Cultura SoMovimento, Vivier Brasil came to Bahia from August 1st - 17th.

During the trip we visited the **Candomblé Terreiro São Jorge Filho da Gomeia, Terreiro Ilê Axe Ojisé Olodumare or Casa do Mensageiro, the Sao Joaquim Market, Casa Do Carnaval, Quilombo Pitanga dos Palmares Samba de São Gonçalo, and Cachoeira.**



This year our staff included

Vera Passos
Paula Santos
Vania Oliveira
Tatiana Campelo
Jose Ricardo Sousa
Gilmar Sampaio
Babalorixá Rychelmy
Imbiriba Esutobí
Viviam Caroline of Timbaladies
and Iyá Àgbà Cici.

Travelers attended lively talks by contemporary writers

Guel and Mel Adun of Oguns Toques
acclaimed artist/designer, J. Cunha
sculptor Fory Nascimento
journalist/historian Alzira Costa
ethnomusicologist Dr. Katarina Doring,
among others.

Performance

In November, **Viver Brasil** performed for the first time since the pandemic at the **Santa Lucia Festival in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon México**. We are grateful for the support of Rhizome Consulting for supporting this performance. **Viver Brasil ended 2022 with its 9th anniversary performing at Disney California Adventure Park's annual winter spectacle the "Disney's ¡Viva Navidad!."** This joyous street party features exuberant performances, including authentic folklórico dancers, mariachis, Brazilian samba dancers, drummers and incredible 12-foot-tall mojiganga puppets of Santa and Mrs. Claus, with a special appearance by Mickey and Minnie in their fiesta best!



Who we Supported

Marina Magalhães

With the fiscal sponsorship of Viver Brasil, Marina Magalhães was able to begin performances of her project in movement, "**Body as a Crossroads.**" In April of 2022, Diverse Works commissioned the first performance of Marina's project. **Marina describes this dance performance project as seeking "to mobilize live performance to honor the body's inherent ancestral wisdom of how to be with the world.** It strives to navigate away from white supremacist ideals of greed and isolationism, and towards a holistic praxis that values human, plant, and animal life." This project hopes to make new maps of the world that do not draw on colonial history, but a feeling of the earth that dancers find through ancient

wisdom, passed down through generations. **This project is a collaboration with Bianca Medina and Tatiana Zamir.** "Body as a Crossroads" held its first performance in a work-in-progress entitled "Womb." This first performance was inspired by Magalhães's experiences with pregnancy loss and presented in **2022 by DiverseWorks in Houston, TX** and in **2023 by Scripps College in Claremont, CA.** "Body as a Crossroads" is a multi-year project with many more public activations to come.



"Prophet"

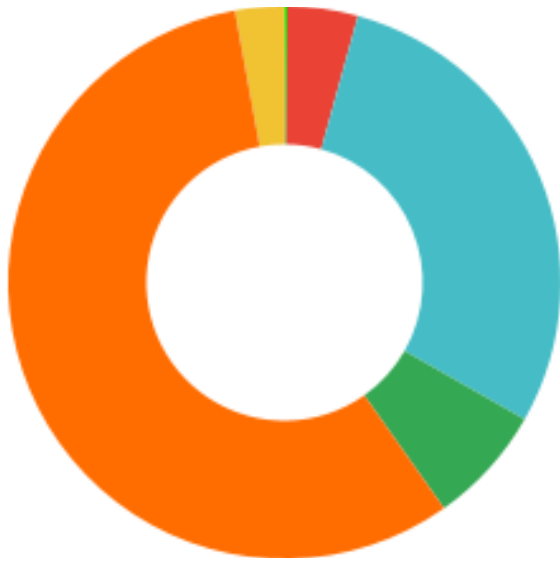
Another project that Viver Brasil sponsored fiscally in 2022 was "**Prophet, a project of 7NMS, created by Marjani Forte-Saunders and Everett Saunders.**"

According to 7NMS' Press Kit, "7NMS is the public emergence of Choreographer Marjani Forte-Saunders and Composer Everett Saunders' work as a collaborative team, **radically engaging art as a medium of elevation, healing, and futurity.** With **7 award-winning projects** in 10 years, 7NMS tote a revolutionary commitment to the Black radical imagination. PROPHET is an awardee of the 2020 MAP Fund and 2020 New Music USA Award."

"Prophet," a project which is focused on lyricism and songwriting as a form of storytelling, takes form as performance, film, exhibition, memoir, and of course, music. Prophet is, "a 4 year archival, research, & multi-genre storytelling project on the life-journey of a Lyricist. Manifesting as a Performance Work, an Ethnographic Memoir, an Experimental Film, and Album, PROPHET: The Order of Lyricism, illuminates the distinctive practices, systems, philosophies, and political ideologies that have shaped Hip-Hop's Emcee/Lyricists."

Expenditures

\$787,762.81



- Marketing Expenses **\$1,377**
- Travel & Transportation **37,347**
- Management & General Operations **\$181,750**
- Artistic Payments **\$30,341**
- Payroll Expenses **\$514,312**
- Production Expenses **\$26,057**

Revenue

\$868,478.79

\$220,692 Government Grants

\$448,167 Grant Income

\$42,329 Individual Donations

\$490,497 Contributed Income

\$37,082 Arts Education

\$377,981 Program related sales & fees





Founders

GOVERNMENT

Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture
Organizational Grant Program (18.5k)
Summer Arts Intern Grant Program
COVID Arts Relief Fund
Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles
Cultural Grant Program
Arts Workforce Empowerment
California Arts Council,
Arts Education – Artists in Schools Grant Program
Arts Education – Exposure Grant Program
Impact Grant Program Program
National Endowment for the Arts
U.S. Small Business Administration
Paycheck Protection Program
Economic Injury Disaster Loans
Lendistry
California Nonprofit Performing Arts Grant
Program
California Small Business COVID-19 Relief
Grant Program
California Community Foundation
LA Recovery Fund
Shuttered Venue Operations Grant

CORPORATIONS

Bahia In Motion LLC
Capital Group Charitable Giving
Theater4Life

FISCAL SPONSORS FUNDERS

Creative Capital Foundation
WHH Foundation
New England Foundation for the Arts



Arts Education Partners

Audubon Elementary School & Middle School
Ben Franklin Elementary School in Indiana as
a part of Terre Haute

Charles Kim Elementary School
Culver City Unified Middle School

Downtown Elysian Heights School

East LA Sunrise School

FoShay Learning Center

Highland Park Garvanza School

Hollywood Grant School

Hollywood Ramona

LA's Best

Los Angeles Unified School District

Lockwood Elementary School

Mosk Elementary

Santee High School

South LA and Baldwin Hills School

Colleges

LA Trade Tech College

The Collegium African Diaspora Dance
Scholars "Connecting the Dots: Bahain
Blocos Afros and Alabama Social History" at
Loyola Marymount University in partnership
with Bernard Brown

Indiana State University in partnership with
Dr. Colleen Haas

Rust College in partnership with Anna Scott
Scripps College Afro-Brazilian Song and
Storytelling with Ìyá Àgbà Cici in partnership
with Marina Magalhães



Community Engagement Partners

Gayle Hooks of Ebony Repertory Theatre
The Nate Holden Performing Arts Center
Afterschool Teens in the Park & Juveniles
for Justice in partnership with the LA
County Department of Arts & Culture

Producers & Presenters

Conga Kids
Disney
Rhizome Consulting

Who we are

Dancers

Adama Ideozu, Adrianna Vieux, Ajah Muhammad, Amainary Contreras, Ariela, Conde, Bianca Medina, Cecilia Slongo, Gisele Dos Santos, Imani Ptahsen-Shabazz, Indira Leneman, Jahanna Blunt, Jenae Jones, Jordyn Wheeler, Kashana Sharif, Krystal Hicks, Laila Abdullah, Leah Castillo, Marina Magalhães, Mawiyah Dowd, Michela Melone, Monica Moskatow, Nagode, Simpson, Sharquella Reed, Shelby Williams-Gonzalez, Tashara Gavin-Moorehead, Taylor Michelle Thomas, Teresa Flores, Tulani Weeks, Tulsi Shah, Venyesa Dixon, Ysaye McKeever

Co-Founders & Co-Artistic Directors: Linda Yudin & Luiz Badaró

Interim Executive Director: Natalie Marrero

AAssociate Artistic Director: Vera Passos

Music Director: Clarice Cast

Program & Production Associate: Nicolea Pettis

Executive Assistant: Kai Richardson

Bookkeeper: Raelle Dorfan & Carter Financial Services

Board Members: Kami Jones (Board Chair) Carol Frank
(Treasurer) Nailah Lisa Morris (Secretary)

Carolina Timóteo de Oliveira Randall Belyea Mason Williams Erin Carstensen

Musicians

Ávila Do Espírito Santo, Ben Rempel, Dana Maman, Daniel Feldman, Diana Di Battista, Diana Toledo, Diego Ruvalcaba, Emilia Moscoso Borja, Fabio de Souza, Fabio Rocha, Felicia Richards, Helbert Astolfi, Henry Castro, Joselito Do Espirito Santos, Joshua Alfaro, Josué Rodrigues Dos Santos, Kanami, Shimanuki, Atia Moraes, Kiblah Delgado, Kimiyo Kori, Luciano Xavier Da Silva, Marcelo Bucater, Marcos, Dos Santos, Mario Pallais, Mikki Woodley, Nakeiltha Campbell, Natalia Spadini, Oliver Lopez, Onier, Bacallao Garcia, Oscar Barcelli, Stevie Hernandez, Suellen Ferreira, Wesley Lima De Amorim, Zé Bruno

Translators: Bruno Eisenberg, Paula Santos, Mel Adun

Makeup Coordinator: Sharquella Reed

Cultural Consultants: Denys Neves, Ìyá Àgbà Cici, Gilmar Sampaio, Gisele Soares, Jose, Ricardo Santos, Jose, Ricardo Souza, Márcio Fidelis, Nildinha Fonseca, Paula, Santos, Rosangela Silvestre, Tatiana Campelo, Vania Oliveira, Viviam Caroline of Timbaladies, Guel & Mel, Adun of Oguns Toques, J. Cunha

Lighting Designer: Eric Zimmerman

Who kept us going

Laila Abdullah
Nicole Acarón-Toro
Kendra Adler
Eve Alston
Jay Are
Michele Baer
Anne Bommer
Lorna Bouret
Sathina Camberos
Raquel Coaxitlalli
Ariela Conde
Amainary Contreras
Jennifer Covarrubias
Fay Delacruz
Karina DesRoses
Liza DeWitt
Janet Di Luzio
Domonique
Echeverria
Maria Garcia
Arturo Gonzalez
Irvin Gonzalez
Rosaria Gracia
Cynthia Guedea
Laura Guerrero Nieto
Cristina Guzman
Kate Hutter
Maitê Inae
Naomi Jacobs-EL
Shireen Janti
Cynthia Jiménez
Jenae Jones

Kami Jones
Mel Kel
Dara Kelly
Shannon Kelly
Sophie Kim
Regina Klenjoski
Andrea Kraybill
Saundra Lang
Camellia Lee
Lisa Lopez
Bettina Lopez
Jennifer Lorenzen
Joyce Lu
Marina Magalhães
Suganya Mahendran
Richard Marshall
Ysaye A McKeever
Delia Medina
Michela Melone
Aeric Meredith-
Goujon
Maureen Milligan
Cagke Moore
Monica Moskatow
Tina Mullone
Frances (Sue) Nelson
Carol Olivier
E Pangilinan
Nicolea Pettis
Zoe Piccirillo
Meryl Prettyman
Ben Rempel

Roxana Reyes
Cecilia Ribordy
Felicia Richards
Sydney Richardson
Claudia Roberts
Anna Rogers
Felicia Rosenfeld
Terry Scott
Iman Shervington
Cecilia Slongo
Polly Stenberg
Charles Stone III
Daina Swagerty
Margarita Sweet
Cecilia Tanure
Elisa Tostado
Gia Trovela
Wangüi wa Kamonji
Bayeshan Wang-
Cooper
Shelby Williams-
Gonzalez
Linda Yudin
Frederick L. Yudin
Maya Zellman
Othering & Belonging
Institute
at UC Berkeley
Audubon Middle
School
Amara Arts

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THANK YOU
VIVER **BRASIL**