



VIVER
BRASIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



VIVER BRASIL 2019 AT A GLANCE



49

Weeks of
dance instruction



7,480

Students served



2,150

Newsletter
subscribers



15

Arts education
programs



110

Zip Codes
Reached



2

World
Premieres

24

Free
drumming
& dance
workshops



2,996

Instagram likes



7

Performances



4,025

Facebook likes



13

Free
performances
in schools &
communities



17

Dancers

+ 13

Musicians employed

VIVER BRASIL ANNUAL REPORT

From our ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

A year of transformation, new leadership, and emerging artistry underscore Viver Brasil's continued commitment to raising fervent awareness of the aesthetics and wisdom of Afro-Bahian ancestral culture on the concert stage, through community as well as educational programs and other performance initiatives in Los Angeles, in Bahia and beyond. Celebrated successes include the premier of two site-specific works commissioned by Grand Park for Our Voices Festival, the company's seventh season of Viva Navidad Street Party at Disney California Adventure Park, and new community support for Viver Brasil's signature Samba in the Streets program at Leimert Park (in partnership with KAOS Network).

PERFORMANCES

Viver Brasil was welcomed by the Skirball Cultural Center to perform as part of the Black is Beautiful exhibit. Grand Park commissioned two site-specific Viver Brasil works for the Our LA Voices Festival in April; a second opportunity for the company to work in the site-specific genre after the 2018 creation and performance of Revealed in the Moves After Dark Festival.

We were deeply appreciative for the performance opportunities and projects made possible by the Grand Park presenters as Vera Passos' and Shelby Williams-Gonzalez's created work for 'Symbols, Goddesses, and Sambas: Duas Aguas and Poesia Feminina'. A long-held dream of Viver Brasil came to fruition when Shelby created 'Duas Aguas' in honor of the water Orixas, performed in the water at the Grand Park Fountain by an ensemble of four dancers (Laila Abdullah, Shelby Williams-Gonzalez, Bianca Medina and Ajah Muhammad). On the main stage, Vera Passos' choreography further exalted concepts of feminine power and wisdom. Viver Brasil musicians (Luiz Badaró, Avila Santo, Clarice Cast, Drew Love, singer Katia Moraes, and special guest Vania Amaral) created musical accompaniment that comingled live and recorded music.

2019 marked Viver Brasil's seventh year in Disney's winter holiday parade spectacle. We celebrated our two thousandth performance under the superb leadership of Jahanna Blunt, Bianca Medina, Ajah Muhammad, dance captains; music director, Clarice Cast and Costume Coordinator, Sharquella Harrell and Makeup Coordinator, Myeshial Hall. This tour de force group of women brilliantly led the entire run from preparation to performance; VB successfully accomplished the task of mentoring emerging leadership. We thank the Disney Resort for their continued trust in our Viver Brasil's artistry.

Samba in the Streets in school and after school residencies

In 2019, we committed to increasing opportunities for our core teaching artists.

Viver Brasil at **Foshay Learning Center** residency (Exposition Park Middle School), led by teaching artists Luiz Badaró, Avila Santos, Linda Yudin, and Laila Abdullah, explored the concept of freedom. Laila (a vital partner at Foshay for the past three years) with the teaching team brought to life sections of Badaró's full-length, Navio Negreiro [Slaveship]. The project was enhanced by freedom stories written by the seventh graders as well as drumming and songs taught by Avila. Songs and drumming became part of the choreographic experience. Engaging the students in the creation of the piece with spoken word gave youthful thought and voice to their challenges and accomplishments as middle school youth in LA.

Viver Brasil's third year at **Audubon Middle School** included Bloco Afro music and dance and the exploration of racial equality. The teaching artists were Giavanni Washington, Luiz Badaró, Avila Santo and Linda Yudin. Discussions centered around the five-day Carnival of Bahia events and how the carnival served as a platform for themes of civil rights through

thunderous drumming and creative choreographies. The students also contributed to the Bloco Afro choreographies by infusing African American street dances into the presentations. Spring and Fall residencies reinforced perceptions of our deep relationships with Salvador, Bahia and Los Angeles, CA.

A huge thank you to City Councilman Herb Wesson and to former councilman Tom LaBonge for providing free bus transportation so that Audubon students and teachers could witness a Viver Brasil Viva Navidad performance at Disney.

LA's Best ASAP program provided Viver Brasil's several residencies in South LA, where Jordyn Wheeler-Lewis (also a Gabriella Foundation teaching artist) taught Bloco Afro dance and in the San Fernando Valley, Fabio Santana de Souza taught Maracatu, Maculele and Samba music. In Highland Park, Luiz Badaró and Clarice Cast taught Cafezal and Maculelê dances with orixa and Bloco Afro rhythms.

Our teaching artists crafted beautiful culminating performances with the students. Together we strive to instill pride, accomplishment, and a sense of completion for the students. LA's Best and Gabriella Foundation partners have been integral to the success of these programs. Full capacity audiences filled school auditoriums with family members, students, and faculty.

Through a generous grant from the California Arts Council Viver Brasil presented 13 Celebrating Samba performances to LA County Schools both during and after school programs. Each performance ended in Bloco Afro style carnival dance workshops. School residency sites erupt with the energy of guided movement and lively dialogue by students and Viver Brasil artists.

NEW LEADERSHIP

We were very thrilled to bestow the title of Associate Artistic Director to our longtime collaborator, teacher, and choreographer, Vera Passos. Vera has worked with Viver Brasil since 2009 and graciously accepts her new role with enthusiasm. Her wisdom enlivens, enriches and empowers present and future artistry and programming.

Dr. Giavanni Washington became our new Executive Director and we welcomed her into the office with joyous samba steps on July 1st! Giavanni brings to Viver Brasil a deep commitment to the development of African Diaspora cultural traditions through her Ph.D. in Culture and Performance from UCLA and experience with African and African Diaspora drum.

Clarice Cast became Viver Brasil's Music Director. She hails from São Paulo, Brazil and is recognized as a world-renowned pandeiro player in addition to playing a variety of percussion instruments.

2019 truly was a year of leaping forward! A year of listening to the beautiful future generation of Viver Brasil leaders and delving deep into our commitment to providing our artists and communities the most engaging experiences that reflect our passion for Afro-Brazilian culture through the spirited art of dance and music. We look boldly into the coming year to create art that fuels our creativity to provide joy and celebration.

Axé,



Linda Yudin, Founder and Artistic Director



Luiz Badaró, Founder and Artistic Director



VIVER BRASIL **ANNUAL** REPORT

From our **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Nineteen years ago, I stepped off a plane onto Bahian soil for the first time. I had no idea, then, that the year I would spend in Salvador as a Rotary International Cultural Ambassador of Goodwill would shape the rest of my life. I was immersed in Blackness like I had never experienced before. The Portuguese I learned took me back to Brazil multiple times as a translator and even to Angola with a research unit from Charles R. Drew University. The ways of knowing to which I was exposed in Salvador changed how I looked at the arts as a way to collectively make sense of the world.

I have passionately played dunduns, the bass drums of the West African djembe orchestra, for the last 15 years. When I discovered the surdo at Samba in the Streets - Leimert Park, I fell in love all over again. At the end of SITS summer 2018, I was invited to perform with VB for that season of Disney's Viva Navidad Street Party. I am a perfect example of the growth opportunities that VB offers: an artist that can progress from community programming to performing to leadership!

I was interested in a leadership position with Viver Brasil because it would allow me to bring to bear the full range of my diverse background. As a long-time practitioner of the drum and dance arts of West Africa, ethnographer, writer, facilitator, curator of experiences, and healer, I consider standing up for the Black Body to be my daily personal, professional, and artistic practice. My scholarly background in memory, tradition and resistance in African diasporic populations is a seamless fit for VB's vision and dedication to ancestral wisdom and social justice. It is a dream to come to work everyday where Blackness is centered and where my Blackness is celebrated.

These first six months as VB's new Executive Director have been invigorating and I look forward to continuing to support Viver Brasil as we promote Afro-Brazilian Culture beyond the stage and into the world.

With Love and Rhythm,



Giavanni Washington, Executive Director



: Kiyo Yamashita

our ENGAGEMENT

Celebrating Samba: Our signature family program takes audiences on a cultural journey with electrifying Afro-Brazilian dance and music where audiences experience a jolt of joyful color, thrilling rhythms, and communal celebration. This narrated 45-minute performance includes the royal orixa dances, riveting capoeira, joyful samba and Bahian carnival with live music and an interactive dance workshop. In 2019, we hosted 13 free performances through support from the California Arts Council's (CAC) - Arts Education Exposure grant.

Arts Education Programs: In partnership with LA's Best, The Gabriella Foundation, Audubon Middle School, and Foshay Learning Center, Viver Brasil offered 15 residencies for grades K-8, supported by CAC-Arts Education Artist-In-Schools grant.

Samba in the Streets: Our free community engagement program began in 2015 and has served over 800 people in Leimert Park in partnership with KAOS Network since its inception thanks to support from the Department of Cultural Affaris, and the CAC-Artists in Communities grant.

Community Dance Class: Established in 2000, our weekly Afro-Brazilian dance classes are a much sought after essential in the local dance community. Each year, 500 new community members participate in classes led by founding Artistic Directors Linda Yudin and Luiz Badaró, company members, and special guests from Bahia.



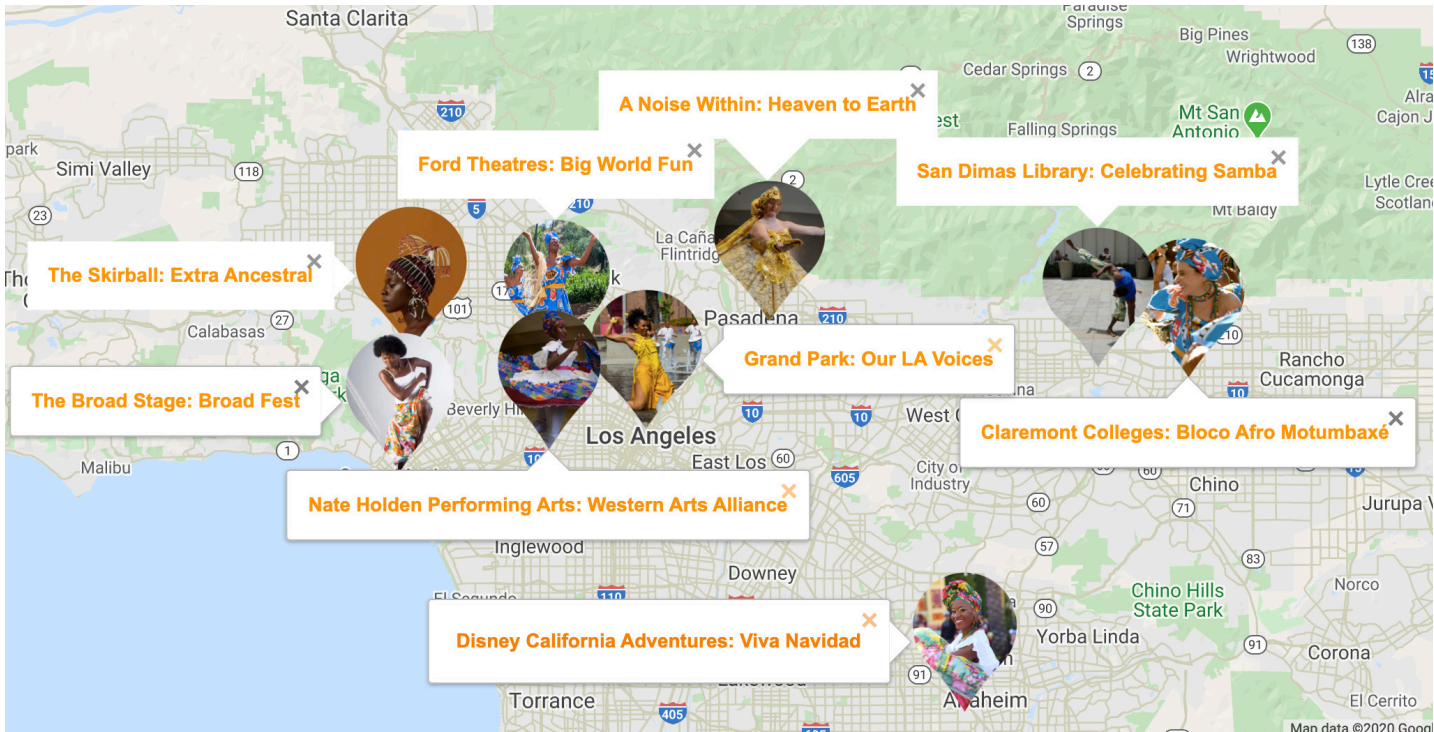
13
Free performances
in schools & communities

15
Arts education programs

24
Free drumming & dance workshops

49
Weeks of dance instruction

our PERFORMANCES



our NEW WORKS

Duas Aguas choreographed by Shelby Williams-Gonzalez pays homage to the water goddesses, Iemanjá, mother of the oceans and Oxum, queen of the rivers. This was a site-specific piece performed in the fountain of Grand Park as part of LA Voices

Poesia Feminina choreographed by Vera Passos honors the deepest feminine energy of strength and energetic force, honoring those passed and who inform our present. This piece included a community procession to call the audience together before the performance on Grand Park's main stage.

7
Performances

2
World Premieres

our FUNDRAISERS

Spring Fundraiser

At our Annual Fundraiser we honored Vera Passos for her artistic contributions and crowned her with her new title, Associate Artistic Director!

Vera choreographed our performative orixa and samba costume fashion show by our compelling VB dancers. Throughout the afternoon guests viewed beautiful costumes from our extraordinary costume collection.



VB Salon

Viver Brasil was thrilled to welcome our dear friend, Bahian collaborator and tour guide extraordinaire, Paula Santos, to lead our first VB Salon -- a series of discussions to explore all things Afro-Brazilian! Paula shared her vast knowledge in a lively discussion.

Audubon To Disney

Viver Brasil concluded the year with an inspiring trip to Disney's California's Adventure with middle school students from Audubon! The kids watched the ¡Viva Navidad! Street Party, danced on the route with our artists, and participated in a question and answer session with VB professionals after the show.

Special thanks to Councilman Herb Wesson and Tom LaBonge for transportation.

"Seeing the dancers perform made me feel like I could accomplish anything!!"



our GROWTH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Giavanni Washington, PhD, MPH

OFFICE MANAGER - BOOKKEEPER

Daniela Hernandez

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Vera Passos

ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION & PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

Bianca Medina

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Clarice Castilho

ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Drew Love

INTERNS

Olivia Holabird,
Intern Coordinator

Maya Karp,
Development & Marketing Intern

Ashley Contreras,
Archive & Marketing Intern

NEW DANCERS

Afrika Bakerena, Gisele Silva, Mawiyah Dowd, Nathieli Diaz, Nayre Blake, Shanna Woods, Taylor-Michelle Thomas, Ysaye McKeever

NEW MUSICIANS

Emilia Borja, Jelani Blunt, Marcelo Bucater



our FINANCIAL RESULTS

2019 Revenue

\$342,619

Earned Income

\$38,920

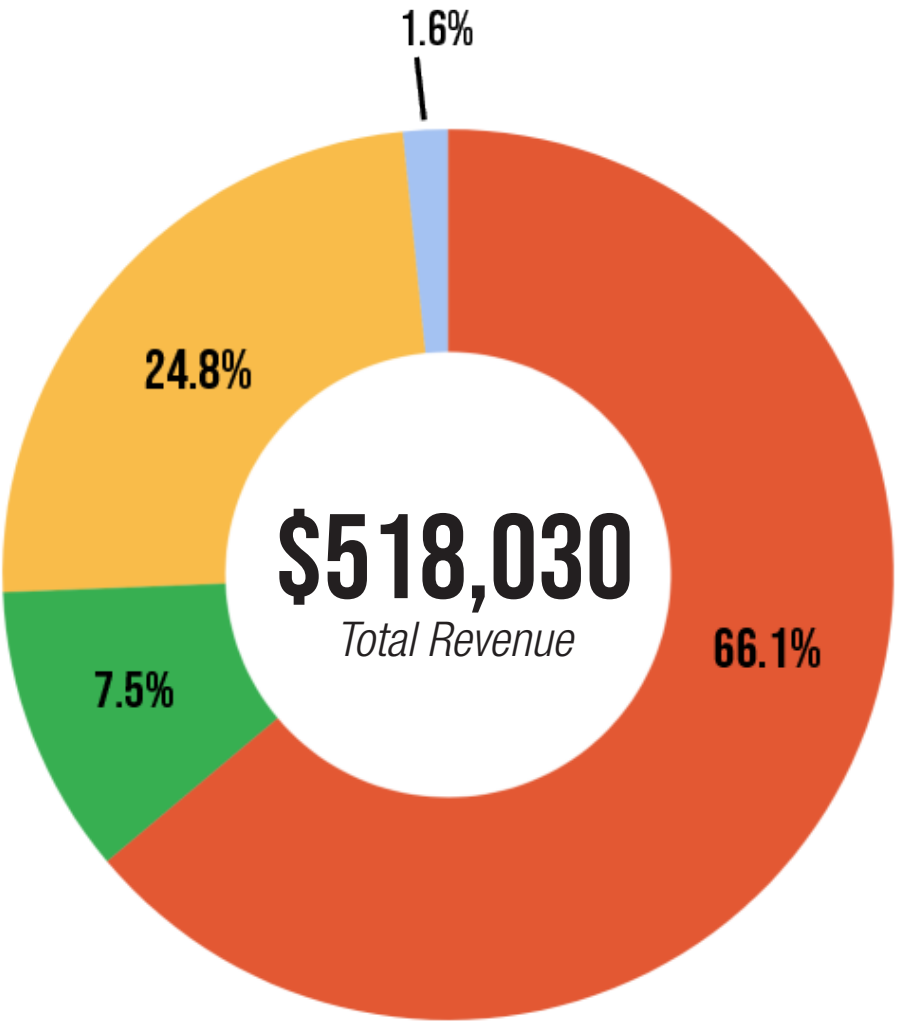
Contributed
Income - Donations

\$128,343

Contributed
Income - Grants

\$8,148

Miscellaneous Revenue



2019 Expenses

\$303,891

Artistic Salaries and
Wages

\$50,110

Administrative Wages
and Fees

\$31,189

Production Fees and
Expenses

\$5,251

Travel

\$4,226

Marketing

\$61,394

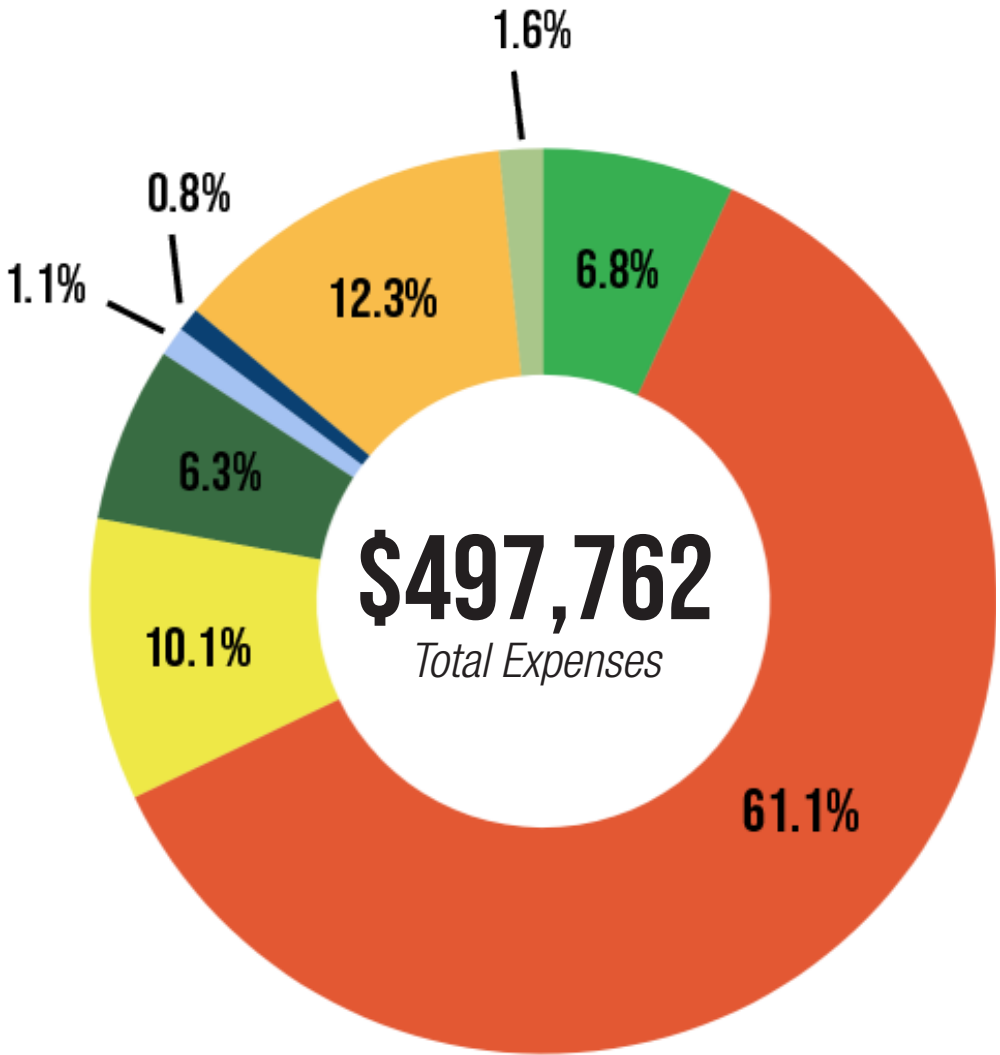
Executive Salary

\$7,777

Business Expenses

\$33,924

Operational



our Partners

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Arts Education
LA's Best, The Gabriella Foundation - Everybody Dance, Foshay Learning Center, and Audubon Middle School

Community Engagement
Ben Caldwell of KAOS Network and Gayle Hooks of Ebony Repertory Theatre - The Nate Holden Performing Arts Center

PRESENTERS/PRODUCERS

Grand Park
Ford Theatres
The Broad Stage
Inner City Arts
Arts Active Inc.
Ebony Repertory Theatre
A Noise Within

SEASONAL SPONSORS

Summer Fundraiser By The Way Catering and DJ Glenn Red



our Funders

FOUNDATIONS

The Performing Arts Readiness Grant through generous funding from the Andrew Mellon Foundation

CORPORATIONS

Capital Group Charitable Giving

GOVERNMENT

Los Angeles County Arts Commission
Organizational Grant
Summer Arts Intern Grant
Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles
Cultural Grant Program
California Arts Council
Artist in Communities
Artist in Schools Exposure
Organizational Development
Professional Development
Local Impact



our Donors

Viver Brasil is grateful for the continued support of the following individuals whose love for our work is unending and enables us to grow our impact in Los Angeles, across the U.S., and around the world.

Daniel Allen
Nicole Acaron Toro
Rebecca Araujo
Koko Archibong
Marcia Argolo
Luiz Badaró
Jan Blunt
Danilo Bollina
Robert Briseño
Patricia Brooks
Olivia Campbell
Capital Group Companies
Tai Carey
Jewel Charlot
Sara Choi
Angela Chung
Marla Chung
Julianne Cobacha
Cheryl Cook
Nick Cossful
L.A. Daniels-Hernandez
Ida Danzey
Charles Dedlow
Sergio Delgado
Sarah Dickinson
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Linda Fiaga
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Miriam Ganger
Henry Garcia
Colleen Ginsberg
Beto Gonzalez
Robert Gordon
Denise Green
Lyndon Gregory
Eduardo Sr. and Cynthia Kay
Guedea
Nancy Guerrero

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Alysha Higgins
Kelly Hopkins
Patricia Horikawa
Karen Hubbard
Reonna Johnson
Barbara Justice
Rebecca Klinenberg
Tom LaBonge
Saundra Lang
Xenophon Lang
Annabelle Lemus
Patricia Leao
David Leneman
Judith Lenz
Benjamin Lewis
Natasha Livesly
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Monique Nash
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Cory Park
Susanna Peace Lovell
Licia Perea
Christina Pessini
John Reco
Jen Reeder
Elisha Reverby

RhythmQuest
Nicole Roberts
Edna Roccato
Taraneh Sarrafzdeh
Margot Schindler
Sandra Sears
Iyabo Shabazz
Bahreh Shayegan
Roxanne Shelaby
Sharon Simone
Don Spetner
Nosa Sule
Anne Talltree
Margaret Teran
Kay Torres
Gia Trovela
Paula Walker
Marsha Walters
Andrette Ward
Charles Washington
Giavanni Washington
Marcus Wesson
Silas White
Trifari Williams
Letitia Wims
Lilian Wu
Wanda Lee- Evans
Frederick Yudin
Linda Yudin



US

FOUNDERS & ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Linda Yudin
Luiz Badaró

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Natalie Marrerro, *January-June*
Giavanni Washington, *June-Present*

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Vera Passos

ASSOCIATE PROGRAMMING AND PRODUCTION MANAGER

Bianca Medina

ASSOCIATE MANAGING DIRECTOR AND OFFICE MANAGER

Daniela Hernandez

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Clarice Cast

ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Drew Love

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Angela Gulliver, *Board Chair*
Roxanne S. Alessandro, *Secretary*
Linda Yudin, *ex-officio member*
Rosalie Tucker
Reonna Johnson
Saundra Lang
James Nash
Heidy Rodriguez

DANCERS

Laila Abdullah
Afrika Bakenra
Nayre Blake
Ashley Blanchard
Jahanna Blunt
Natheili Diaz
Mawiyah Dowd
Samantha Goodman, *Teaching Artist*

Myeisha Hall
Sharquella Harrell
Indira Leneman
Marina Magalhães, *Choreographer*
Ysaye McKeever
Bianca Medina
Taylor Michelle-Thomas
Ajah Hays Muhammad
Haniyyah Muhammad
Vera Passos, *Choreographer*
Nicolea Pettis
Gisele Silva
Jasmine Stanley
Jordyn Wheeler-Lewis
Shelby Williams-Gonzalez, *Choreographer*

MUSICIANS

Katia Moraes, *Singer*
Felicia “Onyi” Richards, *Singer*
Dana Maman, *Singer*
Vania Amaral, *Singer*
Clarice Cast
Drew Love
Phillippos Haile
Steve Hernandez
Tyler Hunt
Avila Santo
Fabio S. de Souza

COSTUME DESIGN

Rosalinda Medina, *Costume Designer*
Kristina Garnett, *Costume Designer*
Valclides Pinto Sales and Alice Pinto Sales, *Costume Designers*
Angelica Flores, *Costume Construction*

THANK YOU

