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Building Cultures of Dance through Inspired Leadership

Berkeley, CA: Luna Dance Institute selected six outstanding dance educators to participate as Cohort Two of our unique Dance Education Leadership Institute (DELI). Selected through a competitive process, these educators engage in a year-long process to identify personal goals for making a mark in their sector of the industry, to improve skills and increase confidence, and to convene in August for specific professional development on topics that emerged throughout the year. Dance, by its nature, is a transient art form requiring leadership that is both flexible and structural to promote public understanding of this enigmatic art form.

The first DELI Cohort was implemented September 2013 through November 2014, with each leader demonstrating increased confidence, improved communications and clarity of vision. One participant wrote, "The Leadership Cohort has shown me where my strengths are, but also where my passion is. It has helped me articulate what is important to me in a career and how I want to be seen as a leader." In a field that is known for job insecurity located in a region known for transiency, all six leaders of Cohort One are still actively engaged in dance education leadership and are now in the process of mentoring others. This ripple effect is at the root of Luna's Building Cultures of Dance Initiative.

Cohort Two is comprised of dance educators who have roots in the many facets found in the profession and they work in diverse settings throughout California. Each a dancer first, they are:

- Ruth Torres, Arts Integration Specialist, Los Angeles Unified School District
- Rebecca Prather, Speech-Language Therapist, Arts Integration Specialist, Larkspur Unified School District
- Jennifer Oliver, Artistic Director, A Step Beyond, San Diego
- Rosemary Hannon, Dance Teaching Artist, Cragmont School, Berkeley
- Greacian Goeke, Artistic Director Impromptu No Tutu intergenerational ensemble
- Yuki Fujimoto, former dancer with ODC and instructor at Mills College, presently founding a comprehensive dance program at the Boys and Girls Club of Oakland

Read more about these artists and track their learning at <http://lunadanceinstitute.org/dance-education-leaders-2015/>

About Luna Dance Institute: Founded in 1992 in Oakland, California, Luna continues to bring creativity, equity and community to every child's life through the art of dance. This mission is fulfilled through a comprehensive teacher education series, school and community dance projects and a studio program that teaches the art of improvisation and choreography. More can be found at lunadanceinstitute.org.

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