



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The National Endowment for the Arts grants Luna Dance & Creativity \$20,000  
for Professional Learning and the Summer Institute

Berkeley, CA –Luna Dance & Creativity has been approved by the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) (NEA) for a Grants for Arts Projects award of \$20,000 to support our Professional Learning. The NEA will award 1,135 Grants for Arts Projects awards totaling more than \$37 million as part of its second round of fiscal year 2024 grants.

“Projects like Luna’s Professional Learning exemplify the creativity and care with which communities are telling their stories, creating connection, and responding to challenges and opportunities in their communities—all through the arts,” said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. “So many aspects of our communities such as cultural vitality, health and wellbeing, infrastructure, and the economy are advanced and improved through investments in art and design, and the National Endowment for the Arts is committed to ensuring people across the country benefit.”

Along with Luna’s Professional Learning offerings, this grant supports Luna’s [Summer Institute](#) (SI) 2024 and ongoing mentorship and leadership development of our 264 SI alumni. The Summer Institute is a unique yearlong professional development experience that includes in-person intensives, online follow-up workshops, collegial support, and individualized coaching focused on the art of teaching dance. Participants investigate national dance content standards, the elements of dance, human development, learning theory, teaching strategies, arts integration curriculum development, and culturally responsive and inclusive teaching practices through a lens of critical reflection.

Luna’s Professional Learning offerings are informed by the inquiries of SI participants and alumni and are designed to engage them in lifelong learning as movers and shapers of the field of arts education. Luna began our Summer Institute with the vision of bringing dance teaching artists and classroom teachers together to learn from each other, create community, develop the art of dance teaching, and activate and inspire individual and collective imaginations towards positive change.

“A deep love of working with children is one core and common characteristic of this cohort,” shares Director of Programs Jochelle Pereña, “and another is curiosity - they each seek to grow and learn through their teaching. This is a powerful combination that sparks hope for the future.”

Luna proudly welcomes the following educators to our 23<sup>rd</sup> Summer Institute:



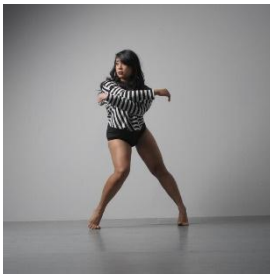
Alexis Alcalá  
Teaching Artist  
ODC, Leap, Jamaroo,  
San Francisco, CA



Edwin A. Sigüenza  
Teaching Artist  
Maple Elementary  
Fontana, CA



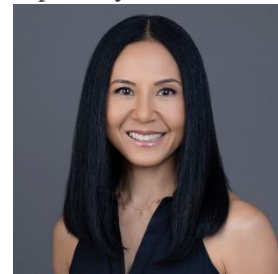
Gabriela Cerda Mendoza  
Teaching Artist  
Los Angeles Unified School  
District, Los Angeles, CA  
*photo by John Saade*



Joy Veluz  
Teaching Artist  
Huntington Middle School &  
San Marino Dance Academy  
San Marino, CA  
*photo by Ed Flores*



Leah Antonellis  
Special Ed Teaching Artist  
New Roads School  
Santa Monica, CA  
*photo by Zafi Ahmed*



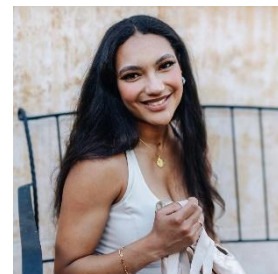
Lisa Simon  
Teaching Artist  
'Iolani School  
Honolulu, Hawai'i  
*photo by Tracy Wright Corvo*



Luis Ramos Barrios  
Early Childhood Teacher  
North Bay Children's Center  
Novato, CA



Megan Minturn  
Teaching Artist  
Brooklyn International High  
School, Brooklyn, NY



Moriah Costa  
Teaching Artist  
Luna Dance & Creativity,  
Berkeley, CA



Natalie Tran  
TK Teacher  
Montclair Elementary,  
Oakland, CA



Zoe Huey  
Teaching Artist  
Luna Dance & Creativity,  
Berkeley, CA

### About Luna Dance & Creativity

Luna is a nationally recognized arts leader and institution that supports families, artists, teachers, leaders, schools, community, and arts organizations through programs that promote creativity and self-determination through the transformative power of dance. Founded in 1992, Luna has become the most comprehensive dance education organization on the West Coast. Luna fulfills its mission to bring creativity, equity, and community to every child's life through the art of dance provided via education services to the youth and families who are the least likely to receive the benefits of an arts education, including children and mothers in the dependency system and living in poverty; children living in neighborhoods and attending schools with little to no access to arts programs; and children diagnosed with autism, special learning needs, and other disabilities. Luna serves children, families, and dance practitioners through partnerships with schools, social service agencies, and arts and culture organizations. Last year, 519 teachers, who taught 35,895 students, received Luna's services and resources. Discover more at [lunadancecreativity.org](http://lunadancecreativity.org).