Protege 2022 Mentors

Brittany A. Gash
Director of Marketing & Communications, The Broad Stage

*Specialty: Marketing*

Brittany A. Gash is the Director of Marketing & Communications for The Broad Stage. A storyteller – she considers it her job to shape authentic and engaging narratives that bring positive change to communities.

With a career that spans just over 15 years, she has worked with a variety of nonprofit arts organizations from theatre and music, to dance, visual art, and film. Some of her most notable clients include Invertigo Dance Theatre, American Youth Symphony, Emerging Arts Leaders/LA, LA County Department of Arts and Culture, Ford Theatres, Brazilian Nites Productions, Chamber Music in Historic Sites, Hollywood Fringe Festival, Towne Street Theatre, and many more.

Brittany has an MBA and specializes in Marketing Strategy, Brand Management, Digital Marketing, Public Relations, Donor Engagement, and Community Partnership. She believes strongly in ethical marketing and practices conscious marketing and marketing intuitively.

Bronson Foster
Head of Experience & Partnerships, Long Beach Opera

*Specialty: General Arts Nonprofit Leadership, Communications & Experience Design*

Bronson Foster is a strategist and leader who believes that our shared creative and cultural expressions demonstrate the best of what we can achieve. His work focuses on increasing capacity, innovating systems, creating space, utilizing data and research, empowering people, and future thinking for arts and cultural organizations. In 2021, he joined the team at Long Beach Opera where he is Head of Experience & Partnerships. Previously, Bronson has worked with the Burke Museum of Natural History & Culture, Boulanger Initiative, and Live Music Project. He served on the leadership council for Emerging Arts Leaders/Los Angeles and as a member of various organizations’ committees such as the Association of Arts Administration Educators. Bronson completed his graduate studies at the University of Southern California (USC) where he earned a Master of Science degree as well as having earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV).

Charlie Jensen
Program Director, Writers' Program; UCLA Extension

*Specialty: Career development/coaching, arts education, arts management*

Charlie Jensen is the program director of the UCLA Extension Writers' Program, one of the world's largest and most prestigious continuing education creative writing programs. He is the author of three collections of poetry, and he was honored by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs as a Cultural Trailblazer.
Dilcia Barrera
Programmer, Sundance Film Institute

*Specialty: Film Curation, Film Artist Development*

Dilcia Barrera is a Programmer for the Sundance Film Festival where she focuses on feature length fiction films and series. Her curation experience spans over a decade and includes tenure as Programming Director for LALIFF, Senior Programmer at AFI FEST, and has collaborated with programming teams at OUTFEST and the New York Film Festival. She was LACMA's Film Curator overseeing public programming, and screenings in conjunction with the museum’s exhibitions including Guillermo del Toro: At Home with Monsters. Most recently, she served as a development consultant for network projects and produced an upcoming shorts compilation series for Showtime. She was featured in "IndieWire’s 20 Latin Americans Making a Difference for American Independent Film Today" in 2016 and ScreenDaily's "Future Leaders 2019: programmers and curators to watch" list.

Fabian Fuertes
Senior Manager, YOLA | Los Angeles Philharmonic Association

*Specialty: Arts Administration*

Fabian Fuertes (he/him), holds the position of Senior Manager, YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles) with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, is a board member with Arts for LA, and is a Delegate for Assembly District 53 with the CA Democratic Party. His passion for equitable education, the arts, and social justice inspires his work in creating a profound societal renewal in our generation and the next. As a native Angeleno and first-generation Latinx, he is proud to be a part of an organization that engages more than 1,300 young people from historically marginalized communities across LA County through free music experiences and creative youth development to inspire belonging and membership, autonomy, civic and social abilities, and stronger lifelong learners. Fabian is excited to continuously explore personal blind spots, enable transformation, and continue his pursuit in creating a world in which access to equitable education, for all, inspires any person to fulfill their greatest potential.

Helen Alonzo Hurtado
Social Enterprise Manager, Las Fotos Project

*Specialty: Art education and social entrepreneurship*

Helen Alonzo Hurtado (she/her/ella) is Las Fotos Project’s Social Enterprise Manager. At Las Fotos Project, Helen is able to combine her personal passion for youth development with her professional passion of building financially sustainable nonprofit organizations through social entrepreneurship. Helen is responsible for the creative direction of the social enterprise managing all aspects of its activities including its CEO program which connects students to paid job opportunities preparing them for careers in the creative industry as well as managing The Foto Studio, an incubator providing students a space to further develop their skills as creative professionals while doubling as an accelerator offering an affordable option for local artists seeking a creative workspace. Prior to joining
Las Fotos Project, Helen was an Associate Educator at the Skirball Cultural Center overseeing 5th to 12th grade programs. Helen graduated from the University of Southern California with a Master’s degree in Public Administration and she also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Jay Carlon**  
Independent Choreographer and Director  

*Speciality: Dance*

Jay Carlon is a queer Filipinx American contemporary dance artist and community organizer based between LA and NYC. He is committed to connecting his art practice to sustainability and his personal and collective journey of decolonization. He is Co-Manager and Educator of homeLA’s Place-Making Program. Carlon was named Dance Magazine’s 25 to Watch and his work has been featured throughout the United States, Mexico, Australia, Thailand, and the Philippines. Jay is a performer and directing associate with Australian spectacle theater company Sway, where he has performed at the 2014 Olympics, the 2016 World EXPO, and the 2018 Super Bowl. Carlon has also performed with the Metropolitan Opera, Bill T. Jones, jumatatu m. poe, The Industry Opera, Oguri, Solange Knowles, Rodrigo y Gabriela; and choreographed works for Kanye West and Mndsgn.

**Kelly Williams**  
Manager of School Communities, Lucas Museum of Narrative Art  

*Speciality: Museums and Arts Education*

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Kelly currently serves as the Manager of School Communities at the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art. In this role, she is responsible for working in collaboration with students, teachers, and communities to envision dynamic opportunities for learning and engagement. Kelly's previous work includes leading school partnerships at the Getty Museum, managing family and youth initiatives in the Discovery Center at the Natural History Museum of LA County, starring in distance learning programming with the Cleveland Museum of Art, and leading tours in English and Italian as a Peggy Guggenheim intern. Kelly holds a MS in Education from Bank Street College and a BA in Studio Art from Connecticut College. In her free time, she loves spending time with her two kids, drinking coffee, and perfecting her margarita recipe.

**Leticia Rhi Buckley**  
Incoming CEO of LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes  

*Speciality: Civic and community engagement, DEIA*

A native of East Los Angeles, Leticia Rhi Buckley is deeply committed to making the arts accessible and has led major countywide initiatives to effectively shape more inclusive and equitable policies throughout the Los Angeles region. While at the LA County Department of Arts and Culture, Leticia led the County’s Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative (CEII), working closely with stakeholders to develop and implement actionable strategies to support the arts in
historically under-resourced communities. In her most recent role as Senior Civic Strategist at The Music Center, Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County, Leticia was responsible for the overall direction and strategic implementation of civic and community relationships. She is an LA County Arts Commissioner, Board Chair of the Arts for Healing and Justice Network, and adjunct professor at Claremont Graduate University's Center for Business and Management of the Arts. Leticia has been selected as Chief Executive Officer of LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes in downtown Los Angeles, and will assume the position on April 4th.

**Umi Hsu**
Director of Content Strategy, ONE Archives Foundation

*Specialty: Cultural sector digital strategy, digital humanities, arts and humanities content strategy, cultural mapping, arts data*

Umi Hsu (pronouns: they/them) is a public humanist and digital strategist with research and organizing agendas for equity in arts, technology, and civic life. They are currently the Director of Content Strategy at ONE Archives Foundation. Previously, Hsu led digital and data initiatives at the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. They have taught at ArtCenter College of Design and USC Marshall School of Business and published extensively on digital media, data, sound, and Internet culture. Hsu has received fellowships and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, American Council for Learned Society, Shuttleworth Foundation, and LA Metro. As a sound ethnographer and artist, Hsu has works presented by the Rubin Museum, Japanese American National Museum, ONE Archives, Tuesday Night Cafe, and CTM Festival in Berlin. They also play in LA-based ghost pop band Bitter Party.