
Country Day Creative Arts The 2017 Artists / Teachers



***We wholeheartedly thank
the 40 CDCA Interns
for all their help and support!***





Emilia Aguinaga

Yoga

New Orleans, LA

Emilia grew up in Quito, Ecuador and has lived in New Orleans for a little over a decade. Emilia loves languages, yoga, food, and meeting new people - it's no surprise, then, that she loves to travel and brings her yoga mat with her wherever she goes! In her life outside of CDCA, Emilia is a yoga teacher at Freret Street Yoga and works as a climate change and climate justice community organizer.

AJ Balatico

Robotics

Mandeville, LA

A.J. is ready for his second summer at CDCA. Incredible works are going to burst forth into the world. Recently, A.J. had all four of his wisdom teeth pulled, traveled to the Houston FIRST Robotics World Championship with his team, and developed algorithms to command a swarm of robots to explore and gather resources with his physics classes. Get ready CDCA...Full STEAM ahead!



Erin Barnard

Photography & Media Arts

New Orleans, LA

Erin Barnard is an arts educator specializing in photography and youth media. She is a KIDsmART Artist in Residence at Medard Nelson Charter and Crescent Leadership Academy in New Orleans. Erin has taught and designed photography programs throughout the United States. She is a former director of the In-Sight Photography Project and co-founder of the Exposures cross-cultural youth arts program. Erin studied photography and literature at Marlboro College, and arts management in the Arts in Youth and Community Development program at Columbia College Chicago. She lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she loves to listen, to dance, and to sit along the bank of the Mississippi.

Dana Beuhler

New Orleans, LA

Costuming



Dana Beuhler is a Louisiana native who earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2005. Shortly after, she returned to New Orleans and began working as a painter, sculptor, and multimedia artist in the Mardi Gras float-building industry. In 2009, she began her motion picture career sculpting and painting for movie sets, which is currently her main pursuit. A Mardi Gras enthusiast, she uses her sculpture skills to design and fabricate elaborate carnival costumes, both for work and play. She recently set up her home studio in Broadmoor, and continues her work in film, Mardi Gras, and various creative pursuits.

Nicole Boyd Buckels

Kenner, LA

Musical Theater

Nicole Boyd Buckels discovered her love for dance over twenty years ago. She graduated from N.O.C.C.A and attended UC Los Angeles where she majored in dance. She has choreographed local productions such as *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Dog Fight* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*, all under the direction of Tim Baker. She has also performed locally in various musicals such as *Pippin'*, *Nine*, *Into the Woods* and *How to Succeed In Business*. She has assisted in choreography and had roles in *Anything Goes* and *Mack and Mabel* both performed in upstate New York. Nicole is currently a faculty member at Lusher Charter School and Tulane University. This is her third year teaching at CDCA.



Graham Burk

New Orleans, LA

Theater

Graham Burk returned to New Orleans after completing the Master's program at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow, Scotland. He has performed as an actor in New York, New Orleans, London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and various theatres across the U.S. He has taught theatre at Hynes Charter School and Lusher Charter School. Graham first experienced CDCA at the age of seven and is thrilled to be back as a senior staff member!



Dan Cardillo

New Orleans, LA

Music & Sound Effects

Dan is a musician in New Orleans. In the past, he's done post production for multiple features and short films. Currently, he earns his living playing guitar in clubs on Frenchman Street. He's looking forward to creating weird noises and kooky characters with CDCA!

David Chervony

Chicago, IL

Juggling Arts

David Chervony is overwhelmed with excitement to be returning to CDCA! He previously taught Circus Arts at the International School of Louisiana and is a founding member of New Orleans' Fly Circus Space. This summer, in addition to being a part of this incredible program, he will also be a special guest performer at the Boulder Juggling Festival. Let's throw art!



Patti Constantin

New Orleans, LA

Cooking



Owner of Patti Constantin Designs and Catering, Inc., Patti Constantin is a former restaurant owner and chef whose distinctive catering style combines elegant presentation with high quality, largely organic cuisine. Twenty plus years ago, CDCA's director, Sara, saw Patti across a crowded parking lot and called out to her, "You're coming to work at Creative Arts." Despite her busy schedule, Patti has been at CDCA ever since.



Toby David

New Orleans, LA

Theater

Toby David is an actor, storyteller and master of ceremonies in New Orleans. He is the architect and host of The Weekly Revue, a monthly variety show in New Orleans produced in association with Court 13. Toby is ready.

Saskia Eubanks

New Orleans, LA

Painting

Saskia is a figurative painter from New Orleans, LA. She has exhibited widely in the United States, having mounted 15 solo exhibitions, and numerous group exhibitions in cities including New Orleans, Boston, Philadelphia, and New York. In addition to painting and exhibiting she has worked in museum education, art conservation, as an independent curator, as an arts writer, and has taught studio painting, drawing and sculpture at a number of institutions. Her most recent solo exhibition took place at the Diaghilev Museum of Contemporary Art in St. Petersburg, Russia.



Ursa Eyer

New Orleans, LA

Comics

Ursa is a comic book artist and illustrator working out of New Orleans. She first began studying art at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and went on to receive a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. She spent time abroad at the Osaka University of Art, studying what would soon become her passion, comic book making. Her work explores social issues through depicting her own personal experiences in comic form. Ursa's work has been featured in The Huffington Post, Bustle, MIC, BuzzFeed, and published in New Orleans Living Magazine and Amandla Magazine.



Lauren Gehman

New Orleans, LA

Assistant Director

Lauren is the head of the counseling department at Metairie Park Country Day, where she enjoys teaching psychology and helping to coordinate community service projects. Lauren is also part of the adjunct faculty of Tulane's School of Social Work and maintains a small private practice. Lauren is drawn to Country Day Creative Arts year after year due to the inspiring teacher and student artists!

Susan Gisleson

New Orleans, LA

Mixed Media & BIG Arts

Susan Gisleson is a New Orleans based artist and educator who finds it difficult, if not impossible, to pass a pile of trash- especially if it has old cardboard boxes that look as though they have been recently excavated from someone's attic. She makes things with her hands using anything and everything to get her point across which is usually something about how extraordinary this whole world is- for the most part- and how each of us is really a universe. Gisleson has the greatest job in the world: she teaches art full time at Metairie Park Country Day School to middle and upper school students. She is a founding member of Press Street and Antenna Gallery and one of the many organizers of a 24 hour event called Draw-a-thon that occurs every year. One of her favorite places in the world is CDCA.



Andy Gomez

Chula Vista, CA

Capoeira

Andy Gomez, known in capoeira as Graduado Grande, is from Annandale, Virginia. He started capoeira in New Orleans where he began training with Mestrando Cocada. He currently lives in San Diego, California where he works teaching capoeira to kids and adults. Andy has traveled to Brazil, California, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Texas for capoeira workshops and events.



Patsy Grace

Metairie, LA

Patsy Grace received a BFA and a MFA from The School of Visual Arts in Manhattan. She has two self-released CD's entitled *Name Her Lucky* and *Toodleloo, too*. Her children's book, *The Wise Sophia*, has been performed as a puppet play at Manhattan Theater Source in New York and various venues throughout New Orleans. Her work has been featured in a variety of publications and exhibitions including *The Gambit Weekly*, *Mignon Faget*, *Harrah's Casino* and *Anthropologie*. She continues to perform live throughout New Orleans.

Painting & Bookmaking

Jon Greene

New Orleans, LA

Jon Greene has been a physical theater artist for over 15 years, working around the world making theater in places as far flung as Buenos Aires, The Czech Republic, Singapore, NYC and NOLA. As a performer, he has worked with several cutting edge physical companies and directs here in New Orleans. Jon's credits include: *Faustus for Lux Et Umbra* (2016 Big Easy: Best Director); writer/director of *Sleeping Beauty: An American Panto* and *The Musicians of Bremen: A Holiday Panto* for Le Petit, and most recently *The Spider Queen* for The Nola Project and NOMA. He received his BFA from Boston University's School for the Arts and trained in Italy with maestro and mask maker Antonio Fava.

Swimming



Kate Hanrahan

New Orleans, LA

Kate Hanrahan is an artist and teacher living in New Orleans. She graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design with a BFA in Painting in 2007. She has shown her work nationally in Atlanta, Savannah, Boston, New York, and New Orleans, as well as, internationally in Canada and France. She has been a teaching artist through Community Works of Louisiana at the International School for the last seven years. A mural artist and mixed media artist working in painting, paper cut-outs, photography and installation, she believes that art should be accessible to everyone. For the last several years, she has been focused on creating large scale public art works.

Painting



Maja Holzinger

Swimming

New Orleans, LA

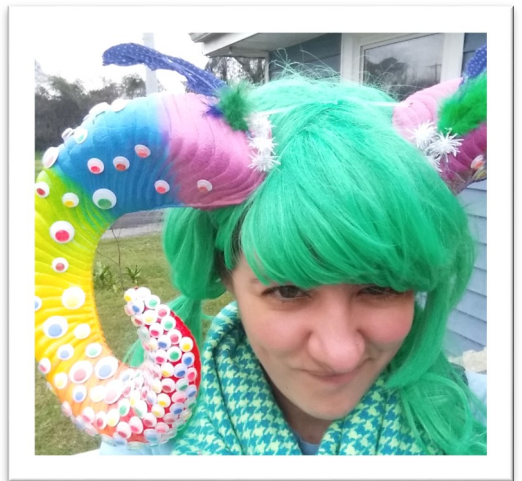
Maja Holzinger (pronounced Maya) grew up in the Baltic coastal city of Sopot, Poland, the home of the world's longest wooden pier. Following residencies in Poznan, Berlin, and London, Maja completed her MFA in Film Production at the University of New Orleans. Maja continued to maintain her base of operations here, writing and directing short films while maintaining adjunct professorships in the film departments of Loyola University and UNO, and teaching media arts at Lusher Charter School. This summer, Maja is preparing to travel to Myanmar to direct a feature film that stars a Buddhist monk and politically incendiary Yangon street punks.

Kylee Kidder

SINK

New Orleans, LA

Kylee Kidder completed a Master's degree at UNO in Arts Administration, because she loves artists. She currently handles bookkeeping for Boss Fight Studio and works in festival/event production on the weekends. Her main goal in life is to keep learning new things so she can finally add "Jill of All Trades" to her resume. This year she is honing her masonry abilities, general handywoman skills and gardening prowess around her house.



Don Lewis

Theater

New Orleans, LA



Donald Lewis, Jr. is a graduate of N.O.C.C.A. and attended the College of Santa Fe, NM and UNO. He performed in the New Orleans premier of "Fragments." He has performed with the Alliance for Community Theaters and received their "Big D" Lifetime Achievement Award. He has performed with the Anthony Bean Theater Company, Chakula Cha-Jua Theater Company, Cripple Creek, Young Audiences, Tulane Shakespeare Festival, Jefferson Performing Arts Society, and many others. His writing credits include co-writing, "A Dose of Reality" by Cast Productions and "On one Foot" with Dr. Michael Chafetz, which premiered at Dillard University for their annual conference on African-American Jewish Relations. Donald was the Head of the Theater Department of the Recovery School District's Gifted and Talented Program. He is the current Stage Manager of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival's Kids Tent.



Melissa Licali

Metairie, LA

Sign Language

Melissa Licali is a Bully Preventionist and a Character Education Facilitator at a K-8 school on the West Bank of New Orleans, where she also teaches Sign Language as part of the 21st Century Program. Her love for Sign Language and Deaf Culture stems from having grown up with a deaf family member. Seeing the communication struggles firsthand for the hearing impaired has inspired Melissa to educate others about Deaf Awareness and the beautiful language of sign. She is looking forward to another awesome year at CDCA with the hope of many more years to come.

Theresa Linnihan

Minneapolis, MN

Puppetry/Stilt Walking

Theresa founded and directed Theater in the Open, specializing in original adaptations of fairy tales and plays set in the great outdoors of Maudslay State Park just north of Boston, MA. For nearly twenty years she served as Associate Director for The Czech American Marionette Theater in New York, staging inventive and traditional performances with a wide variety of puppets. Theresa has toured with CAMT to the Czech Republic, Turkey, Korea and Pakistan. She was the Chief Librarian for The New York Puppet Library, offering free puppets of all sizes to creative events in all five boroughs and beyond. She also produced, built and performed with The Puppeteers Cooperative for more than two decades, devising whimsical parables for our times at Lincoln Center Out of Doors and in Prospect and Central Parks. Having recently returned to her home state of Minnesota, Theresa has participated in the annual Halloween Extravaganza of Bare Bones Puppet Theater and was on the artistic staff for May Day with Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater. For more than twenty years, Theresa has been unable to resist the lure of creative energy at Country Day Creative Arts and, as usual, she returns with ambitious plans for this summer.



Jimmy Mehiel

New Orleans, LA

Video



Jimmy is a New Orleans based video artist. He finished his BFA at SUNY Purchase Film Conservatory in 2005, then spent 8 years in Los Angeles working on everything from feature films to commercials, documentaries and music videos. He has played a variety of roles including production assistant, 1st AD, art departments, camera departments, post production and even a few brief moments as an actor. Working in almost every department and from the bottom to the top has given him a complete understanding of how film and video productions work. In 2014, he was the director of photography and editor of a 48 hour film that won the audience award in a New Orleans competition. He enjoys Mardi Gras, thunderstorms and clean drinking water.

Maritza Mercado-Narcisse

New Orleans, LA

Dance

Maritza Mercado-Narcisse has called New Orleans home since 1988. She has worked with a variety of local dance and theater artists including ArtSpot Productions, Moving Humans and Mondo Bizarro. Maritza has performed on the Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out stage, The Kennedy Center Millennium Stage and Piccolo Spoleto. She is a Louisiana Division of the Arts Fellow and has been a participant and faculty member of the Urban Bush Women's Summer Leadership Institute in which she continues to explore the intersection between art and activism. In November 2014, she premiered The Agency presented by Dancing Grounds. Last summer, Maritza premiered her company, the Narcisse|Movement Project.





Carlos Ochoa

Metairie, LA

Fencing / Gymnastics

Carlos Ochoa is a native of Lima, Peru and has been a physical education teacher and fencing coach for over 25 years. Carlos started fencing when he was 7 years old and his specialties are teaching fencing, gymnastics, and soccer. Carlos started the first fencing club for children in the city of New Orleans. He has had several fencers participate as Junior Olympics' qualifiers and he himself is a former member of the Peruvian National Fencing Team. Carlos also introduced the first portable/mobile rock climbing wall in the greater New Orleans area.

Jeanie Osborne

Slidell, LA

Jeanie Osborne is a full-time art teacher at Louise S. McGehee School. In her studio, she paints, makes collages, and mosaics. She also loves to sew, garden, photograph, and sing! A teacher in New Orleans since 1984, she incorporates much of the CDCA spirit and philosophies in all her classes. She exhibits her art in group exhibitions and sells her art in local art festivals.

Mosaics & Mixed Media



Keri Pollock

New Orleans, LA

Business Manager

Keri is so happy to be a part of CDCA for another glorious year! She is the Business Manager and can be found working, but really having fun, in the office. Prior to working at CDCA, Keri lived in Atlanta and worked at Eileen Fisher for 7 years selling clothing to boutiques in the South-east. She wears her Eileen Fisher samples that she was busy hoarding during her working hours whenever she can. Outside of CDCA, Keri is busy being a mom to Max and Sarah.



Mike Seely

Marrero, LA

Team Games

Mike has been an educator and coach in the New Orleans area for the last 16 years. He spent 10 years in Jefferson Parish schools as a physical education teacher and head coach of both baseball and football. Mike currently teaches science and coaches football and baseball at Hahnville High School. He believes that team sports can bring out the best in people and show how creative they can be to overcome the obstacles set out before them. Mike also enjoys the teamwork aspect of sports and helping people to learn to work together to overcome adversity. For Mike, "it's one of the greatest parts to being a coach and educator."

Michael Skinkus

New Orleans, LA

Music / Radio

Michael Skinkus has spent the last quarter century in New Orleans working as a band leader, recording artist and sideman as he deepened his studies of African Diasporic drumming styles. Over the past 25 plus years, Michael has apprenticed himself to many master drummers from Senegal, Haiti, Brazil, and Cuba. A dedicated player of Batá drums, Michael was sworn to the drums of his teacher in Havana, Cuba in 2001, earning the title of Omo Aña. Michael earned a Master's Degree in Latin American Ethnomusicology from Tulane University in 2003. A popular recording artist, Michael can be heard on recordings by the late Johnny Adams, Cubanismo, Dr. John, Irma Thomas, and the Radiators, to name just a few. Presently, Michael continues to perform and tour with many Latin and Jazz music ensembles, and leads his own band, Moyuba.

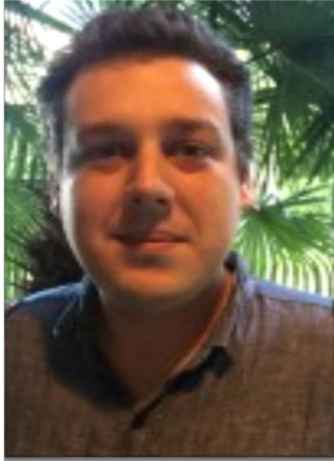


Sara Stevenson

New Orleans, LA

Director

Previously a community organizer in the inner city of Cleveland, Ohio, Sara Stevenson has called New Orleans her home for almost 40 years. Here, Sara worked with the New Orleans Arts Council, the Children's Arts Council, and the Contemporary Arts Center before she founded Country Day Creative Arts. Now in its 35th year, Sara has been the director of the program since its inception. She will be retiring after this year, but she really looks forward to a bright and brilliant CDCA '17 before she blasts off through the stratosphere to the outer limits.



Jeffrey Thurston

New Orleans, LA

Ceramics

As well as being an active studio artist, Jeffrey Thurston teaches at Tulane University as an adjunct professor of ceramics. His work has been exhibited throughout the United States and most recently exhibited at the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts. His work is also part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Northern California Art.

Abeo Tibbs

New Orleans, LA

Creative Writing

Mahalia Abéo Tibbs is a singer/songwriter/dancer from Chicago, IL. She has been writing and performing since childhood, a music major in high school and later minoring at the university level in dance. Since her arrival in New Orleans 3 years ago, she has been blessed to perform original works around the city, to teach in the local charter and private school system, and to serve as a CDCA Intern. Abéo is greatly looking forward to her very own guild of word wizards to join her world this summer!



Elise Touns

New Orleans, LA

Painting & Claymation

Elise's Louisiana roots influence her work and masquerade plays a reoccurring role. She will happily share her costume box, wigs, and estate sale finds with others. Bouncing between painting, sculpture, video, and community engagement, keeps her absorbed in endless art possibilities. She has shown and has work in museums, galleries, and private collections across the United States, and in Brazil. Elise has a background in psychology and painting from Louisiana State University, graduating in 2005. She completed her Masters in Studio Art at Michigan State University in 2014.



Ruby Troyano

New Orleans, LA

Woodworking

Ruby Troyano is a native New Orleanian who grew up spending her summers in the Country Day Creative Arts Program. She attended the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, MI where she received her BFA. After spending some time traveling the country side, Ruby moved back to New Orleans to be a part of the unique vibrant culture here. During the school year, Ruby teaches Visual Arts to elementary students at Bricolage Academy.

Julie Wallace

Sedona, AZ

Costuming

Julie Wallace is the owner of Creative Life Studies, an arts and yoga studio in Sedona, Arizona, where she lives, teaches Bikram Yoga, and spends hours hiking in the sublime terrain of Northern Arizona's red rock country. Julie has been teaching visual arts classes and sharing her love of the creative spirit and art making process at Country Day Creative Arts since the summer of 1999. Each year she is motivated to return to CDCA because she places the highest value on working within a community of individuals who possess amazing creativity, spirit and integrity.

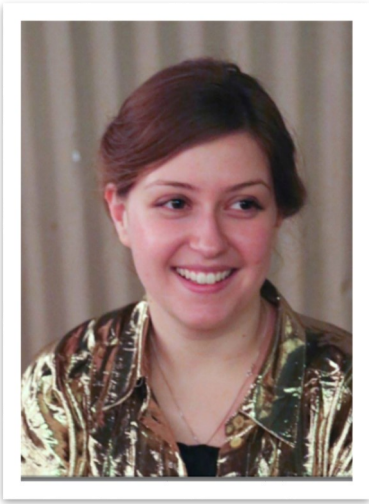


Alison Wells

New Orleans, LA

Photography

Alison Wells is a New Orleans native who has been spending her summers at CDCA since the early '90s turning watermelons into pin-hole cameras, printing portraits on eggs, and training ring leaders for a Flea Circus. When not at CDCA, Alison keeps busy teaching elementary arts at Louise S. McGehee School and raising a family in Bywater.



Abby Wetsman

New Orleans, LA

Fabric Art

Abby Wetsman stepped into the world of CDCA as a 7 year old, constructing beds out of match boxes for the fairies that lived in one of her classrooms (there were tiny blue foot prints to prove it). She then continued, not missing a year, as an intern for 9 years. She graduated with a B.F.A. in Fibers from Savannah College of Art and Design. As a collector and analyzer of objects, words and ideas, she continues creating, often utilizing the processes of natural dye and embroidery to transform fiber and found material. She is excited to embark upon her 3rd summer as senior staff.

Tom Woodin

Algiers, LA

Ceramics

Tom Woodin taught in the gifted visual arts program in Orleans Parish for 14 years. He teaches carpentry and woodworking at Chalmette High School. With an MFA in sculpture from the University of New Orleans, Tom uses a wide array of materials in his work, which manifests in organic forms and man/nature themes.

